2020 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 of his stays at any one 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 a contentious 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 the army, and offered advice on the future of the new republic considered to be the cornerstone of the US Constitution. While at Newburgh, in order to recognize the heroism of enlisted men, the Commander-in-Chief 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 concerns 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 to assist in the war effort. In Newburgh, Martha Washington relieved several responsibilities from the shoulders of her husband. She helped the aides-de-camp to copy letters and orders; became the Headquarters hostess to the many dignitaries and individuals looking to meet the General; embroidered her dining room chair covers for Mount Vernon; and maintained a garden.

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 a contribution 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 further 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 the 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.


For more information please call 845-562-1195.

Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site is a registered national historic landmark. It 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 28 facilities administered by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission in New York and New Jersey. For more information about New York State Parks, please visit our website at www.nysparks.com. For more information call 845-562-1195 or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/washingtonsheadquarters.

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!
2020 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 10, 2020.

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? Please list volunteer and paid positions separately.

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?

Please use as many additional pages as necessary for thoughts, comments, and supplemental material.

Thank you.