

Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site

Presents:



2017 MARTHA WASHINGTON WOMAN OF HISTORY AWARD

Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site opened in 1850, making it the first publicly owned historic site in the nation. The Commander-in-Chief, General George Washington, established Headquarters at Jonathan and Tryntje Hasbrouck's fieldstone farmhouse from April 1, 1782 to August 19, 1783. This became the longest stay at any of his over 165 headquarters during the 8½ years of the Revolution.

While here, the General, his wife, officers, slaves and servants lived and worked in close quarters as a steady stream of guests came to meet with the Washingtons. During the critical months spent in Newburgh, Washington maintained a strong Army with eventual plans to disband it. He negotiated with contentious individuals in the Congress, while dealing with problems of supply, training, pay, morale and all other things that affected his troops. It was here that he rejected a suggestion of an American monarchy, defused a potential mutiny among his officers, and proffered advice on the future of the new republic. In order to recognize the heroism of enlisted men, the Commander-in-Chief, at his Newburgh headquarters, created the Badge of Military Merit, the forerunner of the Purple Heart medal. On April 19, 1783, General Washington's order for a "cessation of hostilities" was announced and he then dealt with the problems attendant to disbandment of the Army.

An essential part of this equation was the presence of Martha Washington. Each winter during the War, Martha would travel to headquarters to be with her husband. She utilized her vast life experiences, from big sister to business woman, to assist in the war effort. In Newburgh, she would keep up communications with Mount Vernon, while at the same time supervising their immediate wartime household. Despite the workload, she helped the aides-de-camp with office work by copying letters and expense accounts. She was renowned for her pleasant demeanor even under the pressures of war and the need to hostess a constant crush of military and civilian personnel.

Each year, in honor of Martha Washington herself, Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site presents the "Martha Washington Woman of History Award." The recipient of the award must be a woman who has demonstrated similar characteristics while contributing towards the education and preservation of history in the Hudson Valley. The recipient will receive a place of honor on the plaque showing past recipients of this award, and an invitation to be part of the selection committee for future awardees. Along with this, she will be expected to attend "The General's Lady," a Woman's History Month program, held each year in March, during which she will be acknowledged.

ELIGIBILITY and CRITERIA

Any woman who has made a significant contribution to the field of Hudson Valley history through education, promotion, or preservation is eligible to be nominated for this award.

The nominee's service to the historic community shall be taken into consideration. She can be someone who was involved in a project dealing with history and/or historic preservation. This individual must have been, in some way, influential in promoting the study of history, and thereby, encouraging the study and promotion of Hudson River Valley history even at its most basic or grassroots level.

All of this should be elaborated upon by way of example in the nomination form. Additional supportive material is encouraged. Linked webpages will not be accessible to the selection committee. Completed forms will be reviewed by a selection committee including Washington's Headquarters Staff, volunteers, and previous Woman of History Award recipients. Nominators will be notified within one month after the submission deadline.

The 2017 award will be presented at "**The General's Lady**" in **March 2017**. Deadline for receipt of applications is **January 9, 2017**.

For more information please call 845-562-1195.

Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site is located at the corner of Liberty and Washington Streets within the City of Newburgh's East End Historic District. The site is one of 35 historic sites within the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and is one of 24 facilities administered by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission in New York and New Jersey.



Help us save the Tower of Victory! *The Palisades Parks Conservancy has completed a capital campaign to raise funds for the restoration of the Tower of Victory at Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh, NY. The Tower of Victory*

is truly one of the treasures of the Hudson Valley. For 125 years, it has stood as the nation's only monument to the lasting peace that came after the end of the Revolutionary War. Robert Todd Lincoln, the son of the President and then Secretary of War, commissioned John Hemingway Duncan, one of the nation's most renowned architects at that time, to design the massive stone arched structure that hosts bronzes sculpted by William Rudolf O'Donovan, the pre-eminent monumental sculptor of the day. It stands on the property where General Washington created the "Badge of Military Merit" now called the Purple Heart medal.

Mail your donation to: Palisades Parks Conservancy, P.O. Box 427, 3006 Seven Lakes Drive, Bear Mountain, NY 10911. Or donate online: www.palisadesparksconservancy.org/donate. Remember to put the Tower of Victory in the subject line so we know you want to be a part of the campaign!

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2017 MARTHA WASHINGTON WOMAN OF HISTORY AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Please answer all questions below. Please attach any additional pages and supporting materials as necessary. (Linked webpages will not be accessible to the selection committee.) Application and materials will not be returned. Mail completed application and materials to:

**Martha Washington Woman of History Award
c/o Washington's Headquarters SHS
PO Box 1783
Newburgh, NY 12551**

*Deadline for receipt of applications is **January 9, 2017.***

Name of Nominee _____

Organization, if applicable _____

Address _____

Telephone/Cell phone _____

Email _____

Name of Nominator _____

Organization, if applicable _____

Address _____

Telephone/Cell phone _____

Email _____

How does the nominee demonstrate the characteristics of Martha Washington acknowledged by this award?

What organizations or activities, if any, has the nominee been involved in that have may be relevant to this award? How has the nominee contributed to these programs?

How has this person, through action or example, influenced others to participate in or pursue the study of history?

How has this person impressed you? What motivated you to nominate her?

Additional thoughts/comments?

Thank you.