HUNGARY
FOUNDATION

Kováts Mihály
Baráti Társaság

KOSSUTH
FOUNDATION

September 22, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Proposal for a Commemorative Stamp Honoring the 250th Anniversary of Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

On behalf of the Hungary Foundation, the Kossuth Foundation, the Michael Kováts Friendship Society and a broad coalition of American, Polish, and Hungarian historical, scholarly, military, heritage, and civic organizations, I respectfully submit for your consideration a proposal for a United States commemorative postage stamp in 2028 marking the **250th anniversary of the founding of Pulaski's Legion** and honoring its two principal leaders, Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski and Colonel Commandant Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, together with the Legion's extraordinary surviving regimental banner.

The Pulaski Legion being the most ethnically and religiously diverse units of the Revolution, the anniversary offers the Postal Service an unusually compelling opportunity to tell a distinctly American story: how men and women from different nations, languages, faiths, and backgrounds united around the principles proclaimed in 1776 and helped turn the promise of American independence into a military reality.

A consequential Revolutionary War anniversary

Authorized by the Continental Congress in 1778, Pulaski's Legion was an independent corps combining cavalry and infantry and incorporating soldiers of numerous national backgrounds. It participated in operations from Pennsylvania and New Jersey to South Carolina and Georgia and helped introduce European cavalry organization, training, and battlefield experience into the developing American military. The Legion was one of the earliest combined-arms units in American military history and a precursor to the mounted forces that would eventually develop into the United States Cavalry.

The year **2028 marks exactly 250 years since the Legion's formation**, making the proposed issue particularly appropriate within the continuing commemoration of the American Revolution.

The Legion's history also fills an important gap in the public telling of the Revolution. America's founding was not achieved solely by statesmen and thought leaders whose names are already universally familiar. Independence depended upon soldiers, specialized military units, and foreign-born volunteers who brought skills the young nation desperately needed. The Legion embodies all three.

Pulaski and Kováts: two foreign-born patriots who gave their lives for America

General Casimir Pulaski arrived in America after having already fought for the liberty of his native Poland. Recommended by Benjamin Franklin and entrusted with an important role in the Continental cavalry, Pulaski became one of the best-known foreign volunteers of the Revolution and has long been remembered as the **"Father of the American Cavalry."** He ultimately gave his life for his adopted cause, dying from wounds suffered during the attack on Savannah in October 1779.

The Postal Service last commemorated Pulaski with a stamp in 1931 - nearly a century ago. The approaching 250th anniversary of the Legion he founded provides a historically specific reason to introduce his story to a new generation of Americans.

Pulaski's Hungarian deputy, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, deserves to stand beside him in that story. A veteran hussar officer with decades of European military experience, Kováts volunteered for the American cause before ever setting foot in the new nation. Writing to Benjamin Franklin on January 13, 1777, he declared that **"Golden freedom cannot be purchased with yellow gold"** and concluded his offer of service with the words *Fidelissimus ad mortem* - "Most faithful unto death." He would ultimately fulfill that pledge literally.

Kováts brought extensive practical cavalry experience to the Continental Army. He helped recruit, equip, organize, drill, and command the mounted troops associated with Pulaski, and Congress formally appointed him Colonel in April 1778 as the Legion was being organized. By December of that year, George Washington addressed Kováts as the commanding officer of Pulaski's corps. Contemporary British testimony would later describe the Legion's mounted troops as **"the best Cavalry the rebels ever had."**

Like Pulaski, Kováts paid the ultimate price. He was killed in action outside Charleston on May 11, 1779, while the Legion was helping defend the city against the British advance. Pulaski followed him in death only five months later at Savannah. Their shared fate gives the proposed commemoration particular poignancy: **a Polish patriot and a Hungarian patriot who had previously fought for liberty in Europe came to America, helped build its cavalry, and both died fighting for American independence.**

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A powerful story of immigration and belonging

Pulaski's Legion also speaks directly to one of the enduring themes of American history: people born elsewhere choosing America and making its cause their own.

The Legion brought together Americans and European volunteers under one standard. Pulaski and Kováts did not inherit membership in the American founding generation by birth. They **chose it**. They crossed the Atlantic, offered their military experience to a country still struggling to come into existence, and ultimately sacrificed their lives for its liberty.

Their story reminds us that the United States was shaped not only by those born on US soil, but also by foreign-born patriots who freely chose to fight for the ideals of the Revolution. The Pulaski Legion's unusual multinational composition, bringing native-born Americans together with Poles, Frenchmen, Irishmen, and other volunteers under a common standard is a powerful testimony to the attractive nature of America's freedom fight.

This is therefore not Polish-American history or Hungarian-American history. It is **American history** - and an early example of the ability of the American idea to inspire allegiance beyond America's borders.

The Pulaski Banner: an exceptional surviving symbol

Our proposal is strengthened further by the survival of the **Pulaski Legion's regimental banner**, now preserved by the Maryland Center for History and Culture. The original banner was displayed by the Museum of the American Revolution in its 2025 exhibition *Banners of Liberty: An Exhibition of Original Revolutionary War Flags* because of its exceptionally rich visual expression of the Legion's story. Research represented in the enclosed materials connects its creation to the Moravian women of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, who hand-stitched the banner, and its design is linked to Kováts himself. Its red, white, and green coloring evokes Hungary, while red and white also evoke Poland, visually joining the national traditions of the Legion's two principal leaders.

More remarkably, the banner contains **one of the earliest uses of the initials "U.S." to represent the United States**. Its thirteen stars represent the colonies united in liberty; its imagery includes the Eye of Providence; and its Latin inscriptions proclaim *Non Alius Regit* ("No Other Governs") and *Unita Virtus Forcior* ("United Valor is Stronger"). Exploding grenades embroidered in its corners also testify to the Legion's combined-arms character.

Few Revolutionary artifacts could translate so naturally into the miniature visual medium of a postage stamp. The banner brings together American independence, military history, Polish-Hungarian cooperation, the thirteen states, and the emerging identity of the United States in a single surviving object.

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A national story with a remarkable geographic footprint

The Legion's story also connects numerous parts of the United States.

Pennsylvania was central to its formation: Kováts recruited and acquired horses in the Easton-Bethlehem region, the Moravian community preserved detailed records of the Legion's activities, and the banner itself was created in Bethlehem. The Legion subsequently operated in the Wyoming Valley and fought in New Jersey at Little Egg Harbor before marching south.

South Carolina became the site of Kováts' final sacrifice during the defense of Charleston in May 1779. Georgia became the site of Pulaski's final charge and mortal wounding at Savannah later that year. Maryland today preserves the Legion's banner and maintains an enduring civic connection to Pulaski's memory.

The proposed stamp would therefore commemorate a story whose physical geography stretches across the Revolutionary landscape - Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, South Carolina, and Georgia - while reaching internationally to Poland and Hungary.

An extraordinary coalition supports this proposal

The breadth of support for this initiative demonstrates that Pulaski's Legion belongs to no single constituency. The enclosed endorsements represent major Revolutionary War institutions, military heritage organizations, Polish-American and Hungarian-American organizations, universities and scholars, local historical organizations, descendants' organizations, and institutions in both Poland and Hungary.

Supporters include:

- Museum of the American Revolution (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- The American Hungarian Federation (Washington, D.C.)
- Casimir Pulaski Museum (Warka, Poland)
- Hungarian American Coalition (Washington, D.C.)
- National Armor and Cavalry Heritage Foundation (Columbus, Georgia)
- The Society of the Cincinnati of the State of South Carolina (Charleston, South Carolina)
- South Carolina American Revolution Trust (Camden, South Carolina)
- Dr Tibor Glant historian (Debrecen, Hungary)
- United States Cavalry Association (El Reno, Oklahoma)
- Michael Kováts Friendship Society (Karcag, Hungary)
- Dr Janet Uhlar, historian (Eastham, Massachusetts)
- Affair at Little Egg Harbor Historical Society, Inc. (Little Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey)
- City of Karcag (Karcag, Hungary)
- Kossuth Foundation (Washington, D.C.)
- The South Carolina Society Sons of the Revolution (Charleston, South Carolina)

- Professor Oscar E. Swan, University of Pittsburgh, historian (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)
- The Polish Museum of America (Chicago, Illinois)
- Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (New York, New York)
- Revolutionary Charleston 250 (Charleston, South Carolina)
- Dr Rene C Lyons, East Tennessee State University (Johnson City, Tennessee)
- Moravian Archives (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania)
- Pulaski County Historical Society & Museum (Winamac, Indiana)
- The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati (Washington, D.C.)
- The General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee (Staten Island, New York)
- Dr István Nagy-Luttenberg, military historian (Budapest, Hungary)
- Maryland Center for History and Culture (Baltimore, Maryland)
- National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (Louisville, Kentucky)

The diverse character of our coalition is itself significant. The proposal is supported by institutions charged with preserving the Revolution, by organizations devoted to American cavalry history, by the institution that preserves the original Pulaski banner, by scholars of Polish and Hungarian history, by heritage organizations representing both national communities, by organizations preserving the battlefields and local history where the Legion served as well as supporters from the countries of origin of the two leaders.

This convergence of military, academic, museum, genealogical, local, and ethnic-heritage support speaks to the national and international character of the proposal.

Why 2028

The case for issuance is ultimately straightforward. **2028 is the 250th anniversary of the creation of Pulaski's Legion.** The anniversary is historically precise, nationally significant, and directly connected to the continuing commemoration of the American Revolution.

The proposed subject would recognize an important military formation; honor two foreign-born Revolutionary heroes who both gave their lives for the United States; illuminate the origins of the

American cavalry tradition; commemorate the international coalition that helped secure independence; recognize the contributions of immigrants to America's founding; celebrate enduring American friendships with Poland and Hungary; and introduce millions of Americans to one of the Revolution's most extraordinary surviving flags.

Most importantly, it tells a story that is both historical and timeless: **people of different origins becoming united in the defense of liberty.**

The words embroidered on the Legion's banner more than two centuries ago express the principle particularly well:

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UNITA VIRTUS FORCIOR - United Valor is Stronger.

We therefore respectfully urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend the issuance in 2028 of a commemorative postage stamp - or, if the Committee determines appropriate, a coordinated commemorative issue - honoring **Pulaski's Legion; featuring General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and the historic Pulaski Banner** on the 250th anniversary of the Legion's founding.

Attached to this letter are the letters of endorsement as well as an Appendix featuring paintings by Hungarian American artist Sándor Bodo featuring Kováts and Pulaski and the banner.

Thank you for your consideration and for the Postal Service's continuing work to preserve and share the people, events, and ideals that constitute our national story.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Smith Lacey
Executive Director
Hungary Foundation
Washington, D.C.

Sándor Végh
President
Kossuth Foundation
Washington D.C.

Zoltán Pintér
President
Michael Kováts Friendship Society
Karcag, Hungary

László Örlős
Vice-President
Michael Kováts Friendship Society
Karcag, Hungary

Affair at Egg Harbor Historical Society, Inc.

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Michael Czurlanis,
President

Dale Denda
Exec. Director

July 9, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

On behalf of the Affair at Egg Harbor Historical Society (AEHHS), I am pleased to express our strong support for the issuance of a commemorative United States postage stamp honoring General Casimir Pulaski and Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy in recognition of their leadership of the Pulaski Legion and its extraordinary service during the American Revolution.

As our organization commemorates the Defense of Little Egg Harbor each October, we believe this aspect of American history deserves far greater national recognition. The events of October 1778, culminating in the successful defense of Little Egg Harbor on October 15, represent one of the most remarkable yet under appreciated military achievements by the Legion in the Revolutionary War.

The Pulaski Legion is a relatively rare example illustrating the military prowess of a solely European officer-command which trained and led Americans into battle. The defense of Little Egg Harbor- October 1778 was a complex campaign, spanning an operational area well in excess of a hundred square miles, ending in nothing less than a decisive victory. The dimensions of a superior enemy Amphibious landing force, and a response by Cavalry- combined arms march, maneuver and novel tactics (as well as novel weapons) starting from a distance of over 60 miles, are indeed rare examples involving such military complexities in that war. The outcome was on account of the officers and men of the Pulaski Legion. The Legion's record tempo-rates of march, and formation shock-action attacks with a widely recognized cut-and-thrust sword technique are hallmarks of that legacy.

But that did not happen as a regular course of events; rather it was due to the singular leadership, skill and experience of Pulaski and Kováts and a handful of other foreign officers. The emergence of such a highly

trained unit in so short a period of time has no other explanation.

Research continues to reveal the strategic importance of Little Egg Harbor port, with archival evidence indicating that it served as a sea port critically utilized by the Continental Congress. By preventing its destruction, the Pulaski Legion helped safeguard an essential link in the Revolutionary cause and demonstrated the military effectiveness of one of the most diverse units to serve in the Continental Army.

As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of Pulaski's Legion in 2028, a commemorative postage stamp would appropriately recognize not only two extraordinary military leaders but also the internationally diverse Legion they created -an organization whose courage, innovation, and sacrifice contributed significantly to the success of the American Revolution.

The 250th anniversary of the founding of Pulaski's Legion in 2028 presents a timely and fitting opportunity for the United States Postal Service to honor these officers and the Americans who served with them. The Affair at Egg Harbor Historical Society respectfully urges the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to approve a commemorative stamp recognizing these unique officers, as the USPS has done historically with similar subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale F. Denda
Executive Director
AEHHS, Inc.

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The American Hungarian Federation

Serving the Community since 1906 - Fidelissimus ad Mortem

The American Hungarian Federation
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Washington, D.C. 20036
www.Americanhungarianfederation.org

June 13, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

Dear Members of the Citizen's Stamp Committee:

The American Hungarian Federation respectfully requests the issuance of a U.S. Commemorative Postage Stamp honoring Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, a distinguished hero of the American Revolutionary War. As we mark the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and prepare to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the formation of the Pulaski Legion in 2028, there is no better moment to recognize the extraordinary individuals-both American and foreign-born-who helped secure our nation's independence.

Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, born in Karcag Hungary in 1724, was a nobleman and seasoned cavalry officer who brought his considerable military experience to the American cause in 1777. In a letter to Benjamin Franklin, then U.S. ambassador in France, Kováts offered his "life and fortune" to the cause of liberty. Upon arrival in America, he joined General George Washington's Continental Army and worked alongside General Casimir Pulaski to establish and train the Continental cavalry. For his contributions, Kováts is rightly considered one of the "Founding Fathers of the U.S. Cavalry."

Kováts introduced the disciplined tactics of the Hungarian hussars to the American military and played a vital role in transforming the Continental cavalry into an effective fighting force. British military observers would later call his troops "the best cavalry the rebels ever had." Kováts was killed in action on May 11, 1779, during the Siege of Charleston. His words to Franklin-*Fidelissimus ad Mortem* ("Most Faithful unto Death")-now serve as the motto of the American Hungarian Federation.

The 300th anniversary of Kováts' birth was first marked in 2022 by a delegation from the Daughters of the American Revolution traveling to Karcag to dedicate a memorial on the Kováts grade school. An identical marker was later dedicated in the front entry foyer of the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon in Charleston, S.C. In 2024, a new memorial was unveiled on Kossuth House, Washington D.C. Additionally, In 2024 Hungary issued a postage stamp along with a Commemorative envelope in Colonel Kováts honor.

A U.S. stamp would further honor his memory, and raise public awareness of his contributions. For many Americans, Kováts remains a source of immense pride and inspiration. Kováts' sacrifice and service during the Revolutionary War make him highly deserving, particularly during this period of national reflection and remembrance.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

The American Hungarian Federation

Serving the Community since 1906 · Fidelissimus ad Mortem

Sincerely,

Richard Varga

Richard G. Varga, Vice President
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201-734-1721

Dr. Imre Namath, President American Hungarian Federation

Akos L. Nagy, President Emeritus

Paul Kamenar, Executive Committee Chairman and General Counsel

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE
of The Society of the Cincinnati

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August 13, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

On behalf of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, I am pleased to express our strong support for the proposal to issue a commemorative United States postage stamp in 2028 marking the 250th anniversary of the formation of Pulaski's Legion.

The American Revolution Institute is dedicated to preserving and promoting understanding of the people, events, and ideals that secured American independence. Central to that mission is the recognition that the Revolution was not solely an American story but one that inspired supporters from across the Atlantic world. The contributions of foreign-born patriots—including Lafayette, von Steuben, Kosciuszko, Pulaski, and Kováts—demonstrate the universal appeal of the principles for which the Revolution was fought.

For the Society of the Cincinnati, founded to preserve the memory of the officers who secured American liberty and the alliances that made victory possible, the Legion stands as a powerful example of shared sacrifice by foreign-born patriots. Organized in 1778 by Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski and Colonel Commandant Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, the Legion brought European military expertise to the Continental Army and helped lay the foundations of the American cavalry tradition. Their service reminds us that the cause of American independence inspired patriots from many nations who united in defense of liberty.

This theme has long been reflected in the Institute's collections and scholarship. Among the figures represented in our holdings is the Hungarian-American artist Sándor Bodó, whose acclaimed Revolutionary War medal series honored foreign-born patriots who contributed to the founding of the United States. Having fled communist oppression after the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, Bodó devoted much of his artistic career to celebrating the ideals of American liberty and the individuals who helped secure it. His work emphasized the enduring meaning of *E Pluribus Unum* and the diverse origins of those who shaped the nation's founding. The story of Pulaski's Legion embodies that same spirit and remains one of the most compelling examples of international cooperation in the cause of American independence.

As the United States commemorates the 250th anniversary of the Revolution, a stamp featuring General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts, and the historic Pulaski Banner would honor not only two extraordinary military leaders, but also the broader story of courage, sacrifice, and international friendship that helped secure the liberties Americans enjoy today.

We respectfully encourage the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to give favorable consideration to this proposal.

Sincerely,



F. Anderson Morse
Executive Director
American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati
202.329.1561 | amorse@societyofthecincinnati.org

Date: 23 July 2026

To: Stamp Advisory Committee
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

From: Oscar, E. Swan, Professor Emeritus, University of Pittsburgh

Re: Stamp Honoring Casimir Pulaski, Michael Kovats, and Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh, where I taught Polish language and culture for fifty years. I am the author of many Polish translations, textbooks, grammars, and dictionaries, most recently *The Short Story in a Polish Context*, a survey of Polish short fiction from the 18th through the 20th century. In 2021 I was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit by the Republic of Poland for my life's work promoting Polish culture and history abroad.

In connection with our celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, I am writing in enthusiastic support of the proposal to issue United States commemorative postage stamps honoring the memory and contribution in the American Revolutionary War of General Casimir Pulaski and Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, organizers and leaders of the Pulaski Legion during the revolution.

General Pulaski, having emigrated to America, became one of the most consequential foreign officers in the Continental Army. He reorganized the American cavalry and later perished for the American cause at the Siege of Savannah. Alongside Colonel Michael Kováts, who also gave his life on the field of battle at Charleston, Pulaski is a prime example of how the American experiment drew strength from the foreign-born, many of whom ultimately died in defense of their and our ideals.

As the United States marks its 250th founding anniversary, a stamp commemorating Pulaski's Legion and both Pulaski's and Kovats' role in leading it and dying for the American cause would offer an important history lesson to the current generation of Americans, including especially those of Polish and Hungarian descent, for whom their sacrifice remains an enduring symbol of sacrifice. I urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to give this proposal its full consideration and, eventually, its favorable recommendation.

Sincerely,

Oscar E. Swan
Professor Emeritus of Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of Pittsburgh

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June 15, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
c/o Stamp Development
U.S. Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

I write in strong support of the proposal to issue a commemorative United States postage stamp in 2028 marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of Pulaski's Legion and honoring General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Commandant Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and the Legion's historic banner.

As a historian of Hungarian-American relations at the University of Debrecen, I have long studied the international dimensions of the American Revolution. Few military units better illustrate the global significance of the struggle for American independence than Pulaski's Legion. Organized in 1778 under the leadership of the Polish patriot Casimir Pulaski and the Hungarian cavalry officer Michael Kováts, the Legion brought together soldiers of many backgrounds in service to the American cause and became one of the most distinctive units of the Continental Army.

The story of Pulaski and Kováts reflects the universal appeal of the ideals proclaimed in 1776. Both men arrived in America as experienced European officers who chose to devote their talents to the cause of American independence. Their military expertise proved invaluable to the Continental Army, particularly in the development of mounted forces. Together, they helped establish the foundations of the American cavalry tradition, making their contributions significant not only to Revolutionary War history but also to the enduring legacy of the United States military.

The proposed stamp would also commemorate an important chapter in the shared heritage of the United States, Poland, and Hungary. The service and sacrifice of Pulaski and Kováts demonstrate that the American Revolution inspired support far beyond the thirteen colonies

QS: https://goo.gl/5f5jWi

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and attracted individuals willing to risk their lives in defense of liberty. Their story remains a powerful reminder that the founding of the United States was shaped not only by Americans but also by courageous allies from abroad who embraced the cause of freedom.

The Pulaski Legion's banner is among the most remarkable artifacts of the Revolutionary era. Featuring patriotic symbolism and one of the earliest known uses of the initials "U.S.," it stands as a visual representation of the unity, sacrifice, and ideals that animated the struggle for independence. A commemorative stamp featuring Pulaski, Kováts, and the banner would provide an important educational opportunity to bring this extraordinary story to a broader American audience.

The 250th anniversary of the Legion's formation presents a particularly fitting occasion for national recognition. Such a stamp would honor not only two exceptional military leaders but also the international friendships and shared devotion to liberty that helped secure American independence and continue to strengthen ties among democratic nations today.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

Tibor Glant, PhD
Associate Professor, University of Debrecen
Research Professor, University of Public Service, Budapest
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Hungarian American Coalition

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July 8, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
U.S. Postal Service

Re: Support for a Commemorative Stamp Honoring Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the Hungarian American Coalition (HAC), I am pleased to express support for the proposal to issue a United States commemorative postage stamp honoring **General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and Pulaski's Legion** in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Legion's founding in 2028.

Founded in 1991, the Hungarian American Coalition is the nation's leading umbrella organization representing the Hungarian American community and over 38,000 members. Through our nationwide network of member organizations, we are dedicated to strengthening the historic friendship between the United States and Hungary while preserving Hungarian heritage and promoting the contributions of Hungarian Americans to our nation's civic, cultural, and public life.

Few stories better reflect the enduring friendship between the American, Hungarian, and Polish peoples than that of Pulaski's Legion. Formed in 1778, the Legion brought together patriots from many backgrounds in the common cause of American independence. General Casimir Pulaski, celebrated as the "Father of the American Cavalry," and his Hungarian-born cavalry commander, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, combined their military experience and leadership to help establish the traditions of the American cavalry. Their courage, sacrifice, and devotion to liberty remind us that the United States was shaped not only by those born on its shores, but also by immigrants who freely chose to fight—and, in Kováts' case, to give their lives—for the ideals of the American Revolution. Their legacy remains a lasting source of pride for Hungarian Americans, Polish Americans, and all who value the international friendships forged in America's founding.

The proposed stamp would also honor General Casimir Pulaski and the historic Pulaski Legion banner, commemorating one of the Continental Army's most distinguished military formations. Together, these symbols celebrate the shared legacy of the American, Hungarian, and Polish peoples and the indispensable contributions of immigrants to the founding of the United States. They tell a powerful story of friendship across nations, a common commitment to the cause of liberty, and the lasting bonds forged through shared sacrifice during the American Revolution.

As the United States commemorates the 250th anniversary of its founding, this stamp would provide a fitting tribute to two foreign-born patriots whose legacy continues to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the American, Hungarian, and Polish peoples. It would also educate millions of Americans about an important chapter of our nation's founding that deserves broader recognition.

The Hungarian American Coalition respectfully urges the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to give this proposal its strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Lauer Rice

Andrea Lauer Rice
President
Hungarian American Coalition

Janet Uhlar

Historian/Author/Lecturer

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Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Re: Support for a Commemorative Stamp to Honor the 250th Anniversary of Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

My second book, *Freedom's Cost: The Story of General Nathanael Greene* relates the history of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. General Greene came to command in the South after General Pulaski and Colonel Kováts sacrificed their lives as they attempted to obtain the Independence the Continental Congress declared. Throughout his arduous campaign Greene relied heavily on his cavalry. Pulaski and Kováts - foreign brothers and true Sons of Liberty - masterfully trained this cavalry. Without their proficiency, Greene could not have subdued the South. The victory at Yorktown would not have taken place!

As an American Hungarian, I support and welcome the recognition of these foreign officers in our celebration of America's founding. With the acknowledgement of General Pulaski and Colonel Kováts, Americans not descended from colonist soldiers/politicians of the American Revolution, will be offered a connection to America's founding history and a deeper sense of Patriotism. America's citizens come from a vast array of nations to become one people. Those who gained our Independence also came from a vast array of nations to become one Army – a force on the world stage to be reckoned with.

Janet Uhlar
August 26, 2026

Karcag

Szepesi Tibor

Karcag város polgármestere

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Office of the Mayor of Karcag

The Honorable Tibor Szepesi
Mayor of the City of Karcag
Hungary

13. 07. 2026.

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service

Re: Support for a United States Commemorative Stamp Honoring Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy and Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the City of Karcag, Hungary, I am honored to express our strongest support for the proposal to issue a United States commemorative postage stamp recognizing **General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and Pulaski's Legion** in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of the Legion's formation in 2028.

For the people of Karcag, this proposal carries a particularly meaningful significance. Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy was born in our city in 1724, and his remarkable life remains one of the greatest examples of courage, service, and commitment to the cause of liberty. Although born in Hungary, he chose to dedicate his military experience—and ultimately sacrifice his life—to the struggle for American independence.

The citizens of Karcag have preserved his memory for generations. Schools, public commemorations, educational programs, historical exhibitions, and international partnerships continue to celebrate his extraordinary legacy. His life reminds us that the values of freedom and democracy transcend national borders and unite nations through shared ideals.

Colonel Kováts' contribution to the formation of the American cavalry represents a remarkable chapter in the history shared by Hungary and the United States. His service alongside General Casimir Pulaski symbolizes the cooperation of individuals from different nations who came together in pursuit of liberty during one of the defining moments of American history.

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Karcag

Szepesi Tibor

Karcag város polgármestere

The proposed commemorative stamp would appropriately recognize not only two exceptional military leaders but also the enduring friendship among the American, Hungarian, and Polish peoples. It would introduce millions of Americans to an inspiring story of patriotism, sacrifice, and international cooperation that deserves far wider public recognition.

As the birthplace of Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, the City of Karcag considers it a great honor that his contributions to the founding of the United States continue to be remembered and appreciated. We respectfully encourage the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to give this proposal its most favorable consideration.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention and for your dedication to preserving the stories of those whose lives helped shape the history of the United States.

Respectfully,

Tibor Szepesi
Mayor
City of Karcag
Hungary

Karcag Városi Önkormányzat Polgármester

Karcag Városi Önkormányzat
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MARYLAND CENTER
FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE

August 27, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

I write on behalf of the Maryland Center for History and Culture to add our support to the proposal that the Postal Service mark the 250th anniversary of Pulaski's Legion.

The Maryland Center for History and Culture has a direct connection to this history: our collection includes the Pulaski Legion's regimental banner, one of the few surviving artifacts from the Legion organized by General Casimir Pulaski and Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy in 1778. As stewards of the Pulaski Legion's regimental banner, we have long felt a responsibility to keep the story of the Legion, and of the international volunteers who gave it life, in public view.

That story is also woven into the landscape of Maryland itself. Baltimore is home to a monument honoring General Pulaski, and Pulaski Highway, one of the region's principal thoroughfares, carries his name to this day. These civic markers reflect how deeply the memory of the Legion took root here, well beyond the battlefield, and how communities in Maryland have continued to honor it across two centuries.

A commemorative stamp highlighting General Pulaski and Colonel Kováts offers an opportunity to bring greater public awareness to the international character of the American Revolution. Their partnership in organizing and leading the Pulaski Legion reflects the indispensable contributions of volunteers from across Europe who placed their experience and service in support of American independence. A commemorative stamp featuring the Legion's regimental banner alongside both commanders would celebrate not only their shared legacy, but also the broader truth that the Revolution was shaped by a remarkable coalition of allies whose contributions deserve to be more widely understood.

As the nation observes the 250th anniversary of the Revolution, we believe this proposal offers a timely and meaningful opportunity to bring a lesser-known chapter of that history, one with enduring ties to institutions and communities, including our own, to a national audience.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Katie Caljean

Katie Caljean
President & CEO
Maryland Center for History and Culture

Kováts Mihály Baráti Társaság Egyesület

5300 Karcag, Kossuth tér 1. ☎ 59/ 500-610

Elnök: *Dr. Pintér Zoltán Árpád*

Számlaszám:10404522-50495748-55551018

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service

Re: Support for the Issuance of a Commemorative Stamp Honoring Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy and Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

The Michael Kováts Friendship Society respectfully submits this letter in strong support of the proposal to issue a United States commemorative postage stamp honoring **General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and Pulaski's Legion** as part of the observance of the 250th anniversary of the Legion's establishment in 2028.

Our organization is dedicated to researching, preserving, and promoting the historical legacy of Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, whose service during the American Revolutionary War established him as one of the principal architects of the United States cavalry tradition. Through historical research, publications, educational initiatives, commemorative events, and international partnerships, we have sought to ensure that his remarkable contribution remains known on both sides of the Atlantic.

The story of Michael Kováts is far more than the biography of an individual soldier. It is the story of immigrants who voluntarily embraced the cause of American liberty, bringing their knowledge, military experience, and personal sacrifice to the Continental Army. His famous declaration to Benjamin Franklin — offering his "life and fortune" to the cause of freedom — and his ultimate sacrifice at the Siege of Charleston have become enduring symbols of devotion to democratic ideals.

Equally significant is the partnership between General Casimir Pulaski and Colonel Michael Kováts. Together they laid the foundations of the Continental cavalry and demonstrated how cooperation among people of different national origins strengthened the struggle for American independence. Their shared legacy continues to inspire Americans, Hungarians, and Poles alike.

Over the past decades, interest in Colonel Kováts has grown steadily. Memorials have been dedicated in Hungary and the United States, scholarly research has expanded our understanding of his life, and numerous commemorative initiatives have highlighted his contribution to the American founding. The approaching 250th anniversary of Pulaski's Legion presents a unique opportunity to share this remarkable story with a nationwide audience through one of America's most enduring public traditions—a commemorative postage stamp.

Such a stamp would recognize not only two distinguished officers but also the multinational character of the American Revolution and the lasting friendships forged through common sacrifice. It would serve as an educational tribute to the ideals upon which the United States was founded while honoring the indispensable role played by immigrants in securing American independence.

The Michael Kováts Friendship Society respectfully urges the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to give this proposal its fullest consideration. We believe that the issuance of this commemorative stamp would constitute a fitting and lasting tribute to an extraordinary chapter in American history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dr. Zoltán Árpád Pintér
President
Michael Kováts Friendship Society

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

c/o Stamp Development

U.S. Postal Service

475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300

Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

The desire for freedom has been a constant presence in Hungarian history ever since the Battle of Mohács in 1526 and the Ottoman conquest of Buda Castle in 1541. Hungary and the Hungarian nation have waged numerous wars of independence; Hungarian history is marked by countless struggles for freedom and uprisings against foreign oppressors. It is enough to mention just three: Ferenc Rákóczi's War of Independence (1703–1711), the 1848–1849 War of Independence, and the 1956 Revolution. In these struggles, many foreigners fought for Hungarian freedom as well. The most famous among them is Józef Bem, who is held in such high esteem that we know him better as József Bem; his soldiers, however, referred to the Polish hero simply as "father Bem".

However, the Hungarian desire for liberty did not manifest itself solely in Hungarian struggles for freedom. It was not only foreigners who shed their blood for Hungarian independence; Hungarian freedom fighters also fought for the liberty of other nations. István Türr, as one of Garibaldi's most loyal soldiers, fought for Italian independence, but we also find Hungarians in the struggles for German, Polish, Spanish, and French freedom.

Among those who fought for the freedom of other nations, Michael Kováts holds a particularly important place. He learned of the American War of Independence from a newspaper report and volunteered to go to the New World to fight. He offered his services to General Washington, who at first viewed the veteran soldier with caution and gave his words only moderate credibility. Kováts did not give up; he enlisted as a volunteer in the army and quickly proved himself to be a capable and courageous soldier.

The Pulaski Legion was the first cavalry unit in the United States; its two founders, Casimir Pulaski and Michael Kováts, rightfully bear the honorary title of "founding fathers of

the American cavalry." Historically, there were few ties between the United States and Hungary, especially prior to the 20th century; the vast geographical distance made this impossible. What did unite the two nations, however, was the desire for liberty and the noble ideal of free and independent government.

Michael Kováts is the most important figure in early American-Hungarian relations. He is the embodiment of liberty in the history of both nations. An outstanding soldier and hero, a master of his craft at the highest level, who sacrificed his life for American freedom. I believe that both heroes of freedom, Casimir Pulaski and Mihály Kováts, occupy a prominent place in the pantheon of our nations.

I fully support the issuance of this stamp and wholeheartedly recommend it, as it serves as a fitting tribute to one of the high points of our nations' shared history.

HONVÉDELMI MINISZTÉRIUM Hadtörténeti Intézet és Múzeum

dr. Lázár Balázs, PHD
director
MoD Military History Institute and Museum

dr. István Nagy-Luttenberger, PHD
historian
MoD Military History Institute and Museum

MORAVIAN ARCHIVES
BETHLEHEM

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www.moravianchurcharchives.org

Paul Peucker PhD, archivist
paul@moravianchurcharchives.org

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee United States Postal Service

July 21, 2026

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

I am pleased to offer my support for the proposal to issue a United States commemorative postage stamp honoring General Casimir Pulaski and the Pulaski Legion during the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

From the perspective of the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, the Pulaski Legion's battle standard represents a meaningful intersection between the Moravian community and the Revolutionary War. The banner is among the very few surviving military standards from the American Revolution and stands as a lasting testament to the contributions of the Moravian settlement of Bethlehem to the cause of American independence.

Historical evidence indicates that the standard was created in Bethlehem in 1778 by members of the Moravian Single Sisters' choir, renowned for their exceptional embroidery and textile craftsmanship. While nineteenth-century artistic depictions and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's famous poem helped popularize the story, modern scholarship has distinguished legend from documented history. Although there is no archival evidence of a formal presentation ceremony, the surviving records leave little doubt that the banner itself originated within the Moravian community and that the Sisters played a central role in its creation.

The Pulaski banner also illustrates the remarkable international character of the American Revolution. It commemorates a military unit led by the Polish General Casimir Pulaski, produced by German-speaking Moravian women in Pennsylvania, and associated with the service of the Hungarian cavalry officer Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, whose close relationship with the Moravian community has become increasingly well documented. Recent scholarship has highlighted Kováts' likely role in the banner's design, including its Latin motto Unita Virtus Forcior ("United Valor is Greater"), and his longstanding ties with the Moravian settlement in Bethlehem.

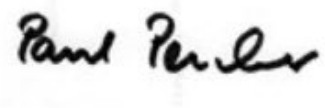
For many in the Moravian community, this banner has great meaning. It reflects the skill, faith, and loyalism of the women of Bethlehem whose craftsmanship became part of the Revolutionary story. Their work created an enduring symbol that accompanied one of the Continental Army's most distinguished cavalry units and survives today as one of the rarest and most recognizable Revolutionary War standards.

As our nation commemorates the Semiquincentennial, a United States postage stamp featuring General Pulaski and the famous Bethlehem-made banner would appropriately recognize not only

Pulaski's military service, but also the extraordinary contributions of the Moravian community to the American story. It would bring deserved national attention to a remarkable story of international cooperation, religious craftsmanship, and shared sacrifice in the cause of American independence.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Paul Peucker, PhD
Archivist of the Moravian Church in America, Northern Province

July 8, 2026

To the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

The Museum of the American Revolution is pleased to express its support for the proposal to issue a United States commemorative postage stamp marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of Pulaski's Legion in 2028.

As the nation's premier museum dedicated to exploring the enduring story of the American Revolution and its continuing relevance, we are committed to preserving and sharing the artifacts and stories that illuminate the struggle for American independence.

In 2025, the Museum proudly featured the original Pulaski's Legion banner in our landmark exhibition, *Banners of Liberty: An Exhibition of Original Revolutionary War Flags*. Bringing together one of the largest collections of surviving Revolutionary War flags ever assembled, the exhibition highlighted the profound historical significance of these rare national treasures and the ideals they represented.

Pulaski's Legion occupies an important place in the history of the Continental Army. Established in 1778 under General Casimir Pulaski, the Legion combined cavalry and infantry into an innovative fighting force whose service reflected the international character of the American Revolution. The Legion's historic banner remains one of the most recognizable surviving symbols of that service and sacrifice.

A commemorative postage stamp honoring the 250th anniversary of Pulaski's Legion would encourage millions of Americans to learn more about this remarkable chapter of our nation's founding and the diverse individuals whose courage and commitment helped secure American independence.

We respectfully encourage the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to give this proposal its favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. R. Scott Stephenson
President and CEO
Museum of the American Revolution

NACHF

Preserving Our Heritage...
Honoring Our Mounted Warrior.

June 10, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the National Armor and Cavalry Heritage Foundation, I am pleased to offer our strong endorsement for the issuance of a United States commemorative postage stamp honoring the 250th anniversary of Pulaski's Legion in 2028.

As an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of America's mounted forces, we believe Pulaski's Legion occupies a unique and deserving place in our nation's military heritage. Organized in 1778 under Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski and Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, the Legion introduced advanced cavalry doctrine, training, and organization to the Continental Army and helped establish traditions that would later evolve into the United States Cavalry.

Pulaski's Legion demonstrated the strategic value of mounted forces during the Revolutionary War, serving as scouts, raiders, escorts, and combat troops in support of American independence. Beyond its military significance, the Legion represented one of the earliest and most remarkable multinational units in American history, bringing together volunteers from across Europe and the American colonies who united in the cause of liberty.

A commemorative stamp would provide a meaningful opportunity to educate Americans about the contributions of Pulaski, Kováts, and the Legion during the nation's founding era. As the United States commemorates the 250th anniversary of its independence, recognizing Pulaski's Legion would honor not only its military achievements but also the enduring values of courage, service, and international support for freedom that helped secure the American Revolution.

The story of Pulaski's Legion is an important chapter in the history of the United States Army and our nation. We respectfully urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to approve a commemorative stamp recognizing the 250th anniversary of this distinguished unit and its lasting legacy.

Sincerely

Ricky W. Young
Executive Director
National Armor and Cavalry Heritage Foundation

PO Box 5767
Columbus, GA 31906
706.341.6123
www.armorcavalryheritagefoundation.org

Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America, Inc.

Polski Instytut Naukowy w Ameryce

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Dr. Anna Muller
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July 23, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Re: Support for a Commemorative Stamp Honoring Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA), our organization is pleased to endorse the proposal for a United States commemorative postage stamp honoring General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and Pulaski's Legion, timed to the 250th anniversary of the Legion's founding in 2028.

PIASA was founded in New York in 1942 by a small circle of Polish scholars — among them the anthropologist Bronisław Malinowski and the historian Oskar Halecki — who had fled the German occupation of Poland and chose to carry on Polish intellectual life from American soil. In the eighty-plus years since, PIASA has grown into the nation's leading scholarly institution devoted to the study of Poland and Polish America, publishing *The Polish Review* and bringing together generations of historians, scientists, and artists who share a commitment to preserving and advancing knowledge of the Polish experience in the United States.

The story of General Pulaski and his Legion sits at the very origin point of that experience. Pulaski, like PIASA's own founders nearly two centuries later, crossed an ocean because a homeland under threat still commanded his loyalty and his skill; unlike them, he gave his life for the country that received him, falling at Savannah in 1779 while leading the multiethnic cavalry force he and Colonel Kováts had built into one of the Continental Army's most distinctive units. It is precisely this kind of history — consequential, international in character, and too often confined to specialist scholarship — that PIASA exists to bring before a wider public.

We respectfully urge the Committee to recognize the significance of Pulaski's Legion and approve this commemorative stamp.

Sincerely,

Anna Muller

THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA

July 17, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Re: Support for a Commemorative Stamp Honoring Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the Polish Museum of America (PMA) in Chicago, I am pleased to offer our enthusiastic endorsement of a United States commemorative postage stamp honoring General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and Pulaski's Legion, marking the 250th anniversary of the Legion's founding in 2028.

Founded in 1935 and opened to the public in 1937, PMA is one of the oldest and largest ethnic museums in the United States, and our collection speaks directly to why this proposal matters. Among the artifacts and documents, we hold and preserve are original materials connected to Generals Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz Kościuszko, displayed alongside the story of the Polish settlers, soldiers, and statesmen who shaped the Polish-American experience. For over ninety years, our museum — housed in a building on the National Register of Historic Places, in what was once Chicago's "Polish Downtown" — has served each year as a focal point for the city's official Casimir Pulaski Day commemorations, drawing civic leaders, schoolchildren, and Polish Americans together to honor his memory.

Pulaski's story, and that of the diverse Legion he raised and led alongside Colonel Kováts, is one our visitors encounter the moment they walk through our doors. It is a story we consider central to our mission: a Polish patriot, already a veteran of his own country's fight for freedom, who crossed an ocean to build an American cavalry tradition nearly from scratch, and who paid for that commitment with his life at Savannah in 1779.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. We hope the Committee will recognize the significance of Pulaski's Legion and approve this commemorative stamp.

Sincerely,

Richard Owsiany
President, Polish Museum of America

The Polish Museum of America
984 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60642-4101
tel. (773) 384-3352 | fax (773) 384-3799 | PMA@PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org
501(c)(3) under IRS Code

Pulaski County Historical Society & Museum

Preserving History For A Better Future

August 3, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Re: Proposed Stamp Honoring Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Committee:

In 1835, in recognition of General Casimir Pulaski's extraordinary contributions to the American Revolutionary War, the Indiana General Assembly chose to name one of the state's newest counties in his honor.

A Polish nobleman and distinguished military commander, Pulaski is remembered as the **Father of the American Cavalry**. After earning the confidence of General George Washington, he was appointed a brigadier general and charged with organizing and training an effective American cavalry force, an accomplishment that left a lasting mark on the Continental Army.

In 1778, Pulaski established **Pulaski's Legion**, an elite, independent corps of cavalry and infantry that he helped finance with his personal resources. Alongside him served Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, the Hungarian officer whose expertise in cavalry training proved invaluable to the Legion's success. Together, Pulaski, Kováts, and the soldiers of the Legion represent an inspiring – and too often overlooked – chapter in the story of the American Revolution, exemplifying the courage and sacrifice of foreign volunteers who risked everything in the cause of American independence.

The naming of Pulaski County reflects a long-standing American tradition of honoring the international heroes whose dedication helped secure our nation's freedom. As Polish immigration to the United States grew during the 20th century, General Pulaski's legacy became an enduring symbol of the deep and lasting friendship between Poland and the United States.

For these reasons, we enthusiastically support the proposal for a commemorative United States postage stamp honoring **General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and Pulaski's Legion**. Such a stamp would appropriately recognize their remarkable service, preserve their legacy for future generations, and celebrate the international spirit that helped secure American independence.

Respectfully,

Courtney Poor

Courtney Poor, President
Pulaski County Historical Society

cc: Lydia Chenoweth, Summer Associate, Hungary Foundation

The Pulaski County Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization, and as such, any contribution is tax deductible. No goods or services will be provided in exchange for any contribution.

PULASKI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 135, Winamac, IN 46996
pulaskihistory.net facebook.com/pulaskihistory info@pulaskihistory.net

MUZEUM
IM. KAZIMIERZA
PUŁASKIEGO
W WARCE

Your letter dated: -
Ref.: -

Our Ref.: DNE.074.24.2026
Date: June 26, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the Casimir Pulaski Museum in Warka, Poland—home to the Pulaski famiy—I am pleased to express our strong support for the issuance of a United States commemorative postage stamp marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of Pulaski's Legion in 2028.

General Casimir Pulaski occupies a unique place in the shared history of Poland and the United States. Revered in both nations as a champion of liberty, Pulaski sacrificed his life in the cause of American independence and is remembered as the "Father of the American Cavalry." Together with the Hungarian-born Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, he organized and led Pulaski's Legion, one of the most effective and internationally diverse military units of the Revolutionary War.

A commemorative stamp featuring General Pulaski, Colonel Kováts, and the historic Pulaski Legion banner would honor not only two extraordinary military leaders, but also the enduring ideals of courage, service, and international cooperation in defense of freedom. Such an issue would provide a meaningful opportunity to educate Americans about a remarkable chapter of Revolutionary War history that remains insufficiently known today.

The proposal is particularly timely. The United States Postal Service last honored General Pulaski with a commemorative stamp in 1931, nearly a century ago, when a two-cent issue was released recognizing his contributions to American independence. Since then, generations of Americans have continued to celebrate Pulaski's legacy through monuments, schools, highways, annual commemorations, and community organizations across the country.

The story of Pulaski's Legion also holds special significance for the millions of Americans of Polish descent whose families have contributed immeasurably to the civic, cultural, military, and economic life of the United States. For many Polish Americans, General Pulaski remains one of the most visible symbols of the historic friendship between our two nations and of the Polish contribution to the founding of the United States. His service under General George Washington and his ultimate sacrifice at Savannah continue to inspire Americans and Poles alike.

Muzeum im. Kazimierza
Pułaskiego w Warce
ul. Pułaskiego 24
05-660 Warka

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WWW.MUZEUMPULASKI.PL

MUZEUM
IM. KAZIMIERZA
PUŁASKIEGO
W WARCE

As an institution dedicated to preserving and promoting the life and legacy of General Casimir Pulaski, we respectfully urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to give favorable consideration to this proposal. The 250th anniversary of Pulaski's Legion presents a fitting occasion to recognize a unit whose service helped secure American independence and whose story reflects the international spirit of the American Revolution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Iwona Stefaniak
Director
Casimir Pulaski Museum
Warka, Poland

Signed by /
Podpisano przez:

Iwona Stefaniak

Date / Data:
2026-06-26 13:36

Muzeum im. Kazimierza
Pułaskiego w Warce
ul. Pułaskiego 24
05-660 Warka

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The Society of the Cincinnati of the State of South Carolina

Organized in Charleston on August 29, 1783 · Incorporated December 16, 1824



William Allen Marshall
President

Mikell Ross Scarborough
First Vice President

George Patterson Apperson III
Second Vice President

Charles Albert Stephens
Secretary

Joseph Laurens Nicholson
Assistant Secretary

Richard Charlton Lowndes
Treasurer

Burton Pierce Lee II
Assistant Treasurer

August 19, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

On behalf of the Society of the Cincinnati of the State of South Carolina, I write in strong support of the proposal to issue a commemorative United States postage stamp in 2028 marking the 250th anniversary of the formation of Pulaski's Legion.

The Legion occupies an important place in the history of the American Revolution, and particularly the Southern Campaign. Organized in 1778 under Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski and Colonel Commandant Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, this highly mobile corps combined cavalry and infantry and brought valuable European military experience to the Continental cause.

The Legion's service in the South is inseparable from the sacrifice of its two principal commanders. Kováts was killed in action on May 11, 1779, while leading a cavalry charge during the defense of Charleston. Later that year, Pulaski was mortally wounded while leading a charge against the British defenses at Savannah. Both men gave their lives in the Southern theater, fighting for the independence of a nation they had adopted as their own.

For South Carolinians, the story of Pulaski's Legion is therefore not a distant episode. It forms part of the history of the defense of Charleston and of the broader struggle that unfolded across the southern states. It also reflects the international character of the American Revolution and the indispensable contributions of foreign-born officers and soldiers to the achievement of American liberty.

The Society of the Cincinnati was founded to preserve the memory of the officers and sacrifices of the Revolution. A stamp featuring Pulaski, Kováts, and the historic banner of Pulaski's Legion would offer a fitting tribute to their courage, their shared commitment to liberty, and the Legion's consequential role in America's struggle for independence.

As the nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of the Revolution, we respectfully urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to favorably consider this worthy proposal.

Sincerely,

William A. Marshall
President

The General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, Inc.

ESTABLISHED 1936

Post Office Box 20545; Staten Island, NY 10302-0545 ❖ (718) 499-0026
E-mail: pulaski_parade@verizon.net

web:

President
Richard D. Zawisny

Vice Presidents
Zygmunt Bielski
Jennifer M. Costa
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Michał Kulawik

Trustees
Leokadia Juszczak
Emilia Kopala
Barbara A. Korycki
Piotr Praszkowicz

2026 Grand Marshal
Iwona Korga

August 11, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501
Re: A Stamp for General Pulaski and His Legion

Dear Members of the Committee,

Every first Sunday in October, our organization closes down a stretch of Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. Thousands of Polish Americans - schoolchildren, veterans, folk dancers, three generations of the same families - march past St. Patrick's Cathedral behind the name of a man most of them never met and many Americans have never heard of: General Casimir Pulaski. We have done this every year since 1937. It is one of the oldest continuously running ethnic parades in New York City.
I lead the General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, the all-volunteer organization that has honored General Pulaski's legacy through this annual event for generations. Each year, we bring Pulaski's story to life through a public celebration that connects thousands of people with his service and sacrifice. While a parade creates a powerful moment of remembrance within a community, a commemorative stamp offers an opportunity to carry that story into homes, classrooms, and communities across the country throughout the year.

We write in strong support of the proposal to honor General Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and Pulaski's Legion with a stamp marking the Legion's 250th anniversary in 2028. Pulaski gave up a title, a country, and ultimately his life in support of a cause that was not originally his own. A commemorative stamp would ensure that this remarkable story reaches Americans in every part of the country, preserving the memory of Pulaski's contributions for generations to come.
On behalf of our committee, and everyone who has ever marched in this parade, I ask the Committee to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Zawisny
President, The General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, Inc.

The General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, Inc.

ESTABLISHED 1936

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On behalf of our committee, and everyone who has ever marched in this parade, I ask the Committee to approve this proposal.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Zawisny
President, The General Pulaski Memorial Parade Committee, Inc.

July 18, 2026

LETTER OF SUPPORT
President
Revolutionary Charleston 250
1444 Willtown Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29492

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee,

As the President of Revolutionary Charleston 250, and as a Charleston Commission on History Commissioner, a Governor-appointed South Carolina 250 Commissioner, and a national-award winning Revolutionary War author and historian, I would like to express my strong support, and the support of the community here, for the issuance of a commemorative United States postage stamp honoring the Commandant of The Pulaski Legion, Continental Colonel Michael Kovats de Fabriczy, in recognition of his extraordinary heroism saving this city from capture by the British Army in May of 1779. His actions likely prevented the state capital Charlestown, and South Carolina, from being subtracted from the declared 13 "united States" at a critical moment in the War for American Independence.

Moreover, as chief trainer of Pulaski's Legion, handpicked by Commander-in-Chief General George Washington, Colonel Kovats professionalized the nascent Pulaski Legion and other Continental Cavalry units into formidable light cavalry units. These skills and tactics proved superior to the British in the Lower South in the final stages of the War, likely responsible for defeating and removing a superior enemy from America.

Kovats is recognized by the US Army as one of the fathers of the US Cavalry, alongside General Casimir Pulaski. His dedication to the glorious cause of freedom for all is represented by a memorial, "Kovats Field", on the campus of The Citadel Military College. The memorial resides near where Kovats fell defending a withdrawal under fire outside the Hornwork Fortress protecting Charlestown.

Colonel Kovats brought courage and resolve to the leaders of South Carolina in May 1779, when he and General Pulaski arrived after a grueling weeks-long march. State leaders were negotiating a surrender of the city and harbor with the British commander, Augustine Prevost, who had them under siege with superior firepower and forces. The Legion's arrival and determination to immediately attack the entrenched British forces outside the gates, inspired the besieged leaders

to "fight it out". Ultimately, the Pulaski's Legion attack and the leaders' newfound resolve caused the formidable British forces to retreat back to Georgia. Colonel Michael Kovats was killed during this action, his body never to be found. No gravesite to be memorialized and honored. His gift of courage was forgotten.

At a point in time in our Nation's history where examples of duty, honor, and sacrifice for others are urgently needed to preserve our hard-fought freedom, we urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a U.S. Commemorative Postage Stamp honoring Colonel Michael de Fabriczy: Paladin of Freedom, and Father of the US Cavalry.

Respectfully,



Ken Scarlett

President, Revolutionary Charleston 250

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

10 August 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Re: Support for a Commemorative Stamp Honoring Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, I write to add our support to the proposal now before the Committee for a commemorative postage stamp honoring General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, and the Legion they commanded together, timed to the 250th anniversary of the Legion's founding in 2028.

SAR was founded in 1889 by men descended from those who served or otherwise supported the cause of American independence, and our members' qualifying ancestors span the full range of units the Revolution produced — town militias, state lines, the Continental Army proper, and independent commands such as Pulaski's Legion, whose ranks mixed native-born Americans with Poles, Frenchmen, Irishmen, and other volunteers under a single standard. Chapter work across the country includes locating and marking Patriot graves and maintaining the monuments that keep this history visible to the public; several of our Georgia chapters count the Pulaski Monument in Savannah's Monterey Square among the sites they help look after.

Pulaski arrived in America already a veteran of his own country's fight to remain independent, carrying a letter of introduction from Benjamin Franklin. Given command of Washington's cavalry and later authorized to raise his own independent corps, he built a fighting force that took in men other units would not, and he died of wounds suffered leading its charge at the Battle of Savannah in October 1779. Kováts, a Hungarian hussar of considerable experience in his own right, shared command and shared that fate.

A stamp marking the Legion's 250th anniversary would put before a national audience exactly the kind of story our chapters spend their time preserving one grave marker and one monument at a time — and on behalf of those chapters, we ask the Committee to say yes to it.

Sincerely,

Allen Greenly, President General

Sons of the American Revolution

June 9, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the **South Carolina American Revolution Trust,** I am writing to respectfully urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to consider issuing a commemorative United States postage stamp marking the 250th anniversary of the formation of Pulaski's Legion in 2028.

Pulaski's Legion occupies a unique place in American history. Authorized by the Continental Congress in 1778 during the Revolutionary War, it was one of the earliest combined-arms units in American military history and served as a precursor to the mounted forces that would eventually evolve into the United States Cavalry. The Legion brought together cavalry and infantry under a unified command and helped introduce European military expertise to the American cause at a critical moment in the struggle for independence.

The proposed stamps would commemorate not only General Casimir Pulaski, long recognized as the "Father of the American Cavalry," but also Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, the Hungarian hussar officer who served as the Legion's cavalry drillmaster. Kováts was commissioned by Congress and entrusted with training the Legion's horsemen according to the most advanced cavalry practices of the day. His efforts laid essential foundations for the development of American mounted warfare. He ultimately gave his life in service to American independence right here, in Charleston, SC, in 1779.

The story of Pulaski's Legion, and COL Kovats, embodies several themes that align closely with the Postal Service's criteria for commemorative stamps. First, it represents an extraordinary and enduring contribution to American history. The Legion played a formative role in establishing traditions and practices that would influence the development of the U.S. Cavalry for generations.

Second, the Legion reflects the international character of the American Revolution. Its officers and soldiers included Americans, Poles, Hungarians, Frenchmen, Germans, Irishmen, and others who united in support of the cause of liberty. Few military organizations of the Revolutionary era better illustrate the diverse coalition of peoples who contributed to the founding of the United States. At a time when Americans are reflecting upon the 250th anniversary of the nation's independence, the Legion's story serves as a powerful reminder that the struggle for freedom inspired support from around the world.

Third, the proposed issue aligns with the Committee's policy of commemorating events of historical significance on anniversaries in multiples of fifty years. The year 2028 will mark exactly 250 years since the formation of Pulaski's Legion by the Continental Congress. The Legion's main engagements, the Affair at Little Egg Harbor (NJ) in 1778, at Charleston (SC) in 1779, and in Savannah (GA) in 1779 were significant events contributing to the success of the Continental Army.

As America continues its semiquincentennial commemorations after 2026, a stamp honoring the 250th anniversary of Pulaski's Legion would celebrate a significant chapter in our nation's founding story while recognizing the multinational contributions that helped secure American independence. A commemorative stamp featuring Pulaski's Legion would also help educate Americans about the origins of the Continental Army's cavalry arm. This tribute would highlight the important role mounted soldiers played in securing American independence and honor the legacy of those who helped establish the tradition of American cavalry service.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and for your continued efforts to preserve and promote our shared national heritage through the United States stamp program.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas E. Persons, Sr
Chairman
South Carolina American Revolution Trust

THE SOUTH CAROLINA SOCIETY
Sons of the Revolution

July 7, 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service

Re: Support for a Commemorative U.S. Postage Stamp Honoring the 250th Anniversary of Pulaski's Legion

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the *The South Carolina Society Sons of the Revolution*, I am honored to express our enthusiastic support for the issuance of a United States commemorative postage stamp recognizing the 250th anniversary of the founding of Pulaski's Legion in 2028.

The mission of *The South Carolina Society Sons of the Revolution* is to preserve the memory of the men and women who achieved American independence and to inspire present and future generations through the study and appreciation of our Revolutionary heritage. A commemorative stamp honoring Pulaski's Legion would serve that mission by bringing national attention to one of the Continental Army's most distinguished military units and to the extraordinary individuals who shaped its legacy.

South Carolina occupies a unique place in the story of Pulaski's Legion. As the Revolutionary War shifted to the South, the Legion became part of the defense of Charleston, where its soldiers joined fellow patriots in resisting the British advance. On May 11, 1779, Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy—the Hungarian cavalry officer widely recognized as the principal trainer of the legion and a highly influential figure in the evolution of the Continental Cavalry—was killed while leading a mounted charge against British forces near Charleston. His sacrifice on South Carolina soil stands alongside the service of General Casimir Pulaski and countless other Patriots who fought to secure American independence.

The proposed stamp would fittingly honor General Casimir Pulaski, Colonel Michael Kováts, and the historic Pulaski Legion banner—a powerful symbol of the multinational effort that helped secure the birth of the United States. It would also highlight the important role South Carolina played in the Revolutionary War, where the courage and sacrifice of Patriots such as Francis Marion, William Moultrie, Thomas Sumter, and the soldiers of Pulaski's Legion helped shape the course of the struggle for independence.

As our nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, it is appropriate to recognize not only the nation's founders but also the military leaders, foreign patriots and units whose service made independence possible. A commemorative stamp would educate millions of Americans about this remarkable chapter of our shared history while honoring those who gave their lives in defense of liberty.

The *South Carolina Society Sons of the Revolution* respectfully urges the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to approve this proposal and issue a commemorative stamp marking the 250th anniversary of Pulaski's Legion.

Sincerely,

Jeffery Murrie
President
The South Carolina Society Sons of the Revolution

United States Cavalry Association

HISTORY, HERITAGE, HORSEMANSHIP

10 June 2026

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Room 3300
Washington, DC 20260-3501

Dear Members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the **United States Cavalry Association,** I am writing to respectfully urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to consider issuing a commemorative United States postage stamp marking the 250th anniversary of the formation of Pulaski's Legion in 2028.

Pulaski's Legion occupies a unique place in American history. Authorized by the Continental Congress in 1778 during the Revolutionary War, it was one of the earliest combined-arms units in American military history and served as a precursor to the mounted forces that would eventually evolve into the United States Cavalry. The Legion brought together cavalry and infantry under a unified command and helped introduce European military expertise to the American cause at a critical moment in the struggle for independence.

The proposed stamps would commemorate not only General Casimir Pulaski, long recognized as the "Father of the American Cavalry," but also Colonel Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, the Hungarian hussar officer who served as the Legion's cavalry drillmaster. Kováts was commissioned by Congress and entrusted with training the Legion's horsemen according to the most advanced cavalry practices of the day. His efforts laid essential foundations for the development of American mounted warfare. He ultimately gave his life in service to American independence during the defense of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1779.

The story of Pulaski's Legion embodies several themes that align closely with the Postal Service's criteria for commemorative stamps. First, it represents an extraordinary and enduring contribution to American history. The Legion played a formative role in establishing traditions and practices that would influence the development of the U.S. Cavalry for generations.

Second, the Legion reflects the international character of the American Revolution. Its officers and soldiers included Americans, Poles, Hungarians, Frenchmen, Germans, Irishmen, and others who united in support of the cause of liberty. Few military organizations of the Revolutionary era better illustrate the diverse coalition of peoples who contributed to the founding of the United States. At a time when Americans are reflecting upon the 250th anniversary of the nation's independence, the Legion's story serves as a powerful reminder that the struggle for freedom inspired support from around the world.

Third, the proposed issue aligns with the Committee's policy of commemorating events of historical significance on anniversaries in multiples of fifty years. The year 2028 will mark exactly 250 years since the formation of Pulaski's Legion by the Continental Congress. The Legion's main engagements, the Affair at Little Egg Harbor (NJ) in 1778, at Charleston (SC) in 1779, and in Savannah (GA) in 1779 were significant events contributing to the success of the Continental Army.

As America continues its semiquincentennial commemorations after 2026, a stamp honoring the 250th anniversary of Pulaski's Legion would celebrate a significant chapter in our nation's founding story while recognizing the multinational contributions that helped secure American independence. A commemorative stamp featuring Pulaski's Legion would also help educate Americans about the origins of the Continental Army's cavalry arm. This tribute would highlight the important role mounted soldiers played in securing American independence and honor the legacy of those who helped establish the tradition of American cavalry service.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and for your continued efforts to preserve and promote our shared national heritage through the United States stamp program.

Very truly yours,

William Glenn Yarborough, Jr

Chairman

United States Cavalry Association

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Colonel Michael Kovats: The Hungarian Co-founder of the American Cavalry



THE WAR YEARS (1775-1783)

May 15, 2025
by Zoltán Pintér and Anna Smith Lacey*Also by this Author*

WELCOME!

JAR

Journal of the American Revolution is the leading source of knowledge about the American Revolution and Founding Era. We feature smart, groundbreaking research and well-written narratives from expert writers. Our work has been featured by the New York Times, TIME magazine, History Channel, Discovery Channel, Smithsonian, Mental Floss, NPR, and more.

Journal of the American Revolution also produces annual hardcover volumes, a branded book series, and the podcast, Dispatches

Among the foreign-born leaders who played crucial roles in the American Revolution, Hungarian-born Colonel Commandant Michael Kovats de Fabriczy stands out for his significant, yet often overlooked, contributions to the Continental Army.[1] Kovats played a key role in the establishment and development of the cavalry, overseeing the recruitment, training, and organization of regular cavalry units. His efforts helped transform an underdeveloped force into a formidable military asset, earning recognition from a British contemporary who described his cavalry as "the best the rebels ever had."[2] The tricentennial of Kovats' birth celebrated in Hungary and the United States in 2024 provides a unique opportunity to highlight his influence on the evolution of U.S. cavalry and his lasting impact on American military history.[3]

Hungarian Roots, Habsburg Service, American Inspiration

Michael Kovats de Fabriczy (also written as "Kowatz," "de Kovats" in English, and "Fabriczy Kováts Mihály") was born in 1724 into a noble family in the Protestant town of Karcag in the Kingdom of Hungary. He led a distinguished military career that spanned much of eighteenth-century Europe. At the age of sixteen, Kovats, highly educated and driven by a sense of adventure, joined a Hungarian Hussar regiment within the Habsburg Empire's military.[4] Seeking further opportunities for advancement, he quickly rose through the ranks, serving in both the French Bercsényi Hussar Regiment and the Prussian Székely Hussar Regiment. Over the course of thirty years, Kovats participated in several major European conflicts, including the Austrian War of Succession, the Seven Years' War, and, later, supporting the cause of Polish independence fighting for the Bar Confederation.

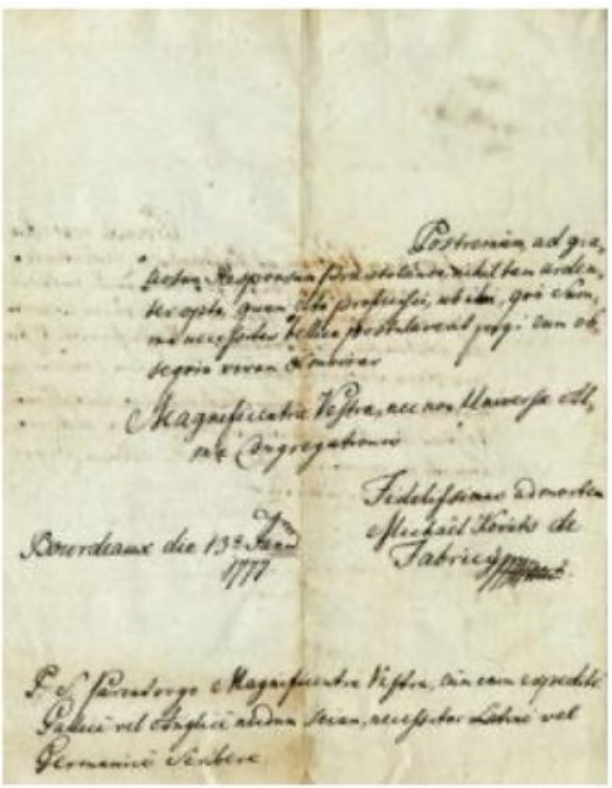
In the autumn of 1776, Kovats embarked on the final chapter of his military career, volunteering to support the American cause in the War of Independence. From 1773 onward, the *Pressburger Zeitung*, a weekly newspaper in the Kingdom of Hungary, provided extensive coverage of the American Revolution, publishing more than 100 articles detailing the conflict between the British redcoats and the

Continental Army. These reports spanned the entire course of the war, from its outbreak to the conclusion of the revolution and inspired many across the Habsburg Empire, including Kováts.

In 1777, Kováts traveled from the Habsburg Empire to Bordeaux, France, where he wrote a letter in excellent Latin to Benjamin Franklin, the American envoy to France. In the letter, Kovats modestly outlined his military achievements, emphasizing that his rise through the ranks was a result of his own efforts, discipline, and service. He also expressed his voluntary commitment to supporting the American cause, thereby offering his talents and experience to the fledgling United States:

Honourable Sir!
Golden freedom cannot be purchased with yellow gold. Those who fought for freedom used to listen to the fathers of their homeland. I, who respectfully submit this letter to You, am a free nobleman of Hungarian nationality. Not only did I receive training in the army of the King of Prussia, but I also rose from the lowest rank to the rank of Major, and not by chance but rather by my military virtues, and not by the grace of fate, but rather by the very diligent observance of service discipline. In all sorts of campaigns and among bloody perils I learned all that is especially necessary for the training of recruits.
I also learned how to arm them with weapons capable of defeating the enemy, when after much learning they become seasoned soldiers, not least, in the midst of any military development and war event, how they should defend their beloved motherland. So I came here voluntarily and of my own free will, at the cost of immeasurable travel fatigue and efforts, to sacrifice myself most faithfully in all that is expected of a decent warrior in crisis situations and in the greatest perils, at Joseph's expense and not least for the freedom of Blessing Congregation. So I arrived here, where, with the help of Mr. Fädevill, a merchant from this city and a loyal supporter of the Assembly and the cause, I had the chance to sail on board the Catharina Froom Darmouth (sic!), of which Whippy is the captain. Therefore, I ask Your Honour to help me by equipping me with a passport and a letter of faith to Blessing Congregation as a matter of urgency. And as I am still waiting here for my companions who have not arrived bere yet, Your Honour, as a true patriot would promote the public affairs with honour if you entrusted Mr. Fädevill, or another patron of your Honour's cause here to transport them to Blessing

Congregation as soon as they arrive.
Finally, in anticipation of your favourable response, I do wish to set off as soon as possible in order to live or die in uninterrupted military service where it is most necessary Your and the entire Blessing Congregation's most faithful until death,
Mihaly Fabricy Kováts
Bourdeaux, 13th January 1777.
Postscript: I beg Your Honour to forgive me, that since I cannot yet speak French or English perfectly, I am forced to write in Latin or German.[5]



Michael Kovats' letter to Benjamin Franklin held by the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

He signed his letter "*fidelissimus ad mortem*" or "most faithful unto death." Less than a month after writing to Franklin, he set sail for America, arriving in the New World, in Rhode Island on February 26, 1777. Upon his arrival, Kovats was granted an audience with Gen. George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. The meeting, which took place on May 16, 1777, was hindered by communication barriers, as Kovats' limited command of English necessitated the use of an interpreter. On May 23, 1777, the Second Continental Congress

initially rejected Kovats' offer to serve in the Continental Army, citing concerns over his language difficulties.[6]

Kovats' resilience and keen understanding of the war soon opened up an opportunity for him. Having served in various European armies, he quickly assessed the underdeveloped state of the Continental Army, particularly in terms of equipment, organization, and composition, especially when compared to the British and European forces. Recognizing this gap, Kovats saw an opportunity to contribute his expertise in a way that could strengthen the rebel forces. His skills were soon put to use when he was appointed as a recruiting officer for the growing militias in Pennsylvania, particularly among German-speaking communities.[7] By 1777, these militias began to form free companies, which were eventually consolidated into a formal battalion. Kovats' fluency in the German language and his experience in European military structures allowed him to play a crucial role in this development, marking a significant turning point in his military career and his contributions to the Continental Army.

Pole and Hungarian Brothers Be

Around the time that Kovats was establishing himself in the Continental Army, another prominent foreign-born figure arrived in America—Kazimierz Pułaski, a Polish nobleman and military leader.[8] Pułaski, who had previously fought alongside Kovats in the struggle for Polish sovereignty during the Bar Confederation, arrived in Boston Harbor in July 1777, on the personal recommendation of Benjamin Franklin.[9] Pułaski, like Kovats, had the opportunity to meet General Washington in August 1777. After the meeting Washington recommended Pułaski to Congress as the organizer of a cavalry regiment. This endorsement set Pułaski on a fast track to becoming one of the most prominent figures in the American cavalry.

In September 1777, at the Battle of Brandywine, Pułaski distinguished himself through his courageous actions on the battlefield. Despite a significant American defeat, Pułaski's bravery did not go unnoticed, and soon the Continental Congress appointed him "Commander of the Cavalry, with the rank of Brigadier General."[10]



Painting of General Pulaski and Michael Kovats by Hungarian American artist Sandor Bodo.

On September 12, Col. Henry Arendt's German Free Battalion was ordered to guard Chester, Pennsylvania, creating an opportunity for the reunion of two former European comrades—Kazimierz Pułaski and Michael Kovats—on American soil. Pułaski, a rising Polish nobleman with limited military organizational experience, would rely on Kovats' expertise to help establish the American Light Cavalry. Kovats, at fifty-three years old and nearing retirement, found a new path into the Continental Army through his association with the ambitious thirty-year-old Pułaski. Despite their differences in age and experience, the two men's fates quickly became intertwined.

In the months that followed, Pułaski, recognizing Kovats' military knowledge, made him an adviser rather than a soldier, moving him out of Arendt's Battalion. During the winter of 1777, Pułaski, energized by his new role, began submitting ideas and organizational proposals to Washington at Valley Forge. Meanwhile, Pułaski and Kovats spent the winter in Trenton, New Jersey, where they laid the groundwork for the future of the Continental Army's cavalry.[11]

Pułaski submitted a bilingual manuscript to Washington's high command, written in French with an English mirror translation. The manuscript, titled *Memorandum relative to the cavalry*, outlined Pułaski's ideas for reorganizing and strengthening the Continental Army's cavalry.[12] This document, which demonstrated Pułaski's

commitment to improving the American military structure, marked an important step in the development of the cavalry force, and set the stage for his collaboration with Kovats in the coming months.[13]

In the eight-page memorandum, Pulaski recommended the formation of a company of dragoons (heavy cavalry) and a company of "Bosniques" (light cavalry),[14] each with the appropriate officers and non-commissioned officers. The term "Bosniques" referred to a type of light cavalry unit known as the "Free Hussars" which had been part of the Prussian military during the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War, specifically created to counter the Russian Cossacks. Given that Pułaski had not participated in these conflicts—either by age or by birth—he had to rely on the expertise of Kovats, who had extensive experience in European cavalry units.

In another letter to Washington the same winter, Pułaski systematically outlined the organizational structure of the light cavalry regiment.[15] While it is evident that Pułaski's manuscript covers various aspects of cavalry organization—from uniforms and the proper maintenance of saddles and bridles to the structure and composition of cavalry units—most of these ideas reflect Kovats' nearly four decades of military experience.[16] Kovats, as an adviser to Pułaski, had a decisive influence on the Polish nobleman's understanding of cavalry organization before Pułaski's official appointment as colonel in 1778, highlighting the key role Kovats played in shaping the future structure of the American Light Cavalry.

Pułaski, despite his considerable military experience, had never served in the Prussian army and therefore did not have direct experience with its strict discipline or rule books. The influence of Kovats is most clearly illustrated by the fact that, beginning in January 1778, he was specifically named and commended for his contributions in the correspondence between Washington and his high command. These letters not only acknowledged Kovats' military expertise but also marked the beginning of direct communication between Kovats and Washington, bypassing Kovats' superior, Brigadier General Pułaski.

Kovats' appointment as drillmaster

In early 1778, shortly after his arrival in Trenton, Pułaski recommended that Washington appoint Col. Michael Kovats as the cavalry drill master for the Continental Army. Pułaski emphasized the dire need for professional training within the cavalry and highlighted Kovats' exceptional qualifications for the role, recommending him as an officer of great merit with a deep understanding of cavalry tactics. Pułaski assured Washington that Kovats' expertise would be invaluable to the cavalry's development and that appointing him would significantly enhance the mounted forces' effectiveness during the early months of of 1778.[17]

Despite Pułaski's strong recommendation, Washington initially hesitated to approve Kovats' appointment, reflecting his cautious stance on placing foreigners in leadership positions within the Continental Army. Ater much deliberation, Washington granted Kovats a limited approval, appointing him as a training officer for the cavalry. This decision, though more modest than Pułaski had hoped, marked a significant step in recognizing Kovats' value.

Kovats' appointment as training officer and Washington's eventual appointment of him as drillmaster can be better understood in the context of a letter written by Col. Henry Lutterloh on January 14, 1778, to Lt. Col. John Laurens.[18] Lutterloh underscored the urgent need for skilled officers to train and organize the Continental Army's cavalry, which was still struggling with issues of discipline and proper training. Lutterloh argued that Kovats, with his experience in light cavalry, would be a more effective choice than the French officer previously considered.

To secure his appointment, Kovats took matters into his own hands. On February 4, 1778, Kovats personally wrote a letter to Washington.[19] In perfect English and extremely concisely, Kovats provided a detailed, itemized account of the cavalry equipment he had successfully purchased at favorable prices. He presented a quantitative and budgetary comparison, underscoring his own competence and expertise in managing the logistical aspects of the cavalry's development.

Pułaski, as Kovats' superior, continued to advocate for his advancement, emphasizing Kovats' value to the cavalry, particularly in combat situations. Pułaski reiterated his earlier requests, including the need for Kovats to be

formally appointed with authority to command a detachment, highlighting his potential to contribute significantly to the cavalry's effectiveness in battle.[20]

By February 1778, the persistent correspondence between Pułaski and Washington suggests that the training of the cavalry had made significant progress. Pułaski's repeated requests for Kovats' formal appointment and his continued advocacy for Kovats' role indicate the growing importance of resolving the matter. Pułaski's frustrations were not limited to Kovats' position. In his communications with Washington, the two men clashed over several key issues, including personnel decisions, recruitment, uniforms, and the cavalry's pay scale. These disagreements gradually intensified, leading to broader tensions within Pułaski's command by the end of February.[21]

Formation of the Pulaski Legion

With the arrival of spring in 1778, the war took on a new sense of urgency and momentum.[22] In a letter dated April 9, Washington outlined proposals for the officer corps of the "Legion" under Kazimierz Pułaski.[23] On April 18, the Congressional Committee, in conjunction with Washington, formally appointed Michael Kovats (referred to in official records as "de Kowatz") to the rank of colonel. In addition to Kovats, Julius de Montfort, a French officer, was appointed major, and John de Zieliński was named captain.[24]

The new legion, based on the framework of the free troops originally organized by Pułaski, would later be known as the Pułaski Legion. In early April, Kovats initiated a recruitment drive by dispatching his proposed officers on a tour to enlist soldiers. As part of this effort, Colonel Kovats himself traveled to the Easton-Bethlehem area of Pennsylvania, where he arrived on April 16.[25]


Lake Ontario
Lake Erie
New York
Albany
Hudson
Massachusetts
Boston
28 Apr 1777
Providence
Rhode Island
Connecticut
New Haven
Minisink
Dec 1778
May 1777
Morristown
Apr 1778
Easton
New York
Bethlehem
July 1778
Pennsylvania
Jan 1778
Trenton
New Jersey
Harrisburg
Sept 1777
Germantown
Philadelphia
March 1779
York
Wilmington
Aug 1778
Oct 1778
Egg Harbor
Delaware
Baltimore
Potomac
Ohio
Winchester
Washington
Maryland
Staunton
Virginia
Richmond
Petersburg
Norfolk
Guilford Court House
North Carolina
Raleigh
Salisbury
Salem
26 Apr 1779
Charlotte
Wilmington
Camden
Columbia
South Carolina
8/11 May 1779
Charleston
Savannah
Georgia
ATLANTIC OCEAN
0
100
200
300 km
Mihály Kováts' route
Battle

Travels

of Michael Kovats in the US from Zoltán Pintér's biography of Kovats.

According to German-language records from the Protestant community in Bethlehem, Kovats had visited this predominantly German settlement previously and relied significantly on the local population for supplies and provisions.[26] Having mastered the German language during his extensive service in Prussia and being well-versed in German customs and culture, Kovats was able to connect well with the local community. His references to his time serving in the army of Frederick II (the Great) likely endeared him to the German-speaking residents, who, as evidenced by these records, were eager to welcome the experienced and charismatic former Hussar officer. The German-speaking community's familiarity with Kovats, combined with his linguistic and cultural affinity with them, made the area an ideal location for enlisting soldiers, providing a vital source of manpower for the growing unit. This strategic use of local resources and connections contributed to the early success of the Legion's recruitment efforts.[27]

Bethlehem was also where the nascent Legion received its own battle flag. The Moravian Lutheran Sisters, often referred to as the Protestant 'nuns' of the Moravian Brethren of Bethlehem, are credited with crafting the red-white-green flag, one of the few surviving military flags from the Revolutionary War and one of the first flags to bear the abbreviation "US." The flag's design was created under the direct orders of Kováts.[28]

To help cover the significant costs of recruiting and equipping the Legion, the Continental Congress allocated $50,000 to Pułaski in a resolution passed on April 6, 1778. This funding was critical in enabling Pułaski and Kovats to recruit soldiers, purchase necessary supplies, and support the early efforts to establish the Pułaski Legion.[29] Recruiting, however, proved to be a challenging task. The Continental Congress granted Brigadier Pułaski permission to enlist 68 cavalrymen and 200 infantrymen for the Free Corps. Despite this authorization, the process of filling the ranks was fraught with complications, as evidenced in a letter dated May 1, 1778 from Washington authorizing Pułaski to supplement the Legion's numbers with British prisoners, but only those who were deserters. Additionally, Washington stipulated that no more than one-third of the recruits could be former German (Hessian) soldiers.[30] Given Pułaski's lack of experience with German soldiers—whether Prussian or Hessian—and his inability

to speak German, it is clear that the proposal to enlist these deserters likely reflected the influence and expertise of Colonel Kovats, who, having served in the Prussian military and being fluent in German, was well-suited to manage the complexities of recruiting and integrating German-speaking soldiers.

Interestingly, the first combat mission of the Pułaski Legion is more closely associated with Colonel Kovats than with Brigadier General Pułaski. In July 1778, British forces, along with Hessian and Native American allies, launched an invasion of Wyoming Valley in northeastern Pennsylvania, a region fraught with tensions between settler communities and indigenous tribes. The British and their allies inflicted heavy casualties, killing at least 400 local militia members. In response, the governor of Pennsylvania called on the Pułaski Legion to intervene.[31] While Pułaski remained in Trenton overseeing the Legion's infantry, Kovats took command of a small cavalry force and was dispatched to pacify the Wyoming Valley area.[32] Kovats' leadership in organizing the response highlighted his growing influence within the Legion and the success of its early operations.

After receiving no orders for active service against the enemy for an entire month, Brigadier General Pułaski grew frustrated. On September 17, he sent an urgent letter to Congress, requesting that his legion be deployed to active duty as soon as possible. Pułaski emphasized the need for his troops to engage in the conflict, highlighting the delay and the importance of maintaining momentum in the ongoing war.[33] Two days later, Washington ordered the Pułaski Legion to march to Fredericksburgh, New York, and then to join Gen. William Alexander's command in Paramus, New Jersey, where British forces were concentrated around New York. This movement was part of a broader strategy to counter British blockades that had effectively sealed off New York Harbor and Delaware Bay, preventing French and European supply ships from reaching the American colonies. In response, American smugglers had established Egg Harbor, near Tuckerton on the New Jersey coast, as a key point for unloading goods destined for Philadelphia. To disrupt this activity, the British navy launched an operation to seize the harbor. In response, Washington ordered the Pułaski-Kovats Legion, along with artillery, to secure the area around "Middle of the Shore" (later Tuckerton) on October 4.[34]

From Tuckerton, the Pułaski-Kovats Legion advanced to Great Egg Harbor, a strategically important location for Continental shipping. There, they successfully thwarted a British landing attempt, relieving the local militia stationed at Osborne Island and securing the area from further British incursions. This action helped safeguard a critical supply route for the Continental forces.[35] The Pułaski-Kovats Legion and the artillery incurred significant losses during this operation. In addition, Pułaski reported severe fatigue and exhaustion of his troops, despite having only been engaged in active combat since early October. In response to these hardships, Congress authorized the Legion to repair and occupy Sussex Court House near Trenton, providing them with a much-needed respite to replenish their supplies and recover.[36]

On November 15, 1778, Pułaski reported to Washington that the Legion had been placed under the command of Colonel Kovats for the winter.[37] Pułaski had traveled to Philadelphia, where he would remain for the winter months. In his letter to Kovats on December 16, Washington named Kovats "commanding officer of Casimir Pulaski's corps."[38]

Long March to Charlestown, South Carolina

By now, the strategic focus of the war was shifting southward. In the Carolinas and Georgia, the Loyalist base was stronger, and the terrain was more favorable for British naval operations. Moreover, British economic interests in global trade made the possession of the southern states a top priority. The British aimed to capture key southern cities, especially Charlestown (today Charleston)—the South's most important and wealthiest port—which, if taken, would likely restore British control over the southern colonies, a scenario that Washington and Congress could not afford to let happen. Therefore, Congress authorized the deployment of the Pułaski-Kovats Legion to South Carolina on February 2, 1779, placing it under the command of Gen. Benjamin Lincoln.[39] An appropriation of 15,000 Continental dollars was allocated to Pułaski for recruiting and travel expenses.



Map of the battle of Charleston and supposed place of the death of Col. Kovats.

In the early spring of 1779, the Legion embarked on a forced march from Easton to Charlestown, covering a distance of over 600 miles. Kovats, accompanying the legion's infantry, played an active role in this arduous journey. By the time the infantry corps reached Charlestown, it had been reduced to little more than half its original strength.[40]

Brig. Gen. William Moultrie, who was present during the defense of Charlestown, recounted that Puławski's infantry and cavalry entered the city on May 8.[41] On May 10, 1779, British forces reached Ashley Ferry and crossed the river without opposition. The next day, Pulaski's legion, along with some militia, skirmished with the British advance guard. The attack was quickly overwhelmed, resulting in heavy losses for Pulaski's forces, including the death of Colonel Kovats. Most of Pulaski's infantry were either killed, wounded, or captured, and only a few managed to return to the safety of Charleston's lines. The skirmish took place near the Nightingale racecourse, just east of the present-day Line and Meeting streets. [42]

Dr. Joseph Johnson, drawing from his childhood memories and later research, described the circumstances of Kovats' death. He wrote that Kovats fell from his horse during the retreat and was buried on the side of the road near Huger Street. He noted that Kovats, a Hungarian-born officer and former Hussar under Frederick the Great, had distinguished himself in military service and had been awarded the Cross of Merit.[43]

British officer Maj. Francis Skelly recorded that British dragoons and infantry advanced close to Charlestown, while another cavalry contingent conducted reconnaissance. Pulaski's Legion, consisting of around 100 infantry and 80 cavalry, was stationed near a breastwork. Pulaski's cavalry advanced toward the British dragoons, who charged and completely routed them, driving the cavalry through the breastwork and attacking the infantry. Colonel Kovats, commanding the infantry, was killed along with fifteen or sixteen of his men. Several cavalry officers and privates were captured, with the total losses of the Legion numbering between forty and fifty. [44]

Although Major Skelly's account contained errors, particularly regarding specific details of the battle, it provides a unique and valuable perspective on the events. The British officer's description highlights the bravery and skill of Pułaski's cavalry, which Skelly lauded as "the best Cavalry the rebels ever had." This praise acknowledges the high standard of the American light cavalry, a force largely shaped and trained by Col. Michael Fabriczy Kovats. Despite Kovats being assigned to command the infantry, an unfamiliar role for him, British recognition of the effectiveness of his cavalry underscores his immense contribution to their training and readiness, underscoring his legacy as a military leader who overcame significant challenges to elevate the quality of the Continental Army's cavalry.

Kovats as a Hungarian-American Icon

Today, Michael Kovats' legacy is commemorated across the United States through a diverse array of memorials, monuments, and exhibitions that collectively honor his role in the American Revolution. In New York City, Kovats is memorialized by De Kovats Triangle and Playground, while an equestrian bronze relief by Alexander Finta, housed at the New York Historical Society, captures his military contributions. Washington, D.C. now hosts three prominent memorials to

Kovats: an equestrian statue by Paul Takacs at the Embassy of Hungary; a smaller equestrian statuette by Finta at the Society of the Cincinnati; and the recently unveiled a bronze memorial relief by Sándor Györfi at the Kossuth.



Michael Kovats Memorial in Washington DC's Kossuth House by Sandor Györfi.

In Charleston, South Carolina, Ilona Bodo's painting of "Kovats' charge" in 1779 is held at The Citadel, where a bronze memorial relief has also been placed by the American Hungarian Federation. Kovats' legacy is also honored by a historical marker placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution at the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon in Charleston, along with a reproduction of the red, white, and green flag designed by Kovats, donated by the Michael Kovats Memorial Committee.

Kovats' legacy is further celebrated through a diverse array of cultural works such as plays, poems, and musical compositions, including two distinct "Kovats Marches." These memorials, spanning more than a century, reflect the admiration of generations of Hungarians, Americans, and Hungarian Americans, acknowledging Kovats' role in the American Revolution and highlighting the historical connections between Hungary and the United States.

Yet, a crucial chapter of his story remains unfinished: his final resting place, thought to be somewhere near Hugers Street in Charleston, is still unknown. Archaeologists are actively searching for his burial site, with the hope of finally locating his remains and giving this unsung hero the recognition he deserves in the city he fought and died to defend. The rediscovery of Kovats' grave would offer Charleston and the nation an opportunity to properly honor this Revolutionary War hero, adding a Hungarian name to the distinguished list of Patriots who sacrificed their lives for liberty in the American Revolution.

[1] Lee F. McGee, "European Influences on Continental Cavalry" ed. by Jim Piecuch, *Cavalry of the American Revoltuion* (Westholme Publishing, 2012), 45.

[2] "Original documents demonstration against Charleston, South Carolina, in 1779, Journal of brigade major F. Skelly," ed. Martha J. Lamb, in *The Magazine of American History* 26 (1891), 152-153.

[3] Zoltán Árpád Pintér, *Fabriczy Kovats Michael. A Hungarian Hussar Officer on Two Continents* (Zrínyi Kiadó, 2021), 241.

[4] Ibid., 139.

[5] *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin,* vol. 23, *October 27, 1776, through April 30, 1777*, ed. William B. Willcox (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1983), 173.

[6] Worthington Chauncey Ford, *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 1774-1789, Volume VIII (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1907), 384.

[7] Aladár Póka-Pivny – József Zachar, *Colonel Michael Kovats – A Hungarian Hero of the American War of Independence* (Zrínyi Military Publishing House, 1982), 103.

[8] Martin. I. J. Griffin, "General Count Casimir Pulaski: The father of the American cavalry," *The American Catholic Historical Researches* 6. no. 1 (1910): 7.

[9] Ibid., 9.

[10] Ibid., 11.

[11] Miecislaus Haiman, *Poland and the American revolutionary war* (Polish Union Daily, 1932), 28.

[12] Library of Congress, Manuscript Archives, George Washington Papers, Series 4, Count Casimir Pulaski to George Washington, November 23, 1777, www.loc.gov/resource/mgw4.045_0844_0851/?sp=1.

[13] Griffin, "General Count Casimir Pulaski," 26.

[14] Actually, a free hussar unit. The name of the light cavalry force recruited by Frederick the Great, from 1745 from the Balkans, Hungary and Russian territories.

[15] Library of Congress, Manuscript Archives, George Washington Papers, Series 4, Count Casimir Pulaski to George Washington, December 29, 1777, www.loc.gov/resource/mgw4.046_0584_0585/?sp=1.

[16] Griffin, "General Count Casimir Pulaski," 31.

[17] Ibid., 34. Library of Congress, Manuscript Archives, George Washington Papers, Series 4, Count Casimir Pulaski to George Washington, January 9, 1778, www.loc.gov/resource/mgw4.046_0913_0914/?sp=1.

[18] Library of Congress, Manuscript Archives, George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence: Henry E. Lutterloh to John Laurens, January 14, 1778, www.loc.gov/resource/mgw4.046_1033_1038/?sp=4.

[19] Library of Congress, Manuscript Archives, George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence: Michael de Kowats, February 4, 1778, Clothing and Leather Goods Account, www.loc.gov/resource/mgw4.047_0237_0238/?sp=1.

[20] Griffin, "General Count Casimir Pulaski," 43.

[21] Library of Congress, Manuscript Archives, George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence: Count Casimir Pulaski to George Washington, February 28, 1778, www.loc.gov/item/mgw449620/. Haiman, *Poland and the American revolutionary war*, 29.

[22] Library of Congress, Manuscript Archives, George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence: George Washington to Continental Congress Conference Committee, April 9, 1778, www.loc.gov/resource/mgw4.048_0570_0571/?sp=1.

[23] Ford, *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 10:364.

[24] Griffin, "General Count Casimir Pulaski," 44-45.

[25] Haiman, *Poland and the American revolutionary war*, 48.

[26] Joseph Mortimer Levering, *A history of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 1741-1892* (Bethlehem, PA: Times publishing company, 1903), 486-487.

[27] Ibid., 485-486.

[28] László Örlős and Anna Smith Lacey, "The Forgotten Hungarian Origins of the Pułaski banner," *Journal of the American Revolution*, December 3, 2024, allthingsliberty.com/2024/12/the-forgotten-hungarian-origins-of-the-pulaski-banner/.

[29] Ford, *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 10:312.

[30] Library of Congress, Manuscript Archives, George Washington Papers, Series 4, George Washington to Count Casimir Pulaski, May 1, 1778, www.loc.gov/resource/mgw4.049_0017_0018/?sp=1.

[31] Haiman, *Poland and the American revolutionary war*, 48. Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania – Transcript of the order of the Supreme Executive Council: HM HIM HL Personalia VII. 148. fond 131. box 131. box Fol. 21.

[32] Typescript of the letter: HM HIM HL Personalia VII. 148. fond 131. box Fol. 22.; Levering, *A history of Bethlehem*, 486.

[33] Griffin, "General Count Casimir Pulaski", 67.

[34] Ibid., 69.

[35] Póka-Pivny – Zachar, *Colonel Michael Kovats*, 121.

[36] Griffin, "General Count Casimir Pulaski", 76.

[37] Ibid., 77-79.

[38] Library of Congress, Manuscript Archives, George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence: George Washington to Commanding Officer of Count Casimir Pulaski's Corps, December 16, 1778, www.loc.gov/item/mgw452905/.

[39] Ford, *Journals of the Continental Congress*, 13:132.

[40] Adelaide Lisetta Fries, *Records of the Moravians in North Carolina.* Volume III: 1776-1779 (Raleigh, Edwards & Broughton Print. Co., 1926), 1282-1283.

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[44] " Journal of brigade major F. Skelly," 152-153.

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Forgotten Hungarian Origins of the Pułaski banner



HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

December 3, 2024
by László Örlős and Anna Smith Lacey*Also by this Author*

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The origins of the famous Pułaski Legion's banner, a rare relic from the American Revolutionary War, reveal a significant yet overlooked Hungarian contribution to the fight for U.S. independence. Created under the guidance of Karcag, Hungary-born Colonel Michael Kováts, this flag not only symbolized the strength of an important cavalry unit of the American Revolution, but also carried deep Hungarian cultural ties, making it a testament to the small nation's influence on the revolutionary cause.

The first Hungarian soldier to sacrifice his life for the independence of the United States and the only one ever to meet Gen. George Washington was Michael Kováts de Fabriczy, founding father of the U.S. cavalry.[1] His short American life as a soldier, recruiter, trainer and colonel commandant of the Pulaski Legion was deeply intertwined with the city of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.[2] The Moravian Lutheran Sisters, known as the Protestant "nuns" of the Moravian Brethren who settled in Bethlehem, are credited with creating the small flag carried by the Pulaski Legion, which is now preserved in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Maryland Historical Society.[3] The Pułaski flag, one of the very few military flags left from the Revolutionary War, is Hungarian-inspired and was made under the direct instructions of Colonel Kováts. Long forgotten and recently rediscovered research conducted by Hungarian American émigrés sheds light on this little known cultural-historical connection.[4]

The importance of the Pułaski Legion



Colonel Commandant Michael de Kováts. Bronze equestrian statuette by Alexander Finta (1939). (Society of the Cincinnati gifted by the American Hungarian Federation, 1957, Anderson House, Washington, D.C.)

The historical and military significance of the Pułaski Legion, also known as the American Legion, Independent Legion, or 1st Independent Legion, during the

American Revolutionary War cannot be overstated. In the spring of 1777, Washington's Continental Army, in its fight against British rule, incorporated this legendary unit into its cavalry corps. This integration was made possible by the leadership of Michael Kováts, a Hungarian hussar with strong Calvinist roots, and the young Polish nobleman Kazimierz Pułaski (anglicized as Casimir Pulaski).[5] With their European warfare experience, these two Central European cavalry officers were instrumental in organizing and training a formidable body of light cavalry in America capable of confronting the British army without external assistance.

The Polish and Hungarian founders and leaders of the cavalry unit, later known as the Pułaski Legion, made significant sacrifices for American independence. Colonel Kováts was killed in Charlestown, South Carolina (today Charleston), on May 11, 1779, while General Pułaski met a similar fate in action in Savannah, Georgia, five months later.[6] Their involvement, however, was not in vain, as it enabled the Continental Army to receive crucial aid from France via the port of Charlestown, ultimately securing the entire South for a year in support of the cause of American independence.

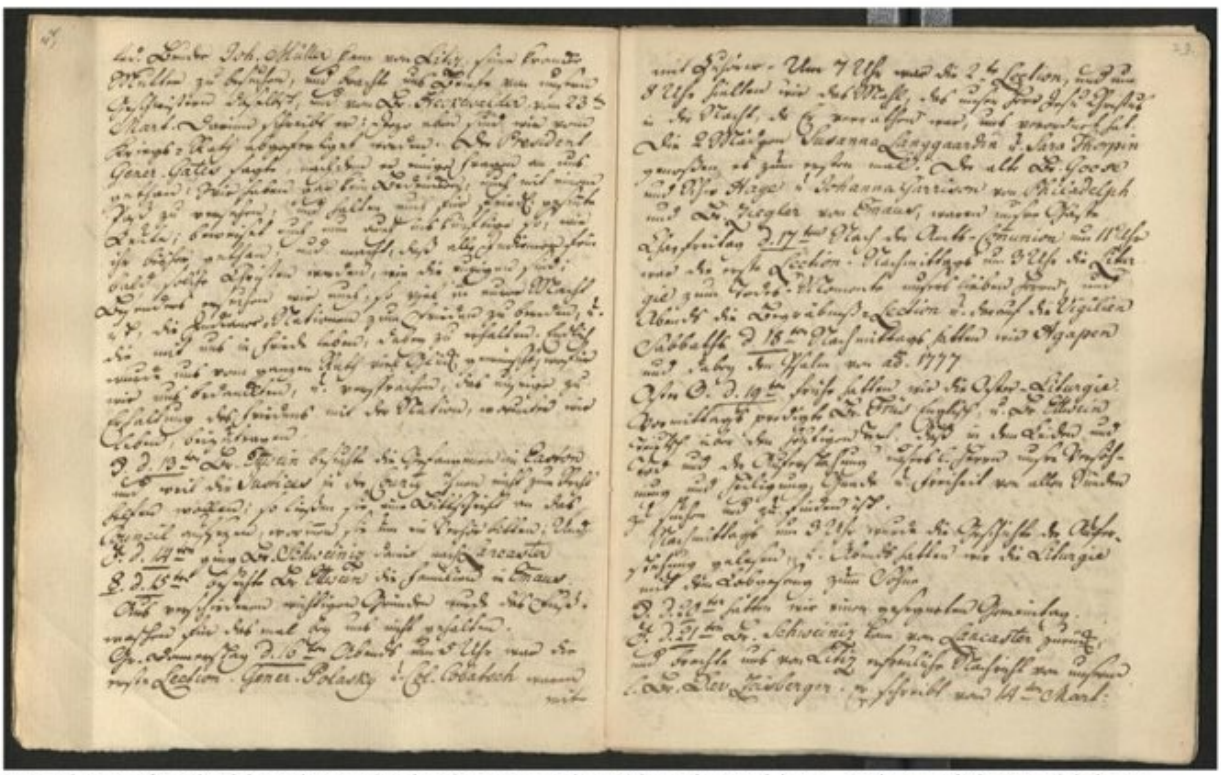
Hungarian researchers connect the dots on the origins of the Pułaski flag

Delving into the origins of the Pułaski flag, the work of two Hungarian émigré researchers, Ödön (Edmund) Vasváry and Elemér Bakó is crucial in understanding the forgotten history of the flag, which symbolized the Legion and was created in February and March 1778.[7] Vasváry, a Hungarian Reformed pastor in Washington, D.C., and Bakó, a Hungarian Head of Department at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., and a Finno-Ugric linguist, have shed light on this significant piece of history.[8]

Vasváry and Bakó identified the Pułaski flag as the earliest Hungarian-inspired flag in America. Vasváry, a prominent researcher of Hungarian-American history, discovered a significant letter in 1939 written by Michael Kováts to Benjamin Franklin on January 13, 1777, offering his sword for the cause of American freedom.[9] Elemér Bakó continued the Kováts research initiated by Vasváry.[10] Ödön Vasváry first wrote about the flag, known as the 'Pułaski banner,' in 1965.[11] The long-faded original flag is held today at the Maryland Center for History and Culture in Baltimore. Vasváry was the first to highlight the Hungarian historical significance of the Latin motto *"Unita Virtus Forcior"* (United Valor is Greater) embroidered on the banner, attributing it to Colonel Kováts, who was proficient in Latin.[12]

Myths and facts about the Pułaski flag

A number of myths surround the origins of the flag. A mural from the 1930s by George Gray is showcased on the wall of the Hotel Bethlehem in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.[13] It depicts the presentation of the Pułaski flag by the Moravian Sisters. In this painting, the colors of the flag do not match the original descriptions of crimson red or scarlet, yellowish-white, and green.[14] Instead, they are depicted in the colors of the Polish flag—red and white. Furthermore, the scene itself showing Pułaski in a proud pose never actually occurred.



Mentions of Pułaski and Kováts in the Moravian Church Archives. (Diary of the Bethlehem Congregation, Vol. 32, 1778-1779. 22-23.)

Instead, the mural depicts a scene inspired by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "The Hymn of the Moravian Nuns," which the poet retracted in 1857 due to its ahistorical details.[15] The Lutheran Moravian Sisters were not nuns, and there is no historical evidence of the transfer scene in the order's history.[16] However, it is on record that on Maundy Thursday, April 16, 1778, General Pułaski and Colonel Kováts attended a service with part of the Legion in the Old Chapel in Cedar Square and "were both greatly impressed by the solemnity of the occasion."[17]

Vasváry and Bakó suggest that the Protestant Colonel Kováts had significantly closer ties to the Lutheran Sisters of Moravia, who created the flag, and to all members of the Order, than the Catholic General Pułaski. It is likely that Pułaski

himself was introduced to members of the Order by Kováts. Bakó also points out that Polish historians who studied Pułaski and the organizers of their cultural programs in the twentieth century overlooked Longfellow's correction. They also failed to acknowledge that the names Moravian Brothers and Moravian Sisters referred to Germans from Moravia, not Slavs (Moravians). This is confirmed not only in printed literature but also by the eighteenth-century cemetery in Bethlehem, a historical landmark, where German names on the gravestones provide evidence.

The flag was draped over the dying General Pułaski after he was shot in Savannah, Georgia, on October 9, 1779.[18] This event contributed to the inseparable association between Pułaski and the flag, a connection that holds undeniable significance but is somewhat misleading in terms of the flag's origins.

Michael Kováts' personal connections to the flag

But why did Countess Susan von Gersdorff, the spiritual overseer of the Moravian Single Sisters, actually have the flag made?[19] Research by Vasváry and Bakó suggests that there were personal reasons behind commissioning the beautiful troop flag, and it was not Pułaski, but Kováts, who was involved in the creation of it.



Michael Kováts de Fabriczy. Oil painting by Aurél Raskó. (Kossuth Foundation, Washington, D.C.)

In September 1777, the diary of the Nazareth group of the Moravian Brethren noted that Kováts, who was visiting them at the time and was very amicable, was "known to the Brethren from over there [Europe] as a renowned Prussian Hussar."[20] Kováts' strong rapport with the Sisters is further supported by an entry in the Bethlehem diary on January 24, 1778, which mentions that he sought their assistance in providing craftsmen and materials to equip a troop of horsemen. The entry reads, "The famous Col. Kobatsch, a Prussian officer of Hussars in the late war, arrived from Easton, to see whether we could aid him to equip and mount a corps of Hussars, which he is recruiting for Congress. He found, however, that we were unable to assist him, as our saddler, glove-maker, and founder had no stock for their trades." The Bethlehem diary once again mentions Kováts in the morning of July 31, when heavy cannonading was heard. It notes that he and the well-prepared members of his corps recruited in Easton passed through on their way to Baltimore.[21]

After Pułaski stepped down as commander of the American cavalry, on March 28, 1778 the Continental Congress, at Washington's suggestion, authorized Pułaski to form a Legion (a combined corps of cavalry and infantry) of 68 light horsemen and 200 infantry to protect and serve Congress.[22] By the time the permit arrived, Michael Kováts' efforts had already been fruitful, and after necessary recruitment, the corps was ready in a short time. Pułaski wrote to Washington that Kováts is "the only man in America who understands this craft," that is, organization and command of an independent legion. Kováts can therefore be regarded as the actual creator, trainer, and military commander of the Legion. The unit, known then as the American Legion or Independent Legion, later the Pulaski Legion, was now ready for a flag, which Kováts' good friends, the women of the Moravian Order, made in the late winter and early spring of 1778. The flag's design was developed by sisters Rebecca Langley and Julia Bader, and the sewing needlework was carried out by several sisters, including Anna Blum, Anna Hussey, Erdmuth Langley, Maria Rosina Schultz, and Anna Maria Weiss, as recorded in the Moravian diary.[23]

The relationship between Countess von Gersdorff and Kováts is interesting. Vasváry and Bakó show that in 1759, near Maxen in Saxony, the Austro-Hungarian army surrounded and captured nearly 20,000 Prussian soldiers, including the Gersdorff Hussars regiment with the commanding Gen. Otto Ernst von Gersdorff himself.[24] The two remaining companies of Hussars, lacking a commander, were placed under the leadership of Colonel Kleist by the Prussian king. Lt. Michael Kováts, a distinguished officer of the renowned 1st Prussian Hussar Regiment, assumed command of these troops. In recognition of his leadership and successful

management of the Gersdorff regiment, Kováts, now a senior officer in the Prussian service, was bestowed with one of the highest military honors by the king – the order of knighthood "Pour le Mérite." The Gersdorff family, particularly Susan von Gersdorff, who had departed from Prussia for America in 1763, owed a great deal of gratitude to Kováts.[25]

The crimson-red color of the Legion's flag corresponded to the uniform of the Gersdorff Hussars, while the green tassel symbolized the famous 1st Prussian Hussar Regiment, known as the Green Hussars, under the command of Colonel Kováts.[26]

The assumed original appearance of the Pułaski flag

Based on Bakó's research, the body of the flag is made of crimson-red silk, measuring 23.5 inches in height and 21 inches in width, and is bordered by green fringes on three sides.[27] The letters and decorations on the flag are yellowish white (originally, possibly completely white) and are embroidered with a green hue. The original color impression of the flag is therefore red-white-green, the Hungarian national colors that have been used since the early 17th century. The eye embroidery is brown, differing from this general color scheme, as is the green of the four-leaf clover embroidered in the corners of the flag. This may symbolize good luck, which holds significant importance in the hussar tradition.



The assumed original appearance of the flag of the Pułaski Legion as inspired by the Hungary-born

Michal Fabriczy Kováts. (Flag by Hímzőstúdió Kft. Debrecen, Hungary, www. zaszlohimzes.hu, based on graphic design by András Somogyi, commissioned by and property of the author)

An explosive grenade is also embroidered in the inner part of the four corners of the flag, indicating that the unit also has artillery; the embroidery is yellowish white. A diagonally striped, white-yellow band frames the decorative inner field.

The Hungarian historical background of the flag's motto

The research conducted by Ödön Vasváry and Elemér Bakó provides insight into the origins of the flag's motto, as well as the original red, white, and green color scheme. It is highly probable that Kováts derived the phrase *Unita Virtus Forcior* ("United in Virtue and Force" or "Union Makes Valor Stronger") from an inscription on a coin of the Transylvanian prince Kristóf Báthori, which initially appeared as *Virtus Unita Valet* ("United Strength Brings Success"). The difference between the motto of the flag and the Báthori medal may have arisen from the fact that Kováts used the slogan of the medal written in classical Latin in English-speaking countries (the meanings of *valet* in English are confusing from the point of view of the original meaning). It is also important to emphasize the historical context of the motto, particularly the fact that Kristóf Báthori continued to fulfill his role as Prince of Transylvania after his brother István Báthori was elected king of Poland in 1575. The close friendship between Poland and Hungary in Europe was crucial in the face of Russian, Turkish, Habsburg, and German oppression. Vasváry and Bakó regarded the collaboration between Kováts and Pułaski as a continuation of the historic Hungarian-Polish alliance.

The initials of the United States, "U.S.," one of the first such uses, are embroidered symbolically in the wreath of the motto. This gave the flag's motto a truly American meaning.

The insignia that continues on the other side of the flag shows a triangle with a painted eye inside, symbolizing the all-seeing eye of God. Michael Kováts, whose ancestors served Rákóczi and the cause of Hungarian independence, may have been inspired by the flag that Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II, a key figure in Hungarian-Polish cooperation, donated to his guard of Transylvanian noblemen in 1708.[28] This blue silk flag also features the triangle with the all-seeing eye and the wreath of thirteen stars surrounding this symbol, representing the thirteen states on the Pułaski flag, as well as the motto *Non Alius Regit* ("No Other Rules" or "No Other Governs," meaning no allegiance to the King) that encapsulated Colonel Kováts' beliefs as a proud Calvinist and proficient Latin writer.

The message of the Pułaski-Kováts flag for today

In 1979, during the bicentennial commemorations of Michael Kováts' death in Charleston, the Hungarian American Federation and its president, János Taba, commissioned artist Gabriella Fülöp (Mrs. Ferenc Koszorús), under the guidance of Elemér Bakó, to create detailed paintings of both sides of the flag. These paintings served as the basis for commissioning the National Flag Company to produce a physical version of what they referred to as the Pułaski-Kováts banner. They identified this flag as "the first Hungarian American flag" based on research by Vasváry and Bakó. This is the flag that was presented to the Charleston Military Academy Museum during the Charleston ceremonies.[29]

As the tricentennial celebrations of Michael Kováts' birth unfold in Europe and America, the Pułaski-Kováts flag, as a historical artifact and strong symbol can serve as an enduring reminder that Hungarian, Polish, and American freedom fighters have fought shoulder to shoulder since the very inception of the United States.

[1] *Michael Kováts de Fabriczy* was born in a well-established noble military family with long-lasting service for Hungarian independence and freedom in August 1724 in Karcag (then Karcagújszállás), the capital of the historic region of Greater Cumania (Nagykunság), Hungary as a son of Imre Kováts de Keszi and Kaál and Sára Tompa de Kaál, and died on May 11, 1779 in Charlestown, South Carolina at the siege of Charlestown. For more details on Kováts' ancestors: László Örlős, "The ancestry of George Washington's Hungarian Hussar Colonel," under review for publication in *Family Tree*, a family history periodical in Hungary (*Családfa – Családtörténeti Magazin*) and correspondence with Imola Kovács and László Örlős, August 2023.

[2] Ödön Vasváry, "The memory of Ferenc Pintér's heroic deed (Pintér Ferenc hőstettének emléke)," *American Hungarian World* (*Amerikai Magyar Világ*), Vol. IX, No. 14 (April 2, 1972), 6.

[3] *Count Casimir Pulaski's original cavalry banner, 1778* Maryland Center for History and Culture (repository), attributed to Moravian Nuns, Bethlehem, PA, donated by Edmund R. Peale. Object ID: 1845.2.1, Resource ID: 2235, Accession Number: 1845.2.

[4] Hungary Foundation, *Michael Kovats de Fabriczy Tricentennial*, www.hungaryfoundation.org/michael-kovats-300/. 2024 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Michael Fabriczy Kováts, "father of the US cavalry." In celebration, the Karcag-based Michael Kováts Friendship Society (represented by Zoltán Pintér and László Örlős), the Washington, DC-based Kossuth Foundation (represented by Sándor Végh) and the Hungary Foundation (represented by Anna Smith Lacey) signed a cooperation agreement to preserve and promote his legacy in Hungary and in the U.S. and form the Michael Kovats Memorial Committee.

[5] For more details regarding Kováts' life and legacy see the bilingual (Hungarian and English) book by Árpád Zoltán Pintér, *Michael Fabriczy Kováts, a Hungarian Hussar Officer on Two Continents (Fabriczy Kováts Mihály, egy magyar huszártiszt két kontinensen)* (Budapest: Zrínyi Publishing House, 2021, 42-45.

Kazimierz Michał Władysław Wiktor Pułaski was born in a Polish noble family in Warsaw on March 4 or 6, 1745 as the second eldest son of Józef Pułaski and Marianna Zielińska and died on October 11, 1779 at the battle of Savannah. Pułaski is often referred to as Count Pułaski, but never actually carried this title or referred to

himself in such manner; in a letter, Benjamin Franklin stylized Pułaski as such *Pulaski, a man with a history*, pulaskionline.org/pulaski-a-man-with-a-history/).

[6] Aladár Póka-Pivny, "Appendices to the life story of the Hungarian hussar colonel Mihály Kováts, who died heroic death in the American War of Independence (Adalékok az Amerikai Egyesült Államok szabadságharcában hősi halált halt Kováts Mihály magyar huszárezredes élettörténetéhez)," *Hungarian Military Review* (*Magyar Katonai Szemle*), Vol. 4 No. 12 (1934), 224-225.

[7] Elemér Bakó, "The Pulaski Banner: America's earliest Hungarian flag (A „Pulaski Banner": Amerika legkorábbi Magyar zászlaja), manuscript collection of the University Library of the University of Debrecen. Debrecen, Kassai Street Campus, Social Science Library, Compact Warehouse.Manuscript, 1979, 1-6.

[8] Ödön (Edmund) Vasváry was born in Szeged, Hungary in 1888, moved to the United States with his family in 1935 to become a chief official of the American Hungarian Reformed Association, and died in Washington, DC in 1977. His unique collection, donated to the Károly Somogyi City and County Library in Szeged, Hungary, consists of Vasváry's own handwritten notes, newspaper clippings, letters, photographs, small print, books, and a catalog containing biographical and bibliographic data written on about 20,000 slips. In its database consisting of 437 file cabinets, he organized the documents in alphabetical order showing the lives of the thousands of Hungarians who came to the American continent from the end of the sixteenth century.

Elemér Bakó was born in Hencida, Hungary in 1915, left Hungary for Germany after the second world war, and then moved to the United States in 1951. He died in Silver Spring in 2000. His collection and manuscripts were donated to the University Library of the University of Debrecen in October 2013. The twenty boxes of archive materials consist of contemporary linguistic research, Hungarian studies, history and other national topics covering the freedom fights led by Rákóczi and Kossuth as well as Hungarian military personnel active in the American Revolutionary and the Civil War. The author worked on Bakó's manuscripts based on the research permit granted to Dr. Sándor Fazekas, the honorary chair of the Mihály Kováts Friendship Society, Karcag, Hungary.

[9] Mihály Fabriczy Kováts to Benjamin Franklin, January 13, 1777, American Philosophical Society Library, Mss. B.F85, Benjamin Franklin Papers, Vol. LXX. No. 88. 1-4.

[10] For more details on Elemér Bakó's legacy in Hungary: Enikő Juha, "Legacy of Elemér Bakó in the manuscript collection of the University Library of the University of Debrecen," *Gerundium* Vol. 6 No. 1-2 (2015), 159-168.

[11] Bakó, "The Pulaski Banner," 1.

[12] Ödön Vasváry, "A 170-year-old letter (Egy 170 éves levél)," January 22, 1948, 1-2., 1. The Vasváry Collection. Károly Somogyi City and County Library, Szeged, Hungary. virtualis.sk-szeged.hu/kiallitas/vasvary120/kovats.html.

[13] Joseph A. Wytrwal, "Memorials to General Casimir Pulaski in the United States," *The Georgia Historical Quarterly* Vol. 44, No. 3 (September 1960), 245-262. 251.

[14] Bakó, "The Pulaski Banner," 3. Elizabeth Lehman Myers, *A century of Moravian Sisters* (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1918), 64-65.

[15] Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "The Hymn of the Moravian Nuns," www.hwlongfellow.org/poems_poem.php?pid=200. John W. Jordan, "Bethlehem during the revolution. Extracts from the Diaries in the Moravian Archives at Bethlehem," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (April 1889), 71-89, 82.

[16] Myers, *A century of Moravian Sisters*, 65.

[17] Moravian Church Archives, Bethlehem Congregation. Diary of the Bethlehem Congregation, Vol. 32, 1778-1779, 22-23, www.moravianchurcharchives.findbuch.net/pics/X.._BethCong._~BethCong%20032._~BethCong_032_1013.Jpeg. Jordan, "Bethlehem during the revolution," 82.

Elemér Bakó, "The flag of Colonel Kováts (Kováts ezredes zászlója)," manuscript, 1-14. 3, University of Debrecen.

[18] Ibid., 6.

[19] Susan von Gersdorff (1731-1805) was the spiritual and temporal head of the Single Sisters in Bethlehem from 1764 to 1784. She later filled the same position in Neuwied (1789-1795) and Ebersdorf (1795-1805). Susan and Otto Ernst von Gersdorff were members of the same von Gersdorff family. For more details on the Moravian sisters: „Pennsylvania German Blog," alyssumarts.com/category/history/moravian-history/. For the ancestry of Susan and Otto Ernst von Gersdorff: *FamilySearh*, www.familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/portrait/GSF9-LDJ and *Geni*, www.geni.com/people/Otto-Ernst-von-Gersdorff/6000000086453734915.

[20] Bakó, "The flag of Colonel Kováts," 4.

[21] Jordan, "Bethlehem during the revolution," 79-80, 84.

[22] *Journals of the Continental Congress 1774-1789* Vol. X, January 1-May 1, 1778 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1908), 291-293.

[23] Bakó, "The flag of Colonel Kováts," 1, 6.

[24] Ödön Vasváry, "Colonel Kowáts and the "Pour le Mérite" award (Kowáts ezredes és a „Pour le Mérite" kitüntetés)," *American Hungarian World* (*Amerikai Magyar Világ*) (January 1976), 8, 10. Bakó, "The flag of Colonel Kováts," 5.

[25] John W. Jordan, "Moravian Immigration to Pennsylvania, 1734-1765," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 33, No. 2 (1909), 228-248.

[26] Bakó, "The flag of Colonel Kováts," 13.

[27] Ibid., 9-13.

[28] Árpád Markó, *Ferenc Rákóczi II, the general (II. Rákóczi Ferenc, a hadvezér)* (Budapest, 1934), 84-98.

[29] Bakó, "The Pulaski Banner," 6.



S. BODO



PORTRAIT OF GENERAL CASIMIR PULASKI
Pulaski Kázmér generális portréja

◂◂ PORTRAIT OF COLONEL MICHAEL KOVATS
Kováts Mihály ezredes portréja



SANDOR BODO

PULASKI LEGION IN ENCAMPMENT
A Puláski légió táborozása



SANDOR BODO

CAVALRY ACTION OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, MAY 11, 1779
„KOVÁTS EZREDES HŐSI ROHAMA"
Lovas támadás Charlestonban, Dél-Carolinában, 1779. május 11-én

THE ANATOMY OF A
REVOLUTIONARY WAR FLAG

The Pulaski Banner

Designed by Michael Kovats, sewn in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, by Moravian women, and carried into battle by the Pulaski Legion, this flag united the legacies of Poland, Hungary, and the nascent American republic. Every part of the flag speaks to liberty, alliance, and virtue.

MOTTO
UNITA VIRTUS FORCIOR

"United Valor is Stronger."

Taken from the medal of Prince Báthory of Transylvania (originally *Virtus Unita Valet*). It reflects the historic Polish-Hungarian alliance — united valor is stronger in the face of powerful enemies.

U.S. INITIALS

Among the earliest uses of the initials "U.S." to represent the United States. Placed at the heart of the motto, it gives the flag a distinctly American meaning, marking a new republic whose strength lies in virtue.



RED, WHITE, AND GREEN COLORS

The red, white, and green colors are the national colors of Hungary, while red and white are also the national colors of Poland. Together, they symbolize the Polish-Hungarian leadership of the Pulaski Legion. Red represents courage and strength, white symbolizes loyalty, and green stands for hope and freedom.

NON ALIUS REGIT

"No Other Governs."

A declaration of allegiance to no king, only to God. A motto of independence and conviction.



THE ALL-SEEING EYE OF GOD

A triangle with an eye symbolizes Divine Providence. It reflects Colonel Kovats's Christian faith and the conviction that the colonies' cause was righteous in the eyes of God.

THIRTEEN STARS

Represent the thirteen American colonies united in liberty. They encircle the eye, affirming that freedom rests under God's watch.

EXPLODING GRENADES

The explosive grenades embroidered in the four inner corners of the flag indicate that the unit also fielded artillery.