

*Questions
and
Answers*

*about the
Bicentennial*



"To be fully participatory, the Bicentennial must be national. It is thousands of projects, programs and events from one end of the nation to the other, planned and executed according to the desires and requirements of each particular community. . . . Our country is richly diverse in its racial and ethnic heritage as it is in its climate and geography. Each Bicentennial activity is growing out of its own soil and out of the hearts and minds of its own people."

John W. Warner

John W. Warner
Administrator
American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

*Let Us Remember
Let Us Celebrate
Let Us Shape a Better
Tomorrow*

This pamphlet is designed to answer the most frequently-asked questions about the American Revolution Bicentennial celebration.

Q What is the Bicentennial?

A The Bicentennial is the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the emergence of the United States of America as a nation—a rekindling of the spirit associated with the American Revolution. It is the birthday celebration of a people and their full 200 years of history, culture and traditions. It offers us the challenge to lay a cornerstone of achievement for a vigorous and constructive beginning for the Third Century. It is a celebration of our roots, detailed in the three great documents upon which the hopes, the aspirations and the future of our country rest: The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Q What is the role of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA)?

A Under Public Law 93-179, effective in 1974, Congress gave the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (ARBA) a mandate . . . to coordinate, to facilitate and to aid in the scheduling of events, activities, and projects of local, state, national and international significance sponsored by both government and nongovernmental entities in commemoration of the American Revolution Bicentennial. While not basically a funding agency, ARBA does provide limited monies through matching grant programs primarily through State Bicentennial Commissions.

Q When does the Bicentennial begin? When does it end?

A It has already begun! Understandably the focal point of much planning is directed towards the weekend of July 4, 1976. However, Congress directed ARBA to start the official recording of programs and events in March of 1975 and to have this Master Calendar inclusive of events through December 31, 1976.

Q Will there be a single focal point for the celebration?

A Early in the planning, most Americans urged that the Bicentennial not be in one location as was the Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia. Speaking through their respective members in the Congress of the United States, they effected a new law which assured the opportunity for unlimited participation by people in each of the 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and the territories of American Samoa, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

Q Will Boston, New York and Philadelphia be major Bicentennial sites?

A Boston, New York and Philadelphia, cities possessing unique chapters in our Revolutionary history, are playing a major role in the celebration. Each city has developed outstanding programs, events and re-enactments. For additional information write: Boston 200, No. 1 City Hall Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts 02201; New York City Bicentennial Corporation, 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022; or Philadelphia '76, Inc., 1700 PSFS Building, 12-S 12th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107. In addition to these cities there are events and activities being sponsored in thousands of communities across the country.

Q What can we expect to see and do in Washington, D.C., the Nation's Capital in 1976?

A A warm welcome awaits visitors in the Nation's Capital. All of the principal Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government are involved in Bicentennial planning. For example, the Smithsonian Institution will be showing major new exhibits for the Bicentennial such as the Folklife Festival on the Mall, with 34 nations invited to participate, will run from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Constitution Gardens, opening in the spring of 1976 will offer a six-acre lake, walks and rest areas to refresh the weary tourist. The new National Air and Space Museum will be opened. A National Visitors Center located in Union Station

will inform travelers. Visitors, however, are urged to have confirmed reservations before setting out for Washington, D.C.

Q Will national Bicentennial events come to my home town?

A Traveling events and activities such as the Smithsonian Institution's International Exhibits, the Bicentennial Wagon Train Pilgrimage, the American Wind Symphony, the 25 car American Freedom Train, the U.S. Armed Forces Bicentennial Band, the tall ships of Operation Sail, and other traveling programs will be visiting many communities large and small all over America. Check with your local or State Bicentennial Commission for details. Contact your Governor's office to locate your State Bicentennial Commission.

Q Where can I obtain a schedule of national events or events in my region?

A A National Calendar of Bicentennial Events and a Comprehensive Calendar of Regional and Local Events covering 1975 and 1976 are published periodically by the ARBA. To purchase copies write to: Bicentennial Calendar, The Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Q Is there one unifying theme?

A Underlying most Bicentennial participation and planning is a reaffirmation of our blueprint of Government—the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights—the blueprint which enables us to celebrate proudly the 200th anniversary of the oldest continuously surviving Republic in the world. Congress established three theme titles to give focus to the rich diversity of commemorative activities.

Through

Heritage 76

we seek to remember our form of Government, our Founding Fathers, our forgotten people, the places and things of our past, the events of our past, and most important, our freedoms. Heritage is a restoration project, an historical reenactment, or a careful study of the three great documents.

Through

Festival USA

we celebrate the richness of our diversity, the vitality of our culture, our hospitality, the American scene and the traditions of our people. It means events and programs in the dance, drama, music and arts, in addition to parades, athletic events and a renewed spirit of hospitality to both domestic and international visitors.

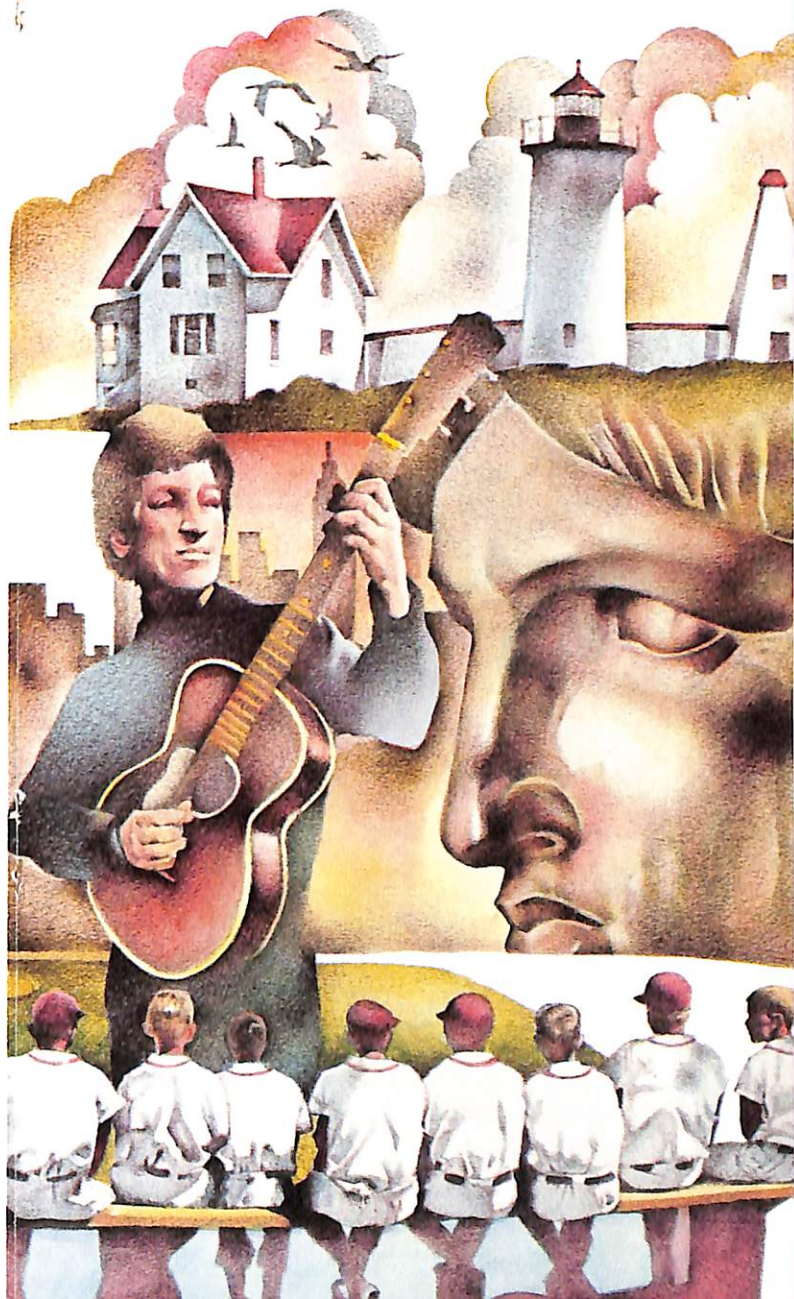
Through

Horizons 76

we plan to shape a better tomorrow by beginning with individual initiative, by drawing inspiration from the innovations of today, by seeking the blessing of liberty for ourselves and others and by setting our Century III goals. It is ecology projects, tree-planting programs, transportation and housing improvement projects and educational and health programs.

Q What are individuals or groups doing for the Bicentennial?

A Americans are participating in the Bicentennial in many diverse ways. Students are writing to each other of their desires for the country's future through a Junior Committees of Correspondence program sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service, the National Association of Elementary School



Principals and ARBA. A coast-to-coast Bikecentennial trail has been developed by a small group of cycle enthusiasts and is available to everyone. In several communities the citizens are converting train depots into historical museums. Oral history programs are among the less expensive most popular activities. Since we are celebrating our freedom, it is quite natural for each community to do its own thing in its own way.

Q How are ethnic and minority groups participating?

A Over 500 individuals representing ethnic and racial groups and organizations in the country at the invitation of ARBA have formed the Bicentennial Ethnic-Racial Council (BERC). The members of the Council are developing programs that point up the cultural and religious diversity of the nation, that emphasize the contributions of a pluralistic society and that voice the aspirations of American racial and ethnic groups for the future. Organizations who are planning Bicentennial Ethnic-Racial programs can join the Bicentennial Ethnic-Racial Alliance. For additional information on the Ethnic-Racial Council and the Alliance contact: BERC, c/o ARBA, 2401 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20276.

Q How are foreign countries participating?

A Perhaps the most famous remembrance of our Centennial in 1876 is the gift from France—the Statue of Liberty. An ever growing number of nations—now over 40—have expressed interest in participating in the Bicentennial, and of these, 27 have established official Bicentennial committees or intergovernmental working groups. France was the first government to make an official Bicentennial announcement of its gifts which include a permanent sound and light show at Mount Vernon opening in 1976.

The United Kingdom, West Germany, Italy, Canada, Australia, Japan, and Iran have all

announced substantial programs. Performing arts groups, exhibits, international educational and cultural exchange programs are the principal elements of foreign programs.

Several multi-national programs are planned. Tall ships from some 20 countries will join Operation Sail '76. Participants from 34 nations will tour 90 cities with the Smithsonian International Folklife Festival in 1976, bringing together Americans and their cultural cousins from around the world.



Q What is a Bicentennial community?

A A Bicentennial Community is one which has been officially designated by the ARBA, awarded the official Bicentennial certificate and earned the right to fly the National Bicentennial flag.

There are four steps a community must take to receive Bicentennial Community status:

(a) Organize a special Bicentennial planning and coordinating committee which is representative of all segments of the community; (b) plan a Bicentennial program which will have at least one lasting reminder of the special effort the community undertook for the Bicentennial commemoration; (c) obtain the approval of the chief executive officer or governing body of the community; and (d) submit the application to the ARBA through the appropriate State Bicentennial Commission for approval.

Q What official commemorative items are being sold in connection with the Bicentennial by ARBA?

A Congress has directed the ARBA to provide for the preparation, distribution, dissemination, exhibition and sale of commemorative medals and other historical commemorative and information materials and objects which will contribute to public information awareness, and interest in the Bicentennial. For lists of officially licensed products carrying the National Bicentennial symbol or order forms for official ARBA medals, contact ARBA. Medals and other products are also being sold and licensed by State and local Bicentennial Commissions. A part of the monies raised from the licensing of commemorative items is used to support national, state, and local Bicentennial projects.

Q Where can I get Bicentennial travel information?

A (a) Write the Tourism Director in the capital city of the state you wish to visit. (b) Most major cities have a Visitor and Convention Bureau and will send free brochures and travel package information. (c) Travel agents offer free professional services for Bicentennial travel. (d) Motor clubs offer travel assistance, maps, and books. (e) The travel industry (airlines, bus, train, hotels, etc.) has created many budget fares and travel plans for the Bicentennial. (f) The introduction pages of the yellow pages of the local telephone book provide information relative to area tourist attractions. They also list numbers for accommodations, amusements, transportation, services, and emergencies. Note the many 800 toll free phone numbers for planning ahead. (g) Bicentennial guidebooks are now available in many bookstores and newstands. (h) For the International Visitor free nationwide tourist assistance and information is offered in French, German, Spanish and Japanese. Call (800) 255-3050 free of charge and ask for the "Visit USA" desk.

For answers to additional questions or for information and materials, please contact the nearest ARBA regional office or the National office in Washington, D.C.

American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

John W. Warner
Administrator

American Revolution Bicentennial Board

The Honorable Edward W. Brooke,
United States Senate, Chairman

The Honorable Joseph M. Montoya,
United States Senate

The Honorable M. Caldwell Butler, House of
Representatives

The Honorable Corinne C. "Lindy" Boggs,
House of Representatives

The Secretary of the Interior

Mr. Andrew McNally, III, Member, Illinois Bicentennial
Commission

Dr. J. Squires, Chairman of the New Hampshire
Bicentennial Commission, Vice Chairman

Ms. Carol Evans, Member, Michigan Bicentennial
Commission

The Honorable John W. Warner, Administrator,
American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

Mr. David L. Wolper, Los Angeles, California

Mrs. Ann Hawkes Hutton, Washington Crossing,
Pennsylvania

American Revolution Bicentennial Advisory Council

Maya Angelou

Anne Armstrong

William J. Baroody, Sr.

Laura Bergt

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin

Anna Chennault

Joan Ganz Cooney

Martin Diamond

Richard Gambino

David L. Hale

Alex P. Haley

Martin S. Hayden

Ann Hawkes Hutton, Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

Hobart D. Lewis

James A. Michener

Lyle M. Nelson

L. Tom Perry

Jacinto J. Quirarte

Betty Shabazz

Frank Stanton

Jana E. Sutton

Harry Van Arsdale, Jr.

David L. Wolper, Chairperson

John W. Warner (ex officio)

ARBA Regional Offices

JFK Federal Building, Room 506C, Boston,
Massachusetts 02203; Tel: (617) 223-5678.
(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New
Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

880 Third Avenue, 12th Floor, New York, New York
10022; Tel: (212) 264-1976. (New Jersey, New
York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)

Federal Office Building, Room 4454, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania 19106; Tel: (215) 597-3617.
(Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland,
Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia)

3401 Whipple Avenue, East Point, Atlanta, Georgia
30344; Tel: (404) 526-7726. (Alabama, Florida,
Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina,
South Carolina, Tennessee)

Everett M. Dirksen Building, Room 1900, Chicago,
Illinois 60604; Tel: (312) 353-1776. (Illinois,
Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Federal Office Building, Room 7C30, 1100 Commerce
Street, Dallas, Texas 75202; Tel: (214) 749-1831.
(Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma,
Texas)

911 Walnut Street, Room 602, Kansas City, Missouri
64104; Tel: (816) 374-2303. (Iowa, Kansas,
Missouri, Nebraska)

1515 Cleveland Place, Suite 222, Denver, Colorado
80202; Tel: (303) 837-4876. (Colorado, Montana,
North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

One Embarcadero Center, Suite 976, San Francisco,
California 94111; Tel: (415) 556-1976. (Arizona,
California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa,
Guam)

3090 Federal Building, 915 2nd Avenue, Seattle,
Washington 98174; Tel: (206) 442-1776. (Alaska,
Idaho, Oregon, Washington)

American Revolution Bicentennial Symbol

The American Revolution Bicentennial symbol is derived from the stars, stripes, and colors of the United States flag.

The symbol takes the form of an American 5-pointed star in white, surrounded by continuous red, white, and blue stripes which form a second star. This double star is symbolic of the two centuries which have passed since the American Revolution.

These colorful stripes also evoke a feeling of festivity and suggest the furled bunting traditionally used in times of celebration throughout the nation.

The symbol is contemporary in design in keeping with the forward-looking goals of the Bicentennial celebration: "to forge a new national commitment, a new spirit of '76, a spirit which will unite the nation in purpose and dedication to the advancement of human welfare as it moves into its third century."



**American Revolution
Bicentennial Administration
2401 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20276**