



FRENCH & INDIAN WAR
COMMEMORATION

250 years

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Contact: Linda Topoleski
412-389-0410
Linda.Topoleski@verizon.net

**SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND CAST BRONZE MARKER
COMMEMORATES GENERAL JOHN FORBES' 1758 EXPEDITION
ACROSS THE RUGGED TERRAIN OF PA TO CLAIM FORKS OF THE OHIO**

Markers will be unveiled at key French and Indian War sites across PA: Pittsburgh at Point State Park, Ligonier, Bedford and Carlisle, and in Dunfermline, Scotland, Forbes' birthplace

OCTOBER 4, 2008—PITTSBURGH—As part of “Colcom Foundation Presents Pittsburgh Celebrates 250”, permanent bronze markers will be unveiled at key [French and Indian War](#) sites commemorating the 1758 expedition of British General John Forbes across Pennsylvania. The marker in Pittsburgh will be unveiled at 11:30 a.m. today near the Portal Bridge in Point State Park. Additional ceremonies will take place this week in [Ligonier](#), [Bedford](#), and [Carlisle](#), and at a later date in [Dunfermline](#), [Scotland](#), birthplace of Forbes.

The Forbes Expedition: ‘Per Tot Discrimina’

In April 1758, General Forbes was faced with the daunting task of leading a mixed force of colonial and British troops across the mountainous terrain and thick forests of Pennsylvania to claim the Forks of the Ohio from the French. He devised a plan for ‘protected advance,’ building an actual road to carry supplies, and establishing key defense outposts every 50 miles along the way, including in Carlisle, Loudoun, Littleton, Bedford, and Ligonier. Forbes also sought to forge alliances with Indians to provide intelligence in support of the expedition. They reached the Forks of the Ohio and captured Fort Duquesne from the French on November 25, 1758, and named the city Pittsburgh, after British Secretary of State William Pitt. Acknowledging the courage of his troops and their perseverance ‘per tot discrimina,’ (through so many dangers) as he said, Forbes ordered a medal be struck for his officers, depicting the expedition and its grave perils. He died in March 1759 before having the opportunity to fulfill this initiative.

Colcom Foundation provided funding for the markers as part of the foundation's overall support of Pittsburgh 250 and its lasting signature projects. "These markers commemorate General John Forbes' epic passage across Pennsylvania. Creation of the Forbes Trail tested the ingenuity and persistence of our forebears," said John F. Rohe, Vice-President of Philanthropy, Colcom Foundation. "The trail imparts shared gratitude for the past, a sense of place for the present and a path to the future as we imagine what we can do here."

Marker Design

Measuring 30 inches in diameter and weighing 80 lbs., the markers were specially designed by Landesberg Design to visually depict the truly daunting task faced by General Forbes and his army as they crossed rugged terrain, faced harsh weather, and withstood enemy attack. The markers include the route Forbes took along what is now known as the Forbes Trail, and the thick 18th century forest of American Chestnut, White Pine, Douglas Fir, Maple and Oak trees.

Matthews International Corp., the oldest known business in Allegheny County, PA, cast the marker in bronze using an innovative new process known as ImageCast™, which combines the art of casting with the use of photography or, in this case, a typographic model.

The marker at Point State Park is an integral part of the historic interpretive plan for the park's transformation as one of three [signature projects](#) for [Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary](#). Limited edition brass medallions, replicating the markers, have also been cast by Matthews International and can be ordered online at www.forbestrail.org.



Photo of bronze Forbes marker which will be set in granite.

About Pittsburgh 250:

Pittsburgh 250 is the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the naming of the region in 1758. With the support of business, government and civic leaders from across the region, Pittsburgh 250 has three goals: improve awareness of Southwestern Pennsylvania as a global leader in arts, science and quality

of life through an integrated regional marketing effort; support the completion of lasting signature projects that connect the region's past to its future; and improve the region's competitiveness for future generations by encouraging grassroots participation in improving communities, attracting visitors and living healthier lives.

French and Indian War 250, Inc. is spearheading the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War (2004-2010). French and Indian War 250, Inc. is developing and coordinating programs and educational resources to raise awareness of this significant period in American history, including ***Pennsylvania's Forbes Trail: Gateways and Getaways along the Legendary Route from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh***, a beautifully illustrated guidebook for outdoor recreation, historic sites, unique inns and family fun, along the trail. For more information, visit www.frenchandindianwar250.org or call 412-281-4783, x. 3135.

Pittsburgh 250 and French and Indian War 250 are both programs of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

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