

# GRANT



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Plus Special Inserts  
**Grant Bicentennial Ceremony  
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GRANT is published by the  
Grant Monument Association.

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## SUPPORT THE GRANT BICENTENNIAL RECOGNITION ACT: A PROMOTION FOR GRANT'S 200TH BIRTHDAY

April 27, 2022, will mark President Ulysses S. Grant's 200th birthday. In September 2021, Rep. Ann Wagner and Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri introduced bicameral legislation that would recognize this milestone by authorizing and requesting the appointment of General Grant posthumously as General of the Armies of the United States, the United States Army's highest rank. This legislation, entitled the **Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial Recognition Act**, would confer on Grant the same honor that was given to George Washington when he was posthumously promoted during the nation's bicentennial in 1976.

The Grant Monument Association, joined by the Ulysses S. Grant Association, which operates the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library, issued this statement:

*General Ulysses S. Grant was the principal author of Union victory during the Civil War. His achievements on the battlefield ensured the very survival of our nation amid the greatest threat it had* Continued on page 2



*Stan Prater (as Grant), Sen. Roy Blunt, Rep. Ann Wagner, and Ulysses S. Grant Association board member John Samson at the announcement of the introduction of the Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial Recognition Act at the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site in St. Louis*

## GRANT'S 200TH BIRTHDAY TO BE OBSERVED ACROSS THE COUNTRY

### NEW YORK EVENTS TO INCLUDE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS AND GENERAL PETRAEUS

There are plans to mark Grant's 200th birthday on April 27 with special events across the country. The first bicentennial commemorations, hosted by the Ulysses S. Grant Association, occurred at the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library at Mississippi State University between March 3 and 5, 2022. The anniversary will be commemorated at numerous locations during the last week in April, including at Grant's birthplace in Point Pleasant, Ohio; his boyhood home in Georgetown, Ohio; his pre-Civil War home in St. Louis; his home in Galena, Illinois; and the Grant Memorial on the west side of the U.S.

Capitol. The U.S. Grant Homestead Association is hosting monthly programs in Georgetown, Ohio, having started in February and continuing until October. The Friends of Grant Cottage, who operate the site where the eighteenth president died in 1885, will feature events every month between May and October.

Grant's Tomb will be open throughout the final week of April, with programs taking place every day between April 24 and April 30. This will mark the return of live birthday events after two years of cancellations and online events due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Continued on page 2

Bicentennial Act, continued from page 1



The Grant bicentennial logo developed by the Ulysses S. Grant Association

ever faced. Many historians rightfully regard him as not only the most capable and accomplished general in American history, but also one of the great military commanders in world history. So it is only fitting that, as was done for George Washington during the nation's bicentennial in 1976, General Grant posthumously be accorded the army's highest rank—and there is no better time to do so than during the Grant bicentennial in 2022. The Ulysses S. Grant Association and Grant Monument Association offer our deepest thanks to Representative Ann Wagner and Senator Roy Blunt for introducing the Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial Recognition Act as a much-needed recognition of an important historical anniversary. We additionally wish to thank the bipartisan cosponsors of this legislation: Representatives Adriano Espaillat, Elise Stefanik, Cheri Bustos, and Michael Guest. We expect the list of cosponsors to grow in the near future and ask concerned citizens to contact their House members and senators to request that they cosponsor this legislation if they have not already done so. We urge the House and Senate to pass this legislation, and President Joe Biden to make the requested appointment, in time for Grant's 200th birthday on April 27, 2022.

Since this announcement, Senator Sherrod Brown and 11 additional House members have signed on as cosponsors (see [congress.gov](http://congress.gov) for list).

The grade of General of the Armies of the United States was first established by Congress in 1799 as the highest rank in the U.S. Army. However, then-President John Adams refused to appoint anyone to the position because the U.S. was not at war. The grade was dissolved in 1802, when Congress passed the Military Peace Establishment Act without reference to the grade. In 1866, Congress established the grade of "General of the Army of the United States" as the highest rank in the U.S. Army, and Grant was immediately appointed to the position. In 1919, Congress authorized the president to appoint John Pershing to the grade of "General of the Armies of the United States" for his role in commanding military forces during World War I. Significant confusion arose between the previously established "General of the Army" (the position Grant held) and "General of the Armies" (the position created in 1799, then reestablished in 1919). In 1976, Congress clarified that "General of the Armies of the United States" is the highest rank in the U.S. Army when it posthumously promoted George Washington to the grade in honor of the nation's bicentennial. The Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial Recognition Act would promote Grant to the same rank as George Washington.

**Please contact your House member and senators and request their support of the Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial Recognition Act in time for Grant's birthday on April 27, 2022!**

Birthday events, continued from page 1

The official birthday ceremony, organized by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the National Park Service, will take place at the monument at 11:00 a.m. on April 27, and is open to the public at no charge. Featured speakers will include General Mark Milley, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and Grant biographer Brooks Simpson. That evening, the Grant Monument Association will host a bicentennial dinner at New York City's Union League Club, to include a colloquy featuring General David Petraeus and Grant biographers Ron Chernow and Ron White. See this newsletter's insert for further information on both New York events. Additional special events will follow at the Tomb on Memorial Day and on the anniversary of Grant's death, July 23, the latter to include a special ceremony organized by West Point.

Later this year, the Grant Monument Association plans to place a marker at the site of the cottage that served as President Grant's "summer White House" in Long Branch, New Jersey.

For further information on Grant bicentennial events and announcements, check out the official Grant bicentennial website set up by the Ulysses S. Grant Association: [usgrantbicentennial.info](http://usgrantbicentennial.info).

## GRANT'S TOMB PARTIALLY REOPENS

After more than a year and a half of closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Grant's Tomb undertook a limited reopening starting in October 2021. For much of the fall and winter of 2021-2022, the mausoleum opened to the public on Saturdays and Sundays between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon and between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. The site also opened at those hours for designated federal holidays.

This limited reopening is subject to restrictions. No more than 10 visitors are permitted inside, and only the main level of the mausoleum is open, not the crypt. Masks are required inside regardless of vaccination status. The visitor center and restrooms remain closed.



During this period of limited reopening, the National Park Service displayed 20 panels of outdoor exhibits for visitors in the plaza in front of the mausoleum.

For Grant's 200th birthday, the mausoleum will be open every day of the final week of April, despite the limitation of its normal open hours during non-pandemic times to five days per week. The National Park Service will host a different program every day of that week, with the official birthday ceremony taking place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27.



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# The Grant Monument Association

cordially invites you to a dinner commemorating the  
200th Anniversary of President Ulysses S. Grant's birth.

Dinner will be accompanied by a colloquy featuring

**General David H. Petraeus**

**Ron Chernow**

Author, *Grant*

**Ron White**

Author, *American Ulysses*

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**Wednesday, April 27, 2022**

**Reception at 6:00 p.m.      Dinner at 7:00 p.m.**

**Union League Club  
38 East 37th Street  
New York, NY 10016**

**Business attire**

**Dinner tickets: \$250    Host committee: \$750    Table of ten: \$2,500**

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**RSVP to the Grant Monument Association at (646) 504-1865 or [gma@grantstomb.org](mailto:gma@grantstomb.org). Pay  
online at [grantstomb.org/gma-dinner](http://grantstomb.org/gma-dinner) or send payment to:**

**Grant Monument Association  
P.O. Box 1088, FDR Station  
New York, NY 10150-1088**

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**Note: The Union League Club will be following all applicable city and state mandates in  
response to Covid-19.**



# General Grant

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



General Grant National Memorial



**Join us on the Plaza in front of the Mausoleum  
to celebrate President Ulysses S. Grant  
Bicentennial Birthday!**

## **Military Honor Guard Ceremony on Plaza**

**11:00am-12:00pm**

USMA West Point Honor Guard & Military Band ceremony and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley will be one of our guest speakers

## **Reception and Refreshments on Plaza**

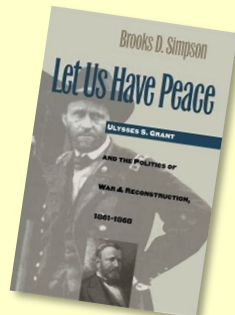
**12:00 pm to 12:30 pm**

Refreshments courtesy of Grant Monument Association

## **Book Signing & Presentation on Plaza**

**1:00 pm to 2:00 pm**

Join Author Brooks D. Simpson for a presentation and book signing.



Please RSVP by email at [gegr\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:gegr_info@nps.gov) or calling at (646) 670-7251 by Friday, April 24, 2020

# Ulysses S. Grant's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday

**Wednesday  
April 27, 2022**



UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
**WEST POINT.**

## **Plan Your Visit**

The Memorial is located at Riverside Drive and 122nd Street in Manhattan, New York City.

General Grant National Memorial is open from 9 am to 5 pm, Wednesday through Sunday and most holidays.

## **For more information:**

(646) 670-7251

[www.nps.gov/gegr](http://www.nps.gov/gegr)

Twitter: @GrantsTombNPS

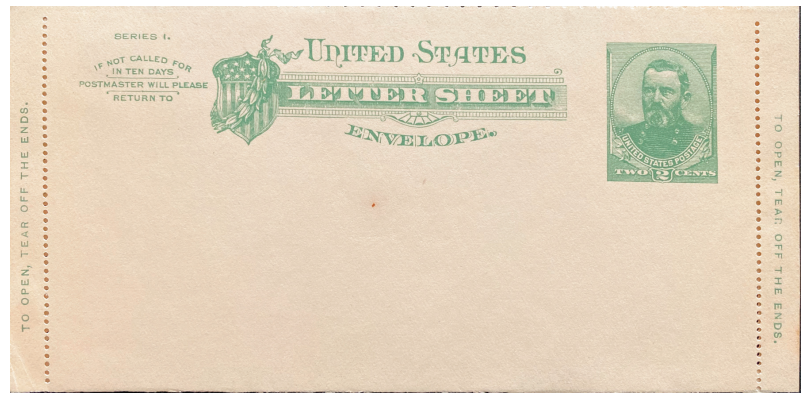
Facebook: GrantstombNPS

Instagram: @GeneralGrantMemorialNPS



# A U.S. POSTAL HISTORY OF ULYSSES S. GRANT

2021 marked the 135th anniversary of Ulysses Grant's first appearance on a U.S. postal item. In August 1886, the Post Office Department issued a 2-cent "letter sheet" (at right) featuring Grant in uniform. Letter sheets were stationery items pre-printed with postage on which senders could write a letter, fold and seal it closed, and then mail it. This also marked the first time that a West Point graduate was honored by the Post Office Department (Grant graduated in 1843).



Four years later, in June 1890, Grant appeared on a U.S. postage stamp (at left), once again becoming the first West Point graduate whose portrait was depicted on a stamp. The Grant portrait on this stamp was based upon a photograph



Courtesy Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library

by William Kurtz. Since 1890, Grant has appeared on at least ten different U.S. postage stamps, and multiple postal stationery items and postcards. Today more West Pointers appear on U.S. postage stamps than graduates from any other institution of higher learning. Due to his roles as supreme commander of the Union Army during the Civil War, and later as the 18th president, Grant has been featured more than any

other West Point graduate (followed closely by Dwight D. Eisenhower, West Point Class of 1915).

The two most recent stamps featuring Grant were issued in 1995 and 2015. The 1995 stamp was one of a sheet of twenty different ones recognizing prominent figures and battles of the Civil War. The Grant stamp (at right) is a composite design using the well-known photographs of the general at his Cold Harbor, Virginia, headquarters in June 1864 attributed to Mathew Brady and Egbert Guy Fowx.



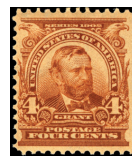
© 1995 USPS®

Grant and Lee are at the center of the 2015 Appomattox stamp (below), the last in the series of ten issued between 2011 and 2015 to mark the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. It features Thomas Nast's 1895 painting "Peace in Union," the centerpiece of the U.S. Grant Museum in Galena, Illinois. The accompanying illustration shows how the stamp is cropped from the original painting.

Other unique designs are shown here (numerous varieties of the smaller stamps were also issued.) The 1903 stamp is often considered one of the most beautiful examples of the work of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.



Galena/Jo Daviess County Historical Society and Museum. © 2015 USPS®



Left: 1898 and 1903



Below: 1923, 1937, 1938, and 1986



© 1986 USPS®



Following the Spanish-American War, several of the stamps featuring Grant were overprinted for use in the U.S.-controlled territories of Guam, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines (an example is at left). At least four countries other than the United States have issued stamps recognizing Grant. Three of these, Liberia, the Republic of Guinea, and the Caribbean nation of St. Vincent, feature Grant as the 18th president in a series of stamps honoring U.S. presidents.

The earliest and most interesting of these foreign stamps were issued by the West African nation of Portuguese Guinea (now Guinea-Bissau). Seven stamps issued in 1946 celebrated the 500th anniversary of the founding of Portuguese Guinea. Grant was included among these because of his role in settling a dispute between the British and the Portuguese in 1870 awarding Bolama, an island off the coast of Portuguese Guinea, to Portugal. The stamp features an artist's sketch of a photo of Ulysses Grant circa 1864. In 1960, a statue was erected in Grant's honor in Praça Ulysses S. Grant (Ulysses Grant Square) in Bolama city. The city had served as the capital of Portuguese Guinea from 1879 to 1941, after which the capital was moved to the city of Bissau on the main-



land. The story of this statue was told in the Fall 2020 issue of the GMA newsletter. A stamp issued in 1970 shows a portrait of Grant and the statue in the middle of a well-manicured square surrounded by government buildings. Unfortunately, following Guinea-Bissau's War for Independence (1963-1974), the city gradually fell into decay, and the area shown on the stamp is

*Continued on page 4*

### Grant postal history, continued from page 3



little more than a ghost town today.

The Grant Monument Association actively lobbied the U.S. Postal Service to issue one or more stamps in honor of Grant's 200th birthday this year.

*Jay Joyce, West Point Class of 1974, adapted this article from his recently*

*released Postmarked West Point: A U.S. Postal History of West Point and its Graduates. The stamps shown in this article are from his own collection.*

### Mim Sellgren (1937–2021)

Miriam "Mim" Wallace Sellgren, a member of the GMA's board of trustees since 2011, died on June 10, 2021, after a short stay in the hospital. A long-time resident of San Diego, Mim was the daughter of General William J. Wallace and Fanny Grant Macy Wallace. Her father was a renowned Marine commander who led battles at Midway, Guadalcanal, and Okinawa in World War II, while her mother was a descendant of Ulysses S. Grant, through his son Ulysses S. Grant, Jr.'s line.



Mim attended The Bishop's School in La Jolla, California, and Stanford University, where she majored in sociology. After college, she obtained a teaching certificate from San Diego State College and taught at primary schools in the San Diego area. She later worked as executive secretary to the director of the Scripps Oceanographic Institute in La Jolla. Blessed with a keen intellect, Mim was a lifelong learner with strong interests in religion and history. In addition, Mim was an inveterate traveler, beginning with a trip around the world after graduation, trips to Israel and Iona, and travels crisscrossing the U.S. as she visited a wide network of friends and relatives, including her Grant relations.

She had an extended family of nieces, nephews, and cousins to whom she was close, as well as a large "adopted family." Her family and friends loved her generous nature, her infectious laugh, and her wide-ranging interests. In 1963, Mim married Al Sellgren, with whom she had three sons: David, Steve, and Andrew. David died as an infant, and Andrew passed away in 2015. Being a mother was one of the greatest joys in Mim's life, and she was a devoted grandmother to Andrew's four children, Juliette, Margot, Dhiren, and Kirin. She will be deeply missed.

### Robert E. Lee IV (1924–2020)

Robert E. "Bob" Lee IV, a member of the GMA's board of trustees since 2018, died on May 14, 2020, at his home in Bethesda, Maryland. A great-grandson of General Robert E. Lee and the younger child of Dr. George Bolling Lee and Helen Keeney Lee, Bob grew up in New York City, attending the Buckley School, and was a



member of the Knickerbocker Greys. He graduated from Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1943, and soon thereafter volunteered for the U.S. Army, where, over the next two years, he saw combat in Europe.

Upon returning stateside, Bob matriculated to Washington & Lee University, graduating in 1949. Bob then moved to San Francisco, worked in sales and then advertising, and became the national advertising manager for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In 1956, Bob married Marjorie "Marge" Tracy, with whom he had two children, Tracy and Rob. In 1970, he moved to Virginia and worked for the A. Smith Bowman Distillery, eventually becoming chairman of the board years later. In 1985, he married his second wife, Carew Cotton Rice, and moved to Maryland. Bob's family and friends remember him as a great listener and conversationalist, extraordinary dancer, memorable toastmaster, and avid Washington Redskins fan. His *joie de vivre* defined him.

### Hon. Colin L. Powell (1937–2021)

Colin Powell, a child of immigrants who rose to the highest military and diplomatic positions in the country, died on October 18, 2021. He had been an honorary trustee of the GMA since 1996.



Powell grew up not far from Grant's Tomb—born in Harlem, raised in the South Bronx, and a student in New York City's public schools who graduated from City College of New York, where he joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

Powell served in Vietnam and was awarded a Purple Heart and a Soldier's Medal for rescuing fellow passengers from a burning helicopter despite being injured himself. During his 35-year military career, Powell also was stationed in South Korea and Germany, and he oversaw military and humanitarian missions. He was appointed chairman of the joint chiefs of staff in 1989 and served in the top military post until 1993. In that role, he guided the U.S. military through the end of the Cold War and humanitarian responses to crises, aiding famine victims in Somalia and working with the United Nations to end the war in the Balkans. After Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, Powell helped build a multinational coalition to uphold international law. In 2001, Powell was appointed secretary of state, serving under President George W. Bush for four years. He was the first African American to serve as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and had that same distinction as the nation's top diplomat. He was twice awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work in public service.

Powell reached back to help others. He was the founding chairman of the America's Promise Alliance, through which he and his wife, Alma, helped at-risk youth develop skills to succeed. The couple married in 1962 and had three children. "We have lost a remarkable and loving husband, father and grandfather and a great American," Powell's family said in a statement following his death.



### General Powell on General Grant

In a letter dated June 28, 1991, General Colin Powell, then serving as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, wrote to Frank Scaturro, then a volunteer working at Grant's Tomb, expressing his opinion of General Grant as follows:

*With respect to General Grant, I confess to being an admirer of his tremendous ability to fashion a path to success despite adversity along the way. The chief lessons I draw from Grant's generalship are the*

*value of bold initiative and the absolute necessity for calm in the middle of danger, uncertainty, and the inevitable fog of war. In my view his most brilliant campaign came at Vicksburg. There, after several setbacks, he maneuvered completely around the city, isolated the fortress from reinforcements and won a decisive victory. Throughout that campaign and the Virginia campaign of 1864-65, his unflappable leadership steadied the Union Army and turned tactical setbacks into operational triumphs.*

## JOIN THE GRANT MONUMENT ASSOCIATION



The life and extraordinary public service of General and President Ulysses S. Grant is reflected in the grand monument in New York City that serves as his final resting place—popularly known as Grant's Tomb. The Grant Monument Association, the successor to the organization of the same name that built and administered Grant's Tomb until it was transferred

to the National Park Service in 1959, was formed to ensure that this important part of our heritage would be preserved. You may become a member of the Grant Monument Association or renew your membership for the current year one of two ways. You may mail in this form or use your credit card online via our secure PayPal server.

**Become a member by mailing in this form via the United States Postal Service:**



### Membership Enrollment Form

You can join the GMA with an annual gift of \$25 or more (\$10 for students and senior citizens).\* Please indicate your gift below:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 (senior citizens and students)    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 500    \_\_\_\_\_ Other - Indicate amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Membership gifts are charitable donations and are tax deductible.



Mail this form with your contribution to:

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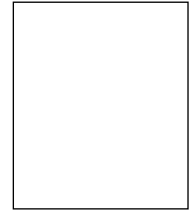
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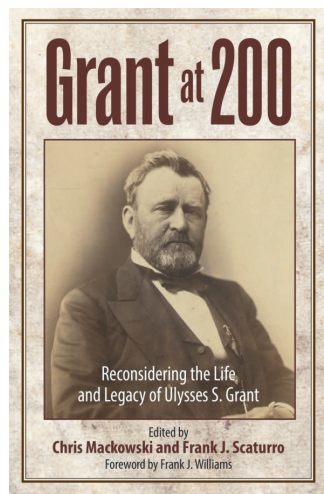


**COMING THIS FALL**

**Grant at 200**

**Reconsidering the Life and Legacy of Ulysses S. Grant**

**Edited by Chris Mackowski and Frank J. Scaturro**  
**Foreword by Frank J. Williams**  
**(Savas Beatie, 2022)**



*Grant at 200: Reconsidering the Life and Legacy of Ulysses S. Grant* celebrates the bicentennial of the birth of a man whose towering impact on American history has often been overshadowed, and in many cases, ignored. This collection of essays by some of today's leading Grant scholars offers fresh perspectives on Grant's military career and presidency, as well as under-explored personal topics such as his faith and his family life. Proceeds from this volume will go to support the Grant Monument Association and the Ulysses S. Grant Association. Visit <https://bit.ly/3s9qsvs>, then click "ADD TO WISHLIST" to make sure you don't miss the release of *Grant at 200*.

**In Memoriam**

Robert E. Lee IV (1924-2020)  
 Hon. Colin L. Powell (1937-2021)  
 Mim Sellgren (1937-2021)



*The GMA thanks the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) for its generous support in bringing this newsletter to you. Since 1865, Union officers and their descendants have worked through MOLLUS to perpetuate the memory of the struggle for the Union.*