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## Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!

Friday - Friday, September 11-18, 2026

### Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

- 7:30 – 8:15 am Pickups will be in Celina, St Marys, and Wapakoneta. Exact pickup times will be determined approximately 30 days prior to trip departure.  
Lunch and dinner enroute. One of them will be included.  
Stops enroute will be determined closer to the trip departure date.
- 8:00 pm Check into our hotel in Frederick Maryland area for one night stay.

### Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

- Breakfast included at the hotel.
- 8:15 am Depart for tour of Fort McHenry National Monument.
- 9:30 am Tour Fort McHenry, a historical American coastal pentagonal bastion fort on Locust Point near Baltimore, Maryland. It is best known for its role in the War of 1812 when it successfully defended Baltimore Harbor from an attack by the British navy from the Chesapeake Bay on September 13—14, 1814 and inspired our National Anthem.
- 11:00 am Lunch on your own in the Baltimore area.
- 1:00 pm Enjoy a one-hour sightseeing cruise through Baltimore's Inner Harbor. See iconic landmarks like the U.S.S. Constellation and the National Aquarium. Enjoy insightful narration about Baltimore's interesting history.
- 2:15 pm Depart for Valley Forge.
- 4:30 pm Visit the Valley Forge Visitor Center and take a 10-mile guided driving tour of Valley Forge Park, providing interpretation of the 6-month winter Washington's army endured from 1777-1778 as well as the evolution of what was farmland and industry into a National Park.
- 6:30 pm Dinner included at a local restaurant.
- 8:30 pm Check into your Philadelphia area hotel for a 2-night stay.



### Valley Forge



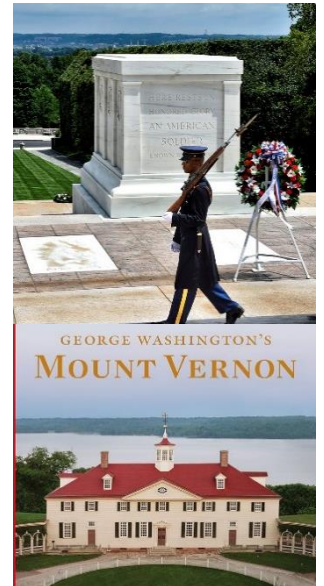
### Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- 8:00 am Depart hotel for a guided walking /driving tour of Philadelphia. You will visit / tour Independence Hall where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were debated and adopted by the Founding Fathers of the United States. Visit the Liberty Bell. Last rang in 1846, this 2,080-pound icon of freedom features a biblical inscription & a famed crack. Recognizable for its crack, the Liberty Bell remains significant today for its message of liberty.
- 12:30 pm Lunch on own and Free Time at Reading Terminal Market. One of America's largest and oldest public markets, housed since 1893 in a National Historic Landmark building in Philadelphia, the Market offers an incredible selection of restaurants under one roof.
- Afternoon Visit the Betsy Ross House. You've heard the legend. But stitching America's first flag is just a small part of the Betsy Ross story. Throughout the historic Betsy Ross House, you'll discover artifacts, documents and historic interpreters that reveal the extraordinary life of an ordinary 18th century woman.  
Visit the Museum of the American Revolution. The American Revolution was dramatic, gritty, and full of uncertainty - an era of unparalleled political and social change, even by today's standards. Explore this rich and complicated era through the museum's unmatched collection of Revolutionary-era weapons, personal items, documents, and works of art.
- 6:00 pm Dinner included at a local restaurant.
- 8:00 pm Return to hotel.



### Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

- Breakfast included at hotel.
- 8:00 am Depart for Washington DC area.  
Lunch on your own enroute.
- 12:30 pm Enjoy Arlington National Cemetery Tourmobile tour. The tour is a live-narrated, hop on/hop off tour making several stops including: President John F. Kennedy gravesite, John J. Pershing gravesite, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and Arlington House.
- 2:15 pm Depart for Mount Vernon, VA.
- 3:00 pm Tour George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate overlooking the Potomac River. George Washington began running Mount Vernon in 1754, and over the next 45 years slowly enlarged the dwelling to create the 21-room residence we see today. And the estate is the burial place of George and Martha Washington.
- 5:30 pm Dinner included at Mount Vernon Inn on the Estate.
- 7:30 pm Depart Mount Vernon and check into Alexandria hotel for 2-night stay.



### Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

- Breakfast included at the hotel.
- 8:00 am Depart for Washington DC Highlights Sightseeing Tour with stops at the War Memorials.  
Lunch on your own at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. The only museum in the country dedicated to telling the full history of the United States. The Museum collects artifacts of all kinds—from gowns to locomotives to the actual Flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired the Stars Spangled Banner – our National Anthem. Take a self-guided tour offering just a glimpse of the total collection of more than 1.7 million objects and 22,000 linear feet of archival documents.  
Visit the National Archives and The Rotunda of the National Archives Building in downtown Washington, DC, displays the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence.
- Early Evening Dinner at Carmine's Italian Restaurant.
- Evening Enjoy a guided Illuminated Monuments Tour of the famous Monuments and War Memorials which may include Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington, WW II, Vietnam and Iwo Jima.



### Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

- Breakfast included at the hotel.
- 8:00 am Depart for another day of American History!
- 10:00 am Tour the Berkeley Plantation, site of the first Thanksgiving in 1619. Berkeley is also the Birthplace of Benjamin Harrison a signer of the Declaration of Independence, as well as President William Henry Harrison whose grandson Benjamin Harrison became America's 23rd President in 1889.
- Noon Box lunch is included at the Carriage House.
- 2:00 pm Reenactment at Historic St. John's Church. Professional actors in 1770s attire portray nine delegates, including such prominent Virginians as Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. Witness the democratic process at work through the animated reenactment of the Second Virginia Convention, which culminates in Patrick Henry's "Give me Liberty or give me death!" speech.
- 4:00 pm Check into area hotel.
- 6:00 pm Dinner included at a local restaurant.



### Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

- Breakfast included at the hotel.
- 8:00 am Check-out and Depart Hotel.
- 9:15 am Tour of James Monroe's "Highland". The 5th President of the United States was a small planter who raised tobacco on this farm from 1899 to 1823. You will have a historical tour of the home and grounds and a special program "Women of Highland" where you hear of woman's experiences in the early United States. Through individual stories amid nation-building and economic struggles, this program tells the varied perspectives of free and enslaved women during major events of the early 19th century.
- Noon Lunch at Michie Tavern. Proudly owned and operated by the same family for 55 years, serves a bountiful southern midday fare. The rustic restaurant renders a dining experience rich in southern culture and hospitality for all to enjoy. Get a taste of the 18th-century as they feature a buffet of southern favorites.



2:00 pm Tour Monticello. This 45-minute guided experience includes first floor spaces in Thomas Jefferson's home, the West Lawn, and the South Wing. You'll learn about Jefferson and his vision for America, the realities of slavery on the Monticello plantation, and the mountaintop's iconic architecture. After the tour, you will have some free time to explore the gardens, grounds and exhibits.

4:30 pm Depart for hotel in Lexington VA.

6:30 pm Dinner included at a local restaurant in historic Lexington, VA.

8:00 pm Return to hotel.



#### **Fridav. September 18th**

Breakfast included at hotel.

8:00 am Check-out and Depart Hotel for the Greenbrier Bunker.

9:30 am Greenbrier Bunker Tour. You visit The Greenbrier's Cold War Bunker built by the Eisenhower Administration. It was a Fall Out Shelter for Congress in the event of a Nuclear Attack. This secret facility existed for 30 years, in plain sight, yet hidden from both hotel employees and guests. It's a fascinating story and you will learn how the pantries were stocked and replenished with fresh produce and supplies. At any moment there was enough fresh water and food here to support the entire House & Senate for 60 days.

Noon Depart for home.

Lunch and Dinner stops enroute.

7:30 – 8:10 pm Approximate time to return depending upon your pickup location.



Cost includes motor coach transportation, admission to attractions, 17 meals and 7 nights lodging.

**Optional Travel Protection available and must be paid with your deposit.** This protects all monies (except protection premium) in the event of cancellation prior to departure for any reason. Cancellation policy listed below applies if you do not have this protection.

**Deposit - \$200 per person**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE – 7/11/26**

	Single	Double	Triple	Quad
Cost per person:	\$2935.00	\$2295.00	\$2145.00	\$2045.00
Cost of Optional Travel Protection	\$ 180.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00

- **Make checks payable to MCCOA (Mercer County Council on Aging) and mail to 217 Riley Street, Celina, OH 45822.**
- Deposit required within 14 days of making your reservation to confirm your reservation.
- Balance due 7/30/26. Additional trip information and billing will be sent at that time.
- List of passenger names will be included in final billing.
- **Cancellation Policy - Deposit fully refundable up to 60 days prior to trip departure; 60-31 days prior to departure -75% of your trip cost is nonrefundable; 30-15 days prior to departure– 50% of your trip cost is non-refundable; 14 days or less prior to departure – 100% of trip cost is non-refundable. If replacement is found, you will be refunded all your money except for a \$25.00 per person cancellation fee.**
- If less than 30 passengers sign up for this trip, MCCOA reserves the right to cancel the trip or make any necessary changes to conduct the trip with a reduced number of passengers.
- Parking will be available in the parking lots at all locations. **Please plan to arrive approximately 15 minutes prior to the scheduled departure time.**
- The dress for attractions is casual.
- You may bring snacks and drinks on the bus.

**Buses are not accessible by wheelchairs. You must be able to get on and exit the bus without assistance.** In the event I would need any type of medical treatment, I hereby consent to treatment by any licensed physician or dentist, and I am responsible for any expenses incurred due to any change in the tour. I further understand that I, and any heirs or persons acting on my behalf do waive, release and discharge MCCoA (Mercer County Council on Aging) and its representatives, employees, and volunteers from any and all responsibility or liability from injuries, loss, damages, diseases, or deaths resulting from my participation in any programs or activities sponsored by MCCoA. I understand that this waiver means I and any heirs or persons acting on my behalf give up the rights to bring any claims for personal injury, death, disease, property damage or any other loss including but not limited to claims of negligence and give up any claim I or my heirs may have to seek damages, whether known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen. MCCoA and its representatives accept no responsibility for the services of any company, personnel or any other conveyance used in connection with any tour or for any loss or additional expenses incurred due to additional or changed fees, delay, changes in schedule, restrictions, requirements or acts or omissions of any carrier or supplier. You are responsible for understanding all trip and activity requirements and must not rely on MCCOA to provide this information. MCCoA and its representatives reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, amend the itinerary for any reason, and to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of any tour if his/her actions impose a risk or disturb other members of the tour.