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## **America at 250 Marks the Launch of the Susannah Twitty Medal of Bravery™**

**GROVER, NORTH CAROLINA — July 4, 2026** — As the United States celebrates America at 250, commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Presidential Service Center® (USPSC) and the American Revolutionary War Living History Center™, LLC (ARWLHC) proudly announce the official launch of the Susannah Twitty Medal of Bravery™, a new national distinction established to recognize extraordinary courage, selfless service by teenage girls, leadership under pressure, and unwavering moral conviction for the American shero of Susannah Twitty in her hometown of Grover, NC.

Inspired by the life and legacy of Susannah Twitty Graham Miller, a young patriot of the Carolina frontier during the American Revolution, the Susannah Twitty Medal of Bravery™ honors young ladies whose actions demonstrate the timeless virtues that helped build the American Republic: courage, resilience, determination, service, and leadership in moments of uncertainty. The award seeks to recognize those who act when action is required, lead when leadership is absent and place the welfare of others above themselves.

The release of the Susannah Twitty Medal of Bravery™ during the national observance of America at 250 serves as both a tribute to the nation's revolutionary heritage and a challenge to future generations. Organizers believe that the spirit demonstrated by Susannah Twitty more than two centuries ago remains as relevant today as it was during the struggle for independence.

“America’s story has never belonged solely to presidents, generals, all men, or famous figures,” said Professor Martin CJ Mongiello, President of the United States Presidential Service Center® and Co-CEO of the American Revolutionary War Living History Center™, LLC. “It has also

been written by ordinary citizens who rose to extraordinary moments. Susannah Twitty represents that spirit. Her courage reminds us that leadership is often found in the quietest places and among people history almost forgot.”

Historical accounts associated with Graham’s Fort describe Susannah Twitty as a fearless bareback rider, accomplished markswoman, and determined young woman who repeatedly placed herself at risk to protect her community. Her story has become a symbol of frontier courage and the often-overlooked contributions of women during the struggle for American independence.

The Battle of Graham’s Fort, located in present-day Grover, North Carolina, is recognized as the only documented American Revolutionary War battle site located within Cleveland County, North Carolina. The battle represents a significant chapter in the history of the Carolina Backcountry and stands as a reminder that the struggle for American independence was fought not only by famous generals and armies, but also by frontier families defending their homes, children, and communities. The actions of Susannah Twitty during the battle continue to inspire historians, educators, and citizens more than two centuries later.

Unlike many awards that are presented on a fixed annual schedule, the Susannah Twitty Medal of Bravery™ was intentionally designed without numerical limitations. Recipients may be identified and honored whenever deserving candidates are vetted and approved through the program’s selection process. The award is governed by the Susannah Council, which includes descendants, historians, community representatives, and members of the United States Presidential Service Center®.

The Susannah Twitty Medal of Bravery™ is built upon the Four Pillars of Frontier Leadership:

Courage Under Pressure — Taking decisive action when circumstances demand it.

Mastery of Skills — Demonstrating competence, preparation, and excellence.

Service Leadership — Building others up while serving the greater good.

Situational Leadership — Adapting effectively during crisis and uncertainty.

These principles were inspired by historical accounts of Susannah Twitty’s actions and are intended to encourage future generations to embrace simple, frontier leadership rooted in teenage years of a human in character rather than status, fame, wealth, or political influence.

The medal itself features a sculpted likeness of Susannah Twitty carrying her rifle, framed by patriotic symbolism and finished in an antiqued gold design. The American Revolutionary War Living History Center™, LLC a sponsoring organization of the medal program, has spent years researching, preserving, interpreting, and presenting the history of the Revolutionary War in the Carolina Backcountry, including the story of Graham’s Fort and the role of Susannah Twitty. Through educational programming, museum exhibits, living-history demonstrations, a commissioned painting of her by Martin and Stormy Mongiello, publications, and public

presentations, the organization seeks to ensure that local patriots and heroines receive the recognition they deserve.

Through the creation of the Susannah Twitty Medal of Bravery™, the United States Presidential Service Center® and the American Revolutionary War Living History Center™, LLC seek to preserve not only the memory of Susannah Twitty Graham Miller, but also the enduring legacy of the Battle of Graham's Fort, the only documented American Revolutionary War battle site located within present-day Cleveland County, North Carolina. The medal serves as a bridge between the courage displayed on the Carolina frontier in the 1780s and the leadership challenges faced by Americans today.

“Susannah Twitty did not seek fame, applause, or recognition,” Stormy Mongiello added. “She simply stepped forward when her people needed her in open warfare and combat. That is the kind of leadership this medal seeks to honor.”

As America reflects upon 250 years of independence, the Susannah Twitty Medal of Bravery™ stands as a reminder that freedom has always depended upon individuals willing to confront fear, accept responsibility, and act with courage. It celebrates the belief that leadership is not inherited, purchased, elected, or bestowed by title alone, it is earned through action.

The first nominations for the Susannah Twitty Medal of Bravery™ are expected to be accepted beginning July 4, 2026.

### **About the United States Presidential Service Center®**

The United States Presidential Service Center® is a national educational, cultural, and historical organization dedicated to preserving and interpreting the stories of service, leadership, innovation, diplomacy, and citizenship that have shaped the United States Presidency for 250 years starting with General Washington's Life Guard bodyguard unit. Through museums, educational initiatives, awards, publications, events, and public programs, the organization seeks to inspire future generations through the lessons of America's past.

### **About the American Revolutionary War Living History Center™, LLC**

The American Revolutionary War Living History Center™ is dedicated to preserving, researching, interpreting, and presenting the people, places, battles, culture, and daily life of the American Revolution, with particular emphasis on the Southern Campaign and Carolina Backcountry. Through immersive educational experiences, living-history programming, historical interpretation, and public engagement, the organization works to ensure that the stories of America's founding generation remain alive for future generations.

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