

Gilbert du Motier,
MARQUIS de LAFAYETTE



WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

On the Occasion of the
261st Anniversary of his Birth

6 September 2018
Ten o'clock in the morning
Lafayette Square
LaGrange, Georgia

WHY LAFAYETTE? CUR NON?

For fourteen months in 1824-25, at America's invitation the sixty-seven-year old Marquis de Lafayette made a Grand Tour of all twenty-four of the United States. Everywhere he received the greatest adulation for heroic service in America's winning independence from England, and for being a lifelong champion of Liberty, Justice, and Equality.

After Lafayette's invaluable military contribution during America's Revolutionary War, this "Hero of Two Worlds" served his native France as a founder and leader of their new National Assembly. With his longtime friend and fellow diplomatic colleague, Thomas Jefferson, he co-authored The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen. He served as Commander-in-General of the French National Guard. After escaping execution during the terrifying last days of the French Revolution, he was captured and imprisoned five years by France's enemy Austria; but following that he returned to the highest levels of leadership in post-revolutionary France. In 1830 he declined an offer by the Chamber of Deputies to be named king. And with unflinching effort and remarkable success for his time, Lafayette worked his entire adult life to end human slavery everywhere.

So in 1825, when the Grand Tour had brought Lafayette through festivities in Savannah, Augusta, Milledgeville, and Macon and then through the wilderness area beyond, on March 30 he reached the Chattahoochee River at a place now occupied by Fort Benning. There he spent one night before crossing to Fort Mitchell in Alabama.

Because the Chateau de LaGrange was Lafayette's beloved country home and estate south of Paris, it was in his honor that the name LaGrange was soon selected for the recently incorporated town that would become seat of Troup County when it was incorporated. Reports indicate the name had been suggested by Colonel Julius Cesar Alford, a traveling companion appointed by Governor George Troup to accompany Lafayette. Later Alford would become a resident and practicing lawyer in LaGrange.

This ceremony helps remind us of this community's identity with , and its embodiment (incorporation) within, the enduring values and principles of the hero whose birthday we recognize.

IS TAPS APPROPRIATE?

Taps is a bugle call, at times played by a single trumpet, is reserved for use at military funerals of the United States Armed Forces and is appropriate to honor anyone considered a strong patriot. Certainly, Lafayette was a strong patriot of this great nation. Additionally, by direct Act of Congress in 2002, Lafayette was granted honorary citizenship of the United States of America. Even before this, in December 1784, the Maryland General Assembly made Lafayette a "natural born citizen" of the state, making him an American citizen under the U.S. Constitution in 1789.

THE WREATH

Wreaths have been used to convey symbolism since ancient times. The Romans and Greeks appear to be the first use a wreath at a funeral to symbolize eternal life. Today's wreath includes a great deal of symbolism as well. Laurel represents victory and honor. Oak is a national symbol of both the United States and France and indicates strength. Rosemary is often used in memorial wreaths as it symbolizes remembrance, and the olive branch represents peace. The wreath includes roses, the national flower of the United States and lilies, the national flower of France.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Greeting	Richard Ingram President, Lafayette Alliance
Presentation of Colors	Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard Bill Palmer, Commander
“The Star Spangled Banner,” National Anthem of The United States of America “La Marseillaise,” National Anthem of France	LaGrange Community Band
Posting of Colors	Color Guard
Invocation	Father Tim Gadziala Pastor, Saint Peter’s Catholic Church
Official Welcome and Comments	Jim Thornton Mayor, City of LaGrange
Reading of Governor’s Proclamation	Sandy Lee Member, Lafayette Alliance
Statue’s Story	George Henry Vice President, Lafayette Alliance
Lafayette’s Importance	Kathryn Mathews Member, Lafayette Alliance
Remarks	Kathryn Miner Assistant to the Cultural Attaché
Laying of the Wreath	Sandy Lee, Kathryn Mathews, Kathryn Miner
Firing of Salute	Sons of the American Revolution Militia
Taps	Jimmy Robinson Member, LaGrange Community Band
Retiring of Colors	Color Guard
Closing Words	Richard Ingram

LAFAYETTE ALLIANCE

Jake Behr	George Henry	Katie Van Schoor
Debbie Burdette	Richard Ingram	Joe Thompson
Kathy Carlisle	Laura Jennings	Robert Tucker
Raylene Morris Carter	Shannon Gavin Johnson	Kerri B. Vice
John Cipolla	Scott Landa	Nick Vlachos
Christa Easterwood	Sandy Lee	Barbie Watts
Kathren Fogg	Kathryn Mathews	Willie Woodard
Chase Hall	Haley Merciers	
Alexander Hughes	Chris Price	

GRATTITUDE

Vern Bassham	Catherine Lukken
John Beyers	Dan McMichael
Beatriz Bokina	Bruce Maney
David Bordona	Kathryn Mathews
Neal Brumbeloe	Haley Merciers
Scott Collins	Lauren Oliver
Emil Decker	Sue Olsen
Steven Edenbo	Bill Palmer
W.T. Edmondson	Chris Prather
Eldon Evans	Walt Reed
Tim Gadziala	Jimmy Robinson
Dan Ginter	Jane Rogers
Chuck Hall	Bob Sapp
George Henry	Beth Schiller
Bo Hill	Alan Slaughenhaupt
Stallings Howell	Phillip Sledge
Alexander Hughes	Bernie Talley
Bill Hunnicutt	Patrick Terrail
Richard Ingram	Joe Thompson
Laura Jennings	Debbie Thompson
Shannon Gavin Johnson	Jim Thornton
Jamie Keating	George Thurmond
John Lawrence	Katie Van Schoor
Sandy Lee	Barbie Watts

Courtyard Marriott
City of LaGrange
Downtown LaGrange Development Authority
EPI© Restaurant
LaGrange Art Museum
LaGrange Community Band
Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard
By Special Arrangement
85 South
Troup County Historical Society