



U.S. ARMY



## AMERICA 250: PAUSE, REFLECT, REMEMBER

### HISTORY MATTERS

In a year marked by such a monumental milestone, we at the ASC History Office encourage our readers to engage with history in a more personal way. The experiences described in this month's main article are part of our shared national story. Yet every person carries their own story, their own history, and therefore their own identity. Learning about the past and spending thoughtful time in reflection is not merely an academic exercise. It is a way of reinforcing individuality and honoring the experiences and accomplishments that have shaped who we are today.

History can be understood as a practice that spans all three dimensions of time. It is the present study of the past that helps us make choices for the future.

The mission of the ASC History Office has always been to honor these endeavors and to spark interest and wonder in the rich history that has forged our Nation. We strive to create an environment where history is more than a subject once taught in school. It is something to be actively sought out, appreciated, and used to make the world around us a better place.

Remember, the responsibility of remembering is a collective effort shared by every person in our society. Your ASC History Office serves as an agent to bring these stories closer and to offer guidance on where to find the remarkable accounts of those who came before us. As we continue celebrating our Nation's 250th birthday, we encourage you to speak with friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, and members of your community to learn more about their stories and their history. History is our identity—and with a strong identity, together, we are strong.

It is a solemn sight. You have read about it, seen it in books and online, but something about standing here defies articulation. Though surrounded by people, only one figure moves: the sentinel pacing his measured line. His footsteps are the only sound you truly register. Then a ray of light breaks over your shoulder as the sun edges above the horizon. Morning arrives with a heavy realization—the grandeur is not only in the marble sarcophagus or the endless rows of white headstones. It is in the weight of memory, the cost of service, and the quiet dignity of a Nation remembering its own. For a moment, time seems to stand still at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

As our Nation celebrates its 250th birthday, we stand at the intersection of memory and celebration. This milestone invites reflection on triumphs and trials, unity and reckoning, and the hope carried forward by generations. Few places embody these emotions as completely as this hallowed tomb, where the legacies of those who served gather and remind us of the foundation upon which our Nation stands.

Following World War I, the Nation grieved over tens of thousands of lives lost, and thousands of families had no grave to visit. In 1921, a single unidentified Soldier was laid to rest to represent all who never returned. Later Unknowns joined him, each symbolizing countless lives whose identities were lost to war. The marble sarcophagus placed in 1932 bears the inscription: "HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN KNOWN BUT TO GOD."

The Tomb has been guarded without interruption since 1937. The sentinel's presence signifies the Nation's promise of remembrance—a quiet assurance that some stories must never slip into silence.

History is more than a record of events; it is the architecture of our national identity. It explains how we arrived at this moment—through institutions built, values inherited, conflicts endured, and triumphs achieved. Our shared identity was shaped over generations by people whose stories echo in the world around us.

Many of those stories belong to individuals whose contributions changed the course of history. Norman Borlaug spent years developing crops that could withstand disease and drought, helping prevent famine and improving food security worldwide. Mary Jackson's engineering work advanced the aerodynamics of aircraft and spacecraft, influencing missions from Apollo to Artemis. Clara Barton moved among the wounded on Civil War battlefields, later founding the American Red Cross, an organization that continues to bring relief in times of crisis.

Their stories remind us that progress is rarely the result of a single moment, but of countless acts of dedication carried out across generations. They represent only a fraction of the American story—a mosaic of farmers, nurses, railroad workers, teachers, and innovators whose efforts shaped the Nation.

Preserving these stories requires specialists who gather, interpret, and present the past. Archivists and librarians safeguard the written record, preserving the threads from which history is woven. Historians follow those threads across landscapes and battlefields, interpreting evidence and giving voice to the past. Museum technicians create spaces where curiosity begins, bringing artifacts and stories into view. Though their roles differ, their responsibility is the same: to ensure no one is lost in the vast sea of history.

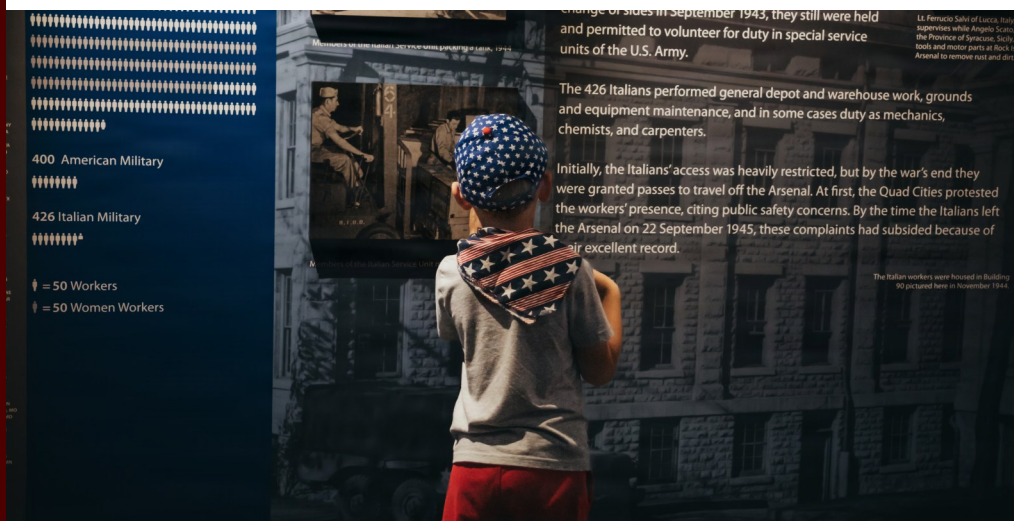
Time moves forward even as it feels suspended in the quiet of the morning. You are reminded of that truth when the first notes of Taps drift across the marble. A crowd has gathered now, yet the solemn stillness lingers. Then the volleys crack through the silence—three sharp reports rolling across the hillsides like a shockwave. The world begins to turn again, but the echoes remain. You carry them with you as you leave this place.

This is not a scene crafted for effect. It is the fulfillment of a great promise: as a grateful Nation, we pay attention and remember. May we carry their stories with the same quiet strength they carried this Nation.

## THERE'S MORE TO THIS STORY!



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ARMY.MIL



JULY TRIVIA

1. About how many current burials are there at Arlington National Cemetery?
2. How many unknowns are interred at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington?
3. How much was the bar tab for George Washington's farewell in 1787?

### MARCH ANSWERS

1. Although the battle of Bunker Hill is famous, where was the battle actually fought?  
Bred's Hill
2. What was the "shot heard 'round the world?"  
The first shot at Lexington
3. Upon seeing his situation in Boston, General Howe and the British had no choice but to evacuate soldiers and loyalists to what location?  
Halifax, Nova Scotia



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