

## *Celebrating 50 years in the Minuteman Memorial Building*

### *The many homes of ROA*

ROA was first headquartered in The Lee House, 1653 Pennsylvania Ave NW (1924-1938). The house, which later became the Blair-Lee House, was conveniently located directly across the street from what was then called the State-War-Navy Building (now the Eisenhower Executive Office Building) and kitty-corner to the White House.



In 1938, ROA moved one block away to 1726 Pennsylvania Ave NW. This would be ROA's headquarters for 3 ½ years.

ROA gave up its lease and, for the duration of WWII, suspended all but two members of the staff. During this time ROA had two addresses, both private residences – 4900 Chesapeake St, NW, and 2449 39<sup>th</sup> Place NW.

In 1945, with the war over, ROA resumed business and signed a new lease, returning to 1726 Pennsylvania Ave NW.

In 1947, ROA purchased its first property – 2517 Connecticut Ave SE. The headquarters was one of two townhouses converted to offices, standing side-by-side on a triangle of land bounded by Connecticut Avenue NW, Calvert Street and the steep slopes of Rock Creek Park. ROA would keep this property for 16 years.

In 1963, ROA sold its property on Connecticut Avenue and leased space in a three-story townhouse at 333 Pennsylvania Avenue SE.

In 1966, ROA bought property on Capitol Hill – 1 Constitution Avenue NE – and began building the Minuteman Memorial Building. ROA occupied the building on February 15, 1968, just one week before the formal dedication on Washington's birthday.

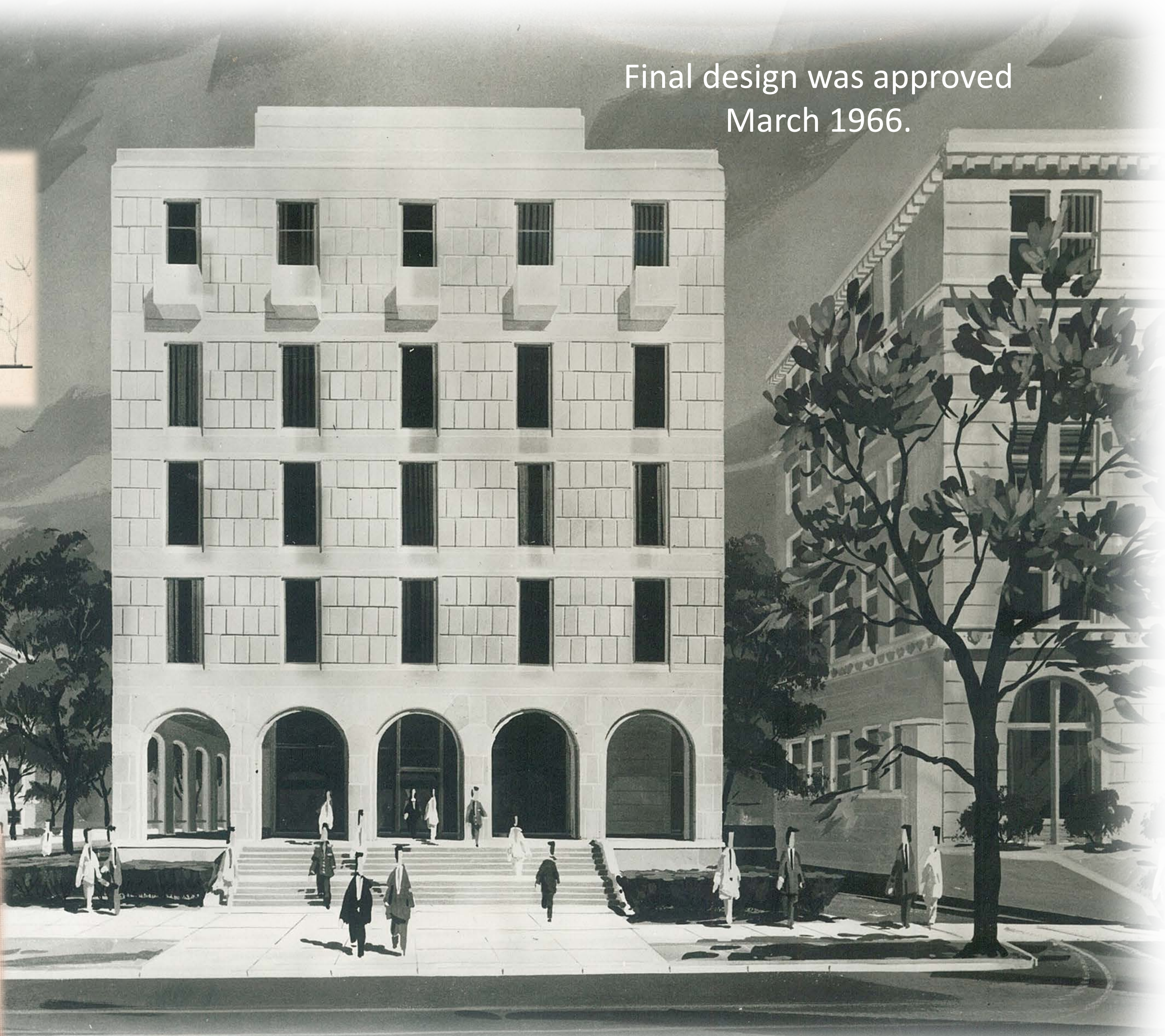
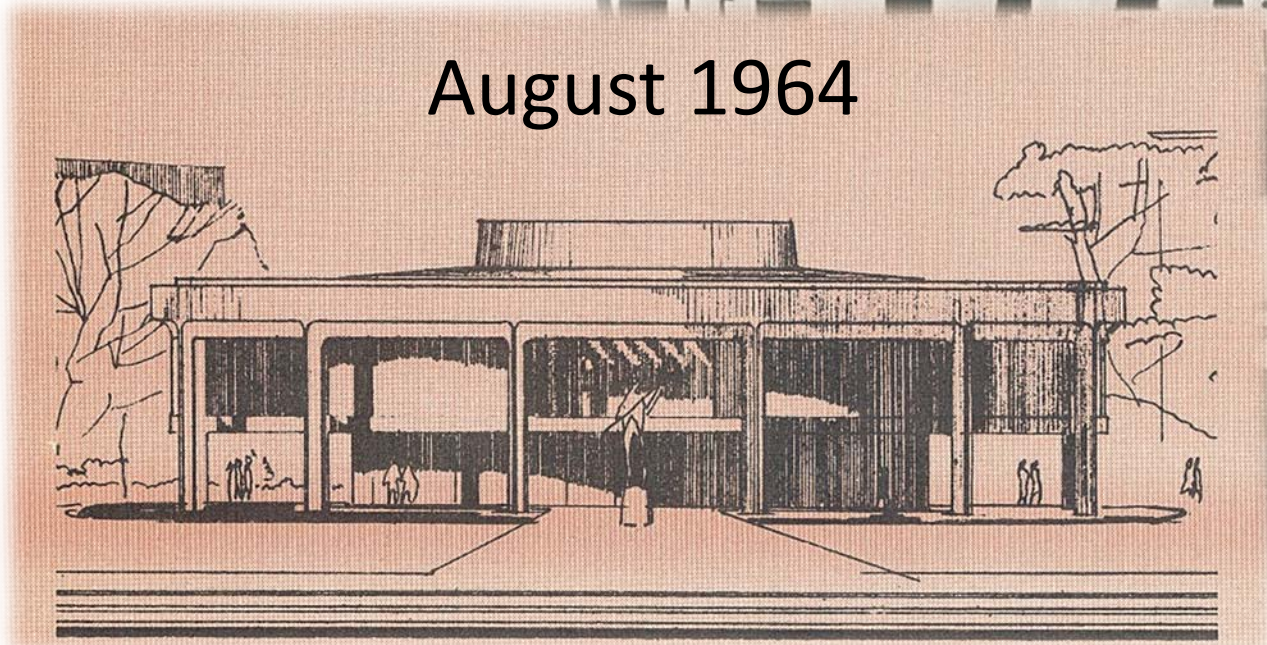
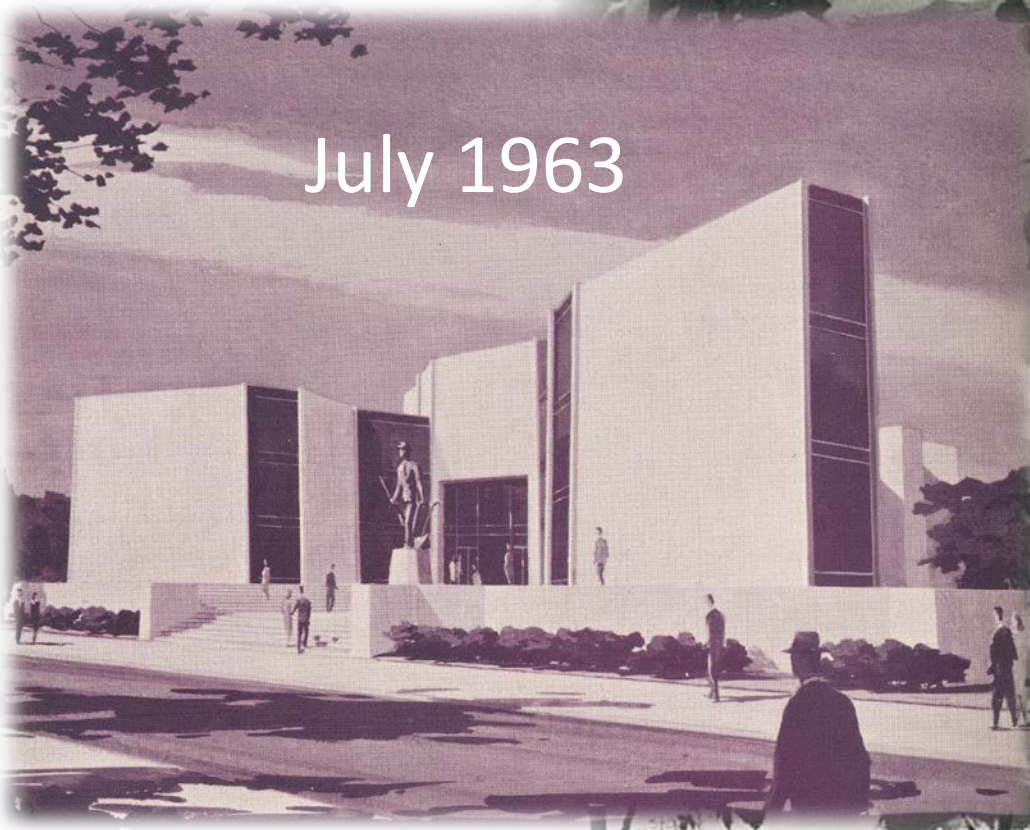
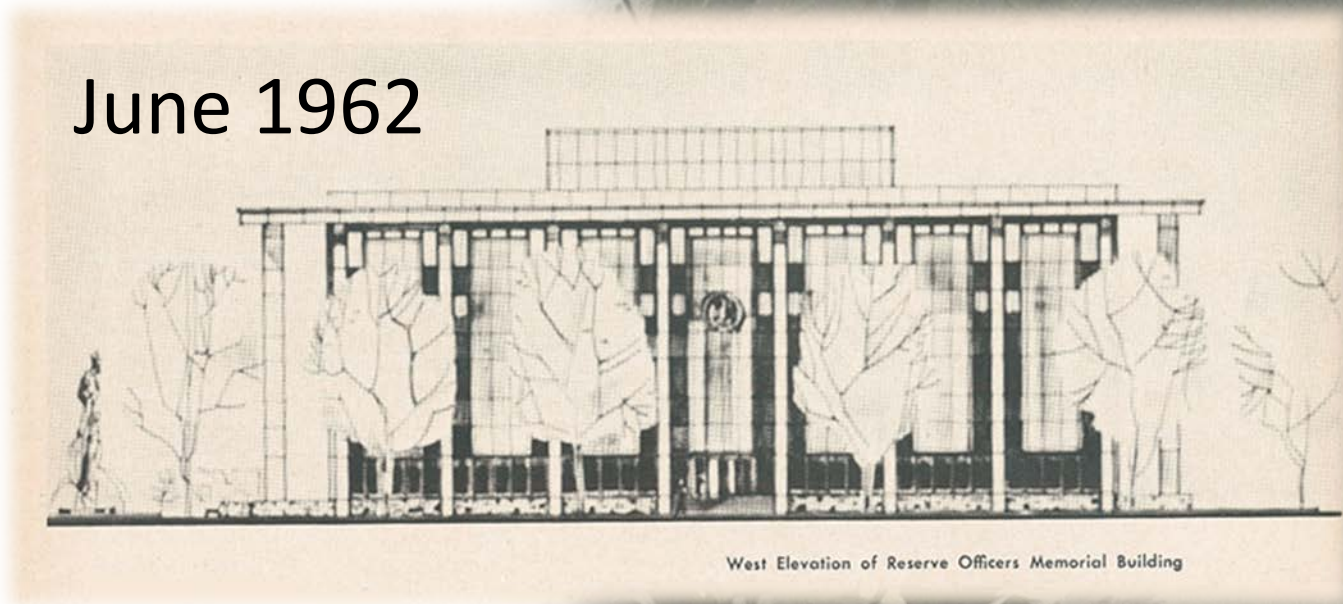




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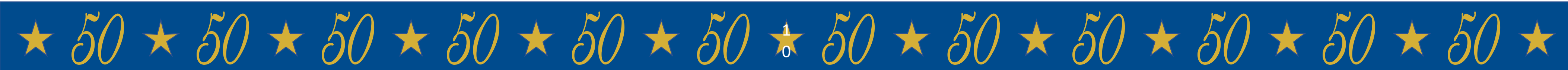
ROA considered a few site locations before deciding on 1 Constitution Avenue NE, including 1 Independence Avenue NW and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street & Maryland Avenue.

With each potential site came a new proposed design. The final design was just right to fit the Capitol Hill location.



Final design was approved March 1966.





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In January 1966, the architect firm of Mills, Petticord & Mills was asked to proceed with the final plans and specifications for the new ROA headquarters. A model of the new building was on display at the 29 June – 1 July 1966 ROA national convention in New York City.



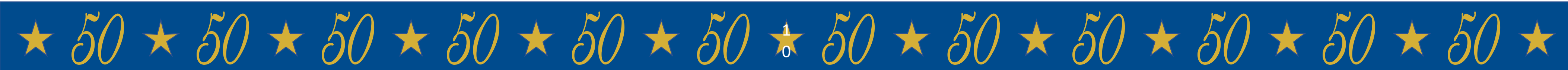


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In September 1966, the ROA Executive Committee adjourned their meeting to hold a groundbreaking ceremony. Holding the shovel are then-Brig. Gen. Horace B. Hanson Jr., USAR, ROA National President, 1966-1967 (left) and Brig. Gen. Donald S. Dawson, USAFR, ROA National President 1965-1966.







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After several proposals for the site of the new headquarters building, the property at 1 Constitution Avenue NE, was purchased for \$314,000. ROA took title of the property, which was occupied by three brick rooming houses, on March 7, 1966.





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Demolition begins on the boarding houses occupying the future site of the Minuteman Memorial Building.

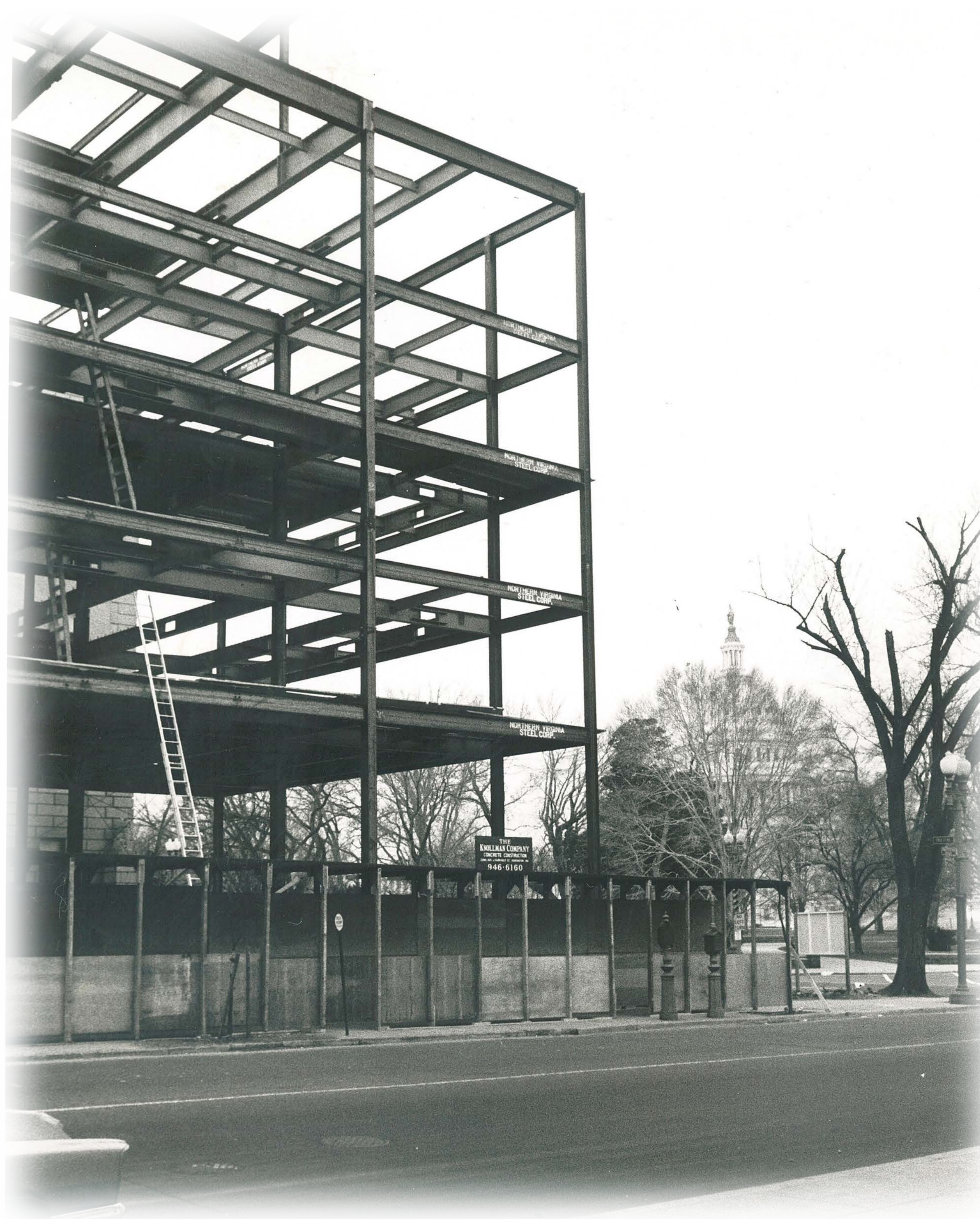
Construction began on October 11, 1966.





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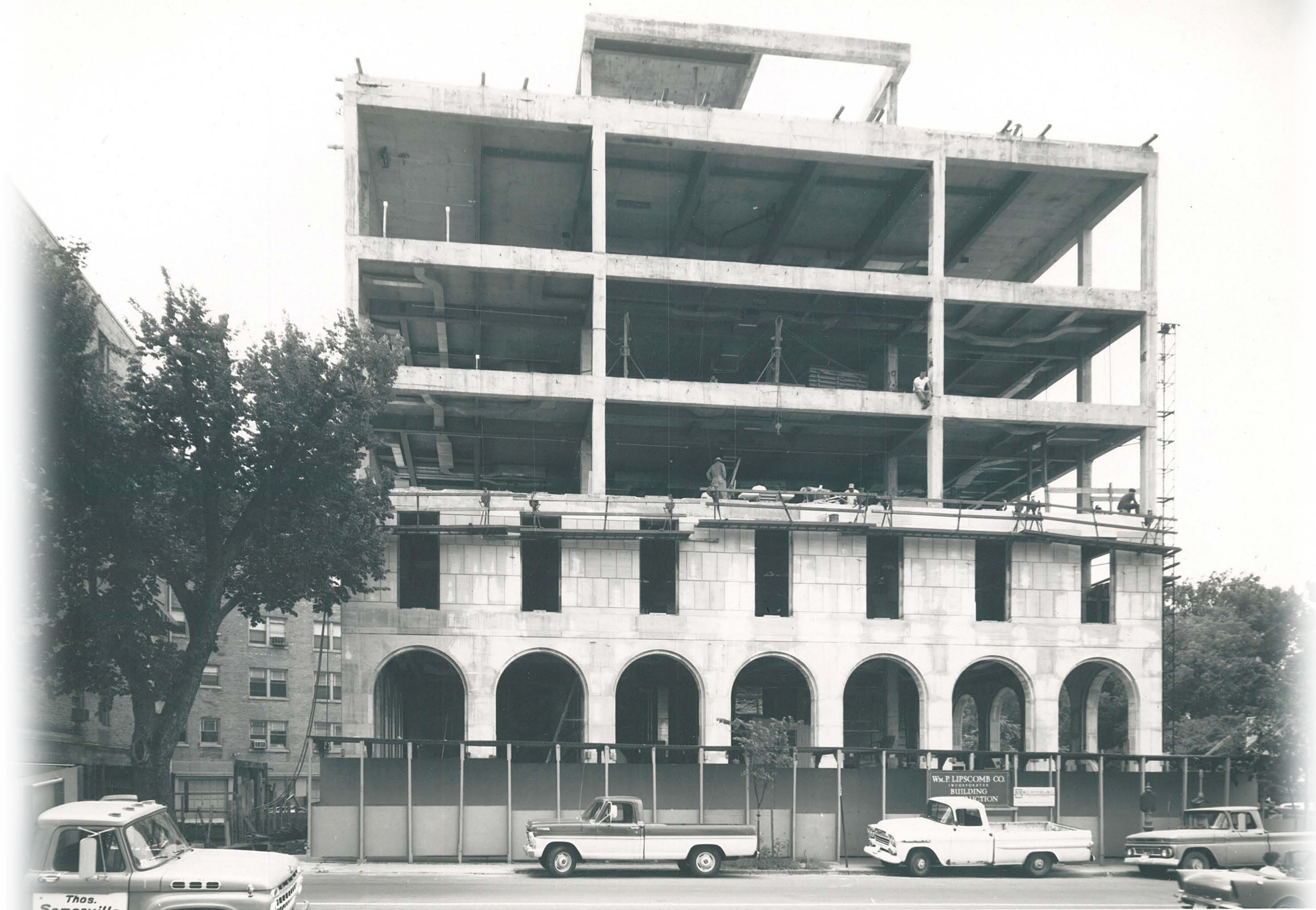
ROA's Minuteman Memorial Building begins to take shape. This will be the seventh location for ROA Headquarters.





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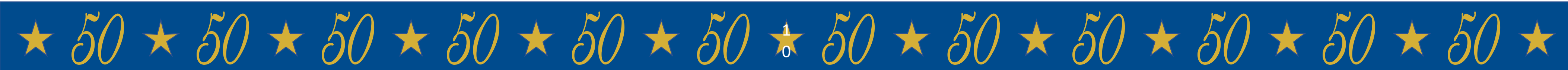
By July 3, 1967, William P. Lipscomb Co., Inc., general contractor, had the stone work halfway completed.



RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS BUILDING  
1ST & CONSTITUTION AVE., N. E.  
WM. P. LIPSCOMB CO., INC., CONTRACTOR ARCHITECTS: MILLS, PETTICORD & MILLS  
GENERAL VIEW LOOKING SOUTH  
JULY 3, 1967

NO. 10

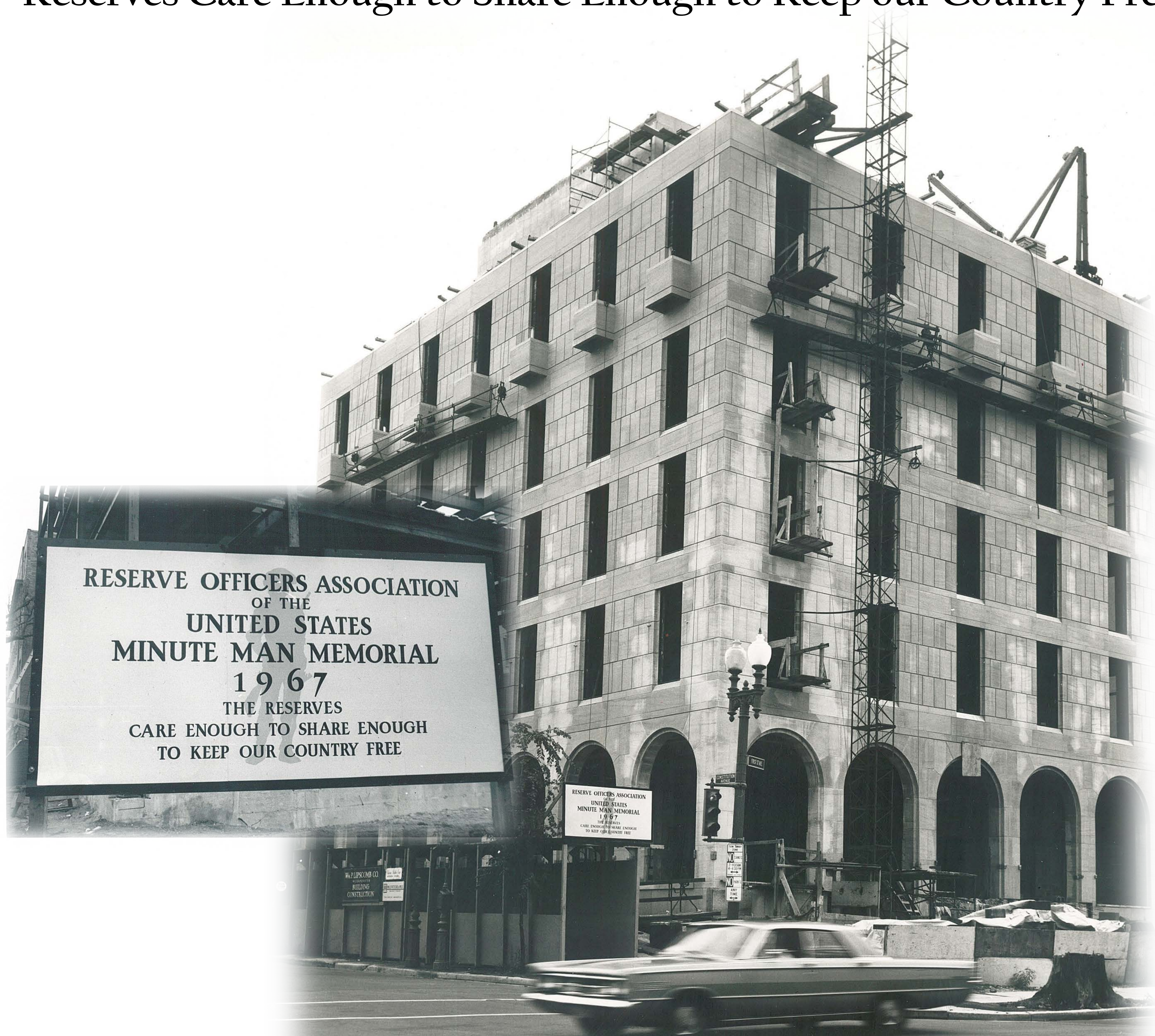




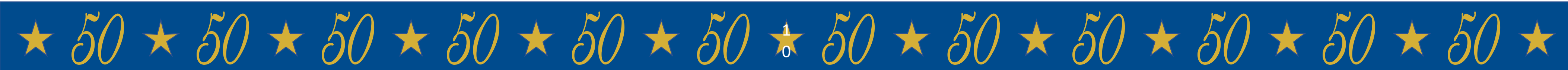
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As construction continued throughout 1967, the handsome building, rising to replace the old red brick boarding houses with steel, concrete and limestone, gave a new presence to Capitol Hill.

A sign at the construction site reminded all passers by that “The Reserves Care Enough to Share Enough to Keep our Country Free.”







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### The dedication . . .

Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, first chairman of the Minuteman Memorial Fund, gives his remarks, formally dedicating the Minuteman Memorial Building on Washington's Birthday, February 2, 1968, "... to pledge our best interest to see that the things he [the Minuteman] has established and maintained do not disappear from the earth. . . . We must declare from today on that we are going to continue to live up to this citizen defender, who was first in peace, and we must make him forever first in the hearts of our countrymen."



So many ROA members and distinguished guests were present for the dedication ceremony, that the ground floor, where the ceremonies were held, could not accommodate them all. Closed-circuit television was rigged on the upper floors to enable the overflow crowd to watch. A battery of television cameras made a record of the ceremony for later use on evening news broadcasts, both local and network.



In the spring of 1960, a major fundraising campaign began with a goal of raising \$1,500,000 to offset the cost of this extensive project of purchasing land and erecting a building. The entire project cost ROA \$1,610,156, and with the generosity of ROA members and benefactors, no mortgage was needed. Today the tradition continues as members contribute to the Wall of Gold to help maintain the prestigious ROA headquarters.

