



AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST ★ ★ ★

PRESERVE. EDUCATE. INSPIRE.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mary Munsell Abroe
Wilmette, Illinois
Chair

David N. Duncan
Fairfax, Virginia
President

William J. Hupp
Glen Ellyn, Illinois
Vice Chair

David J. Abbey
St. Pete Beach, Florida

Travis K. Anderson
Newton, New Jersey

Don Barrett
Lexington, Mississippi

Terry Beaty, Jr.
Bethesda, Maryland

Virginia Johnson Burnley
Alexandria, Virginia

John Culberson
Houston, Texas

Richard G. Etzkorn
Kirkwood, Missouri

Thomas P. Hand
Franklin, Tennessee

Van D. Hipp, Jr.
Georgetown, South Carolina

Thomas H. Lauer*
Wellesley, Massachusetts

O. James Lighthizer*
Eldorado, Maryland

Jeffrey P. McClanathan
St. Petersburg, Florida

Noah Mehrkam
Washington, D.C.

Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills,
USMC (Ret.)

Leesburg, Virginia

John L. Nau, III*
Houston, Texas

Stephan F. Newhouse
Vero Beach, Florida

Thomas B. Nusz
Madison, Mississippi

Marshal A. Oldman
Westlake Village, California

John Sivoletta
Boca Grande, Florida

Barbara Stewart
Chicago, Illinois

Madhu Tadikonda
Rhinebeck, New York

John M. Taylor
Potomac, Maryland

Charles E. Trefzger
Hickory, North Carolina

Christopher C. Welton
Atlanta, Georgia

Susan Whitaker
Franklin, Tennessee

*President Emeritus
^ Chair Emeritus

May 5, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the American Battlefield Trust, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of our nation's historic battlefields, I want to express our strong support of federal funding for America's 250th birthday and the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

The American Battlefield Trust has long advocated for a robust celebration of America's 250th birthday as a generational opportunity to promote history education, heritage tourism, historic preservation, and the founding of our country. Further, America's Semiquincentennial should serve as a reminder that the promise of the Declaration of Independence, signed in July 1776 by 56 statesmen in Philadelphia, was achieved through the service and sacrifice of America's first citizen soldiers on the battlefields of the Revolution.

Many members of my generation were inspired in their youth by America's Bicentennial in 1976, and we believe the 250th provides a similar opportunity to stimulate interest in our nation's 250-year journey toward a more perfect Union. There is still time to produce an anniversary celebration that our children and grandchildren will remember for the rest of their lives. In addition, by protecting our nation's battlefield parks and other historic treasures, we can create an enduring legacy that will far outlive the events and celebrations of the Semiquincentennial years.

As a result, the American Battlefield Trust strongly supports the language in the House Reconciliation Bill setting aside \$150 million for America's 250th birthday. Through economic activity and federal, state and local revenues generated by travel to historic sites and crown jewel parks during the 250th, the return on this investment will be substantial. And the

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

1030 15th Street NW, Suite 900 East, Washington, DC 20005 | 202-367-1861 | 800-298-7878 | info@battlefields.org

BATTLEFIELDS.ORG

Letter from the American Battlefield Trust (continued)

Page 2 of 2

May 5, 2025

educational benefits of encouraging Americans to experience their history in the places where it happened will pay dividends for years to come.

Thank you for considering this important investment in our country and its inspirational history. As a nation, we cannot afford to waste this opportunity to tell the story of America. Please let us know how we can assist in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



David N. Duncan, President