



THE HUNGARIAN HERO IN CHARLESTON'S REVOLUTIONARY STORY

Honoring Michael Kovats' Legacy in Charleston, SC

The Hungary Foundation

The Hungary Foundation is an educational and cultural nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering deeper connections between Hungary and the United States. At the heart of its mission is the idea that history can serve as a bridge to promote cultural understanding, highlight shared values, and strengthen international ties.



Charleston played a key role in the American Revolution as a strategic port and the site of the pivotal 1780 siege.



Recognizing a Shared Hero

*"A famous Hungarian to who American history owes so much."
— Ronald Reagan*

In 2026, as the United States celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding, the Hungary Foundation seeks to honor one of Hungary's most extraordinary contributions to American history: **Founding Father of the US Cavalry, Michael Kovats de Fabriczy**, who helped secure America's independence during the Revolutionary War. While celebrated in both Hungary and the United States, Kovats has yet to be fully recognized in Charleston, where he gave his life fighting for freedom.

A Lasting Tribute in Marion Square

To commemorate his legacy, the Hungary Foundation has launched an effort to commission a monumental equestrian statue on Charleston's main civic space, **Marion Square**. Named after Revolutionary War Lt. Col. Francis Marion, alongside whom Kovats fought, the Square has long been a center of Charleston's military heritage, serving as a military parade ground adjacent to The Citadel in the 19th century. Its rich history makes it a fitting location to honor one of the founders of the American cavalry.

The Story of Michael Kovats

*"Kovats' legacy is an inspiring example of heroism, perseverance, and commitment to liberty."
— Jimmy Carter*

Colonel Commandant Michael Kovats de Fabriczy, born in Karcag, Hungary was a distinguished war hero who gave his life in service to American independence. An experienced Hungarian cavalry officer, Kovats fought in campaigns across Prussia, Poland, and France before freely volunteering his expertise and devotion to the American patriots.

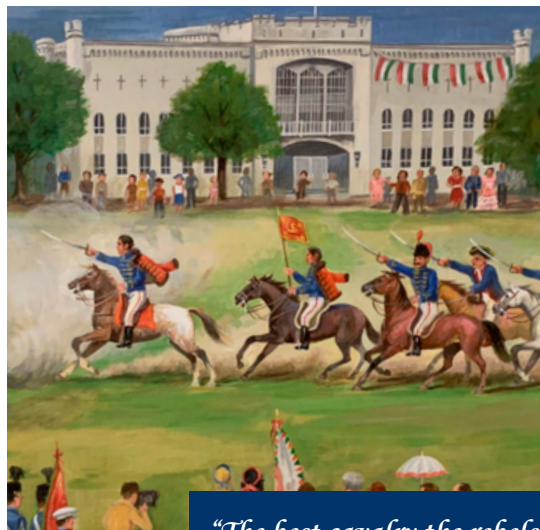
In early 1777, he wrote to Benjamin Franklin, the American envoy in France, expressing his commitment to the cause. Within months, he met General George Washington—becoming the only known Hungarian to have met the Commander in Chief during the War.

Kovats, alongside Polish Count Kazimierz Pułaski, is credited as a founder of the American cavalry. At a critical moment, they provided the expertise the rebels lacked, transforming inexperienced militias into disciplined cavalry units capable of defeating superior British forces.

He died while leading an assault on British troops in Charleston on May 11, 1779.



Kovats Memorial, The Citadel



DAR Commemorative plaque and Pułaski flag, The Old Exchange

"The best cavalry the rebels ever had." — British Major Francis Skelley

An Invitation to Honor a Shared Hungarian–American Legacy

Kovats' story inspires courage, unity, and the enduring pursuit of freedom. His sacrifice in the Revolution links Hungary and America through shared ideals, while highlighting both the international support behind the War and Charleston's central role in shaping our nation's history.

We invite you to help commemorate Michael Kovats with a sculpted equestrian statue in Marion Square, where his sacrifice for independence will inspire Americans and Hungarians for generations to come. Today Marion Square welcomes millions of visitors annually, making it one of the most visible public spaces in South Carolina.



HUNGARY
FOUNDATION

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Our Role in Honoring the Hungarian Hero of the American Revolution

Leadership donors become founding partners in one of the most significant Hungarian-American commemorative projects ever undertaken in the United States. Their generosity will create a permanent public monument that will inspire millions of visitors for generations to come.



Platinum: \$500,000+

- **Exclusive Curated Budapest Heritage Experience including visit to statue foundry**
- Prominent recognition on the commemorative plaque displayed at the statue site
- An exclusive miniature replica of the Kovats Statue
- Premier recognition within the Michael Kovats Statue section on the project's official website
- Dedicated spotlight feature across press releases and official social media channels (if preferred)
- Priority invitations to Hungary Foundation commemorative ceremonies held at the statue site
- A distinguished commemorative certificate of appreciation

Gold: \$250,000+

- **An exclusive miniature replica of the Kovats Statue**
- Prominent recognition on the commemorative plaque displayed at the statue site
- Top recognition on the project's official website
- Spotlight feature across press releases and official social media channels (if preferred)
- Priority invitations to Hungary Foundation commemorative ceremonies held at the statue site
- A distinguished commemorative certificate of appreciation

Silver: \$100,000+

- **Private preview of the monument design with the sculptors**
- Special recognition on the commemorative plaque displayed at the statue site
- Recognition on the project's official website
- Feature across press releases and official social media channels (if preferred)
- Invitations to Hungary Foundation Michael Kovats commemorative events
- A distinguished commemorative certificate of appreciation

Bronze: \$50,000+

- **Recognition on the commemorative plaque displayed at the statue site**
- Recognition on the project's official website
- Feature across press releases and official social media channels (if preferred)
- Invitations to Hungary Foundation Michael Kovats commemorative events
- A distinguished commemorative certificate of appreciation

The Hungary Foundation is a Washington, DC-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions to the Michael Kovats Memorial Campaign are US tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. Donors will receive an acknowledgment letter for tax purposes.



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Our Role in Honoring the Hungarian Hero of the American Revolution

Patriot Society \$25,000+

- **Invitation for two to the dedication ceremony and donor reception**
- Limited-edition bronze desk medallion
- Signed commemorative print of the statue
- Recognition on the project's official website
- Distinguished certificate of appreciation

Founders' Circle \$10,000+

- **Limited-edition bronze desk medallion**
- Invitation for two to the dedication ceremony and donor reception
- Recognition on the project's official website
- Premium commemorative Michael Kovats Heritage apparel item
- Distinguished certificate of appreciation

Benefactor \$5,000+

- **Limited edition commemorative stationery featuring Pulaski legion flag**
- Invitation to the dedication ceremony
- Recognition on the project's official website
- Exclusive Michael Kovats commemorative lapel pin
- Personalized certificate of appreciation

Founding Supporter \$1,000+

- **Invitation to the dedication ceremony**
- Recognition on the project's official website
- Exclusive Michael Kovats commemorative lapel pin
- Personalized certificate of appreciation

America 250 Founding Supporter \$250+

- **Recognition as an America250 Founding Supporter on the project website (campaign period)**
- Exclusive Michael Kovats commemorative lapel pin
- Personalized certificate of appreciation
- Project updates and invitations to milestone events

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