

SYMPOSIUM ON THE MARYLAND 400, “Washington’s Immortals”

Saturday, 23 May 2026

Veterans’ Hall

National Museum of the US Army

- 09:00 a.m. Special Exhibit, *Call to Arms*, National Museum of the US Army,
- 09:30 a.m. Coffee, Veterans’ Hall, National Museum of the US Army
- 09:45 a.m. Welcome
- 10:00 - 10:50 a.m. *Is it Continental? Is it an Army?* A look at the American forces in August 1776
Confirmed speaker: Dr. Glenn F. Williams, former US Army Center of Military History
- 10:50 - 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:00 - 12:00 *The British are Coming, the British are Coming!* A look at the British forces in August 1776
Proposed speaker: Dr. Vaughn Schribner, University of Central Arkansas
- 12:00 (Noon) Lunch, catered by the museum
- 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. *Glory: The Battle of Brooklyn* Confirmed Speaker: Dr. Owen Lourie, Maryland State Archives
- 2:10 – 3:00 p.m. *Retribution: Maryland 400 POWs and the Prison Martyrs*
Proposed Speaker: Barnet Schecter, independent historian
- 3:00 – 3:10 p.m. Break
- 3:10 – 4:00 p.m. *Rebirth: the post-battle reorganization of the 1st Maryland Regiment* and its operations through 1782, with a short follow on to current status as the 175th Regiment, Maryland National Guard
Proposed Speaker: Dr. Julie Shively, Command Historian, Maryland National Guard
- 4: 00 - 4:15 p.m. Concluding Remarks
- 4:15 – 5:00 Social Hour

**Donate to install a Unit Tribute for
“The Maryland 400”**

**The 1st Maryland Regiment
of the Continental Army**



The 1st Maryland Regiment, “The Maryland 400” saved the Continental Army and the American Revolution at the Battle of Long Island on 27 August 1776 in a covering action that historian Thomas Field described as "an hour more precious to liberty than any other in history."

The unit began as Smallwood’s Battalion, authorized by Maryland on 14 January 1776. It comprised of three companies recruited from Baltimore and six from Annapolis under the command of Colonel William Smallwood, a veteran of the French and Indian War. Following the declaration of independence, the regiment was transferred to the Continental Army on 6 July and placed under Lord Sterling’s Brigade. The unit saw action in New York and New Jersey during 1776. In January 1777, the battalion was redesignated the 1st Maryland Regiment and subsequently engaged in all the major northern campaigns (Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth) although it wintered in Wilmington, Delaware, not Valley Forge. In April 1780, the regiment was transferred to Nathaniel Greene’s Southern Department where it fought at Camden, Cowpens, Guilford Court House – and Combahee Ferry, South Carolina, ten months after Yorktown.

The regiment earned the title “The Maryland 400” (or “Washington’s Immortals”) for its performance at the Battle of Long Island, by single handedly holding off superior British and Hessian forces as the Continental Army retreated to save itself from destruction. Unlike other early units, the initial battalion was well trained, well equipped (including bayonets) and well led; that reputation for steady competence followed with its expansion. With Smallwood absent that day, Stirling was in command. When 2,000 British and Hessian forces under Cornwallis surprised and encircled the Americans, Stirling ordered all forces, other than the four companies of the 1st Maryland and a few Delawareans, to escape. The Marylanders, who were outside the fortified position on Brooklyn Heights, engaged the British, who were massed around the “Old Stone House,” a thick-walled field stone and brick *de facto* fortification. Lord Stirling and the “Maryland 400” did the unexpected. They charged towards the Old Stone House with their muskets and bayonets, where (according to a survivor), the British “infantry poured volleys of musket balls in almost solid sheets of lead” at the attackers. Six times the Marylanders charged in fierce fighting, twice actually managing to eject the British from the house. As British reinforcements poured in and American casualties mounted, the survivors were force to withdraw; regiment is a misnomer as few reached American forces. Two hundred fifty-six lay dead on the field and others, including Stirling, were captured. Many of those prisoners died in captivity. Their sacrifice allowed the rest of Washington's army to escape disaster, enabling the retreat from Brooklyn to Manhattan Island, thus preserving the fledgling American Army. Not yet two months after the Declaration of Independence, the collapse and destruction of the Continental Army that day would assuredly have resulted in the collapse of further military operations and the very continuance of a fight for independence. Following a well-worn pattern, defeat would be followed by the execution of Washington and the other “traitorous rebels” These men merit our recognition that we exist as a county today due to their sacrifice.

It is “altogether fitting and proper” that on the eve of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the US Army, the men of the “Maryland 400” be recognized for their service. They deserve a unit tribute on the Wall of Honor at the National Museum of the United States Army.



The National Museum of the US Army established the Unit Tribute Wall to honor past and present Army units. Plaques are created and paid for by private donation. We want to install a Unit Tribute to the Maryland 400 in recognition of their sacrifice during the American Revolution. You can submit a donation for the plaque by check or credit card. If by check, please make it payable to: “National Army Museum Fund” and write “1st Maryland Regiment” on the memo line. Mail to: Army Historical Foundation ATTN: Delvon Lukyamuzi 1775 Liberty Drive, Ste 400 Fort Belvoir, VA 22060. If paying by credit card, use the online fundraising page: https://armyhistory.causevox.com/1st_Maryland_Regiment , scan the QR code below, or call the Army Historical Foundation’s direct office number at (703) 562-4174.

The Army Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) registered charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible. When you donate via the following QR Code, please provide your name, address, email, etc. The museum will send a receipt as proof of your deductible donation to your designated email.

Thank you for your support.



Scan with camera to donate



UNIT TRIBUTE FOR THE 1ST MARYLAND REGIMENT OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

“THE MARYLAND 400”

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE US ARMY

SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS

The National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA) at Fort Belvoir, VA (located outside the perimeter for easy access) is an award-winning facility with the theme “Soldiers' Stories,” highlighting the experiences of the men and women who have served since 1775. Along the walkway from the parking lot is a Wall of Honor holding unit tributes to active and historic military units. On the eve of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, none of these commemorate the service and sacrifice of units of the Continental Army. None is more deserving than the 1st Maryland Regiment, “the Maryland 400,” whose rearguard action at the Battle of Brooklyn, at the “Stone House,” allowed the Continental Army to escape capture and destruction, denied the British the capture and execution of its commander, General George Washington; and saved the revolution from ultimate defeat just one month after the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

This project entails raising \$5,000 for the creation and installation of a Unit Tribute for the Maryland 400. The tribute is in the form of a 12” x 18” marble plaque designed by the program coordinator. The Army Historical Foundation handles the actual manufacture and twice-yearly installation, but Unit Tributes are only created due to the initiative of a group or individual who undertake to oversee the process, often a veteran of the unit. Our committee has proudly undertaken this duty. What makes this project different, and so essential, is:

- It is a Unit Tribute to the 1st Maryland Regiment, “the Maryland 400,” as an organic part of the US Army's history.

- It would be installed as an equal on the Wall of Honor next to other hallowed units of the Army's history.
- Currently, it would be the only Continental Army unit so recognized.
- It is a permanent tribute, lasting long after other ceremonies are memories.
- No government or military monies are provided; the Army Historical Foundation oversees the museum and handles the Unit Tribute program. All money raised flows directly into their account. Fundraising is very secure.
- NMUSA is the premier military museum for the oldest military service in America, with coverage dating to 1607 with the establishment of the militia in Jamestown. Actual serving personnel were used as models for figures within the museum, including the model of a Revolutionary War soldier in the "Founding the Nation Gallery," which is, coincidentally, a soldier from the Maryland 400.
- The museum is a major tourist site within the District of Columbia area, with nearly a million visitors a year. The inclusion of NMUSA as one of 70 historic sites listed on the new Virginia 250 Passport will increase that number even more.
- The Old Stone House commemorative event in Brooklyn, New York, in August 2026 is not in competition with the Unit Tribute; they complement one another. The Unit Tribute ceremony in May will enhance interest in the Brooklyn event. They both also focus on the military aspect of the remembrance, when so many other projects focus on the Founding Fathers, stately homes, etc.
- The Unit Tribute ceremony at Fort Belvoir allows for the easier participation of local and state Maryland government officials, local historic groups, local re-enactor groups, etc., who cannot make it to Brooklyn in August.
- The program coordinator has a successful track record in completing such projects. Last year saw the installation of a Unit Tribute for the Female Telephone Operators Unit, the "Hello Girls" who had just been awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Attendees at the installation ceremony (held in the most prestigious meeting site, Veterans' Hall) included French Army and Navy attaches; the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign War; the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Doughboy Foundation; the Commander of the Northern Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars; the past Commander of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association-Army Women United; the US Army Chief of the Signal Corps; and "Hello Girls" descendants. The pre-ceremony reception included a 30-minute video on the Hello Girls. A similar ceremony is planned for 24 May 2026 for this unit tribute, also with pictures and videos shown during the pre-ceremony reception.
- Attendance at the dedication will be open to the public pending reservations, although dignitaries and prominent donors will have reserved seating and other specified privileges. Seating in Veterans' Hall is limited to 160.

There are several levels of sponsorship, which are outlined on the following pages. We welcome the opportunity to have your organization partner with this project to commemorate and honor the men of the “Maryland 400.”

Sponsorship Opportunities

Donation of \$2,000

- Name and logo on all event publicity and program documents
- Opportunity to submit a one-minute video about your organization to be shown more than once in rotation during the pre-installation reception in Veterans’ Hall, NMUSA
- Speaking opportunity (5 minutes) by the leader of your group during the installation ceremony about how it is applicable to the Maryland 400.
- Exhibit table with prominent placement during the reception
- Reserved seating in the front row for two people

Donation of \$1,000

- Name and logo on all event publicity and program documents
- Opportunity to submit a 45-second video about your organization to be shown more than once in rotation during the pre-installation reception in Veterans’ Hall, NMUSA
- Speaking opportunity (2 minutes) by the leader of your group during the installation ceremony about how it is applicable to the Maryland 400.
- Exhibit table with prominent placement during the reception
- Reserved seating in the front row for two people

Donation of \$500

- Name and logo on all event publicity and program documents
- Opportunity to submit a 30-second video about your organization to be shown more than once in rotation during the pre-installation reception in Veterans’ Hall, NMUSA
- Verbal recognition of your group and leader during the installation ceremony
- Exhibit table with prominent placement during the reception
- Reserved seating in the front row for two people (if space allows, otherwise second row)

Donation of \$200

- Name and logo on all event publicity and program documents

- Verbal recognition of your group and its leader/individual donor during the installation ceremony
- Exhibit table with prominent placement during the reception
- Reserved seating in the second row for two people

\$100 Donation

- Recognition of the group/donor in the ceremony program
- Exhibit table with prominent placement during the reception
- Reserved seating in the second row for two people

DDirect Descendants

Any verified direct descendants of the Maryland 400 attending the ceremony will be listed in the program.

See [https://armyhistory.causevox.com/1st Maryland Regiment](https://armyhistory.causevox.com/1st_Maryland_Regiment) for additional information on the unit and how to donate. The Army Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) registered charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible. When you donate via the following QR Code, please provide your name, address, email, etc., The museum will send a receipt as proof of your deductible donation to your designated email.



Scan the QR code to donate.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Dianne Smith, LTC, USA (Retired) at dianne_smith48@hotmail.com.