



City of Charleston

September 16, 2024

Hungary Foundation
1455 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Charleston, it is my honor to extend to you a warm letter of friendship in commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the birth of Colonel Michael Kovats. Kovats, a national hero of Hungary and a foundational figure in American military history, exemplifies the enduring spirit of freedom and the strong ties between our two nations.

As the Father of the United States Cavalry, Colonel Kovats' bravery and leadership in defense of Charlestown during the American Revolution remains a source of deep pride for our city. His ultimate sacrifice on May 11, 1779, at the Battle of the Old Race Course is a testament to his unwavering commitment to liberty. Today, we remember him not only for his military prowess but also for the profound legacy he left in the hearts of the people of Charleston.

It is my hope that this letter serves as a reminder of the enduring friendship between the people of Hungary and Charleston. This bond, forged in shared values of freedom and independence, continues to inspire and strengthen our relationships.

I would also like to acknowledge Mayor Joe Riley's contribution in 1979, when the Kovats Freedom Medal was struck in recognition of Colonel Kovats' heroism. We are proud to continue this tradition of honoring his legacy, and I trust that this moment will further reinforce the strong connections between our communities.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful event and may the memory of Colonel Michael Kovats continue to inspire us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Cogswell, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

William S. Cogswell, Jr.
Mayor, City of Charleston