

## 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Statue of Liberty

### October 28, 1886

A gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States, "The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World" is recognized as a universal symbol of freedom and democracy. It was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and was dedicated by President Grover Cleveland on October 28, 1886. Designated as a National Monument in 1924, employees of the National Park Service have been caring for the Statue of Liberty since 1933.

The Statue of Liberty is made of copper that is 3/32 of an inch thick, the same as two American pennies placed together. The internal structure is comprised of cast iron and stainless steel. The Statue's copper has naturally oxidized to form the outer patina or green coating. Originally it was a traditional brown color like an American penny, and it took thirty years to turn green.

The Statue is 305 feet and 1 inch in height from the ground to the tip of the flame. This is the equivalent height of a 22-story building. In 1886, the Statue of Liberty was the tallest structure in New York City. The Statue is holding her second torch. The first torch's interior support structure corroded beyond repair. French artists created a new torch. The original torch was removed in 1984, and is now on display in the museum.

**Why is the Statue of Liberty a woman?** Classical images of Liberty are often depicted in a female form. The Statue of Liberty was modeled after the Roman Goddess of Liberty, Libertas.

Source: Statue of Liberty National Monument, National Park Service website.  
<https://www.nps.gov/stli/index.htm>



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