



The Legacy Press Release
V Anniversary

"You can't love what you don't know"

We are The Legacy, and our mission is to highlight the relevance of Spain's historical and cultural contribution to the United States of America by fostering and manifesting the strong links that have existed since before the American people's Declaration of Independence.

We promote the dissemination and study of these links with a specific interest in the legacy of our unknown military heroes – which is the backbone of what we represent today.

We face ignorance and misinformation. We are sieged by a black legend that has persecuted, harmed, and plagued us for many years...

A legend that is tolerated by inaction, by the lack of coordination of a common effort, of a national strategy that would provide the means necessary to change this perception, rather than diminishing...it is growing.

Our association is in its infancy, we have just turned five years old, but we are full of energy and motivated by a pressing need to do justice to history and put Spain where it deserves to be.

I admit this is not easy.

We navigate in adverse conditions, with bureaucratic winds and turbulent institutional tides. We fight against the elements of our system that culturally and historically does not promote these initiatives, nor does it recognize them, disseminate them or reward them.

We are aware of the need to join forces so that our mission and objectives go beyond the habitual circle.

We want to break the mold and make progress.

We are determined – this is a battle we want to win and for which there is only one weapon: **Diffusion.** And for which there is only one infallible strategy: **Unity.**

If we no longer want to be a secret, we must have the support of the highest institutions in the country in order to succeed. We want our actions to stir consciences so that their echo, through social interest, also reaches the other side of the Atlantic with full force.

The Legacy was born in 2016, on the 240th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence. It is a civil and private, non-profit initiative, with the role of the cooperation, generation and encouragement of relations, and the promotion of knowledge, development,

research, dissemination, and teaching of our common history, based on Spain's historical legacy in the USA between the 16th and 19th centuries.

I am pleased to give a brief overview of our progress, as in five years, we have achieved a long list of milestones, thanks to the support and generosity of many.

In 2017, together with the Ministry of Defense, we published our first book, "Farragut and Menorca, the Spanish legacy in the US Navy." We presented it at the Annapolis Naval Academy, with more than 2,000 people present. We also unveiled a plaque that we donated with the importance of the contributions of the Spanish citizen Jordi Ferraut, who would become the father of the first US Navy Admiral.

The book was the institutional gift of the official visit of the President of the Spanish government to the new President of the White House.

The Farragut project was supported by the Universities of Princeton, Boston, Seville, and Salamanca and was presented at major institutions such as the Smithsonian and the National Defense University, both in Washington DC.

In 2018, His Majesty King Felipe VI took an interest in our activities and received us in a military audience in March of this year.

In June, the Sociedad Estatal de Correos y Telégrafos granted us the request for a commemorative stamp for the 150th anniversary of the visit of the first American Admiral David G. Farragut to Spanish territory, and we reached 180,000 issues.

We presented it in Menorca, together with the book and accompanied by the Spanish Navy frigate Mendez Nuñez and the DDG USS Donald Cook of the US Navy. There were three days of events for this celebration, attended by Admiral Teodoro Lopez Calderon, the Navy Chief of Staff, and Admiral James G. Foggo, Commander of the US Naval Forces in Europe and Africa.

A memorable concert by the US Naval Forces' European Band marked the official opening of the events in the main theatre in Mahon, where the American sailors used to go during their permanent stays on the island in the early 19th century. More than 1,000 people attended the concert, and it was made possible thanks to the Mahon City Hall and the generosity of the US Navy, who sent us the 30 members of their exceptional band.

In 2019, we issued a limited edition commemorative coin endorsed by the Royal Mint of Spain for our project "1779. Not Without Spain". The project highlights the importance of Spain's support which, thanks to the declaration of war on England, secured Spain's military support for General Washington's troops during the War of Independence.

We also collaborated with the Army Museum by celebrating the exhibition "The contribution of the Spanish Army to the birth of the United States of America," with more than 70,000 visits during the two months of the exhibition in the magnificent Alcázar de Toledo.

In September of that year, we published our second book, "George Washington and Spain. The Legacy of the Spanish Army in the United States of America". We presented this book at the house of General Washington in Mount Vernon and at the Spanish Army's General

Headquarters in Madrid, which was under the Presidency of the Chief of Staff General of the Army Francisco Javier Varela.

In 2020, we developed our most ambitious project, "Project eÑe," and the "Viceroyalty of New Spain" poster that we have incorporated into our project for 2021 "The United States of Spain" – a poster that we hope will be displayed on the walls of the vast majority of our public and private institutions.

We are already in 2021, which still has a way to go, but we are already at cruising speed, and we believe that the results before the end of the year will be very satisfactory. The big innovation is the short films containing chapters of our history that need to be broadcast. We want to make them attractive to younger generations who are not in the habit of reading, and an exhibition is planned for the near future.

It is right and necessary to acknowledge the work of the many and diverse people and institutions that have been supporting us continuously during this five-year process, all united by the same commitment – the progress of our mission.

We are deeply grateful for the contributions of the Ministry of Defense, the Spanish Navy, the Army, the US Navy, the publications sub directorate of the Ministry of Defense, the Naval Museum Foundation, the Institute of Military History and Culture, the University of Alcala, the University of Seville, the Spain-US Council Foundation, CESEDEN, the US Embassy in Madrid and the Spanish Embassy in Washington DC.

We would like to emphasize the good disposition of the writers who participated in our two books for their talent, generosity, and dedication.

And of course, I am personally grateful for the continued and fundamental support of those who strengthen the beating of our heart, our partners; Ucalsa, Indra, Hisdesat, Bureau Veritas, Expal, Ership, Lockheed Martin, Navantia, Marflet Marine, Escribano, Erzia, and Ferri.

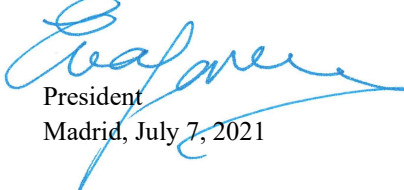
Heartfelt thanks to all the anonymous people who follow us on social networks – you are a motivating factor. You encourage us to continue with the gift of those five minutes of your time that you give us to learn a little more about our exceptional legacy.

"You can't love what you don't know."

I never get tired of saying it. I am sure that with your help, we will continue to progress with our goals... we will be here, as always, learning to defend what is ours.

Thank you for these five years of success in the recovery of our legacy.

Eva Garcia



President
Madrid, July 7, 2021