



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National
Historical Park

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Valley Forge National Historical Park - News Release

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Partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Announced

*The Friends of Valley Forge Park to sponsor a Fellow at the McNeil Center for
Early American Studies in honor of former Friends Chairman Bruce Baky*

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. – The National Park Service (NPS) and the Friends of Valley Forge Park, in partnership with the McNeil Center for Early American Studies of the University of Pennsylvania today announced the creation of The Bruce Baky Valley Forge Fellowship. The fellowship will be awarded to a PhD candidate specializing in military history during the American Revolution. The fellowship honors the late Bruce Baky, former Chairman of the Friends of Valley Forge Park and a long-time advocate of strengthening connections between the academic community and the park.

“We can think of no better way to honor Bruce’s life and legacy. We are grateful to the Friends of Valley Forge Park, and especially to Bruce’s wife Sherrin, for funding this fellowship,” said Valley Forge National Historical Park Superintendent Mike Caldwell.

The Bruce Baky Valley Forge Fellow will receive the benefits of all McNeil fellows, including a stipend; office space in the Center’s building on the University of Pennsylvania campus; access to funds to support travel and research; and participation in the Center’s vibrant intellectual life. The fellow will also receive housing in Valley Forge National Historical Park in addition to the usual nine-month McNeil Center dissertation fellowship stipend. The fellow will develop and present public programming at the park, work with park staff, and develop at least one research or educational project.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

“This fellowship will help the NPS to continue to incorporate current research and scholarship about the American Revolution to enable us to present new and relevant programming to the public” said Caldwell.

According to Robert Sutton, NPS Chief Historian, “This new Fellow program is an outstanding example of how the National Park Service continues to strengthen connections to the academic community. The American Revolution is one of the pivotal events in our nation's history. Our partnership with the University of Pennsylvania will be a valuable addition to our agency's efforts to enrich the scholarship of the Revolution, bringing new knowledge and new insights to Americans.”

Daniel K. Richter, Director of the McNeil Center, said that the partnership with Valley Forge is “a terrific opportunity to bring the worlds of cutting-edge scholarship and public history together.” The PhD students involved in the program “will gain valuable experience in translating their specialized research for the general public, and park staff will find countless opportunities to learn from—and teach—young scholars just beginning their careers as college professors.”

Don Naimoli, Chairman of the Friends of Valley Forge Park said “Through Bruce Baky’s leadership, The Friends of Valley Forge Park began the task of exploring new avenues of growth and co-operation to become a more meaningful partner with the park. His lifelong dedication to education and research of the American Revolution makes this a fitting tribute.”

About the McNeil Center for Early American Studies

Established as the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies in 1978, and renamed in honor of its benefactor Robert L. McNeil, Jr., in 1998, the McNeil Center facilitates scholarly inquiry into the histories and cultures of North America in the Atlantic world before 1850, with an emphasis on the mid-Atlantic region. The Center offers pre- and post-doctoral fellowships to encourage use of the Philadelphia area’s magnificent manuscript, rare book, and museum collections, conducts a seminar series to promote intellectual community among local and visiting faculty and graduate students, and organizes occasional national conferences to foster interdisciplinary research. It publishes [*Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*](#), and

sponsors the Early American Studies monograph series published by the [University of Pennsylvania Press](#). To learn more visit www.mceas.org.

About the Friends of Valley Forge Park

The Friends of Valley Forge Park assists the National Park Service in its mission to preserve and protect Valley Forge National Historical Park by advocating for the Park, raising funds and public awareness, and providing volunteers for park projects and educational programs. To learn more visit www.friendsofvalleyforge.org.

About Valley Forge National Historical Park

Valley Forge National Historical Park preserves and educates the public about the natural and cultural resources that commemorate the 1777-78 Continental Army winter encampment at Valley Forge. The park is one of more than two dozen sites within the National Park System that tell aspects of the story of the American Revolution. To learn more visit www.nps.gov/vafo.

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