



National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association

W3R-US.org ★ PO Box 38255 ★ Baltimore, MD 21231

Sheila Noel

The Honorable ~~G. Stephen Roane, Jr.~~
Chairman, Board of Supervisors of Yorktown
224 Ballard Street
P.O. Box 532
Yorktown, VA 23690

March 24, 2025

Dear Chairman, Board of Supervisors G. Stephen Roane, Jr.:

Congratulations. You are the senior elected official of a Victory Town of the American Revolution.

In 1781, thousands of troops, American and French, passed through your town en route to Yorktown, Virginia, where they forced the British to surrender at the last major battle in our War of Independence. Your town witnessed one of the largest military maneuvers on U.S. soil, leading to the world's first enduring democracy.

I am writing on the eve of our nation's 250th anniversary, in 2026, to invite your municipality to partner with us in celebrating the semi-quincentennial.

The National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association has worked for two decades to establish and promote a National Historic Trail named for the generals who, in 1781, led the march of American and French forces nearly 700 miles, from New England to Virginia, to force the British surrender on October 19 at Yorktown.

In 2026, every American city and town will find its own way to celebrate 250 years. But your community is one of nearly 200 we call "Victory Towns" for having witnessed the passage of victorious troops to and from Yorktown. Given your town's role in this history, we would like to include you in our anniversary plans, which include:

- Educational curricula that can be used in your schools, connecting your community to the American founding story.
- Road signs and markers announcing you are a "Victory Town" of the Revolution.
- Banners and flags to display during semi-quincentennial celebrations.
- Merchandise celebrating the stories of the march to, and victory at, Yorktown.
- Access to speakers, reenactors, and programs to make your celebration special.

The trail involves many stories of heroism. Few realize that 600 French soldiers and sailors lost their lives at the Siege of Yorktown, paving the way for our Independence. And few have heard about the racial diversity of the Continental Army, especially Rhode Island Regiment, who took part in Alexander Hamilton's assault against the final defensive position of the British at Yorktown, forcing the British surrender.

Over →

Massachusetts ★ Rhode Island ★ Connecticut ★ New York ★ New Jersey
★ Pennsylvania ★ Delaware ★ Maryland ★ Washington, DC ★ Virginia

*ICVD 3/28/25
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Every Victory Town that chooses to join us in this celebration of American Independence will receive a one-of-a-kind letter from our national historian, Dr. Robert Selig, suitable for framing, that describes the trail story of your state and municipality, as well as access to educational materials and ideas for your celebration.

Victory Towns making a larger commitment will receive a historic marker through our exclusive relationship with the Pomeroy Foundation, and an invitation to an elegant Victory Town Mayors' Reception in Liberty Hall at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia this July 19th, in honor of the 300th birthday of General Comte de Rochambeau.

To learn more about our Victory Towns program, including the modest cost of participation, please visit our website at <https://w3r-us.org/victory-towns/>. If you have questions, reach out to us by email at victorytowns@w3r-us.org.

America's founding story is a crucial part of our identity as a nation. The 250th anniversary in 2026 represents an opportunity to bring the American family together, in celebration of that story.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lawrence Abell". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Lawrence Abell

National Chairman, W3R-US

PS. As the home county of Yorktown, we would be especially honored to have your county participate in this program.