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The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. II. No 12 - December 2022

**2022:
The Year in Pictures**



Cover photo:

Presidents of major patriotic associations gathered for a "family photo" upon the re-dedication of a marker at the tomb of Major Pierre L'Enfant, Arlington National Cemetery, June 14, 2022. More details on this historic day further below in this Bulletin.

EDITORIAL

This special Bulletin "The Year in Pictures" is a selection of photos illustrating events in which we participated throughout 2022.

It was an events-filled year! We hope you will enjoy perusing these photos - - maybe by a fireplace and a glass of wine during the upcoming holidays?

We have much to be proud of what was accomplished during these past twelve months. Nothing would have been possible without your support and your fellow members, as well as the warm friendship and cooperation from like-minded patriotic and historical associations. To all, we express our most sincere gratitude.

After the recollection of these past twelve months, we will continue to report on the Marquis de Lafayette's triumphal tour of the United States, this time during his stay in Washington in December 1824. We will also end the series on the French Army's long march with the narration of the departure of Rochambeau's soldiers in December 1782 in Boston after the victorious siege of Yorktown in October 1781.

At the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, we never forget what we owe to our forebears who fought side by side for the freedom of both the United States and France. Count on us to continue honoring their deeds in the months and years to come!

Again, thank you. We extend to you, your families and friends our best wishes for the coming New Year.

May it be filled with joy, peace, health and prosperity!

On behalf of the Board of Directors.

Thierry Chaunu, President,

American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc.

THE YEAR 2022 IN PICTURES

Kick-off of the restoration project La Pérouse Memorial, Maui, Hawaii April 5, 2022





La Perouse Memorial, (La Perouse Bay, Maui)

By the Lava Fields historical landmark, off Makena Road, Kihei, HI 96753

GPS: [20.600745,-156.419877](https://www.google.com/maps/place/20.600745,-156.419877)

Above top: view of La Perouse Bay from the lava field, Above bottom: close-up of plaque.

Bottom Left: Louis XVI giving La Pérouse his instructions on 29 June 1785, by Nicolas-André Monsiau (1817) (Château de Versailles, Public Domain)

Bottom Right: Visit of the Memorial monument on site with *Daniel Ornellas, District Land Agent, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii, Pat Borge, Ulupalakua Ranch / Makena Stables, Thierry Chaunu, Peter Landon, DLNR NARS program manager, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii.*

• Although Captain Cook was the first European to anchor in Maui, Hawaii, he couldn't find a suitable landing, and never landed. **Jean-François de Galaup, comte de La Pérouse** was the first foreigner to set foot on the shores of what is now known as La Perouse Bay.

• Your association has identified the renovation of this Memorial among the top projects in 2023, at the initiative of Marc Onetto, Regional Delegate for the West Coast. Upon a visit on April 5, 2022, it was decided to propose a full renovation of this 8' high monument whose lava stones are crumbling.

• **Inscription of the plaque:**

"LAPEROUSE MEMORIAL
ON MAY 30TH, 1786

FRENCH ADMIRAL JEAN-FRANÇOIS GALAU COMTE DE LAPEROUSE
COMMANDING THE TWO FRIGATES LA BOUSSOLE AND L'ASTROLABE
WAS THE FIRST KNOWN EUROPEAN NAVIGATOR TO LAND AT
KEŌNE'O'IO ALSO KNOWN AS LAPEROUSE BAY
DONATED BY THE FRIENDS OF LAPEROUSE ON MAY 30TH, 1994"

• **Excerpt from the journal of La Pérouse "Voyage around the world":**

« Although the French are the first to have stepped onto the island of Mowee in recent times, I did not take possession of it in the King's name. This European practice is too utterly ridiculous, and philosophers must reflect with some sadness that, because one has muskets and canons, one looks upon 60,000 inhabitants as worth nothing, ignoring their rights over a land where for centuries their ancestors have been buried, which they have watered with their sweat, and whose fruits they pick to bring them as offerings to the so-called new landlords...Modern navigators have no other purpose when they describe the customs of newly discovered people than to complete the story of mankind. We would have felt ourselves well regarded from the great hardships this campaign has caused us if we had succeeded in eradicating the practice of human sacrifices that is common among most of the South Sea islanders.»

Brigadier des armées navales Jean-François de Galaup, comte de La Pérouse

• *Our special thanks to Daniel Ornellas, District Land Agent, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State of Hawaii, for his welcome and support of this project.*

**French Alliance Day
Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, PA
May 2, 2022**



French Alliance Day, at Valley Forge Memorial & Washington Memorial Chapel

2000 Valley Forge Park Rd, King of Prussia, PA 19406

GPS: [40.104526, -75.437874](https://www.google.com/maps?q=40.104526,-75.437874)

• On Sunday, May 2, 2022, we had the honor to attend the annual celebration of the "French Alliance Day" held at Valley Forge, PA. at the invitation of the Washington Memorial Heritage.

• In accordance to General George Washington's instructions, a celebration mass is held every year in May to thank France for its Treaty of Alliance with the United States signed in Paris on February 6, 1778 and ratified by Congress on May 4th of the same year, "*by which France, first of all nations, recognized the Independence of the United States*".

• The Washington Memorial Chapel is located inside the historic battlefield, and is among the most beautiful places of worship in America. A stain-glass window as well as a vestibule are dedicated to the Marquis de Lafayette. 13 carillons (cast in France) played the French National Anthem *La Marseillaise* during the ensuing wreath-laying ceremony.

• *Our special thanks to Father Tommy Thompson, Rector, Pat Nogar, Rector's Warden, Washington Memorial Chapel, David Lauhoff, President, & Gardiner Pearson, Past President, Washington Memorial Heritage, Lanny R. Patten, National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and all members of patriotic associations for their kind invitation and warm welcome.*

**Odell House - Rochambeau Headquarters
Visit with Nathalie & Philippe de Gouberville &
Reception at the Consulate General of France
May 5th, 2022**



Odell House, headquarters of General Rochambeau, a future Museum

425 Ridge Rd, Hartsdale, NY 10530

GPS: [41.019507, -73.816878](#)

Photos: (top) courtesy of Friends of Odell House / Rochambeau headquarters:

Nathalie de Gouberville, direct descendant of General de Rochambeau, with Susan Seal, founder and president of the Friends of Odell House - Rochambeau Headquarters in the historic room where Rochambeau and Washington met.

Group photo outside the future museum: Left to Right: Thierry Chaunu, Philippe de Gouberville, Dr. Robert Selig, David Seal, Susan Seal, Nathalie de Gouberville, Steve Tilly, Elizabeth Tilly, Douglas Hamilton.

Reception and fund-raising diner at the General Consulate of France in New York.

- On May 5th we were privileged to visit the Odell House with Nathalie de Gouberville, direct descendant of General Rochambeau, and her husband Philippe, and hosted by Susan & David Seal, founders of the Friends of Odell House - Rochambeau Headquarters.
 - Steve Tilly, the architect in charge of the renovation, the historian Dr. Robert Selig, Mr. David Hamilton (direct descendant of Alexander Hamilton), and Westchester County officials joined for this special occasion.
 - The Consul General of France in New York Mr. Jérémie Robert hosted a reception followed by a fund raising dinner, during which your association confirmed its pledge to erect a memorial (a boulder with a bronze plaque) to be installed in the gardens of the future museum, to honor the 4 soldiers of the Regiment Royal Deux-Ponts who are buried in the vicinity. Work on this Memorial is slated to start in 2023.
 - A wonderful video « Merci la France » was shown for the first time and can be viewed at : <https://vimeo.com/701389102>
 - *Our special thanks to Susan & David Seal and all members of Friends of Odell House - Rochambeau Headquarters for their partnership! And to Jérémie Robert, Consul General of France in New York, and the Consulate General for their support.*
-

Visit from Paris of the President General of Le Souvenir Français CGA (2s) Serge Barcellini May 6, 2022



Memorial Plaques, French War Veterans at Church of Notre Dame, Manhattan

405 West 114th Street, New York, NY 10025

GPS: [40.805025, -73.960249](https://www.google.com/maps?q=40.805025,-73.960249)

Left: Alain Dupuis, Chuck Schwam, COO American Friends of Lafayette, Damien Laban, Deputy General Consul of France in New York.

Right: President General of Le Souvenir Français, Contrôleur Général des Armées (2s) Serge Barcellini, Senator of the French Living Abroad Hélène Conway-Mouroto, Consul General of France Jérémie Robert, Thierry Chaunu

Photos by Daniel Falgerho, Federation of French War Veterans

- May 6, 2022 – On the occasion of a visit in New York by the President-General of Le Souvenir Français in Paris, Contrôleur Général des Armées (2S) Serge Barcellini, alongside Mr. Jérémie Robert, Consul General of France in New York, a wreath was laid in a ceremony at Notre-Dame Church to honor

the 463 names of French and Americans conscripts and volunteers who “Died for France” in two world wars.

- Chuck Schwam, COO of the American Friends of Lafayette, movingly called each name of the 64 American volunteers of the American Field Service who “Died for France” in two world wars.
- The Consul General of France Mr. Jérémie Robert, the Deputy Consul General, Mr. Damien Laban, Senator of the French Living Abroad Hélène Conway-Mouroit, General Roland Margueritte and Colonel Richard Decombe of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, Nathalie and Philippe de Gouberville, the representative of the Consulate of Belgium / Delegation of Flanders Mr. Nicolas Polet, honored us with their presence.
- *Our thanks go to Alain Dupuis, president of the Federation of French War Veterans, and the Veterans Henri Dubarry, Daniel Falgerho, Paul Garabedian, and the music of the Cadets Lafayette, led by Mr & Mrs. Jacques Letalon and André Ferrara.*

Tribute Ceremony to the Memory of Pierre Whelan Calvary Cemetery, Queens, NY May 28, 2022



Calvary Cemetery, 49-02 Laurel Hill Blvd, Queens, NY 11377
Tomb of Pierre Whelan, Section 19, Range 1A, Plot T, Grave 12
GPS: [40.739990, -73.914528](https://www.google.com/maps/place/40.739990,-73.914528)

Our main mission is to honor the tombs and the memories of French soldiers buried in the United States. On May 28 we gathered at the tomb of Pierre Whelan, WW1 Veteran and French Embassy Attaché, along with a delegation of the French War Veterans and his American descendants.

Photos:

Left: Aili Whelan, great-grand daughter, Peter Whelan, grand-son, & Ann Whelan

Right: Jean Le Gall, Alain Dupuis, Henri Dubarry, Paul Garabedian, Daniel Falgerho

- Pierre Whelan was born on November 23, 1874 in Lauragh, County of Laois, Ireland. He had French Nationality, served France in the United States in the Diplomatic Corps from 1908 till 1923. He was serving under Jean-Jules Jusserand, one of the most famous French Ambassador in the United States. He worked in different offices and Consulates in Washington DC and Philadelphia as well. He served in France during World War One at the 7e Section C.O.A. Besançon. He obtained other employment in 1923 in the US after leaving the French Foreign Service.

- He died on November 21, 1938. His wife Cécile Marie LeGuillou who died in 1945 is buried next to him. He was a Member of the Federation of French Veterans of the Great War, Inc.

- His grandson Pierre Whelan, Sr. his wife Ann, and his great-grand-son Pierre Whelan, Jr. and wife Aili received a commemoration medal from Le Souvenir

Français along with a Remembrance dossier on their grand-father.

**Memorial Day with the 7th Regiment Veterans Association
Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY
June 5th, 2022**



March from the Armory on Park Avenue, wreath laying in front of the 107th Infantry Regiment monument, by Brigadier General Thomas Principe.
Photos courtesy Daniel Falgerho

-
- On Sunday following Memorial Day, at the invitation of Brigadier General Thomas J. Principe, President, 7th Regiment Veterans, the Federation of French War Veterans participated in the Memorial Day traditional march.
 - The procession went from the 7th Regiment Armory on Park Avenue to the 7th Regiment Memorial monument on Fifth Avenue, where BG Thomas J. Principe and LtCdr Thierry J. Chaunu President, American Society of Le Souvenir Français presented a wreath. MAJ Louis L. Nock, Chaplain, gave the invocation.
 - This regiment hosted General Lafayette during his triumphal tour of the United States in 1824, and was the first one to adopt the name "National Guard" in his honor, followed in due time by all other 49 States.
 - A painting of General Lafayette adorns the wall of the Armory, facing General George Washington's.
 - *Our respectful salute to Brigadier General Thomas Principe and all Veterans of the 7th Regiment who invited us to participate to this important ceremony.*

**Dedication ceremony
Marker, "Major Pierre L'Enfant"
Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia
June 14, 2022**



Memorial and marker Major Pierre l'Enfant

Arlington National Cemetery, One Memorial Drive, Arlington, VA

GPS: [38.881096, -77.072275](https://www.google.com/maps/place/38.881096,-77.072275)

Photos: Sherryl Belinsky, Daughters of the American Revolution Honorary Regent, Stone Bridge Chapter, State Chair, VIS Committee

Photos: Sherryl Belinsky, Daughters of the American Revolution Honorary Regent, Stone Bridge Chapter, State Chair, VIS Committee

Speakers: Phyllis Wilson, President, Military Women's Memorial, Hon. Winsome Sears,

Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia, Denise Doring VanBuren, President General, Daughters of the American Revolution, H.E. Mrs. Aurélie Bonal, Deputy Ambassador of France to the United States, Thierry Chaunu, President, The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Richard A. Azzaro, Co-founder, The Society of Honor Guard, Tomb of Unknown Soldier

- On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at Arlington National Cemetery, we proudly inaugurated with co-signer Denise VanBuren, President General, Daughters of the American Revolution, a new interpretive marker in front of the monument of Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the French military engineer and American Revolutionary War Patriot who designed the plans for Washington D.C.

- It was a particularly moving ceremony, celebrating the unique historical bonds of alliance and friendship between France and the United States.

- You can read more about the fascinating life and accomplishments of Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant in our April 2022 Bulletin at: <https://conta.cc/3uR5rqO>

- Among others who participated in our shared ceremony were:

Commonwealth of Virginia Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears; Deputy Ambassador of France Aurélie Bonal; Arlington National Cemetery Superintendent Ray Alexander; Executive Director of Army Cemeteries Karen Durham-Aguilera; Military Women's Memorial President Phyllis Wilson; Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Co-Founder Richard Azzaro;

- and representatives of a dozen patriotic and fraternal organizations, including, in alphabetical order :

Lawrence Abell, President, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, Joe Buche, Colonel, US Army (Retired), former Commander, 3rd Infantry Regiment, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Foundation, Cyril Carcy, Divisional General, French Air Force Defense Attache, Colonel Maxime Do Tran, French Army, Deputy Defense Attache, , Alain Dupuis, president, Federation of French War Veterans, Patrick du Tertre, president, Association of French Reserve Officers in the USA, Didier Choix, TheFrenchWillNeverForget.org, Kym Hall, Superintendent, National Park Service, Alan R. Hoffman, President, American Friends of Lafayette, Donna Houle, Senior Director of Memorial Engagement & Impact, Military Women's Memorial, P.J. Jeff Lambert, Society of Cincinnati, David Lauhoff, president, and Gardiner Pearson, past president, Washington Memorial Heritage, Bruce Meyer, president, Sons of the American Revolution, Sharla P. Rausch, Director, District V, Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution, Russell Rich, General President, General Society of the Sons of the Revolution, Charles J. Shacoshis, Jr., Chaplain, Society of the Honor Guard Tomb of the Unknown, Chuck Schwam, COO, American Friends of Lafayette, Colonel Benjamin "Soubi" Souberbielle, French Air Force, Deputy Defense Attache, Frank Keech Turner, General President, The Society of the Cincinnati, Davis Wright, National President General, Sons of the American Revolution.

- ***Our immense gratitude to all who joined us for this historic day and our thanks to all those who worked tirelessly to make it such a memorable event.***

**Wreath-laying
Statue of General Rochambeau & the French Fleet Memorial
Newport, Rhode Island
July 9, 2022**



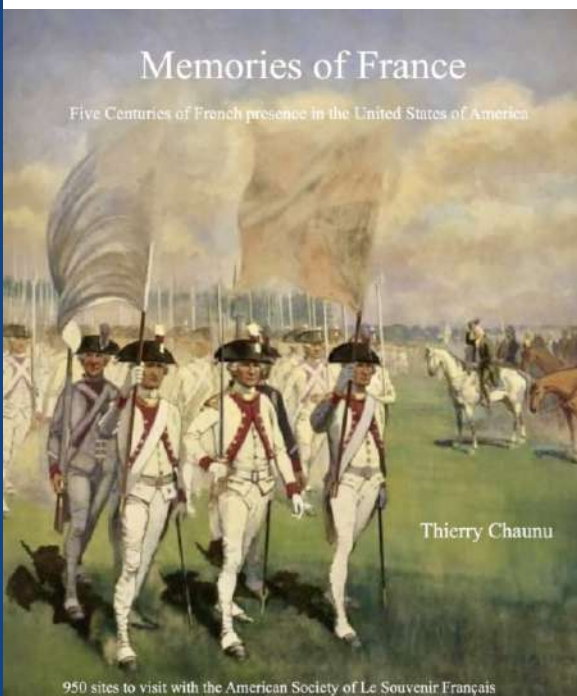
Memorial to the French Fleet, and Statue of Rochambeau

At the waterfront in Kings Park, Newport R.I. 02840

GPS: [41.476733, -71.321555](https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.476733,-71.321555)

- On Saturday, July 9th, a beautiful wreath-laying ceremony was held in Newport, R.I. in front of the statue of Rochambeau and the monument to the French fleet, to commemorate the arrival on July 13, 1780 of 6,000 French soldiers and dozens of warships to help the United States win the War of Independence.
- The ceremony was sponsored by the Alliance Française of Newport, who renovated the statue this past decade. The event was organized under the auspices of the National Park Service, the Newport Historical Society, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route association, in the presence of the Mayor and many distinguished guests and re enactors from several patriotic associations.
- We were honored to join and lay a wreath in what will become an annual celebration, part of a "Tribute to France" weekend.
- *Our thanks to Ruth S. Taylor, Executive Director, Elizabeth Sullock, Director of Public Programs, Newport Historical Society, Johnny Carawan, Trail Administrator, National Park Service, Larry Abell, Chairman of the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R-US), Charlotte Johnson, Trinity Church historian for the invitation and constant support.*

Launch of the Book "Memories of France" National Arts Club, New York September 22, 2022



Book Cover : "Scenes from the American Revolution: The French "Soissonnais" Regiment Being Reviewed at Philadelphia by President Washington and Congress,

1781" By Charles MacKubin Lefferts (American, 1873 – 1923) ca. 1916. Reproduced with permission of the New York Historical Society Museum
The National Arts Club entrance, by Dmadeo - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2171916>

- On September 22, the reception room at the prestigious National Arts Club at Grammercy Park, New York was filled to hear the first presentation of Memories of France, an e-book which compiles 950 sites of French presence in the United States over the past five centuries.
 - This e-book is a unique compilation of statues, monuments, memorials, markers, plaques, tablets, in all 50 States, from 1524 to the turn of the 20th century, as well as a gallery of portraits of famous and less famous Frenchmen who contributed to the exploration and the development of the United States - - many of which will surprise you.
 - Entirely fact-based and illustrated with photos, each one of these 950 sites is identified with an exact address, GPS coordinates, a brief contextual explanation, and links to additional references. It is the only reference book of its kind.
 - It is a tribute to explorers, missionaries, soldiers, adventurers, French, illustrious or unknown, who left their mark in the United States and are recognized, whose memory is honored.
 - E-book "Kindle" version can be easily read on smart phones, tablets, and desktops
*Price is \$19.50 per copy and the e-book is now available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
The version translated in French "Mémoires de France" (19.5 euros) is also now available on [Amazon.fr](https://www.amazon.fr)
Royalties go to support the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc.*
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**Official launch of the Sculpture *The Little Prince*
Villa Albertine - French Cultural Services, New York
October 12, 2022**





Cultural Services of the French Embassy, 972 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 100175
GPS: [40.777095](#), [-73.963659](#)

Top Left: Sculptor Jean-Marc de Pas in his atelier in France,

Middle: the final selection of *Le Petit Prince* which will be installed on the wall near the entrance of Villa Albertine on Fifth Avenue

Middle below: many distinguished guests, first and foremost the author Stacy Schiff who received the medal of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Right: Mr. Gaëtan Bruel, Cultural Attaché, addressing the audience.

Bottom group photo with Col, French Air Force David Papparlardo, Air & Space Defense attaché at the French Embassy in Washington.

Speaking at the lectern: Lionel de Saint-Exupéry, Vice President of The Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Youth Foundation. Among distinguished guests, Consul General of Monaco Hon. Gildo Pallanca Pastor.

Photos: Jean-Marc de Pas, Daniel Falgerho

• On October 13 we announced the sculpture of *The Little Prince* which will be inaugurated next year at the Services Culturels - Villa Albertine in New York, by renowned French sculptor Jean-Marc de Pas.

• Since its 1943 publication, generations of children—and with them generations of adults—have fallen under the spell of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*. Translated into more than 500 languages and dialects, the book is second only to the Bible in its foreign editions.

• Though this whimsical traveler is widely known and loved, few know that Saint-Exupéry conjured him into existence in New York City and in Northport, Long Island. Dozens of plaques and statues around the world commemorate the novelist, including a plaque affixed to the facade of 3 East 52nd Street dedicated by our organization in the year 2000. However there is no sculpture in Manhattan, where Saint-Exupéry lived in 1941 and 1942. From New York he sailed to North Africa in 1943 with one advance copy of the fable/story in his bag; fifteen months later, he disappeared at the controls of a Lockheed P-38 Lightning, while on a reconnaissance mission for the US Air Force.

• Fittingly, at the initiative of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, who spearheaded the project, the sculpture of the Little Prince will be installed near the front entrance of Villa Albertine's headquarters, accessible to passers-by of all ages and backgrounds. Patrons of Albertine, the French and English bookstore inside Villa Albertine, will greet the statue on their way in, and may be inspired to find the treasured book once inside.

- This sculpture project has received the official support of H.E. Denise Campbell Bauer, Ambassador of the United States in Paris, and H.E. Philippe Etienne, Ambassador of France in Washington, DC. The *Comité d'Honneur* is co-presided by Stacy Schiff and Olivier d'Agay, great-nephew Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Lionel de Saint-Exupéry, Vice-President of the Saint-Exupéry Youth Foundation. The Steering Committee is headed by Nicolas Delsalle-Mun, General Delegate of the The Antoine de Saint-Exupéry Youth Foundation, Thierry Chaunu, President of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc. and Board Members Jean-Hugues Monier & Francis Dubois.

- *Our thanks to Gaëtan Bruel and all the wonderful team of Villa Albertine / Services Culturels for their enthusiasm and constant support.*

Dedication ceremony of a new marker in Yorktown, Virginia "Admiral de Grasse, the French Navy, and American Independence" October 18, 2022



Riverwalk Landing, sidewalk along Water Street, Yorktown, VA 23690

GPS: [37.238536, -76.508676](https://www.google.com/maps/place/37.238536,-76.508676)

Photos: Rear Admiral, French Navy Frédéric de Rupilly, Thierry Chaunu and Dr. Robert A. Selig, Ph.D.

- On October 18, 2022, the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc. proudly unveiled an interpretive marker dedicated to the enlightenment and enjoyment of the thousands of tourists who visit annually one of America's most famous battlegrounds, the site of the allied 1781 French-American victory.

- The crucial roles of Admiral de Grasse, the "unsung hero" of the American revolution, and of the French Navy, whose naval victory at the Battle of the Capes and the ensuing blockade of British forces enabled the victorious siege of Yorktown, were properly recognized with this new marker, unveiled by RDML, French Navy, Admiral Frédéric de Rupilly.

- When fully installed in January 2023, this interpretive marker will be the latest addition to a remarkable series of markers, sculptures, and memorials dotting Yorktown's famous Riverwalk.

- The French Navy Marker Committee Members consisted of:
Nicole Yancey, Regional Delegate of the Souvenir Français, and former Honorary Consul of France in Virginia • Rear Admiral Hilaire Ducellier • Rear Admiral Frédéric de Rupilly • Colonel Aymeric Tardieu de Maleyssie • Lt Colonel Alain Abad • Lt

Colonel Mathieu Brulais • Dr. Robert A. Selig, Ph.D. • Thierry Chaunu • Johnny Carawan, National Park Service.

• *The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc. and all the Plaque Committee Members are particularly grateful to Ms. Sheila S. Noll, Supervisor, Katie Meis and Mr. Darren Williams of York County and to Dr. Robert A. Selig, Ph.D, one of the leading historians of the French-American alliance during the Revolutionary War, who graciously wrote the text of this interpretive marker. Also a very special thank you to PJ Lambert and Robert Kelly for their kind advice and constant support behind each of our endeavors.*

**241st anniversary of Yorktown victory
wreath-laying at the French Cemetery,
the French Memorial Monument and celebration at the
Monument to the Alliance and Victory
October 19, 2022**





Battlefield of Yorktown, Virginia:

Photos, Top to Bottom:

French Cemetery, GPS: [37.205865, -76.527233](#)

Alain Leca, president of the French War Veterans, Washington DC, Thierry Chaunu, François Penguilly, Consul General of France in Washington, Captain French Navy Jean-René Degans

French Memorial Monument, GPS: [37.240875, -76.52161](#)

Monument to the Alliance & Victory, GPS: [37.233510, -76.505041](#)

Traditional Yorktown Day Parade with a delegation from our friends of the Association Hermione-Lafayette from France. <https://frigate-hermione.com/en/>

For a list (still incomplete) of French casualties, please visit:

<https://souvenirfrancaisusa.org/honor-roll/#yorktown>

- On Wednesday, October 19, we celebrated the 241st anniversary of the combined French-American victory in Yorktown, Virginia, which led to the Independence of the United States.
- At 8:30AM we laid a wreath at the French Cemetery where 50 unknown French soldiers and sailors are buried in a mass grave.
- At 9:30AM we gathered at the French Memorial Monument which lists the names of some 600 French soldiers and sailors who gave their lives for the cause of Freedom. Captain Jean-René Degans, French Navy, gave remarks at the French Memorial, with Lt. Colonel Mathieu Brulais commanding the detachment of several Officers and Petty Officers from the French Army, French Navy and French Air Force stationed at NATO Command in nearby Norfolk.
- After the parade at 11:00AM patriotic exercises were held at the Monument to the Alliance and Victory. The standard of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français was present at all three ceremonies, in the presence of Mr. François Penguilly, Consul General of France in Washington, and Mrs. Nicole Yancey, former Honorary Consul of France in Virginia, and current Regional Delegate of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français. We were also happy to meet visitors from France who represented the frigate Hermione, currently on dry dock for extensive repairs. We will announce the impending fund raising drive this side of the US in January 2023. Stay tuned!
- *Special thanks to Chuck Schwam, COO of the American Friends of Lafayette, who was the Master of Ceremony at the French Cemetery, to Richard Azzaro, co-founder of the Society of Honor Guard, tomb of Unknown Soldier, who laid a "Never Forget" bouquet of white roses, P. Jeffrey Lambert, COO at The American Revolution Consortium for Civic Education, Dr. Robert A. Selig, Ph.D. who was a most enlightening Keynote Speaker at the Victory commemoration, and all distinguished organizers, guests and attendees for this special day celebrating more than two centuries of French-American alliance and friendship.*

Gift of Tricolor Flag to

**the Franco-American Friendship Student Club
Lycée Rochambeau, French International School, Washington DC
October 21, 2022**



Statue of Rochambeau, Southwest corner of Lafayette Park, across from the White House, Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington D.C.

GPS: [38.899027, -77.037711](https://www.google.com/maps/place/38.899027,-77.037711)

Lycée Rochambeau French International School, 9600 Forest Rd, Bethesda, MD 20814

- On October 21st, 2022, we were honored to participate in a ceremony organized by Cyril Pefaure and Pierre Oury, to officially present a brand new French flag embroidered with the coat of arms of General de Rochambeau to students of the "History and Memory Club" of the Rochambeau French International School in Washington.
- This ceremony was held in front of the Statue of Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau facing the White House at Lafayette Park.
- Speakers included:
 - Cyril Péfaure, Representative of the French Veteran's Associations in France
 - Colonel Maxime Do Tran, Defense Attaché of the French Embassy in the US
 - Thierry Chaunu, National Delegate for the United States of Le Souvenir Français, and president of The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc,
 - Jacqueline Oury, 12th-grade student and founder of the "History and Memory" Student Club.
- This flag will be kept under their watch and will be proudly displayed in upcoming joint French-American commemorations, thus fulfilling one of our missions, which is "to pass the torch of Memory to younger generations".
- *Congratulations to all these fine young men and ladies and their parents and families, as well as our sincere appreciation to Mr. Xavier Jacquenet, Director of the Rochambeau School, and the history professors, for their wholehearted support.*

**Commemoration of the victories of Saratoga & Yorktown
With the Lower Manhattan Historical Association
St Paul Chapel, Trinity Church, Broadway New York
October 22, 2022**



St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church Wall Street

209 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

GPS: [40.7113024,-74.0091829](https://www.google.com/maps/place/40.7113024,-74.0091829)

Photos Daniel Falgerho:

Left: Peter Hein, president, Sons of the Revolution - NY

Middle: James Kaplan, Founder & Chairman of the Board of the Lower Manhattan

Historical Association, Ambrose Richardson, past president, Sons of the Revolution - NY

Right: Tomb of Etienne Béchet, Sieur de Rochefontaine, French military engineer who served in the Continental Army

• On October 22, the Federation of French War Veterans and the American Society of Le Souvenir Français attended the annual celebration of the American of Saratoga on October 17, 1777 and the allied French-American victory of Yorktown, on October 19, 1781.

• This ceremony is organized every year by the Lower Manhattan Historical Association at the Churchyard of St. Paul's Chapel in lower Manhattan.

• During this informative ceremony open to the general public, James Kaplan, LMHA Founder & Chairman of the Board and Ambrose Richardson recounted illuminating details from the events of the period. Peter C. Hein paid homage to the sacrifices made by the American Patriots and their allies. Thierry Chaunu evoked the steadfastness of the bonds between the United States and France, this country's oldest ally.

• *Our thanks to James Kaplan, Peter Hein and Ambrose Richardson for their warm welcome and also for their invitation to join the hour-long walking tour of less known historical sites in Lower Manhattan around Fraunces Tavern.*

**Hommage to the US Unknown Soldier of World War I
With the Society of Honor Guard / Tomb of Unknown Soldier
On board the USS Olympia, Philadelphia, PA
October 25, 2022**



USS Olympia, Independence Seaport Museum

211 S. Columbus Blvd. Philadelphia PA 19106

GPS: [39.94359, -75.140957](https://www.google.com/maps/place/39.94359,-75.140957)

Left: Tomb Guards memorial trunk containing the Star Spangled banner and vials of earth from the battlefields of France

Middle top: Alain Dupuis & Henri Dubarry, Federation of French War Veterans, Thierry Chaunu, Souvenir Français, Cyril Péfaure, president of French War Veterans of Tarn (SW France)

Middle below: group photo with Robert Loftur-Thun, Society of Honor Guard / Tomb of Unknown Soldier

Right: Alain Dupuis, president of the Federation of French War Veterans, laying a wreath
Photos by Cyril Pefaure / with our appreciation for your visit in the United States.

• On October 25, we were honored to join the Society of Honor Guard, Tomb of Unknown Soldier on board the *USS Olympia* in Philadelphia for the annual commemoration of the transfer of the US Unknown Soldier back home from France.

• Alain Dupuis, president of the Federation of French War Veterans, Henri Dubarry, French War Veteran, Cyril Pefaure representing the Association of French War Veterans in France, along with his family visiting the United States, and Thierry Chaunu, president of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, each laid a white rose on the very spot on the upper deck where the Unknown Soldier's casket rested during a particularly hazardous crossing of the Atlantic.

• Several current and past Tomb Guards attended and it is always a great honor to shake their hands and express our deepest thanks and respect for their service.

• Thank you Kevin Donovan, Tomb Guard Badge #253, for your brotherly welcome and for allowing us to hold the Society's trunk containing the Star-Spangled Banner and several vials of soils from American military cemeteries in France. A very moving experience, symbolizing the profound historical bonds between France and the United States.

• *Our deep appreciation and respect to the Society of Honor Guard, Tomb of Unknown Soldier National president Lonny LeGrand, to co-Founder and past president Richard Azzaro, to Robert Loftur-Thurn, Kevin Donovan and all past and current Tomb Guards for your brotherly welcome.*

**Tribute to the memory of
Edith Urwicz, French & Monégasque Resistance fighter
at Le Souvenir Français headquarters in Paris
November 2, 2022**



Mrs. Linda Zabolski, daughter of French Resistance member Edith Urwicz, with her husband Bill and her cousin Liliane Niddam receiving a commemorative plaque from the President-general of Le Souvenir Français, the Contrôleur Général des Armées (2s) Serge Barcellini at the headquarters 20 rue Eugène Flachat, 75017 Paris. Photos courtesy of Mrs. Linda Zabolski, daughter of Edith Urwicz.

- On November 2 in Paris, our Society member Mrs. Linda Zabolski received from the hands of the president general Serge Barcellini a metal plaque honoring the exemplary courage and deeds of her mother Edith Urwicz during World War II.

- Edith Urwicz was a courier and liaison officer for a Resistance group in Nice led by René Borghini. During the winter of 1944, her identity was revealed to the Gestapo. She escaped from Nice and was taken to the village of L'Abadie, where she remained hidden in the cellar of a farmhouse.

- In August 1944, she returned to Nice from the Basses-Alpes, to find that 23 members of her group had been arrested on July 3, 1944 and then executed on August 15, 1944. The brave fighters who were tortured, shot and thrown into a mass grave, included René Borghini and Esther Poggio, (her replacement while she was hidden in the mountains).

- It was Edith Urwicz who went to the mass grave and identified René Borghini's body. René was made a national hero by the Principality of Monaco.

- There is an official ceremony every year at his grave in Monte Carlo and last year in 2021, HSH Albert II of Monaco unveiled a bronze bust of René Borghini, which is displayed at the entrance to the Grand Hémicycle.

- *"Un grand merci" to the team at the headquarters of Le Souvenir Français headquarters in Paris for helping arrange the ceremony.*

Annual Ceremony to the Memory of 25 French Soldiers buried in Providence, Rhode Island November 5, 2022



Monument to the French Soldiers, Providence, RI
North Burial Ground, 5 Branch Ave., Providence, R.I. 02904

GPS: [41.84821, -71.407306](https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.84821,-71.407306)

Photos by Norman Desmarais and Pauline Bonin

Center: Prof. Norman Desmarais in period uniform

For the list of these 25 Soldiers who gave their lives for the Independence of the United States, please visit: <https://souvenirfrancaisusa.org/honor-roll/#providence>

- Le Régiment Bourbonnais, the Second Rhode Island Regiment and a group of about 15 Sons of the American Revolution, Rhode Island chapter met at the North Burial Ground in Providence, RI for a joint ceremony, on Saturday morning November 5. A small group of public attended.
- The ceremony began with a historical introduction followed by the laying of a wreath at the monument for the French soldiers.
- Norman Desmarais, member of le Régiment Bourbonnais, and Regional delegate, New England, of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, read the names of the 25 soldiers commemorated by the monument. A salute of three musket volleys was followed by a moment of silence.
- Captain Carl Becker, of the Second Rhode Island Regiment, then gave a brief historical explanation of the monument to Colonel Israel Angell adjacent to the monument for the French soldiers. He mentioned that Stephen Hopkins, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and other officers and soldiers from the Second Rhode Island Regiment were also buried in the cemetery. The two regiments fired a joint volley followed by a moment of silence before being dismissed.
- Note: a cenotaph to French-born Union Army Brigadier General Alfred Napoléon Alexandre "Nattie" Duffié, who became a naturalized American citizen in 1867, is also nearby. It was built by Veterans under his command after his death in 1880.
- *Our gratitude to Prof. Desmarais and all the re-enactors for conducting this ceremony every year. They do not forget and keep the memory alive.*

**Tribute ceremony in honor of Mr. André Joseph Scheinmann
Tifereth Israel Cemetery in North Bedford, MA
November 6, 2022**



Tifereth Israel Cemetery, 1400 Old Plainville Rd, New Bedford, MA 02745

Tomb GPS: [41.681242, -70.967322](https://www.google.com/maps/place/41.681242,-70.967322)

Photos: courtesy Katia Graytok

Left and right: Family and Friends of André Joseph Scheinmann

Middle: André Joseph Scheinmann during WWII

-
- On November 6, President Thierry Chaunu and Regional delegate Norman Desmarais participated in a ceremony at the Tifereth Israel Cemetery in North Dartmouth, MA on Sunday, to honor André Joseph Scheinmann, who fought with the French Resistance during World War Two.

- Mr. André Joseph Scheinmann, alias André Maurice Peulevey, was Jewish born in Germany in 1915. His family moved to France in 1933. At the outbreak of hostilities, he enlisted in the French Army, which subsequently assigned him a new identity under the three names of his alias: André Maurice Peulevey, in order to avoid persecutions in case of capture by the enemy. In the fall of 1940, he entered the French Resistance. In 1942, he left clandestinely for England, where he was trained for several weeks in spy techniques. A couple of days after his return to France, he got arrested by the Gestapo. He was deported to KL Natzweiler on July 9, 1943 as a "Nacht und Nebel"/ (Night and Fog) prisoner and later to Dachau on September 4, 1944.
- On February 13, 1946, General De Gaulle awarded him the Croix de Guerre 1939-45 avec Palme and he was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur on March 15, 1946.
- After five years of post-war service to his comrades in the Resistance, inscribing them into the ledgers of the French Government for honors and pensions for their families, (as "Liquidateur de réseau") he made his permanent move to the US with his wife Claire Dymont Jarrett, whose service to the RAF as a wireless interpreter is remembered on the Roll of Honor at Bletchley Park, and his son, Michel. He died in Boston in 2001, and is buried in New Bedford, MA.
- Mr. Scheinmann's son Michel and two granddaughters, Clara and Emma, attended along with about 30 family, friends and guests. Mel Yoken, Ph.D. Chancellor Professor Emeritus of French Language and Literature, French Legion of Honor, of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, and his wife Cynthia, were among the distinguished guests in attendance.
- This ceremony is part of the yearly tributes organized by Le Souvenir Français in Paris. 80 years after, the association honors 100 patriots who fought for France and the cause of Freedom. In 2022, Le Souvenir Français is honoring those who did great deeds in 1942 - - and one of these 100 is Mr. Scheinmann, who lived and died in the United States.
- For more information on Mr. Scheinmann's extraordinary exploits and hardships during WWII, visit: shorturl.at/bfoy1
- *Our grateful appreciation to Diana Mara Henry for all the historical research compiled on this war hero, and for carrying out this project with determination and kindness.*

**Tribute to Women serving America
Central Park, Manhattan
November 9, 2022**



Overseas Service League Flagstaff and Grove
Central Park East 69th Street, New York, NY 10065
GPS: [40.770929, -73.968753](https://www.google.com/maps/place/40.770929,-73.968753)

New York City's mayor Eric Adams praised the role of women in the military as well as civil society and issued a Proclamation.

The ceremony can be watched on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/M0oRG-nMGYw>

- On November 9 we joined New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Mr. Jérémie Robert, Consul General of France, and several New York City officials and distinguished guests, to honor women of service in the military.
- The NYC Department of Veterans' Services, the American Red Cross and other Veteran advocates and partners held a ceremony to celebrate women of service on Wednesday, November 9, 2022.
- In 1925, a Central Park memorial grove of 24 trees and flagstaff was conceptualized for a tribute to 24 American nurses who died in France, and by extension all American women who were enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces in the First World War. Today, this grove remains an important tribute to women of service in NYC.
- Alain Dupuis, president of the Federation of French War Veterans, along with Henri Dubarry, French War Veterans, and Thierry Chaunu, president of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, stood alongside this event's Master of Ceremony and NY Community Leader Howard Teich, Founder & Chairman at The Howard Teich Network.
- Mayor Eric Adams, in his remarks, noted on the invaluable contributions of women in service, and the crucial role of mothers in general; the Consul general of France expressed France's eternal gratitude for the brave American women who volunteered and served in two World Wars to fight for the cause of Freedom.
- *Our appreciation to Howard Teich for having rekindled this ceremony after many years of oblivion, and for all his involvements in New York City commissions, notably recently during the Centennial commemorations of World War I.*

Presentation of Wreaths at the tombs of French War Veterans Flushing Cemetery & the tombs of French WW1 sailors at Cypress Hill National Cemetery



Top: **French War Veterans Lot, Flushing Cemetery**
163-6 46th Ave, Queens, NY 11358
GPS: [40.753415, -73.802131](https://www.google.com/maps?q=40.753415,-73.802131)

Bottom: **French Sailors Lot, Cypress Hills National Cemetery**
625 Jamaica Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11208
GPS: [40.690843, -73.875660](https://www.google.com/maps?q=40.690843,-73.875660)

Left: Souvenir Français USA Board Member and Lieutenant, (Reserve) Pierre Gervois, French Air Force reading a tribute to the 25 French Navy sailors, next to French War Veterans past president André Ferrara, and Nancy Dumerchat.

Right: (from left to right) French War Veterans Michel Dumerchat, Jean Le Gall, Paul Garabédian Henri Dubarry.

Photos: Daniel Falgerho

The list of the French sailors buried in the National Cemetery can be seen at:

<https://souvenirfrançaisusa.org/honor-roll/#sailors>

- The annual tribute to the "Carré des Anciens Combattants Français » which is the property for perpetuity of the Federation of French War Veterans, took place on November 10.

- Note, in the center of the square is Corporal Eugene Bullard's tomb (Our February 2021 Bulletin is dedicated to his extraordinary deeds). He volunteered in the Foreign Legion, then the 1st African-American pilot to have fought in the French and American Air force in 1917 and decorated with the Medal of Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honor by General de Gaulle in 1959.

- On the same day, the annual tribute was paid to the "French sailors lot" where 25 sailors of World War One are buried (only three were repatriated to France).

- A tribute was read by Lt, French Air Force reserve Pierre Gervois. The youngest was 20, the oldest 37, practically all from Brittany (except 2 from Martinique, 1 from Provence and 1 from Picardy).

All served on board 3 convoy escorts: the armored cruiser Gloire, the armored cruiser Montcalm, and the armored cruiser Marseillaise. Only three were repatriated to France

May they rest in peace under the stars of America, those of the firmament, like those of the flag of the United States.

We honor them and we remember them.

Ceremony the 7th Regiment Memorial & Parade on Fifth Avenue, New York November 11, 2022 - Veterans Day



107th Infantry Memorial, Central Park, Fifth Avenue at 67th Street, New York, NY 10065
GPS: [40.769373, -73.969544](https://www.google.com/maps/place/40.769373,-73.969544)

Photos by Daniel Falgerho

Above right: Brigadier General Thomas Principe addressing the 7th Regiment Veterans.
Below clockwise: Boy Scouts carrying the giant flag under the rain, Mrs. Gisèle Grosz who flew from Paris, representing the National Union of War Veterans in France, the Cadets Lafayette and the Consul General of France Jérémie Robert front of the official reviewing stand while the Marseillaise was played.



- On November 11, Armistice Day (Veterans Day) we were honored to join Veterans of the 7th Regiment at the Invitation of Brigadier General Thomas J. Principe to the traditional parade and wreath laying in front of the beautiful Memorial to this most decorated regiment. The General reminded the public in attendance of the bravery of the "Doughboys" who came to the rescue in 1917 and fought for the freedom of France. After the invocation by Hon. Louis L. Nock, we partook in a fraternal lunch at the Regiment's headquarters at the Park Avenue Armory.

- Afterwards under heavy rain we took part in the traditional Veterans' Day March on Fifth Avenue, organized by Alain Dupuis, president of the Federation of French War Veterans. Mr. Jérémie Robert, Consul General of France and Colonel Stanislas de Magnienville joined with two French Cadets of Saint Cyr currently in an exchange program at West Point. Patrick du Tertre, President of the Association of French Reserve Officers in the US, and 1st Vice President of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc. is also Co-President of [TheFrenchWillNeverForget.org](https://www.thefrenchwillneverforget.org), who deploys giant flags (40'x60') of the United States and France. These flags were originally deployed on Omaha Beach on Independence day 2007. Ever since they have been deployed together on many occasions by TFWNF as a show of gratitude from the French people to their American Allies.
The Association's Co-Presidents, Jean-Pierre Heim, Paul Bensabat and Patrick du Tertre deserve our special thanks for their support.

- Due to the pouring rain and the heavy wet flags, it was decided to deploy only the giant US flag, carried by Boys Scouts of America Scouting's Troop 1, Troop 1 G and Cub Pack 1.

- *Our respectful salute to Brigadier General Thomas Principe and all Veterans of the 7th Regiment who invited us to participate to this important ceremony.*

- *Our special thanks go to Nathalie Yates and Carolyn Casey who rally the Scouts and their parents every year and for their dedication.*

**Tribute to the 463 French and American
conscripts and volunteers from the US
who "Died for France" during two World Wars
Notre-Dame Church, New York
November 13, 2022**



Memorial Plaques, Church of Notre Dame, 405 West 114th St., New York, NY 10025

GPS: [40.805025, -73.960249](https://www.google.com/maps/place/40.805025,-73.960249)

From Left to Right: André Ferrara, COL (US Army) Steven Ryan, Alain Dupuis, Jacques Letalon, Mrs. Isabelle Van Bockstaele, Henry Dubarry, Michel Dumerchat, LCOL US Army Dionysios Dionou-Weiss, Prof. Clément Mbom, Thierry Chaunu, Paul Garabedian, Mme Maria Le Gall, Jean Le Gall

Bottom Left: The 463 French and American conscripts and volunteers "Morts pour la France" (Who Died for France)

Bottom Right: COL (US Army) Steven Ryan & LCOL (US Army) Dionysios Dionou-Weiss, Thierry Chaunu.

- On Sunday November 13, 2022 the traditional Mass of the Armistice at the Parish of Notre Dame was celebrated by Father Michael Holleran.
- After the Mass, a ceremony was organized by the Federation of French War Veterans
- A wreath in memory of soldiers who "Died for France" during the Two World Wars was laid by COL US Army Stephen J. Ryan and LCOL US Army Dyonysios Dionou-Weiss (pictured above with Thierry Chaunu standing at attention behind), to honor the memory of the members of the Federation as well as the 463 French Conscripts and American Volunteers from the US who "Died For France" (killed in service for France)
- For the list of names inscribed in these plaques, please visit:

<https://souvenirfrancaisusa.org/honor-roll/#ny>
https://souvenirfrancaisusa.org/honor-roll/#american_field_service_1915-1918
https://souvenirfrancaisusa.org/honor-roll/#escradille_lafayette
https://souvenirfrancaisusa.org/honor-roll/#terre_air_mer
https://souvenirfrancaisusa.org/honor-roll/#american_field_service_1939-1945

**"Our Battlefields" US Veterans exhibit
Women Military Memorial
French Presidential Visit
Tomb of Unknown Soldier & Tomb of Major L'Enfant
November 30, 2022**



Arlington National Cemetery One Memorial Drive, Arlington, VA. 22202

Top: Military Women's Memorial / GPS: [38.882589, -77.068633](#)

Center top: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier / GPS: [38.876485, -77.072165](#)

Center bottom: Monument of Major Pierre l'Enfant / GPS: [38.881096, -77.072275](#)

Bottom: Decoration of the Legion of Honor to WWII American Veterans by President Macron.

Photos: French Embassy, Thierry Chaunu, Richard Azzaro

- November 30 was a special day, witnessing the strong enduring symbols of the French-American alliance: "Our Battlefields" exhibit by artist Elo de la Ruë du Can organized by Valerie Coulloume-Labarthe Carrard, honoring US Veterans at the Military Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, thanks to Donna Houle, the Memorial's Senior Director, and Richard Azzaro, past president and co-Founder of the Society of Honor Guard, and attended by students of the Lycée Rochambeau. The American Society of Le Souvenir Français was cited among the sponsors.
- Following this, and thanks to Richard Azzaro, I was privileged to attend the wreath laying ceremony by French President Emmanuel Macron at the Tomb of Unknown Soldier.
- The French President and his wife Brigitte then stopped at the monument of Major Pierre L'Enfant and laid a rose on top. We are not sure if he could see that the marker we dedicated in June was co-signed at the bottom: "American Society of Le Souvenir Français & the Daughters of the American Revolution".
- Another very moving ceremony took place later that evening, when President Macron awarded the Legion of Honor to a group of brave World War II American soldiers. The President reminded us of the high price they and other members of "the Greatest Generation" paid for our freedom, and expressed the eternal gratitude of France for their courage.
- *Our deepest thanks and respects to Donna Houle, Senior Director of Memorial Engagement & Impact, Military Women's Memorial, and to Richard Azzaro, Founder and past president of the Society of Honor Guards, Tomb of Unknown Soldier, for their steadfast friendship and determination to carry out any projects, even those deemed impossible.*



PART FIVE OF THE SERIES "LAFAYETTE, GUEST OF THE NATION"

If you missed the episodes from our past Bulletins...

- **President James Monroe** invited **Lafayette**, the last surviving major general of the American Revolutionary War, to tour the United States, officially to celebrate the nation's 50th anniversary but also to instill the "spirit of 1776" in the next generation of Americans at a time of great political divide. His tour drew large crowds and sparked a renewal of patriotism.

- From July 1824 to September 1825, Lafayette made a tour of all 24 States in the United States. He was received with a hero's welcome everywhere he stopped. Immense crowds, children, old veterans would come from miles away and wait hours to have a chance to see him, approach him, touch him. Many honors and monuments were presented to commemorate and memorialize the visit.

- The 24 states visited were: *Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine (ex-Massachusetts / North part), Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington D.C.*

- The main means of transportation were stagecoach, horseback, canal barge, and steamboat.

- Throughout the years 2024 and 2025 each city will celebrate this most illustrious Frenchman, ranked alongside the Founding Fathers, practically on a par with George Washington. If anyone harbors any doubt about it, one only needs to read the some of the hundreds of local newspapers articles and the accounts or memoirs of contemporary witnesses accounts.



The American Friends of Lafayette is a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring the memory of the Marquis de Lafayette, and is the driving force behind the preparation of the Bicentennial visit to the US. Click on the logo above to learn more.



The Lafayette Trail, Inc. is a nonprofit organization with the mission to document, map, and mark General Lafayette's footsteps during his Farewell Tour of the United States in 1824 and 1825. Click on the logo above to learn more.

- Several of his stops are memorialized with markers and plaques, some decades-old, and an increasing number of brand new ones, thanks to the energy and enthusiasm deployed by Julien Icher, president of the LafayetteTrail.org, whose goal is to dedicate all 175 markers by 2024.

- These new markers from the LafayetteTrail.org are all made in the same distinctive blue and red cast metal and signed by the William C. Pomeroy Foundation which is generously funding this gigantic project.

- The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc. is honored to partner with these two like-minded organizations, all well as all other American patriotic associations and volunteers who are participating in these celebrations, under the umbrella of America250

As we started with August 2022 Bulletin, we will narrate every month some of the most salient episodes of this remarkable journey of the corresponding month 198 years ago, while keeping you abreast of the many celebrations planned by the local committees of the American Friends of Lafayette in 2024 and in 2025.

For this series we will also borrow from the testimonies of a privileged close witness, Auguste Levasseur, Lafayette's personal secretary, who traveled along with the Marquis and his son, George Washington Lafayette, and who published his extensive daily journal: "*Lafayette en Amérique 1824-1825, ou Journal d'un voyage au Etats-Unis*" (Published by the Librairie Baudoin, Paris, in 1829), as well as other well-documented sources, such as Samuel Lorenzo Knapp. "*Memoirs of General Lafayette : with an Account of His Visit to America and His Reception By the People of the United States; From His Arrival, August 15th, to the Celebration at Yorktown, October 19th, 1824*" (Published in November, 1824)

ITINERARY DECEMBER 1824

- Early December – Stays in Washington, D.C., visiting the White House, meeting several times with President Monroe and George Washington's relatives; visits the Washington Navy Yard
 - December 8 and 9 – Makes official visits to the Senate and addresses Congress at the House of Representatives (the first foreign dignitary to do so)
 - December 15 – Feted at the first commencement ceremony of the Columbian College in the District of Columbia (now the George Washington University)
 - December 17 – Arrives at Annapolis, Maryland, received in the Senate chamber and visits Fort Severn
 - December 20 – Received at the Maryland State House
 - December 24 – Arrives at the Jug Bridge crossing the Monocacy River on the National Road east of Frederick, Maryland
-

Lafayette addresses a joint session of Congress The first foreign dignitary ever invited December 9, 1824



House of Representatives, US Capitol, Washington DC

Left: The House Chamber. Both portraits of Washington & Lafayette surround the rostrum. Right: Oil painting of Lafayette by Dutch-French artist Ary Scheffer (1795-1858), gift of the artist to Congress - Collection of the U.S. House of Representatives, Public Domain

George Washington is to the right of the Speaker of the House, the marquis de Lafayette to the left.

- The portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette was presented to the House by Dutch-French artist Ary Scheffer in 1824. The Marquis de Lafayette wears a black suit in his House Chamber portrait, the traditional dress of commoners in

the French court. He downplays his aristocratic roots to emphasize his role as a revolutionary with this fashion choice.

- The portrait came to the House to commemorate Lafayette's triumphal tour of the United States. During this visit, **Lafayette became the first foreign dignitary to address a Joint Session of Congress**. Reportedly Lafayette's favorite likeness, this portrait was reproduced in prints and on every souvenir imaginable, and even on printed currency by banks in 27 States!

- The 1950 renovation included frames built into the new wood paneling, making the two paintings of Lafayette and Washington permanent Chamber fixtures, physically as well as symbolically.

**December 9, 1824: a memorable day at the Capitol,
as recounted by Auguste Levasseur (excerpts):**

“When the members had taken their seats, Mr. Condict proposed that the senate should be invited to attend, and the motion was carried by a large majority. The speaker then requested the members to pass to the right, in order to give place to the senators. The senate then entered and took their seats; a few minutes after, two members came for Mr. George Lafayette and myself, and conducted us into the hall, to a seat occupied by the public officers. A signal being then given, the doors were thrown open, and General Lafayette entered between Messrs. Mitchell and Livingston, followed by the rest of the deputation: the whole assembly arose and stood uncovered in silence. When the general reached the centre of the hall, the speaker, Mr. Clay, thus addressed him:

“General—The house of representatives of the United States, impelled alike by its own feelings, and by those of the whole American people, could not have assigned to me a more gratifying duty, than that of presenting to you cordial congratulations upon the occasion of your recent arrival in the United States, in compliance with the wishes of congress, and to assure you of the very high satisfaction which your presence affords on this early theatre of your glory and renown. Although but few of the members who compose this body shared with you in the war of our revolution, all have, from impartial history or from faithful tradition, a knowledge of the perils, the sufferings, and the sacrifices which you voluntarily encountered, and the signal services, in America and in Europe, which you performed for an infant, a distant, and an alien people [...]
Your consistency of character, your uniform devotion to regulated liberty, in all the vicissitudes of a long and arduous life, also commands its admiration. During all the recent convulsions of Europe, amidst, as after the dispersion of, every political storm, the people of the United States have beheld you, true to your old principles, firm and erect, cheering and animating, with your well known voice, the votaries of liberty, its faithful and fearless champion, ready to shed the last drop of that blood which here you so freely and nobly spilt, in the same holy cause.”

Levasseur continues his narration:

...“The profound emotion experienced by the speaker, which had visibly agitated him throughout his address, rapidly extended to the hearts of the auditors, each of whom waited, with benevolent anxiety, for the answer they expected the general would have ready in writing, for so solemn an occasion. But every one was agreeably surprised, to see him advance a few steps towards the speaker, cast upon the assembly looks of feeling and gratitude, and, after a few instants of recollection, deliver, in a sonorous voice, distinctly audible throughout the house, the following extempore reply:

“My obligations to the United States, sir, far exceed any merit I might claim; they date from the time when I have had the happiness to be adopted as a young soldier, a favoured son of America; they have been continued to me during almost a half a century of constant affection and confidence; and now, sir, thanks to your most gratifying invitation, I find myself greeted by a series of

welcomes, one hour of which would more than compensate for the public exertions and sufferings of a whole life.”

“You have been pleased, Mr. Speaker, to allude to the peculiar felicity of my situation, when, after so long an absence, I am called to witness the immense improvements, the admirable communications, the prodigious creations, of which we find an example in this city, whose name itself is a venerated palladium; in a word, all the grandeur and prosperity of those happy United States, who, at the same time they nobly secure the complete assertion of American independence, reflect, on every part of the world, the light of a far superior political civilization.”

“What better pledge can be given, of a persevering, national love of liberty, when these blessings are evidently the result of a virtuous resistance to oppression, and institutions founded on the rights of man, and the republican principle of self-government?”

Excerpt From: Auguste Levasseur. “Lafayette in America in 1824 and 1825, Vol. II (page 25-26)

**Lafayette at Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
Plaque, “Marquis de Lafayette Hall”
December 15, 1824**



Georgetown University, Lafayette Hall
2100 I Street Northwest, Washington DC 20037
GPS: [38.900583, -77.046867](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2100+I+St+NW,+Washington,+DC+20037/@38.900583,-77.046867,15z)

Left: Plaque, “Marquis de Lafayette Hall”, affixed on the left of the main entrance,
Photo By Dirk Ingo Franke - Own work, CC BY 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=23237620>

Right: Portrait of General Lafayette by Samuel Morse in 1826
Public Domain, <https://www.nyc.gov/site/designcommission/public-programs/city-hall/portraits/portrait.page?portraitId=56>

In 1998, Adams Hall became Lafayette Hall to recognize the Marquis de Lafayette's connection to the University and George Washington. Lafayette attended the Columbian College's first Commencement in 1824, where he shook the hand of every graduate!

• Inscription (excerpts):

"Dedicated in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834), a hero of the American Revolution, defender of liberty, statesman, and good friend of George Washington" [...]

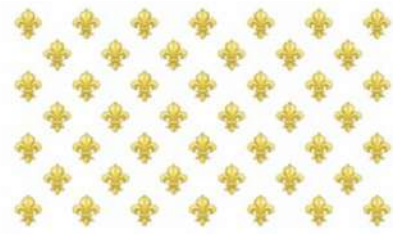
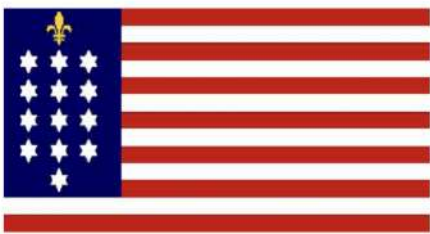
"On his farewell visit in 1824 he was magnificently entertained as a guest of the City of Washington. During this festive triumphal tour of the United States (1824-25), Lafayette and his Suite attended the first Commencement exercises of Columbian College, which later became The George Washington University. Held precisely at half past 10 o'clock a.m. on 15 December 1824 at Dr. Laurie's Meeting House on F Street between Fourteenth and Fifteenth Streets, the graduation was also attended by President James Monroe, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, Secretary of War John C. Calhoun, Speaker of the House Henry Clay, and many other members of the two Houses of Congress. After the ceremony General Lafayette was welcomed by the First President of Columbian College, The Reverend Dr. William Staughton, at a reception at the College with the trustees, faculty, students, and other distinguished guests, followed by dinner at the home of the President."

"All in all the First Commencement Day of our very young Columbian College was truly splendid-exceeding all expectations. Indeed it was one that would have done honor to any of the older universities in the nation. The press was enthusiastic in its reports of the Commencement. The weather was unusually fine."

"Every part of the performance evinced talents and mental cultivation of a high order." The house was crowded with an "intelligent and fashionable auditory." Music was furnished by the United States Marine Band. Lafayette expressed his thanks for the honor done him, the pleasure with which he had witnessed the Commencement, and his wishes for the prosperity of the College. Each student was then introduced. The General shook hands with each one and spoke to all the students in terms of paternal affection. Such was the First Commencement Day."

"Erected 1997"

***WE WILL CONTINUE TO TRAVEL WITH LAFAYETTE
OVER THE NEXT 9 MONTHS!...***



CONCLUSION
SEASON 2, EPISODE 5, DECEMBER 1782:
THE FRENCH ARMY IN BOSTON

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Last year we narrated in 5 episodes, from June to October, the long march of the French Army under general comte de Rochambeau from Newport, R.I. to Yorktown, VA, through the States of CT, NJ, NY, PA, DE, MD

With this Bulletin we are concluding the series
"Season 2, Episode 5: December 1782, in Boston"

After the victory in Yorktown, the war was not officially over. It would take several more months before England would recognize the independence of the United States and sign the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783.

During that time, British forces were still in control of cities such as New York.

The French army spent the most part of the winter of 1781-1782 stationed in Williamsburg, VA, and starting marching north in July 1st, 1782 to reach Boston in December and sail home.

Some units stayed behind, such as the famous Lauzun Legion of hussards, who kept watch during the winter of 1782-1783.

The return march route was in a much lighter mood, understandably so. It is not as well documented than the south-bound march we narrated last year.

Below are a couple of markers pertaining to the month of December 1782 in Massachusetts.

Support the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R-US)!

53rd Encampment of the French Army, Wrentham, MA 1-4 December 1782



53rd Encampment of the French Army, Wrentham, MA

GPS: [42.08681, -71.32148](#)

<https://w3r-us.org/french-encampment-wrentham-1-4-december-1782/>

Above: "Côte de York-town à Boston: Marches de l'armée" French manuscript map, in pen-and-ink and watercolor, created in 1782, during the American Revolutionary War. The map is oriented with north toward the upper right. It shows the route marched by the army of the Comte de Rochambeau from Providence, Rhode Island, to Yorktown, Virginia, as well as the return route and troop encampments on the way to Boston.

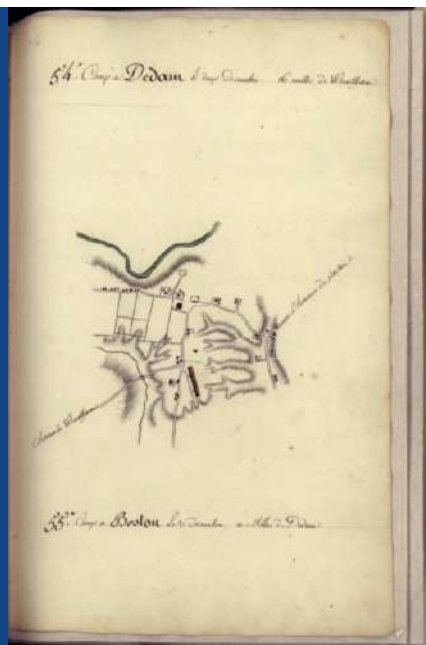
Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. - Public Domain

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3716s.ar074300>

- Neither American nor French sources say much about the encampments both in Wrentham as well as in Dedham. The longest description of the march is found in the journal of Private Georg Daniel Flohr of the Royal Deux-Ponts regiment : «“On the 4th of December we started from there (Providence), 30 km from Readham, a small town adorned with a very beautiful town hall. We set up our camp very close to him in very bad weather.”

- The artillery left Providence on November 16, 1782, barely a week after arriving, and reached Boston three later. Artillery Lieutenant Clermont-Crèvecoeur wrote in his diary: “The roads are charming. The cities and towns [Wrentham, Dedham], and the country we passed through, hinted at what Boston would be like. Upon arriving in Boston, the artillery spent the next few days loading their equipment, the artillery crews embarking on 1 December.

- On December 1, two weeks after the artillery left for Boston, the Bourbonnois left their encampment at North Providence and marched 16 miles to their next camp at Wrentham. The other regiments followed at daily intervals in order of seniority (oldest regiment first). From Wrentham the Bourbonnois marched 2 December 16 miles to Dedham, and 3 December 11 miles to Boston. On December 6, the French army was again assembled in Boston.



54th Encampment of the French Army, Dedham, MA

2-5 December 1782

National Park Service - Commemorative marker for the French encampment, 2 to 5 December 1782 placed by the Dedham Historical Society in June 1925.

<https://w3r-us.org/french-encampment-dedham-2-5-december-1782/>

- On 2 December 1782, the Regiment Bourbonnois was the first of Rochambeau's units to march into Dedham on its way to Boston and embarkation for the West Indies.

"We set sail on the 24th of December; and I did not quit North America without expressing the most painful feelings. I cannot better describe the impression I felt, than by quoting the expressions of a letter I wrote at the moment of leaving that happy land; This is the day, I said, on which I set sail; I am quitting with infinite regret a country where, without obstacle or difficulty we are what everywhere else we ought to be, sincere and free. Here all private interests merge into the general welfare; everyone lives for himself, dresses as he pleases, and not as it pleases fashion. People here think, say, and do what they like ... live as traveller, politician, literary character, or as merchant, without being either disturbed in his occupations, or molested in his idleness... Young girls here are innocently coquettish in search of husbands, whilst married women act with propriety, in order to preserve theirs..."

Colonel Louis Philippe, Comte de Ségur.

END of our SERIES
ROCHAMBEAU'S EXPÉDITION PARTICULIÈRE IN THE UNITED STATES
1780-1783

PAST MONTHLY BULLETINS

OUR GOAL: turn the spotlight on a famous, or less famous, episode or historical figure during the long shared history between France and the United States, with illustrations and anecdotes.

**You can have access to all our past Monthly Bulletin
since February 2021 by visiting our website:**
www.SouvenirFrancaisUSA.org

You can click on the photos throughout our bulletins and also on the links indicated in blue for more information and direct access to sources.

In January we will turn our attention to the history of the series of French forts built throughout the Midwest in the 17th and 18th century. We will continue to follow the steps of the Marquis during his tour in January 1825, as well as the Duc de Lauzun's Legion of hussards, which

stayed to protect the young Republic, as additional insurance, while the Peace negotiations with the British Cabinet were under way in Paris.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

List is subject to change. All dates to be confirmed

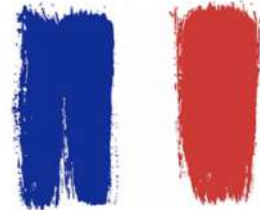
2023 promises to be a busy year with several projects and events!

- Kick-off national fund-raising in partnership with other US patriotic and cultural organizations to help the frigate Hermione sail again and participate in US ceremonies in years to come (February)
- Memorial Service in honor of our dear friend Frédéric Vigneron, who passed away in 2021, at St. Paul Chapel, Trinity Church, Lower Manhattan, Thursday February 24 (details will be forthcoming in January).
- Support of the exhibition "Our Battlefields" by French artist Elo de la Ruë du Can and American Veterans in New York and other American cities
- Ceremony to honor the memory of 8 French Soldiers who are buried by Old St. Peter's Church in Old Hillside Cemetery, Cortlandt, NY
- Dedication of the Memorial to 4 soldiers from the Royal-Deux Ponts regiment who are buried in the vicinity of the Odell House – Rochambeau Headquarters.
- Celebration of French Alliance Day at Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, PA, May 7
- Memorial Day, May 29
- Annual wreath laying ceremony in front of the Statue of Rochambeau in Newport, R.I. July 14-15
- La Pérouse Memorial restoration in Maui, HI and dedication (September)
- Installation of 4 commemorative plaques in honor of the 4 American "Companions of the Libération": General Dwight D. Eisenhower, John Hasey, James Worden, Jacques Tartière
- Inauguration of the sculpture *The Little Prince* at the Villa Albertine – Cultural Services 5th Avenue New York around September 15
- "Sailors missing at sea" bronze plaque at the French Memorial in Yorktown
- 5th Avenue Parade, Veterans Day / Armistice Day November 11
- US Unknown Soldier exhibition in Paris (November - December)

Help us make these a reality with your tax-deductible financial support!

You are welcome to specify the project(s) you wish to help.

Un grand "Merci"!



OUR MISSIONS:

- To preserve the memory of the French soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives for freedom, and who are buried in the United States.
- To honor French Citizens who did great deeds in the United States, or with a strong connection with the United States,

- To promote the appreciation for French culture and heritage in the United States, and the ideals that unite our two nations, in order to pass the torch of memory to younger generations.

- To strengthen the long-standing traditional bonds of friendship between the American and French peoples, and to this end: erect or maintain memorials and monuments and encourage historical research, public presentations and publications in the media.

We are looking to complete our geographic coverage with Regional Delegates for the SouthWest in cities such as Austin, or Houston, and Louisiana, in cities such as New Orleans or Baton Rouge.

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