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News from the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati

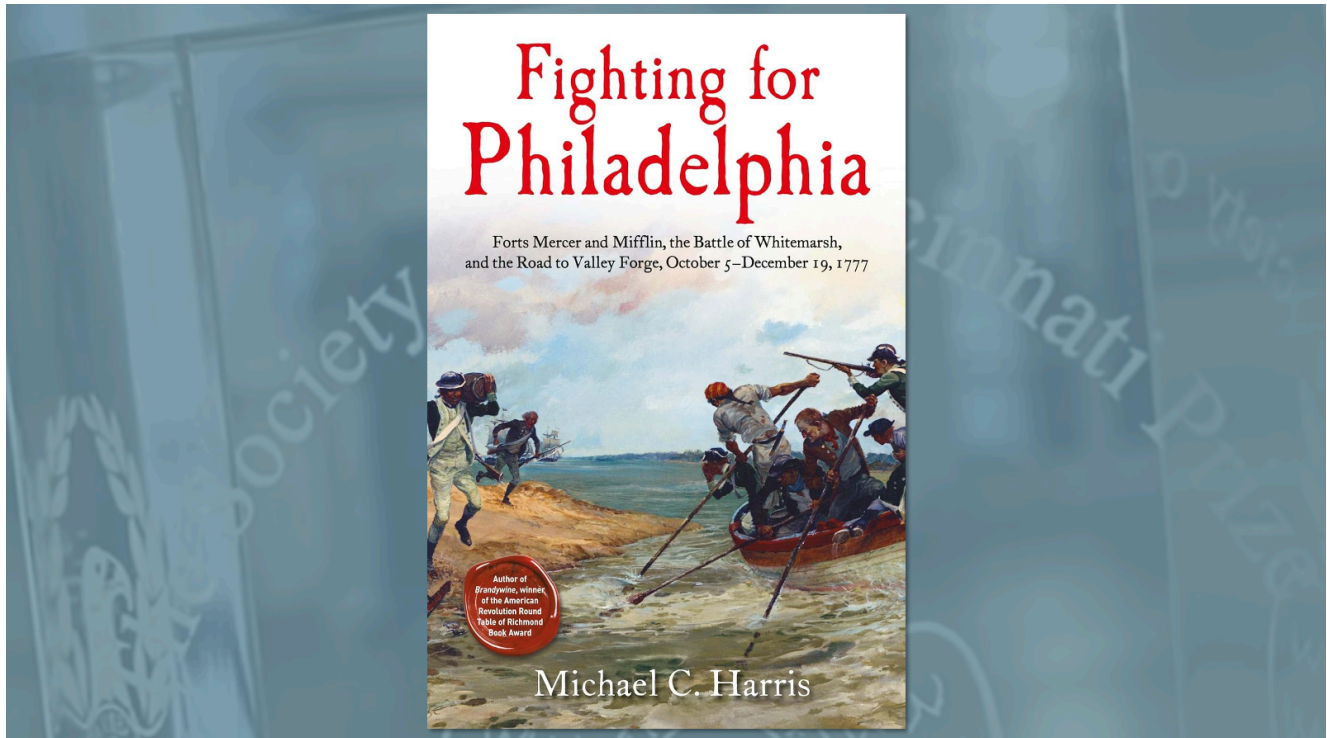
ARI today

250 Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution

JUNE 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEATURE



The 2026 Society of the Cincinnati Prize

We are pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2026 Society of the Cincinnati Prize is Michael C. Harris for his book *Fighting for Philadelphia: Forts Mercer and Mifflin, the Battle of Whitemarsh, and the Road to Valley Forge, October 5–December 19, 1777* (Savas Beatie, 2025)!

Fighting for Philadelphia examines the critical military events that followed the British occupation of Philadelphia in the fall of 1777. Focusing on the defense of the Delaware River, the fighting at Forts Mercer and Mifflin, and the Battle of Red Bank, Harris argues that the contest for Philadelphia did not end with the British capture of the city. Instead, he demonstrates that control of the Delaware River and the survival of the Continental Army remained central to the course of the war during the difficult months between Germantown and Valley Forge.

The Society of the Cincinnati Prize, established in 1989, recognizes the author of an outstanding book that advances understanding of the American Revolution and its legacy.

[Learn More About the Prize](#)

THIS MONTH IN REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY



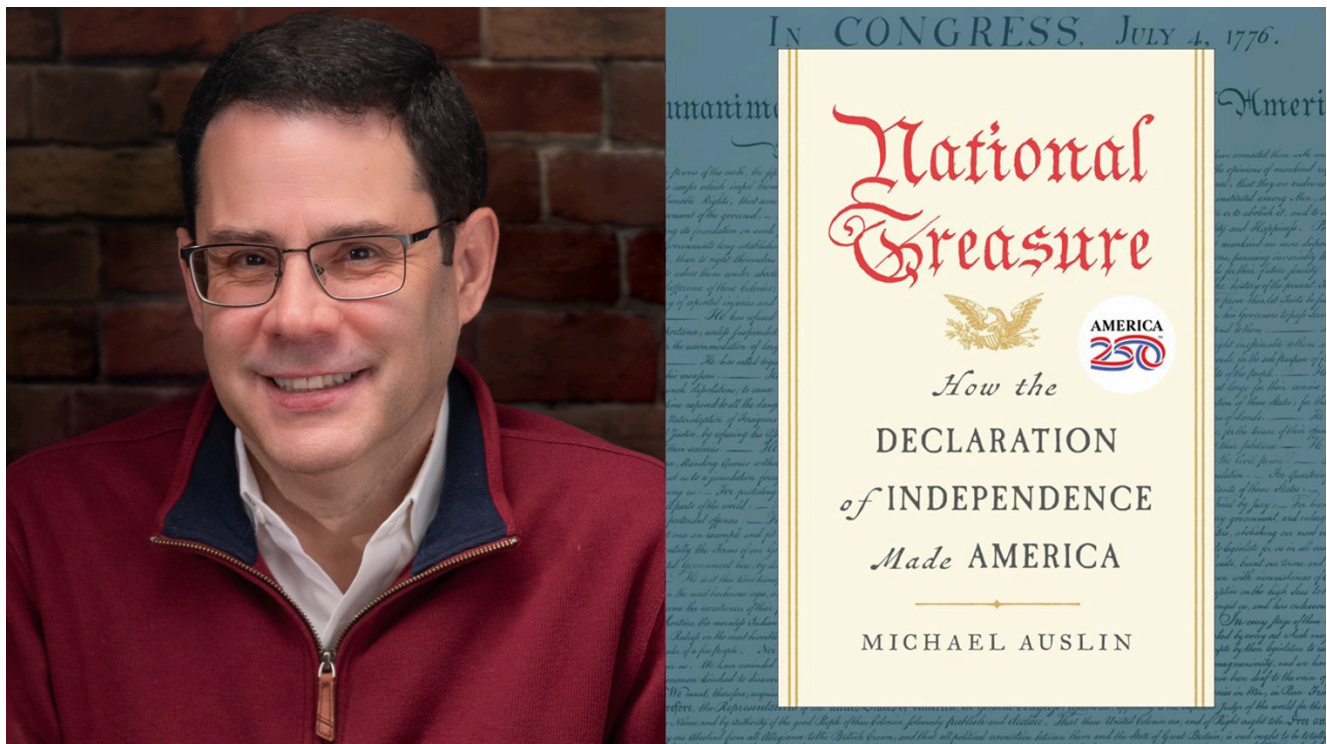
The Lee Resolution at 250

This month marks the 250th anniversary of the “Lee Resolution”—the first formal step towards the Continental Congress declaring American independence.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, a forty-four-year-old delegate from Virginia, presented a resolution to the Second Continental Congress that declared the thirteen American colonies “*free and independent States.*” Lee’s resolution brought the idea of American independence to the forefront of the deliberations in Philadelphia that month.

Though war had waged for over a year, some members of Congress remained apprehensive to formally break from Great Britain, while others required authority from the state legislatures before they could even vote on the resolution. To persuade the former and resolve the latter, a vote on Lee’s resolution was tabled for July 2, when Congress voted to adopt it and declare independence from Britain. Two days later, on July 4, Congress approved the official document that declared independence. This text was printed for the first time that evening as a broadside and disseminated across the thirteen American states announcing the news of what had transpired—news that echoes 250 years later.

EVENTS



National Treasure: How the Declaration of Independence Made America

Join us on Thursday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. for an author’s talk featuring award-winning historian Michael Auslin discussing his new book that demonstrates how Thomas Jefferson’s words in the Declaration of Independence have inspired implausibly varied causes, from suffragists and civil rights leaders to groups waging war on the United States government.

Auslin, one of the Institute’s research fellows, will address the lessons that should be taken from the document today and how the Declaration’s ideals can bring a disparate nation together. As we gather to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founders’ bold experiment in democracy, this talk will also remind us that the

enduring document was not just a call for freedom and equality but an eloquent statement of the principles that bind us together.

[Learn More and Register](#)



The Return of Museum Walk Weekend

This Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7 from 11 a.m.-4p.m., join us and four of our partner museums in the Dupont Circle neighborhood of Washington, D.C., that will be open free of charge for this annual festival featuring special exhibitions and activities. Participating museums are Anderson House, The Phillips Collection, The President Wilson House, The National Museum of American Jewish Military History, and Dupont Underground. Use the link below for additional information.

[Learn More](#)

MUSEUM

The Men of Sullivan's Island

On June 28, 1776—250 years ago this month—American revolutionaries successfully defended an unfinished fort on Sullivan’s Island in Charleston Harbor from a British attack. Commodore Peter Parker’s Royal Navy squadron carried four thousand redcoats commanded by General Henry Clinton. Waiting for them were 6,500 American troops, a combination of Continental Army soldiers, South Carolina regulars, local militiamen, and a company of Catawba Indians. After a ten-hour bombardment and a failed assault by land, the Americans held the fort—an unlikely victory that galvanized support for independence in the South.

One of the men who defended Sullivan’s Island was Lt. Jacob Shubrick, an eighteen-year-old Charleston native who served in Col. William Moultrie’s Second South Carolina Regiment. Moultrie’s four hundred men garrisoned the fort on Sullivan’s Island on June 28. The Institute’s collections include a full-length oil portrait of Shubrick painted about 1777, the year he was promoted to captain. It depicts him in the uniform of the Second South Carolina Regiment, complete with the unit’s silver crescent emblem on the cap. It was painted by Henry Benbridge, a supporter of American independence who was captured and imprisoned by the British during the war.

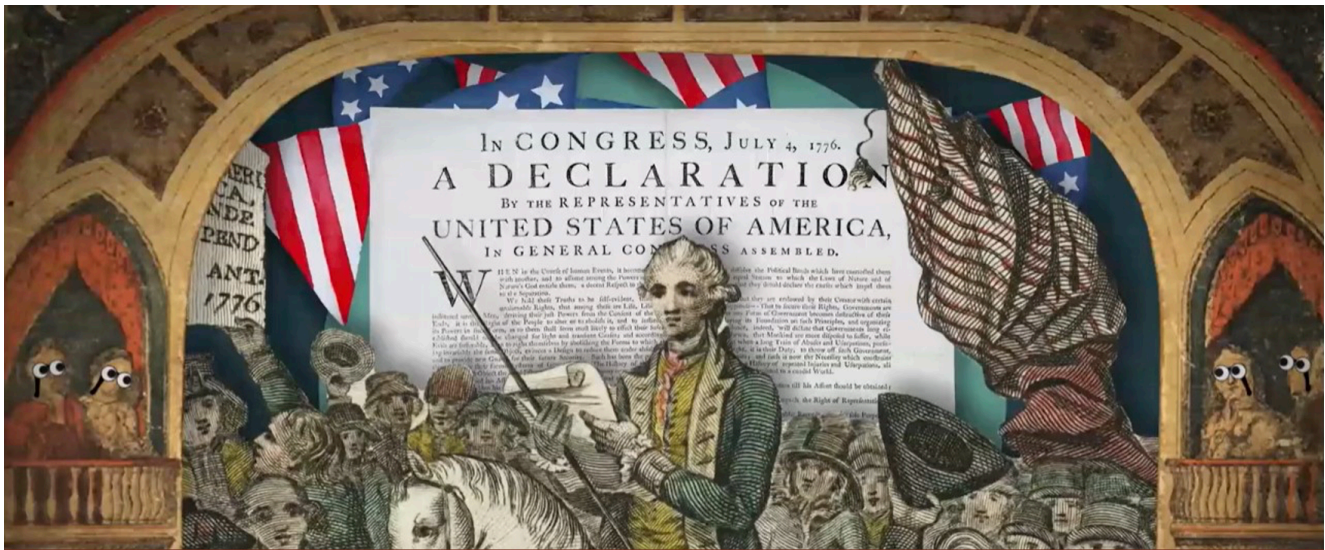


Learn more about the Battle of Sullivan’s Island during our upcoming lecture by historian C.L. Bragg. Use the link below to register for the talk.

[Learn More and Register](#)

EDUCATION





YEAR IN REVOLUTION

1781-1783 *Year in Revolution* Videos

This month the Institute will release the final installments of our *Year in Revolution* video series chronicling 1781-1783! Some of the new subjects explored over the final chapters of the war include Indigenous Americans and the Revolution, America's first veterans, establishing a national identity, the Treaty of Paris, the ideal of civic virtue and Cincinnatus, and America's debut on the world's stage. We are grateful to the George S. Rich Family Foundation for its generous support of *Year in Revolution*. Watch and share our *Year in Revolution* series by clicking the link below.

Watch and Share

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAMS

The Institute's programs are held in-person at Anderson House and virtual options are available, unless otherwise specified. Admission is free unless otherwise specified and registration is requested. Click the images below to learn more and register, or [click here to view our full calendar of upcoming programs](#).

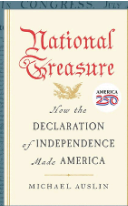


Special Event
Dupont-Kalorama Museum Consortium Walk Weekend
Saturday and Sunday, June 6-7, 2026
11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.



Lecture

German Soldiers, Families, and Community in the American Revolutionary War
Friederike Baer, Ph.D.
Wednesday, June 17, 2026
6:30 P.M.



Author's Talk

National Treasure: How the Declaration of Independence Made America
Michael Auslin, Ph.D.
Thursday, June 25, 2026
6:30 P.M.

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The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, Inc., promotes knowledge and appreciation of the achievement of American independence, fulfilling the aim of the Continental Army officers who founded the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783 to perpetuate the memory of that vast event. The Institute supports advanced study, presents exhibitions and other public programs, advocates preservation, and provides resources to teachers and students to enrich understanding of our War for Independence and the principles of the men and women who secured the liberty of the American people.

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