

What: America 250 Marker

Where: Battleship Park, Battleship *North Carolina* Memorial, 1 Battleship Road, Wilmington, NC

By Whom: Stamp Defiance Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Wilmington, NC

### Purpose

The Stamp Defiance Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), asked Battleship leadership to place an America 250 commemorative marker in Battleship Park. The marker: 1) memorializes Wilmington's role in the American Revolution; 2) serves as the centerpiece of the DAR's local recognition of diversity (women, African Americans) among American patriots; 3) support the Battleship's effort to call attention to the historic Causeway (now *USS North Carolina* Road) that, with the cross river ferry, united the east and west banks of the of the Cape Fear River before the American Revolution. The Wilmingtonians who marched off to participate in the fight at Moore's Creek, did so by way of the Causeway.

The marker is to be placed with the Cape Fear River (the defining geographic feature of our locality) and the city of Wilmington in the background, historic Market Street prominently featured, and the ferry dock and Causeway to its right, so that the viewer can imagine how these historic sites and landscape looked during the Revolutionary War. Further, the location of the marker highlights the historical importance and centrality of Eagles Island, bringing its diverse and important history out of the shadow of the historic naval vessel that is permanently moored there.

### The Marker

The marker is composed of three parts:

- 1) A large (upper) cast aluminum plaque (24" x 24"), with the following words in gold on a black background:
  - a. "Revolutionary War Patriots." [1.25" type] "This marker commemorates the men and women who achieved American independence. These Patriots, each believing in the noble cause of liberty, valiantly strove to found a new nation. 1775-1783" [1" inch type]
  - b. "Dedicated in 2026 by Stamp Defiance Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution in celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States." [.5" inch type]
  - c. The A250 logo is below the text.
- 2) A small (lower) cast aluminum plaque (10" x 3"), with the following words in gold on a black background:
  - a. "Honoring the Memory of Our Forgotten Patriots" [.5" inch type]

- 3) Both plaques (1 and 2 referenced above) are affixed to a native North Carolina sandstone slab (46” tall x 41” wide x 12” thick) set in a concrete footer.

Battleship Park is the subject of minor periodic flooding, except during major storm events. The DAR was informed that plans are to make the Park more resilient to sea level rise and periodic inundation through rebuilding the waterfront bulkhead and raising the elevation of Battleship Park to the level achieved with the adjacent parking area via the Living with Water Project. They understand that this might require that the marker be temporarily removed and reinstalled at the Battleship’s expense at some future date. They agreed to support this probable move.

### Map/Images

Image of the marker from with the Park pavilion on the left and the Wilmington downtown waterfront in the distance.



Image of the marker with (from left to right) the downtown waterfront (foot of Market Street) at the end of the federal building, Cape Fear River, tan sandstone DAR A250 monument, historic ferry dock at first free, and *USS North Carolina* Road (the historic Causeway).



Close up of the marker.



Note: A map showing where the memorial is placed is attached.

### Placement and Maintenance

Acquisition and placement of the marker was funded by the Stamp Defiance Chapter, DAR. The grounds of Battleship Park upon which the marker is placed are maintained by the Battleship *North Carolina* Memorial. The Memorial has 24-hour security and carefully monitors all facilities in the Park.

**DAR 250 MONUMENT  
LOCATION**



Historic Causeway  
(now *USS North Carolina* Road)  
and Historic Ferry Dock where  
the road meets the water