

## Annual 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest

The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology is pleased to announce the winner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “My Favorite Historic Place in Indiana” 4<sup>th</sup> grade essay contest. This year, we received over 200 essays representing all parts of the state. The essays were scored by eight volunteer judges, who evaluated the submissions based on three different categories: quality of writing, content and theme, and originality of thought. The Committee awarded first place to Maggie McPherson of St. Pius X Catholic School (Indianapolis) for her essay about Monument Circle, which is featured below. Second place was awarded to Tim Sullivan, also of St. Pius X, for his essay on Broad Ripple Park. Third place was given to Mia Nicol of Burriss Elementary (Mitchell) for her essay on Spring Mill State Park. On behalf of the DNR, the DHPA would like to thank everyone who participated.

### **Monument Circle**

By Meggie McPherson  
Mrs. Cook’s 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class  
Saint Pius X Catholic School

Monument Circle, or the State Soldiers and Sailors Monument as it is also known, is located in downtown Indianapolis. It is one of my favorite historical places in Indiana. Monument Circle was built where the Governor’s Mansion was going to be in the center of the new city. The structure was demolished and it was then called Circle Park. A bronze sculpture of Indiana’s Civil War governor Oliver Perry Morton was placed in Circle Park.

After the civil war, they began to talk about a monument to honor Hoosier soldiers and sailors and incorporate the Governor Morton Sculpture. The winner of the competition to design the monument was Bruno Schmitz, a German architect known for national monuments. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument was erected as a memorial to the soldiers and sailors of the War of the Union and all other wars that happened before World War I. It was finished in 1901.

The monument stands 284 feet 6 inches tall. At the top is a 38 foot high statue representing Victory, the American image of liberty. Liberty’s torch symbolizes the light of civilization and its sword symbolizes justice. The eagle on the sculptures brow represents freedom. There are 32 flights of stairs that lead to an observation deck. On the north and south sides there are steps and bronzed doors, and soldier figures, two at each entrance. On the east and west sides there are fountains with large candelabras and bison heads.

Some reasons why Monument Circle is my favorite historical place in Indiana are because it is a beautiful place to visit with lots of history. Another reason is you can go to the top of the monument in an elevator to the observation deck and see the whole city. The third reason is you can ride around it in a carriage with horses and see all the sculptures and designs on the statue. I also enjoy walking around the Monument and the Shops. Lastly, I like how at Christmas time they make it look like a big Christmas tree. My family has a tradition of walking around it at Christmas and enjoying downtown. These are some of the reasons of why Monument Circle is my favorite historical place to visit.