

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)



**The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. III. No 12 - December 2023**

**2023:
The Year in Pictures**





Cover photo:

Unveiling of the sculpture of Le Petit Prince by Mme Catherine Colonna, French Minister of Europe & Foreign Affairs, at the entrance of Villa Albertine - French Cultural Services, 972 Fifth Avenue, NY on September 20, 2023, in the presence of Mr. Laurent Bili, Ambassador of France to the United States, Mr. Jérémie Robert, Consul General of France in NY, Mr. Olivier d'Agay, great-nephew of author Antoine de Saint Exupéry, Mr. Nicolas Delsalle, General Delegate, Antoine de Saint Exupéry Youth Foundation, sculptor Jean-Marc de Pas, Thierry Chaunu & Jean-Hugues Monier of the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, and (both photos) ... Maxime, The Little Prince in person!

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the special Bulletin "The Year in Pictures"! This collection of photos showcases the incredible events we were a part of throughout 2023. It truly was a year filled with memorable moments! We hope you take the time to browse through these pictures, perhaps by a cozy fireplace with a glass of bubbly during the upcoming holidays.

We have so much to be proud of for what we achieved in the past twelve months. None of it would have been possible without your support. We are also grateful for the warm friendship and cooperation from like-minded patriotic and historical associations. To everyone involved, we want to express our deepest gratitude.

At the American Society of Le Souvenir Français, we always remember the debt we owe to our forebears who fought side-by-side for the freedom of both the United States and France or who accomplished great deeds in America. You can rely on us to continue honoring their memories in the months and years ahead!

Once again, thank you. We send our best wishes to you, your families, and friends for the upcoming New Year. May it bring you joy, peace, good health, and prosperity!

On behalf of the Board of Directors.
Thierry Chaunu, President,
American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc.

THE YEAR 2023 IN PICTURES

May 7, 2023
Annual Celebration of
French Alliance Day

Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania



Watch the video documentary: [French Alliance Day](#)



230629 - FADFINAL 480

Thierry Chaunu

18:02



Valley Forge Memorial & Washington Memorial Chapel

2000 Valley Forge Park Rd, Valley Forge, PA 19481

- On **Sunday, May 7, 2023**, our Society was honor to attend the annual celebration of the "French Alliance Day" held at Valley Forge, PA. at the invitation of the Washington Memorial Heritage. For the fascinating history of "French Alliance Day", click on the photos above or <https://conta.cc/3a6pjvm>
- *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.*

May 7, 2023 Annual celebration of V-Day Eglise Notre-Dame, Federation of French War Veterans



Eglise de Notre-Dame 405 West 114th Street, New York, NY 10025

- On **Sunday, May 7**, The Federation of French War Veterans gathered at the Church of Notre Dame to attend the annual mass celebrated by Rev. Peter A. Heasley, Pastor in honor of all those who fought and died for France. General Vincent de Kytspotter, Head of Military and Defense Mission at the French Permanent Mission to the United Nations and

Lieutenant-Colonel, US Army Dionysios Dionou-Weiss laid a wreath honoring the 463 French and American conscripts and volunteers from New York who "Died for France" in two world wars, whose names are inscribed in marble plates on the wall.

May 20, 2023
"Follow the French: Rochambeau Festival"
Future museum and gardens
Odell House - Rochambeau Headquarters, New York



Watch the video "Dear France, Thank you!"
From Friends of Odell House / Rochambeau Headquarters



Odell House, headquarters of General Rochambeau, a future Museum, and future site of the Memorial to four soldiers of the Royal Deux-Ponts regiment who are buried in its vicinity.
425 Ridge Rd, Hartsdale, NY 10530

- Susan Seal, president of the Friends of Odell House - Rochambeau Headquarters and husband David, who work tirelessly with Board members to complete this monumental task. Raphaël de Gouberville, direct descendant of Rochambeau, honored us with his presence. A detailed narration of the encampments of the French Army led by General Rochambeau has been released on a free app downloadable on your smartphone TravelStorysGPS: The episodes **Follow the French, sponsored by Friends of Odell House**, can be downloaded at <https://travelstorys.com/tours/follow-the-french>
The app works on iPhone and Android, and can be downloaded for free at <https://travelstorys.com/download/>

**Tribute to Rochambeau
Yorktown Fairgrounds, Westchester County, New York
Site of French Army encampment
May 20th, 2023**





• That same day, at noon, Lynn Briggs, Chair, New York State Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Organization, hosted an important event at the Grange at Yorktown, NY, the site of the encampment of the French Army. Many re-enactors were present, from Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and of course Rochambeau. The Grange was packed when General Vincent de Kytspotter delivered a riveting exposé on Rochambeau and the several "miracles" that allowed the United States to obtain their independence. *We are grateful to Susan and David Seal, and Lynn Briggs for their warm welcome and look forward to many years of close cooperation.*

May 28, 2023
Memorial Day with the Seventh Regiment Veterans Association
Park Avenue Armory, New York, NY





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

• We were honored to be invited by Brig. General Thomas J. Principe, president of the [Veterans of the Seventh Regiment](#) to lay a wreath at the Seventh Regiment/107th Infantry Regiment Memorial Fifth Avenue & 67th Street. Our 1st Vice-President, LCL(R) Patrick du Tertre, also President of the ACREFEU (French Reserve Officers Association in the United States) & co-president of [TheFrenchWillNeverForget](#), who gave a stirring and emotional testimony of the deep gratitude of the French people for the Americans who fought for their freedom twice in two world wars.

**July 13, 2023
Bastille Day at Central Park, New York City**





• On **Thursday, July 13, 2023** the French General Consulate and the [Committee of French-Speaking associations](#) in New York (CAFUSA) celebrated the French National Holiday of 14-Juillet at Central Park with a concert, preceded by a musical introduction by the Cadets Lafayette and the presence of the Federation of French War Veterans.

Saturday, July 15, 2023
Wreath-laying
Statue of General Rochambeau & the French Fleet Memorial
Newport, Rhode Island





Watch the video: "*The French are coming!*"



Memorial to the French Fleet, and Statue of Rochambeau

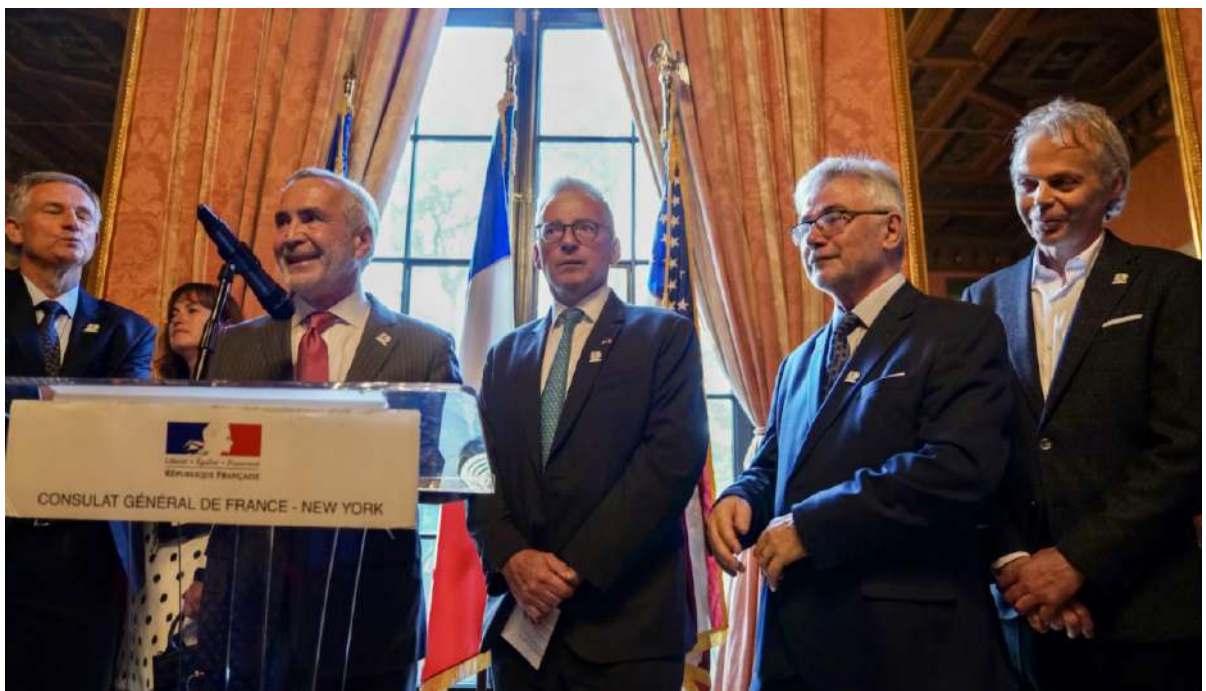
At the waterfront in Kings Park, Newport R.I. 02840

"Tribute to France" weekend in Newport, R.I.

- On Saturday, July 15th, 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.

- 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 your welcome and support.

**Inauguration of the sculpture of
Le Petit Prince
September 20, 2022**





Villa Albertine, 972 Fifth Avenue between 79th & 78th Street, New York, NY

**This project has been spearheaded by
The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc.
entirely financed by its generous donors, with the active support of
the Fondation Saint Exupéry Pour la Jeunesse and
the d'Agay - Saint Exupéry Family.**

Madame Catherine Colonna

Ministre de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères
a inauguré la sculpture

Le Petit Prince

le 20 septembre 2023

Grands Donateurs:

The d'Agay Family • Jean-Hugues & Véronique Monier • Rémy Raisner
Henry & Elisabeth Gazay • Pierre-Olivier & Alexandra Bouée
Gildo Pallanca Pastor • Lionel & Jinus de Saint Exupéry

Donateurs:

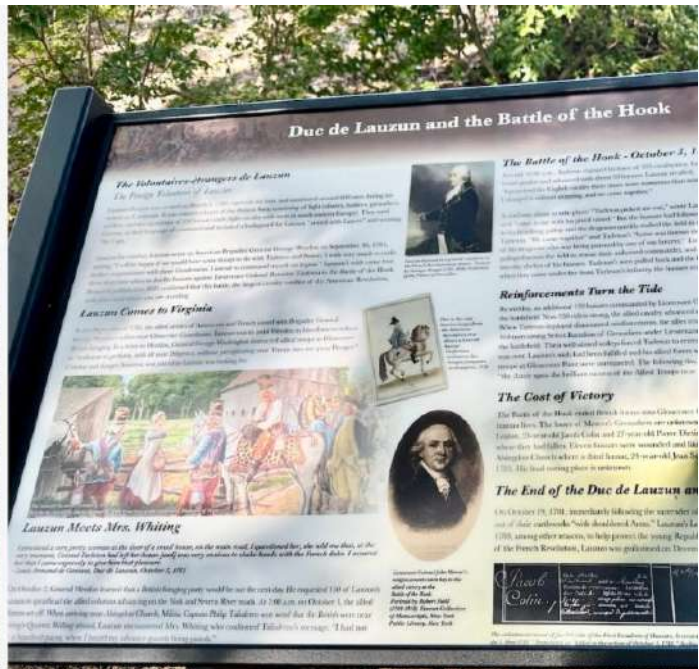
Association des Cadres de Réserve Français aux Etats-Unis
Conseillers du Commerce Extérieur
Thierry Chaunu • Francis Dubois • Jean-Paul Guyon
Jean & Geneviève Rosanvallon • Stacy Schiff • Patrick & Nancy du Tertre



October 18, 2023

Dedication ceremony of two new markers in Gloucester, Virginia
"The Duc de Lauzun and his Legion of Hussars"
"The Battle of the Hook"





Abingdon Elementary School Park, 7087 Powhatan Dr, Hayes, VA 23072

• On Wednesday October 18th we proudly unveiled two interpretive markers telling the important story of the Duc de Lauzun and his Legion of hussars at the Battle of the Hook.

These markers are the work of a Committee consisting of :
Nicole Yancey • Admiral Frédéric de Rupilly
Colonel Aymeric Tardieu de Maleissye • Lt Colonel Mathieu Brulais
Johnny Carawan • Dr. Robert A. Selig, Ph.D. • P.J. Lambert •
Robert Kelly, Jr. • Warren Deal • Thierry Chaunu

Our special thanks to Brigadier General Vincent de Kytspotter, Ph.D., Head of Military and Defense Mission, French Permanent Mission to the United Nations for delivering the keynote address, to Dr. Robert A. Selig, Ph.D., who wrote the text of the markers, to Robert Kelly, Jr. Vice President, American Friends of Lafayette for his decisive role in the entire project and for the organization of this dedication, to Lawrence Abell and Ellen von Karajan, respectively Chairman and Executive Director of the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, who generously donated the markers' frames, to P.J. Lambert and Warren Deal for their extensive contacts and constant support, and to Nicole Yancey, former Consul of France in Virginia, and Regional Delegate of Le Souvenir Français in Virginia. And our special thanks to celebrated historian, actor and re-enactor Mark Schneider for an unforgettable rendition of a Lauzun's hussard in period uniform.

October 19, 2023
242nd anniversary of Yorktown victory
Wreath-laying at the French Cemetery & the French Memorial Monument

Celebration at the *Monument to the Alliance and Victory*





Yorktown Battlefield, Colonial National Historical Park, Yorktown, Virginia

- On **Wednesday, October 19**, we celebrated the 242nd anniversary of the combined French-American victory in Yorktown, Virginia, which led to the Independence of the United States. The new French General Consul in Washington, Mme Caroline Monvoisin, reminded the audience of the crucial role of France in helping the United States win its independence.
- *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, and Lonny LeGrand,*

respectively past President & co-founder and current President of the Society of Honor Guard, tomb of Unknown Soldier, who laid a "Never Forget" bouquet of white roses at the Gloucester markers and the French Cemetery in Yorktown.

October 21, 2023
Celebration of Saratoga & Yorktown Victories
St Paul's Chapel, Broadway, New York, NY



• On **Saturday, October 21**, we were honored to participate again this year in this commemoration. Our thanks to James Kaplan, Chairman of Lower Manhattan Historical Association, Peter C. Hein, Ambrose Richardson, respectively President and General Secretary of the Sons of Revolution, for their invitation and welcome.

October 21, 2023
Annual Gala Dinner
369th Sustainment Brigade, NYARNG
Union League Club, New York, NY



• On **Saturday October 21**, our Society, represented by COL Stanislas de Magnienville, LT Pierre Benoit, and its president Thierry Chaunu, was honored to be invited to join the annual gala dinner of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, New York National Guard. Thierry Chaunu recalled the history of this famed regiment, the most storied Black unit of WWI, who fought under French uniform, and was made an "Honorary Hell Fighter". Our next February 2024 Bulletin will pay tribute to this legendary unit in honor of "Black History Month". *Our thanks to LTC Peter N Fish, MD, COL Patrick G Clare, LTC, R CSM Jones Laylan, LG David M Myones, US Army NG NYARNG all the officers and soldiers of the Brigade for their comradely welcome.*

September 1- December 11, 2023
Touring exhibition of the History of Unknown US Soldier
at Châlons-en-Champagne
Mémorial de Verdun - Champ de Bataille
Château de Castries
Le Souvenir Français Headquarters, Paris





Exhibition at the Mémorial de Verdun - Champ de Bataille, October 1-9, 2023. Photos above courtesy of Mme Amélie Delobel, Head of Collections and Exhibitions. Exhibition at the Château de Castries, Rue du Château, 34160 Castries, France - October 10-25, 2023. Photos above courtesy of Brigitte van den Hove-Smith, Regional Delegate of our Society for the SouthEast.

- Our Society worked hand-in-hand with Richard Azzaro, co-Founder and past President of the **Society of Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** and Donna Houle, Senior Director of Memorial Engagement & Impact at the **Military Women's Memorial** to have this very moving and informative exhibition travel to France relating the History of the US Unknown Soldier.

*We express our gratitude to CGA(2S) Serge Barcellini, Président-Général du Souvenir Français and all team Members at the Headquarters of [Le Souvenir Français](#) in Paris for hosting and facilitating this touring exhibition in France, to Général d'armée Elrick Irastorza, former Chief of Staff of the French Army, président of the Fondation du Souvenir de Verdun, to Mr. Nicolas Barret, Director, and Mme Amélie Delobel, responsable collections et expositions at the [Mémorial de Verdun - Champ de Bataille](#), Mr. Pierre-Marie Delaborde, General Delegate of Le Souvenir Français for the Marne Dept., Dr. Patrick Bernier and Jacques Fournier of the [Amis du Château de Castries](#) for hosting this exhibition illustrating the enduring bonds of alliance and friendship between France and the United States. Our thanks go also to Col US Air Force (Ret) Pierre Oury, member of our Society, **United 4 Veterans**, and **United Airlines** for transporting the 26 paintings to France graciously across the Atlantic, and to Jean-François Millet, chairman of **Logfret Logistics Group** for graciously providing domestic transportation in France.*

November 4, 2023
Annual All Saints Day ceremonies
French War Veterans Lot, Flushing Cemetery, Queens, NY
French Sailors Lot, Cypress Hill National Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY



- On Saturday, November 4, 2023 the Federation of French War Veterans honored their comrades who fought in WW1 and WWII, the Indochina War, the

Algerian War and the battles in Tunisia and Morocco as well as 25 French sailors who died in New York in 1918.

Annual Ceremony to the Memory of 25 French Soldiers buried in Providence, Rhode Island November 5, 2023



Monument to the French Soldiers

North Burial Ground, 5 Branch Ave., Providence, R.I. 02904

• As every year, a tribute was rendered to French soldiers buried in Providence, R.I on **Sunday November 5th**. We express our gratitude to Le Régiment Bourbonnais, the Second Rhode Island Regiment and a group of about 15 Sons of the American Revolution, Rhode Island chapter. *Our gratitude to Prof. Desmarais, our Society's Regional Delegate for New England and to all the re-enactors for conducting this ceremony every year. They do not forget and keep the memory alive.*

Launch of the *Hermione* Fund raising appeal!



TODAY'S BIG CHALLENGE: SAVING THE *HERMIONE*

Summer 2021: After a routine drydock in its home port Rochefort in June revealed severe damage in the planking wood at the frigate's port stern. The planking was examined from the inside, and the *Hermione* moved to a dry dock in Bayonne in September.

October 2021 - September 2022: A detailed inspection revealed the presence of a fungus in the hull. It appears to grow under very specific conditions of humidity, temperature, ventilation, and light. A technical committee and expert companies were commissioned by the Association to carry out the diagnostics and restore the ship. 10 million euros are required to repair the *Hermione* - 4 million euros have already been raised, enabling the **first phase of the restoration** to be completed between **February 2022 and August 2023**.

A further **6 million euros** are required to continue the restoration and make the *Hermione* able to sail again in 2025.

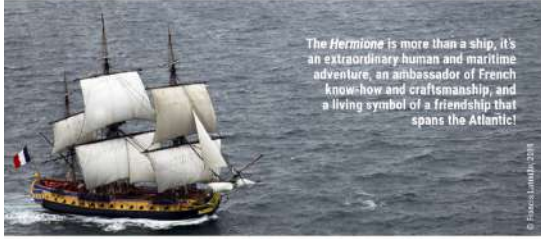


The *Hermione* is the exact replica of the ship on which the Marquis de Lafayette sailed to America in 1780 to announce France's support for the Revolutionary War.

This unique reconstruction of the French heritage ship was built in the historic Navy yards of Rochefort (on the Atlantic coast of France) between 1997 and 2014. This project was funded by more than 5 million visitors, corporations, private donations, and support from state agencies. It was built by people needing inclusion in the workplace.

The nonprofit Hermione-Lafayette Association owns and manages the *Hermione* and gets support from over 3,000 individual members.

The *Hermione* has made 4 sea voyages, sailing over 22,000 nautical miles. 550 volunteer sailors have been trained to maneuver the ship in strict 18th century tradition, in any weather, providing a unique experience promoting solidarity, respect and fundamental human values.



The *Hermione* is more than a ship, it's an extraordinary human and maritime adventure, an ambassador of French know-how and craftsmanship, and a living symbol of a friendship that spans the Atlantic!

2015: The *Hermione's* grand inaugural voyage to the USA!

The *Hermione's* trip to America along the route taken by Lafayette was a powerful symbolic event, raising awareness about the historic bond between France and the United States for a new generation of Americans.

From April to August 2015, the *Hermione* sailed over 7,500 nautical miles across the Atlantic and along the East Coast of the United States and Canada. It visited 13 cities chosen for their historic importance in the American Revolution and France's support for the fledgling nation: Yorktown, Mount Vernon, Philadelphia, New York, and the leading port of call, Boston.

This inaugural voyage was hugely popular and media-friendly: 51,000 US visitors attended memorable events held in honor of the *Hermione*.

HELP US MAKE THE *HERMIONE* TO RETURN TO THE USA SEAWORTHY AGAIN TO BEAR WITNESS TO HISTORY TO INSPIRE YOUNG GENERATIONS



Our ultimate goal: to organize another trip across the Atlantic and celebrate the semiquincentennial of America in 2026 by training and embarking a crew made up of young American and French volunteers.

We need YOU
Help us repair this historic frigate!



Make a Tax-Deductible Donation:



<https://www.friendsoffrance.org/projects/association-hermione-lafayette/>



CONTACT:

Domitille Marchal Lemoine
Friends of Fondation de France
domitille@friendsoffrance.org
T. (212) 812 4362

- In November, our Society kicked-off the US Fund raising campaign to help Save the *Hermione* and have it sail back in time for the United States Semiquincentennial.

November 11, 2023 - Veterans Day Parade on Fifth Avenue, New York





• On **Saturday, November 11**, Armistice Day (Veterans Day) we participated alongside the Federation of French War Veterans and the ACREFEU to the traditional parade on Fifth Avenue. We were preceded by the Cadets Lafayette marching band. *Our special thanks go to Nathalie Yates and Carolyn Casey and all the Scouts of Troop#1 and their parents who carry the two huge US and French flags every year with enthusiasm and dedication. At the French Embassy in Washington D.C., students from the French International School Rochambeau carried the tricolor flag that was entrusted to them last year. Passing the torch to the next generations is an important part of our mission.*

November 12, 2022
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





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

- On **Sunday November 12, 2023** the traditional Mass of the Armistice at the Parish of Notre Dame was celebrated by Father Michael Holleran.
- After the Mass, a joint wreath-laying ceremony was organized by the Federation of French War Veterans, the ACREFEU and our Society.

SAVE THE DATE **Launch of Lafayette's Farewell Tour Bicentennial**



Please join the American Friends of Lafayette for an extraordinary evening filled with elegance, culture, and philanthropy and help **RAISE FUNDS** for the Lafayette Bicentennial KICK-OFF in August 2024.

Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:00pm EST
972 5th Ave, New York, NY

Spend an evening with General Lafayette and his heroic wife Adrienne. Immerse yourself in a journey through time, experiencing the sophistication of French culinary refreshments, while relishing the tastes and aromas that have delighted palates for centuries. This exclusive event offers a unique blend of 18th-century American and French history, coupled with the luxury of the 21st century. From exploring the opulent halls of the Villa Albertine, sampling 18th-century dances and amusements, a chance to take home unique Lafayette merchandise, and indulging in a feast for the senses, this evening guarantees an unforgettable experience.

Highlights of the Evening:

- Indulge in A Culinary Extravaganza: Delight your senses with a curated menu of flavors reflecting the bounty of the French countryside, providing a unique culinary experience.

- Stroll Through History: Wander through the opulent halls of the Villa Albertine a living testament to the elegance of a bygone era.
- Meet General Lafayette and his Heroic Wife Adrienne: Be in the esteemed company of General Lafayette, a figure synonymous with the spirit of liberty, and his heroic wife Adrienne, adding an extra layer of grace and charm to the festivities.
- Immerse Yourself in the Splendor of Historical Dance Presentations: Enjoy the enchanting spectacle of costumed dancers evoking the grace and elegance of the past. Guests are invited to join in the festivities and try their hand (or feet) at these timeless dances adding a dynamic and participatory element to the evening.
- Experience the Charms of 18th Century Gaming: Transport yourself to bygone eras as you participate in classic pastimes such as skittles and whist infusing the evening with a delightful playfulness and offering a charming glimpse into the entertainment of yesteryear.
- Bid on Lafayette Items: The evening will feature special Lafayette items to be auctioned in live and silent format offering you a unique opportunity to take home a piece of history while supporting this noteworthy cause.

Special Access to Villa Albertine:

Situated across from Central Park and on Museum Mile the Villa Albertine boasts an iconic location that seamlessly blends historical significance with modern allure. Immerse yourself in the enchanting ambiance that combines the essence of Renaissance Europe with the sophistication of 21st-century New York. Your attendance not only enhances the grandeur of the evening but also contributes to a noble cause.

Individual tickets will sell for \$150. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities will be available soon. Look for an email regarding ticket sales.

For information on sponsorship, please email nycgala@lafayette200.org

Of Note:

- All proceeds generated from this event will support the August 2024 kickoff events in New York City for the Bicentennial Lafayette Farewell Tour commemorating the General's 13-month journey through America as the "Guest of the Nation" between 1824 and 1825. For more information on the tour visit www.Lafayette200.org
- A portion of every ticket purchase is tax-deductible, as The American Friends of Lafayette is an IRC 501(3)(c).

We eagerly anticipate the pleasure of your company as we celebrate the iconic General Lafayette and his heroic wife, Adrienne, supporting a worthy cause in an evening that promises to be nothing short of magical.

Watch the video!



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 2023 monthly Bulletins
by clicking on the thumbnails below, or
by visiting our website:
www.SouvenirFrancaisUSA.org

The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. III. No 1 - January 2023

French Forts of New York



The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. III. No 2 - February 2023

George Washington's French engineers



The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. III. No 3 - March 2023

French Forts of the Midwest



The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. III. No 4 - April 2023

Jean de Verrazane:
Discoverer of New York, originally called Angoulême



The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. III. No 5 - May 2023

Joan of Arc in America



The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. III. No 6 - June 2023

French Forts of the Mississippi and Lower Louisiana



The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. III. No 7 - July 2023

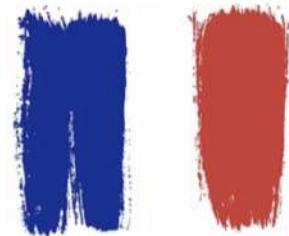
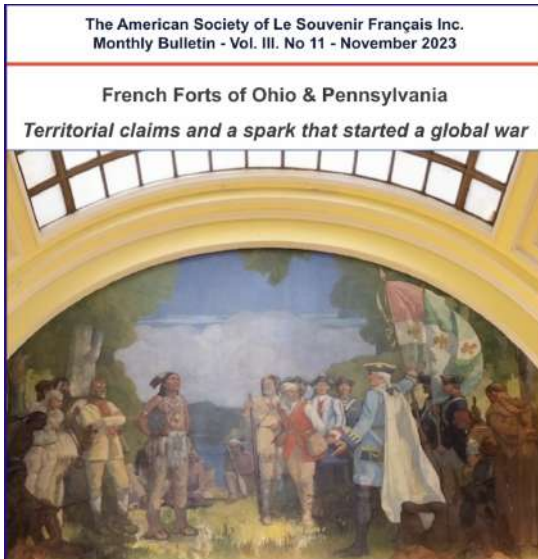
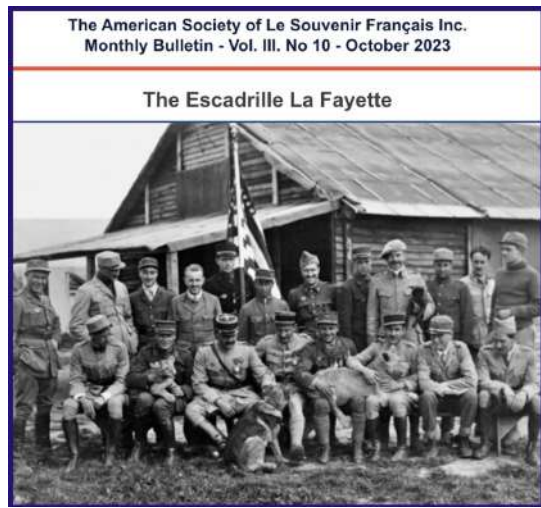
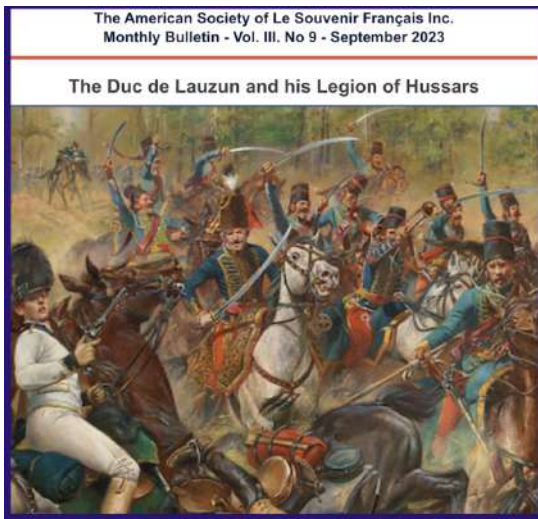
The Adventure of *La Belle* in Texas
and
the sailor of Louis XIV at the Texas National Cemetery



The American Society of Le Souvenir Français Inc.
Monthly Bulletin - Vol. III. No 8 - August 2023

The exploits of French aviation pioneers
Costes & Bellonte





CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

List is subject to change. All dates to be confirmed

2024 promises to be a busy year with several projects and events!
It will be the start of the Bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour with many, many events starting in August, to celebrate his triumphal tour as "Guest of the Nation" throughout 24 States and lasting 13 months! This Bicentennial is organized by The American Friends of Lafayette and we will provide in future bulletins all details.

- March 7: fund raising gala at Villa Albertine, NY by the American Friends of Lafayette
- Sunday, May 5: celebration of French Alliance Day at Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, PA
- Monday, May 27: Memorial Day
- May 23-25: "Operation Miroir" In honor of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day: Fifty young French students will carry "La Flamme de la Nation" from the Arc de Triomphe in Paris to Arlington National Cemetery
- Tuesday, June 18: Appel du 18-Juin
- Weekend July 12-13-14: annual wreath laying ceremony in front of the Statue of Rochambeau in Newport, R.I., homage at the tombs of Admiral de Ternay, Chevalier Pierre Rousseau de Fayolle, LT Benjamin de la Villemarais at Trinity Churchyard and "Tribute to France"
- Saturday, July 13: Bastille Day celebration in Central Park
- Friday, August 16: Lafayette Farewell Tour Bicentennial Parade on Broadway

- Friday, October 18: stele and boulder with bronze plaque honoring by name the hussars who died at the Battle of Hook, to be installed between our two markers at Abingdon Elementary School park.
- Saturday, October 19: celebration of French-American Victory at Yorktown, dedication of a bronze plaque "'Sailors buried at sea" at the French Memorial
- Sunday, November 10: Annual wreath-laying at the 463 "Morts Pour la France", Notre Dame Church in Manhattan
- Monday, November 11: Veterans Day / Armistice Day, 5th Avenue Parade in NYC, Washington DC, Houston, TX

Exact dates to be announced in the future:

- Tribute at Varian Fry's grave, Green-Wood cemetery, Brooklyn, NY (Righteous Among the Nations)
- Tribute at Anna Marly's grave, Pioneer cemetery, Palmer, Alaska (composer of *Le Chant des Partisans*)
- Ceremony at the Texas "Merci train" boxcar at Camp Mabry, Austin, TX
- Ceremony to honor the memory of 8 French Soldiers who are buried by Old St. Peter's Church in Old Hillside Cemetery, Cortlandt, NY
- Re-dedication: La Pérouse Memorial restoration at LaPerouse Bay, Maui, HI
- Dedication of 4 commemorative plaques in honor of the 4 American "Companions de la Libération": General Dwight D. Eisenhower, John Hasey, James Worden, Jacques Tartière
- Dedication of a bronze plaque honoring "Le Tigre" French prime minister Georges Clemenceau in New York, where he spent four years as a young journalist from 1865-1869
- Dedication of a bronze plaque at Gramercy Park, New York, honoring Varian Fry who lived in Marseilles in 1940 and 1941 and helped many Jews escape to America.
- 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
- Other sites of exhibits in France of the touring US Unknown Soldier exhibition in Paris will be announced as they are confirmed.
- Statue of Alexis de Tocqueville, author of the 1835-1840 classic "*Democracy in America*" (university site TBD)
- Bronze plaque to the memory of 3 soldiers of the Auxonne, Saintonge and Soissonnais regiments who died at West Point in 1782.
- Bust of Antoine de Saint Exupéry at the Intrepid Pier, New York
- Commemoration at Odet Philippe's monument, Philippe's Park, Safety Harbor, FL (Founder of grapefruit industry in Florida)
- Bust of Jean Ribault, site of the *Trinity* shipwreck, near Cape Canaveral, FL
- Beautification of "Matanzas" marker at the site of Jean Ribault's colony massacre in 1565, Saint Augustine, FL.

Last but not least, we will pursue our national fund-raising campaign in partnership with other US patriotic and cultural organizations to help the frigate *Hermione* sail again and participate in the upcoming semiquincentennial (250th anniversary) of the United States.

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.

The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc. is an independent American corporation, apolitical, established in 1993 in NY, with 501 (c) 3 non-profit status.

**Board of Directors
American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc.**

Members (2023):

Françoise Cestac, Honorary President • Thierry Chaunu, President, and General Delegate, Le Souvenir Français in the United States • Yves de Ternay, Treasurer • Patrick du Tertre, 1st Vice President • Henri Dubarry • Francis Dubois • Alain Dupuis, 2nd Vice President & Deputy General Delegate, Le Souvenir Français in the United States • Daniel Falgerho, General Secretary • Pierre Gervois • Caroline Lareuse • Clément Mbom, Education Advisor • Jean-Hugues Monier, Auditor • Harriet Saxon • Nicole Yancey

Regional Delegates:

Jacques Besnainou, Great Lakes and Midwest • Bruno Cateni, South Prof. Norman Desmarais, New England • Alain Leca, Washington D.C. • Marc Onetto, West Coast • Brigitte Van den Hove – Smith, Southeast • Nicole Yancey, Yorktown & Virginia, former Honorary Consul of France in Virginia

Help us implement several historic commemorative projects celebrating the 245-year-old Franco-American friendship and alliance!

JOIN US!

The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc. is a registered NY State non-profit corporation and has full IRS tax exempt 501(c)3 status. All donations are tax deductible.

Copyright © 2023 The American Society of Le Souvenir Français, Inc.
All Rights Reserved

Merci de nous contacter si vous souhaitez recevoir ce bulletin dans sa version traduite en français.

Contact: Thierry Chaunu, President
500 East 77th Street #2017, New York, NY 10162
Email: tchaunu@SouvenirFrancaisUSA.org Tel: (212) 847-1371

