Greetings Companions, Dames and Guests:

The Commandery of the State of Pennsylvania proudly invites you to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the 130th National Congress to be held 16 & 17 October 2015.

The primary purpose of this Congress will be to focus on the business of the Order and address many new and important issues as we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of MOLLUS. An exciting program is planned in a city and state proud of its military history.

The headquarters of the 2015 Congress will be the Union League of Philadelphia; 140 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19102 (215) 405–9578

The Union League of Philadelphia is a shining jewel of history in the heart of the cultural and commercial district of Philadelphia. Founded in 1862 as a patriotic society to support the Union and the policies of Abraham Lincoln, it laid the philosophical foundation of other Union Leagues across a nation torn by Civil War. The Union League has hosted U.S. presidents, heads of state, industrialists, entertainers and visiting dignitaries from around the globe. It has also given support to the American military in each conflict since the Civil War, and continues to be driven by its motto, “Love of Country Leads.” The classic French Renaissance-style League building dates to 1865. The traditional decor is accented in rich leather, patina-ted wood and polished marble. Adorned the walls and hallways is the League’s distinguished collection of art and artifacts. The collection, recognized by historians and art experts, is an historical chronicle of Philadelphia’s unique imprint upon the American landscape from the 19th century to today.

A guided tour of the Union League will be conducted by Companion Andy Waskie at 6:00 PM on Firday, October 16 at no charge.
Saturday Afternoon will be spent on a bus tour of Philadelphia Civil War sites and the Laurel Hill Cemetery, burial site of General Meade and the location of the newly mounted Silent Sentry. Other sites on the tour will include; the Civil War Monuments in Center City; the Philadelphia Civil War Memorial & General Meade Equestrian Monument in West Fairmount Park; the Site of the Great Central Sanitary Fair; the Refreshment Saloons; the Navy Yard in the Civil War; and Civil War camps and training grounds. Host for the bus tour will be Dr. Andy Waskie, President of the General Meade Society, Post 1, Civil War historian and author, educator and MOLLUS Companion.

As an alternative, you may chose a tour of the Barnes Foundation Collection. The Barnes holds one of the finest collections of Post-Impressionist and early Modern paintings, with extensive works by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Henri Rousseau, Amedeo Modigliani, Chaim Soutine and Giorgio de Chirico, as well as American masters Charles Demuth, William Glackens, Horace Pippin and Maurice Prendergast.

Both tours will include lunch at the German Society of Pennsylvania.

For Companions and guests with free time, their visit to Philadelphia follows the visit of Pope Francis just a month earlier. As part of that celebration, over 200 works of art and historically significant objects that form together a great mosaic history of the church and its impact on art, history and culture will be on display at The Franklin Institute, just a short taxi ride from the Union League.

The *Vatican Splendor* as it is called, includes many artifacts which have never left Vatican City. The collection is composed of renaissance art along with work from the baroque period. The 11 galleries walk you through the history of Christianity and the amazing art that came out of Rome. An impressive focus in the exhibition is on the Basilica of which Michelangelo and Bernini were key contributors. More details will be available at registration.

To learn more about the *Vatican Splendor*, visit [http://www.vaticansplendors.com/](http://www.vaticansplendors.com/)

To learn more about the *Franklin Institute* and its other exhibitions, visit [https://www.fi.edu/exhibitions](https://www.fi.edu/exhibitions)

**Contacts for information and questions on the Congress are:**

Joe Coleman: drjtc30@comcast.net

Bob Lynch: lynchrobertd@comcast.net
150th ANNIVERSARY and 130th MOLLUS National Congress
HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Rooms have been reserved for MOLLUS Members and guests at two locations:

The Inn at the Union League (Headquarters Hotel)
140 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 (215) 563-5596
(MOLLUS rate: $219.00 per night plus applicable tax)

Inn guests are considered temporary members and have access to all Union League facilities, including areas marked “Members Only.”

Full breakfast is included within room rate for up to 2 people per room (additional guests for breakfast are $19.25 including tax and gratuity) served in the Fouquet’s Dining Rooms, located on the first floor. Breakfast Hours: M-F 7-10, S&S 8-11. Make your reservations by the cut-off date of 11 September 2015. Identify yourself as with the “MOLLUS Event” to receive the group room rate.

Overnight parking is available ($32 per night including tax and tip) at the Union League’s Parking Garage located across the street from the League at 1415 Sansom Street. The parking garage is open 24/7. Have parking posted to your guest room account at check in to assure that you have in and out privileges during your stay.

Radisson Blu Warwick Hotel
220 South 17th Street, Rittenhouse Square (a short three-block walk to the Union League) (215) 735-6000
(MOLLUS rate: Superior King rooms at $179 and Superior 2 Double Bed rooms at $199. Rates do not include occupancy tax of 15.5%)

The Radisson Blu Warwick Hotel is situated in the heart of Rittenhouse Square in downtown Philadelphia amid the confluence of boutique retailers, renowned restaurants, and the arts & cultural best of the city.

Accommodations include Club Carlson Points, complimentary Wi-Fi in the guest rooms, complimentary fitness center featuring over 20 pieces of aerobic equipment and separate weight room, three restaurants and bars, and complimentary daily newspapers.

Free overnight self-parking is available for MOLLUS guests at Patriot Parking, 1616 Chancellor Street. The hotel location is just 8.5 miles from the Philadelphia National Airport and one mile from the 30th Street Amtrak Station.

Reservations for October 16th and 17th must be made by September 16, 2015. Please refer to “MOLLUS Event”.

Alternate Hotels:

The Hyatt at the Bellevue Hotel (215) 893-1776
200 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102
(One block from the Union League)

Days Inn (888) 663-7789
1227 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
(Eight blocks from the Union League)

Latham Hotel (215) 563-4034
135 South 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103
(Three block from the Union League)

Holiday Express (215) 735-9300
1305-11 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107
(Two blocks from the Union League)
150th Anniversary and 130th MOLLUS NATIONAL CONGRESS  
October 16-17, 2015  
RESERVATION FORM  
PLEASE INDICATE THE FUNCTIONS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

Registration Fee ................ Number attending _____ $55.00 per person……. $______
(Registration Fee is required for all Companions, Dames, and Guests, children excluded)

FRIDAY 16 October 2015
3:00 pm  Registration opens inside the Sansom Street entrance on the first floor.
6:00 pm  Guided tour of the Union League including the new Heritage Center
         and the MOLLUS Archives Collection........................................... No Charge
6:00 pm  Dinner on your own, options include:
         1.) Union League Dining Room: 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm
         2.) Union League Café: 5:30 pm - 10:30 pm
         3.) McGillin’s Olde Ale House. 1310 Drury Street, 2 1/2 blocks NE from the UL
         4.) Marathon Restaurant located. 121 S 16th St, (corner of 16 and Sansom).
         5.) Misconduct Tavern (bar/restaurant). 1511 Locust St.
8:30 pm  PA Commandery hosts OPEN HOUSE in the C-in-C Suite ....... No Charge

SATURDAY 17 October 2014
8:00 am  Breakfast for those staying at the Union League ......................... No Charge
8:30 am  Meeting for MOLLUS in the Lincoln Memorial Room.
9:00 am  Meeting for DOLLUS in the Sando Room
12:00 pm Lunch and Civil War bus tour or Barnes Foundation tour (Please Check one):
         □ Philadelphia Civil War Bus Tour.  Number on Civil War Tour _____
         □ Barnes Foundation Collection Tour.  Number on Barnes Tour_____
Lunch will be at the German Society of Pennsylvania.
Meet transportation at the Sansom Street entrance at 12:00 pm
Total Number for Tours and Lunch _____ $60.00 per person (including lunch) $______
6:00 pm  Reception with Cash Bar in the McMichael Room- Angela Falco on Piano.
7:00 pm  Dinner in the McMichael Room
         Speaker: Nationally acclaimed Civil War historian and author, Dr. Allen C. Guelzo,
         (White or Black Tie or Uniform with Decorations)
         Number attending _____ $85.00 per person (Cash Bar) ....................... $______
10:15 pm  PA Commandery hosts OPEN HOUSE in the C-in-C Suite ...... No Charge

TOTAL ENCLOSED: (If attending all functions this should be $200.00 per person)..........$______

SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2015 TO:
Robert D. Lynch, Treasurer, MOLLUS PA, 324 Randle Ct. Cherry Hill, NJ 08034
Please make check payable to “MOLLUS PA”

Name: __________________________________ Commandery ______ Phone: __________________
Name to put on Name Tag: ______________________________ Email: _________________________
Additional Names in your party (Show names as to be put on name tag): _______________________
____________________

Address: _______________________________ City ______ State ___ Zip__________

Menus Choices:  □ Beef #_______  □ Fish #_______

Special Dietary Restrictions: _____________________________________________________________
Selected Tourist Opportunities for Companions, Guests and Friends of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of The United States attending the 130 Annual Congress and the 150th Anniversary Celebration October 23-24, 2015 Union League of Philadelphia
Contents

For visitors with some spare time a list of ten popular area tourist attractions has been prepared. For a complete list of Philadelphia area attractions go to:

www.visitphilly.com

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DESCRIPTION

Overview
The Reading Terminal Market, established in 1892 at 12th and Arch Streets, is the nation’s oldest continuously operating farmers’ market. Through its long and interesting history, it has seen times both good and bad, but has emerged in the 21st century as one of the greatest public markets in the country.
When you visit the market, you can enjoy eating virtually every type of cuisine, from sublime soul food and exquisite Asian and Middle Eastern dishes to authentic Philly Cheesesteaks and traditional Pennsylvania Dutch fare — all available from largely family-run stands.

The Experience
The northwestern corner of the market is primarily devoted to Amish merchants from Lancaster County, who bring their farm-fresh products and distinctive prepared dishes to the Market four days a week. Watch as Amish bakers twist and bake soft pretzels right in front of your eyes — then try one while it is still warm from the oven.
Cooks from the finest local restaurants come to the market each morning for the very freshest in meats, poultry, seafood and specialty ingredients. Cooking demonstrations and cookbook signings are frequent events.
In all, the Market boasts more than 80 unique merchants, three of which are descendants of original stand holders from when it opened more than 110 years ago. Sit-down eateries are scattered throughout the market. So when you visit, be sure to allot plenty of time to stroll through the vast food bazaar and browse everything from hand made imported crafts and American quilts to fresh produce, dairy products, exotic meats and seafood, freshly cut flowers, cookbooks and expertly prepared foods ranging from cannolis and soft pretzels to gourmet South Asian and organic vegetarian cuisine.

**Best Sandwich in the Country**
Located in Reading Terminal Market, DiNic’s Roast Pork and Beef now holds the honor of being named the Travel Channel’s “Best Sandwich in America.” Take one bite of DiNic’s homemade sandwiches and you’ll surely agree.

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**2-Independence National Historical Park**

*The birthplace of American democracy*

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**DESCRIPTION**

Known as the birthplace of American democracy, Historic Philadelphia’s Independence National Historical Park (INHP) is located on the site of many of the seminal events that carried the nation through its founding as a global leader of democratic ideals. INHP welcomes more than 3.5 million visitors every year. Many of these visitors line up to see what is the park’s most visited and most famous attraction, the Liberty Bell. The Liberty Bell Center, Independence Hall, Congress Hall, the New Hall Military Museum, Franklin Court, the Bishop White House and the Graff House are just some of the buildings that make up Independence National Historical Park — all of which are free.
The Liberty Bell & Independence Hall: Independence Hall – While historical attractions abound in Philly, Independence Hall has particular significance to the development of the nation. In this building in 1776, the Founding Fathers came together to sign the Declaration of Independence. Eleven years later, representatives from a dozen states met here to lay the framework for the U.S. Constitution. Today, the building is the centerpiece of Independence National Historical Park, and guided tours are available to visitors year-round. Guests should arrive 15 minutes early to allow time for the security line. 520 Chestnut Street

Liberty Bell – Moved to its current location across from Independence Hall in 2003, the bell that was later named the Liberty Bell was originally cast in Great Britain and recast in 1753 in Philadelphia to adorn the State House. Used to call the Pennsylvania Assembly to meetings, it was soon adopted by abolitionists, suffragists, Civil Rights advocates, Native Americans, immigrants, war protestors and others as their symbol. The 44-pound clapper caused the Bell’s crack on its first use, and though it has been recast twice, the imperfection remains today. Visitors can tour the Liberty Bell Center year-round. 526 Market Street

Tickets
Tickets are not required to visit the Liberty Bell. However, tickets are necessary to tour Independence Hall from March 1 to December 31. These free, timed tickets can be picked up at the Independence Visitor Center the day of your trip. You may also reserve tickets in advance online or by calling (800) 967-2283 (from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.) for a fee of $1.50.

The Independence Visitor Center
The Independence Visitor Center is located at One North Independence Mall West, at the intersection of 6th & Market Streets (across from the Liberty Bell Center). For more information, call (800) 537-7676 or visit www.phlvisitorcenter.com.

The History of Independence National Historical Park
The site of INHP has not remained static in the nearly two-and-a-half centuries since the Declaration of Independence was adopted there on July 4, 1776. Instead, it has grown and progressed with the times, emerging in the early 21st century as a National Historical Park, providing a living model of history for the generations who come to experience it.

The Early Days:
The four blocks between Walnut and Arch Streets and 5th and 6th Streets, now known as Independence Mall, have served as a central gathering place for citizens since the mid-18th century. Throughout parts of the 18th century, while the Articles of Confederation (1781), the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the U.S. Constitution (1787) were being created inside Independence Hall, Presidents George Washington and John Adams lived at 190 High Street, now the 500 block of Market Street. Just two blocks north, where the National Constitution Center now stands, the streets bustled with a community of vendors, artisans, shopkeepers and free black families. The first Free Quaker Meeting House was also built here in 1784 as a place of worship for Quakers who had been “read out” of the religion, many for disregarding its pacifist obligations and taking up arms in the Revolution.
Thanks to Philadelphia’s growing reputation, the city served as the first capital of the young country from 1790 until 1800.

**Party In The U.S.A:**
In 1976, Philadelphia celebrated the Bicentennial in grand fashion and marked the event with the opening of two cultural museums near the Mall: The African American Museum in Philadelphia and the National Museum of American Jewish History. The Constitution’s 200th birthday 11 years later presented another cause for celebration. This year also marked the beginning of a campaign to establish a memorial honoring the Constitution that would be built with rocks collected from every state in the Union. Although the “Rocks Across America” initiative lost momentum the following year, its short life helped inspire the idea for the National Constitution Center.

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**4-Philadelphia Museum of Art**

*Third-largest art museum in the country and a must-see attraction*

**DESCRIPTION**

**The Experience**
Like Philadelphia’s own Parthenon, the Philadelphia Museum of Art sits majestically on a rise at the end of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. The vast collections of this temple of art make it the third-largest art museum in the country, and an absolute must-see on the city’s cultural circuit.

Among its impressive holdings in Renaissance, American, Impressionist and Modern art, some standouts include a great Rogier van der Weyden altarpiece, a large Bathers by Cezanne, a room devoted to Philadelphia’s own Thomas Eakins, and Marcel Duchamp’s
notorious mixed-media Bride Stripped Bare by her Bachelors (The Large Glass), exactly as the dada master installed it.

Upstairs, breathe in other cultures and times through over 80 period rooms, from the medieval cloister to the Indian temple. The Museum has wowed visitors in recent years with shows it helped to organize, from Cezanne and Degas to Brancusi and Barnett Newman.

5-Top 10 Spots for Authentic Philly Cheesesteaks

Our picks for the best places to go for an Authentic Philly Cheesesteak experience

Here in Philly, cheesesteaks are a civic icon, a tourist draw and a cultural obsession. Often imitated around the world, the cheesesteak is rarely duplicated successfully outside of Philadelphia.

What Is A Cheesesteak?
A cheesesteak is a long, crusty roll filled with thinly sliced sautéed ribeye beef and melted cheese. Generally, the cheese of choice is Cheez Whiz, but American and provolone are also common choices. The art of cheesesteak preparation lies in the balance of flavors, textures and what is often referred to as the “drip” factor. Other toppings may include fried onions, sautéed mushrooms, ketchup and hot or sweet peppers.

Some sandwich shops also offer a cheesesteak hoagie, a hybrid version that combines the cheesesteak with cold hoagie dressings like lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise. Cheesesteaks are fast, portable and readily available at steak shops, delis, food trucks, pizzerias and even some high-end restaurants throughout the region.

Cheesesteak History

The cheesesteak made its official debut in 1930. Pat Olivieri was a South Philadelphia hot dog vendor who one day decided to put some beef from the butcher on his grill. A taxicab driver noticed the alluring aroma and asked for his own steak sandwich. The next day, as the story goes, rumor of the delicious lunch had spread, and cabbies around the city came to Olivieri demanding steak sandwiches. Soon after, Olivieri opened up a shop on 9th Street and Passyunk Avenue, Pat’s King of Steaks, to sell his new creation. Eventually, according to legend, he added cheese to the recipe. Today, Pat’s grills are sizzling 24 hours a day, as are Geno’s, the rival shop across the street. For 40 years, the two shops have waged a friendly competition to win the title of best cheesesteak

in town, with Geno’s founder, Joe Vento, claiming it was he, not Olivieri, who first added cheese to the cheesesteak.
How To Order A Cheesesteak

When ordering a cheesesteak at one of Philly’s most famous cheesesteak shops, the idea is to let the cashier know a.) that you would like a cheesesteak, b.) what type of cheese you want, and c.) whether or not you want fried onions. And you have to be as concise as possible while doing so.

Locals have become so adept at this practice that they basically have it down to three words: saying “one whiz with” to the person behind the counter means that you would like one cheesesteak [denoted by the “one”] with Cheez Whiz as your choice of cheese [denoted by the “whiz”] and with fried onions [denoted by the “with”]. Similarly, saying “one provolone without” would secure you a single cheesesteak [one] made with provolone cheese [provolone] and without fried onions [without]. Or saying “two american with” would get you two cheesesteaks both with american cheese and fried onions.

Ok. Got it? Now go ahead and test out your ordering prowess for real. Just be forewarned: lines can be long at peak times, and if you don’t have your order and money ready to go, you might be sent to the back of the queue.

And now on to the list of where to find the Best Cheesesteaks in Philadelphia.

Where To Find The Best Cheesesteaks in Philadelphia

1. John’s Roast Pork-A small shack amidst shopping plazas, John’s Roast Pork is perennially cited as one of the city’s top steak spots and it gets our nod for #1. Its secret weapon? A crusty seeded roll. John’s has long been a favorite of South Philadelphia dock workers and contractors, having Also, don’t miss the namesake roast pork sandwich. 14 Snyder Avenue, (215) 463-1951.

2. Tony Luke’s-Located next to an I-95 underpass on an otherwise dull stretch of Oregon Avenue in South Philadelphia, Tony Luke’s is another South Philadelphia institution. There’s no need for an inside here — you order and pick up your sandwich from the street side windows and feast upon your reward at the outdoor picnic-style tables, 39 E. Oregon Avenue. (215) 551-5725.

3. Pat’s King of Steaks-The original home of the cheesesteak, Pat’s King of Steaks is still owned and operated by the Olivieri family. Pat’s claim to fame is that its founder, Pat Olivieri, invented the steak sandwich in 1930. Since then, Pat’s has grown from a little stand at the southern end of South Philly’s Italian Market to one of the most famous cheesesteak shops in the world, albeit still in the same location (and still the only location). 9th Street & Passyunk Avenue, (215) 468-1546.

4. Geno’s Steaks-It may be across the street from the oldest cheesesteak joint in town, but Geno’s Steaks is a formidable competitor going roll-for-roll with Pat’s for more than four decades. Geno’s has been slinging its famous cheesesteaks from the same location here for more than 40 years now. Like Pat’s, Geno’s is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week so you can visit whenever you get the urge. 1219 S. 9th Street, (215) 389-0659.
5. Jim’s Steaks-Jim’s Steaks has multiple locations, but the classic smell of fried onions wafting down South Street makes that location the most memorable. Jim’s Steaks is South Street’s premier cheesesteak shop. The crowds can often mean an extra long wait before you actually get to taste one of Jim’s fine cheesesteak sandwiches, as the line at Jim’s often stretches out the front door and around the corner onto Fourth Street. 400 South Street, (267) 519-9253.

6. Campo’s Deli-Campo’s Deli is a great spot for anyone looking to sample some authentic Philadelphia flavor without traveling too far to get it. Conveniently located on Market Street in Old City, Campo’s is only three blocks from the Liberty Bell and the Independence Visitor Center. More famous for its creative menu of hoagies, Campo’s Deli cooks up a respectable traditional cheesesteak, and they ship to other cities as well. 214 Market Street, (215) 923-1000.

7. McNally’s Tavern-McNally’s is a Chestnut Hill landmark and it’s famous for its signature sandwich, the Schmitter®, which is a variation of Philadelphia’s famous cheesesteak sandwich. The Schmitter includes the traditional grilled steak, fried onions and melted cheese but adds grilled salami, grilled tomatoes and a special sauce and comes on a toasted Kaiser roll instead of a long hoagie roll. While the combination might sound strange, it’s famous for a reason — it’s frighteningly delicious. 8634 Germantown Avenue.

8. Dalessandro’s Steaks-If you’re a savvy enough cheesesteak aficionado, you will no doubt want to make the trek out to Roxborough, near Manayunk in Philadelphia’s northwestern ridge. There, along Henry Avenue, you’ll find Dalessandro’s Steaks. Dalessandro’s has been serving delicious — if sinfully greasy — cheesesteaks from their corner locale for as long as anybody can remember. 600 Wendover Street, (215) 482-5407.

9. Steve’s Prince of Steaks-The original location of Steve’s is on Bustleton Avenue in the Great Northeast section of the city, where over the past 30+ years Steve’s has earned a sizable and devoted following of fans who swear the long, thin cheesesteaks that the “Prince” serves are the best in Philadelphia. At their new location at 16th & Market in Center City which opened in 2013, Steve’s is making their famous cheesesteaks a lot more accessible so expect many more visitors to become Steve’s devotees in the near future. And we encourage you to go taste one for yourself and find out why. 41 S. 16th Street, (215) 972-6090; 7200 Bustleton Avenue, (215) 338-0985.

10. Shank’s Original-Visit Shank’s Original for a highly reputed cheesesteak and an old-school experience on the Delaware River Waterfront. The tradition of Shank’s dates back to 1962 when Shank’s and Evelyn’s (“Shank’s”) opened its doors to the Italian Market near 10th and Catherine Streets. In 2009, Shank’s closed it’s original location and is now found on Pier 40 on the Delaware River. 901 S. Christopher Columbus Blvd., (215) 218-4000.
DESCRIPTION

The Experience
With more than 3,600 acres of rolling hills and well-worn trails, Valley Forge is now a magnet for runners, bicyclists and picnickers as well as history buffs. The vast expanse of open space links the Schuylkill River Trail to the Horse Shoe Trail, turning the park into a major hub in a 75-mile system linking Philadelphia to the Appalachian Trail.

Yet the monuments, statues and buildings that evoke more than 225 years of American history give this expanse of nature a palpable sense of the past, making it a favorite destination for families.

Valley Forge and the Revolutionary War
Of all the places associated with America’s War for Independence, none convey the suffering, sacrifice and ultimate triumph of our nation more than Valley Forge. No battles were fought here; no bayonet charges or artillery bombardments took place. Nonetheless, some 2,000 soldiers died – more Americans than were killed at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown combined.

Valley Forge is the story of an army’s epic struggle to survive against terrible odds, hunger, disease and the unrelenting forces of nature. Rows of cannons in Artillery Park; the soldiers’ log huts; and earthen fortifications around the rim of the park are silent reminders of the past.

With the British army occupying Philadelphia, Continental commander George Washington had to find a place to encamp for the winter. He chose what seemed to be a strategic high-ridded area to the West. The winter was fierce, and 2,000 men died without a shot fired, yet they emerged in mid-1778 to win significant battles.
Though no military battle was fought here, the six months in Valley Forge, with its heavily-rationed supplies and awful winter, were among the roughest for the Continental Army during the entire war.

**Today**
The refurbished Welcome Center displays a new exhibit, “Determined to Persevere,” utilizing Revolutionary War artifacts to tell the story of life during the winter encampment. You can touch muskets, and see how even General Washington lived in tough conditions. The outbuildings, some authentic, like Washington’s Headquarters, and some replicated, like the Muhlenberg Brigade huts, bring that pivotal winter to life. Like no other Revolutionary War site, Valley Forge suggests the arduous spiritual and physical experience the Continental army went through on its way to eventual victory.

Today, Valley Forge is a lush, 3,600-acre expanse of rolling hillsides dotted with flowering dogwood trees. Washington’s original stone headquarters has been restored and furnished, and statues and monuments throughout the park remind visitors of our national heritage. Among them are the Memorial Arch; statues of General “Mad Anthony” Wayne and Baron Friedrich von Steuben; and the Monument to Patriots of African Descent. Costumed interpreters are posted at the Muhlenberg Brigade huts on summer weekends, and at Washington’s Headquarters all year-round.

Recreation facilities in the park include designated picnic areas, a six-mile multi-use trail, ten miles of horse trails and the Schuylkill River Trail, a Valley Forge-to-Philadelphia multi-use trail.

**Come Prepared**
Dogs are welcome. You can Fly-fish in Valley Creek with a permit; long pants and hiking shoes are recommended for the hiking trails; and there are water fountains, bathrooms and changing facilities located throughout the Park.
6-Longwood Gardens

One of the world’s premier horticultural display gardens

DESCRIPTION

The Experience
When you’re at Longwood Gardens, it’s easy to imagine that you’re at a giant, royal garden in Europe. Stroll along the many paths through acres of exquisitely maintained grounds featuring 11,000 different types of plants. Encounter a new vista at each turn: the Italian Water Garden, Flower Garden Walk, aquatic display gardens and many others. Amble through Peirce’s Woods, eight outdoor “rooms” of distinct woodland habitats. Inside the Conservatory is a lush world of exotic flowers, cacti, bromeliads, ferns and bonsai.

Each season brings a different pleasure: spring magnolias and azaleas; summer roses and water lilies; fall foliage and chrysanthemums; and winter camellias, orchids and palms. On land Quaker settler George Peirce purchased from William Penn, Peirce’s grandsons planted an impressive arboretum. The presence of a sawmill on the property prompted industrialist Pierre Samuel du Pont to buy the land in 1906 to save the trees.

Christmas is spectacularly celebrated with carillon concerts, poinsettias and thousands of lights; summer evenings are embellished with concerts, illuminated fountain displays and occasional fireworks.

Meadow Garden
Opened in 2014, the gorgeous 86-acre Meadow Garden is a scenic addition to Longwood Gardens. Wander through three miles of walking and hiking trails featuring colorful fields of wildflowers, the historic Webb Farmhouse and Galleries and four learning pavilions. The new experience shows guests how meadows have evolved since the 1700s and the importance of nature conservation efforts.

The Webb Farmhouse, a staple of the garden since the 1700s, features two galleries — the first showcases the meadow during all four seasons and the second features the people who inhabited the meadow over time. Throughout the garden, expect visits from wildlife including deer, butterflies, birds, beavers, bees and more in addition to bridges that cross
numerous water sources on the grounds. Meadow Garden also boasts an elevated boardwalk, which takes 15-minutes to cross, for different views of the landscape. Learn more about the new Meadow Garden by clicking the button below.

**Don’t Miss**
Indoor Children’s Garden — Surrounded by tree-covered seating and Longwood’s famous fountains, the new Indoor Children’s Garden provides a safe and engaging space where children can learn about nature with amazing plants and fun activities around every corner. The Garden features a Central Cove, a Rain Pavilion and a Bamboo Maze, filled with a jungle of tree-sized bamboos for children to explore.

**Outsider’s Tip**
There are 17 fountains in the Indoor Children’s Garden to enjoy, where children will want to splash and play. An extra shirt or small towel might come in handy!

### 7-The Franklin Institute
*One of the oldest and most beloved science museums in the country*

**DESCRIPTION**

**The Experience**
An innovator in designing hands-on exhibits before “interactive” became a buzzword, The Franklin Institute is as clever as its namesake. Its eminently touchable attractions explore science in disciplines ranging from sports to space. Highlights include The Sports Challenge, which uses virtual-reality technology to illustrate the physics of sports; The Train Factory’s climb-aboard steam engine; Space Command’s simulated earth-orbit research station; a fully equipped weather station; and exhibits on electricity. Films assume grand proportions on the Tuttleman IMAX Theater’s 79-foot domed screen; galaxies are formed and deep space explored in North America’s second-oldest planetarium, which reopened in 2002, sporting the continent’s most advanced technology. Don’t miss the 3D Theater and the indoor SkyBike.
**Genghis Khan: Bring the Legend to Life**

**Dates:** Through January 3, 2016  
Discover one of history’s most influential rulers, conquerors and politicians with Genghis Khan: Bring The Legend To Life, at The Franklin Institute. Explore the treasures and stories of Genghis Khan’s 13th-century Mongol Empire with more than 200 artifacts, multimedia elements, videos, murals, in-depth histories and even sensory experiences.

**Your Brain at the Franklin Institute**

Discover what’s going on inside your head at the Franklin Institute’s newest permanent exhibition, Your Brain. The centerpiece of the new Nicholas and Athena Karabots Pavilion expansion, the 8,500-square-foot exhibition is an interactive, high-tech glimpse into the power of the brain.  
Fire a neuron and wander amongst the discreet pathways that allow your brain to control the rest of your body. Learn how your brain interprets and analyzes information from the outside world and see how things are not always as they seem on a city street filled with illusions.

**Nicholas and Athena Karabots Pavilion**

Opened in summer 2014, the Nicholas and Athena Karabots Pavilion is a massive 53,000-square-foot space for permanent and traveling exhibitions.  
The dazzling, three-story expansion of the Franklin Institute also holds the spectacular new permanent exhibition, Your Brain – more info above.  
On the exterior of the Pavilion you’ll find a Shimmer Wall created by internationally renowned artist Ned Kahn. Composed of 12,500 clear anodized aluminum squares, the Shimmer Wall changes with the wind.

**The History**

In 1824, The Franklin Institute opened in Independence Hall to honor Benjamin Franklin and his inventiveness. In 1934, with the construction of the current building and the adjacent Fels Planetarium, it became a hands-on science museum. The IMAX Theater and the Mandell Center were added in 1990. Today, it’s Pennsylvania’s most visited museum. In the museum’s rotunda is the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial, with a 20-foot-tall marble statue of the scientist and Founding Father.

**Great Kid’s Stuff**

Course through the walk-through heart like a human corpuscle; at 15,000 times life size, it’s one of the museum’s first and most popular attractions.
8-The Betsy Ross House

The Betsy Ross House is the birthplace of the American flag. The home of the nation’s famous seamstress is a must-see historic attraction for visitors and locals alike. Wander through the tiny rooms and tight staircases of the 1740 home that Betsy rented as she made her living as an upholsterer. During your tour, you can talk to Betsy herself and discover why she took on the potentially treasonous task when George Washington came knocking and the time-saving trick she shared with the great general. On the self-guided tour, you can explore her upholstery shop, her parlor where she received the Flag Committee, the bedroom where she sewed the first flag and her basement where she made musket cartridges for the Continental Army. Throughout the home, you’ll see Ross family treasures including her family bible, snuff box, and more.

Changing exhibits in the gallery offer unique peeks into rarely seen corners of Colonial life. Audio guides are also available, including a special version just for kids, where Betsy’s voice shares more insight on life among the working class in 18th century Philadelphia.

History
The raging war for Independence created many widows. Betsy Griscom Ross Ashburn Claypool ultimately lost three husbands, but unlike many widows who were left without resources, her skills as a seamstress enabled her to support herself and her seven children. She operated her business well past the age of 70 and finally died at the age of 84. Betsy Ross is buried beneath the giant elm, magnolia and sycamore trees that shade the courtyard of her home in Historic Philadelphia.
The Philadelphia Zoo

**Animals and plants thrive at America’s first zoo**

**DESCRIPTION**

**Overview**
One of the best laid-out and most animal-packed zoos in the country, the Philadelphia Zoo is set among a charming 42-acre Victorian garden with tree-lined walks, formal shrubbery, ornate iron cages and animal sculptures. The zoo has garnered many “firsts” in addition to being the first zoo charted in the United States (1859), including the first orangutan and chimp births in a U.S. zoo (1928), the world’s first children’s zoo (1957) and the first U.S. exhibit of white lions (1993), among others. In addition to its animals, the zoo is known for its historic architecture, which includes the country home of William Penn’s grandson, its botanical collections of over 500 plant species, its groundbreaking research and its fine veterinary facilities.

**Zoo 360**
Animals at the Philadelphia Zoo are on the move like never before. With the new animal exploration trail experience called Zoo360, a campus-wide network of see-through mesh trails affords more opportunities for animals to roam around and above zoo grounds.
This is another first — both at America’s first zoo and in the world — and continues the zoo’s commitment to excellence in animal care and to inspiring guests to conservation action. See tigers, orangutans, lemurs and other animals explore above your head and around the zoo. Plus, the zoo’s Big Cat Crossing exhibit (which is part of Zoo 360) was recently named the winner in the Best Zoo Exhibit category of USA TODAY’s 10Best Readers’ Choice travel award contest.

**PECO Primate Reserve**
As you approach PECO Primate Reserve, imagine for a minute that a group of primate conservationists have taken up residence in an abandoned timber mill to help save primates from around the world. All over the two-and-a-half acres of indoor and outdoor exhibits, you’ll hear the stories of real people who dedicate their lives to saving some of the world’s most endangered primate and see orangutans, gorillas, gibbons and more.

**KidZooU**
KidZooU: Hamilton Family Children’s Zoo & Faris Family Education Center is an L.E.E.D.-certified indoor/outdoor children’s zoo boasting a barnyard where kids can pet and brush sheep, mini-horses, goats, chickens and ducks and an indoor education center and wildlife academy teeming with coral reef fish, colorful parakeets, desert ants and more.

Kids learn how saving energy saves wildlife at the action stations, and they burn off some of their own energy on play equipment, climbing ramps and spheres. What’s more, throughout the zoo, visitors can look up to see an extension of the existing Treetop Trail that allows primates to travel overhead through the trees; it’s part of the zoo’s ongoing campus-wide travel system for animals.

**McNeil Avian Center**
The 17.5-million McNeil Avian Center incorporates lush, walk-through habitats where visitors can discover more than 100 spectacular birds from around the world, many of them rare and endangered. And in the multi-sensory 4-D Migration Theater, viewers can follow Otis the Oriole on his first migration south from where he hatched in Fairmount Park.

**Big Cat Falls**
The pride of the Philadelphia Zoo, First Niagara Big Cat Falls, home to felines from around the world, opened in 2006. The lush exhibition features waterfalls, pools, authentic plantings and a simulated research station for aspiring zoologists. Lions, leopards, jaguars, pumas and tigers are the star attractions.

**History**
The nation’s first zoo was chartered in 1859, but the impending Civil War delayed its opening until 1874. In addition to its animals, the zoo is known for its historic architecture, which includes the country home of William Penn’s grandson; its botanical collections of over 500 plant species; its groundbreaking research and its fine veterinary facilities. With Zoo360 and other innovations, Philadelphia Zoo is positioned to keep making history.
DESCRIPTION

The Experience
At 887 feet of armor-plated steel, the 45,000-ton Battleship New Jersey dominates not only the New Jersey waterfront, but also American naval history. Winding through tight, narrow companionways, visitors see the communication center, officers’ and enlisted men’s mess halls and sleeping quarters, which range from small private rooms for senior officers to even smaller cots stacked atop each other for enlisted men.

The dimly lit Combat Engagement Center displays radar and sonar tracking stations, while videos show the launch of Tomahawk missiles. A highlight of the tour is the turret where 2,700-pound shells were loaded and fired. Best of all, some of the tour guides served active duty on the “Big J” and are more than happy to share their personal experiences.

History
Through World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Gulf War, the Iowa-class Battleship New Jersey earned an unprecedented 19 Battle and Campaign Stars for outstanding service. As technology changed, the ship’s equipment changed, too. Today the battleship is preserved how it was when it was decommissioned for the fourth and final time in 1991. Visitors can travel back to an earlier time in the battleship’s history on the 4D flight simulator’s “Seahawk” program, which re-creates a WWII era dogfight over Iwo Jima.

Other Information
Open daily April – December and Friday – Monday, January – March
Insider Tip
The temperature in the engine room often reached a brutal 130 degrees, limiting sailors to four-hour shifts.

Kids’ Stuff
Everything here, from the voice powered phones to the torpedo loading stations to the Combat Engagement Center, will captivate kids age 5 and over.

Buy Tickets In Advance
Tickets for the Battleship New Jersey can be purchased in person at the Independence Visitor Center or online in advance of your trip.
For Companions and guests with free time, their visit to Philadelphia follows the visit of Pope Francis just a month earlier. As part of that celebration, over 200 works of art and historically significant objects that form, together, a great mosaic history of the church and its impact on art, history and culture will be on display at The Franklin Institute, just a short taxi ride from the Union League.

The Vatican Splendors as it is called, includes many artifacts which have never before left Vatican City. The collection is composed of renaissance art along with work from the baroque period. The 11 galleries (10,000 square foot exhibition area) walk you through the history of Christianity and the amazing art that came out of Rome. An impressive focus in the exhibition is on the Basilica of which Michelangelo and Bernini were key contributors. You will see relics discovered at the tombs of saints Peter and Paul. There is a bronze casting of the hand of St John Paul II.

The Franklin Institute is located at 222 N. 20th Street in Philadelphia. Timed tickets, which are sold at half-hour intervals and include general admission, are priced at $34.95 and can be purchased online at www.fi.edu.

The Franklin Institute hours are 9:30 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Wednesday and 9:30 am - 9:00 pm Thursday through Sunday (tickets are just $22.95 after 5:00 pm).

More details will be available at registration.

To learn more about the Vatican Splendors, visit http://www.vaticansplendors.com/

To learn more about the Franklin Institute and its other exhibitions, visit https://www.fi.edu/exhibitions