



238th Army Birthday Celebrations Kick Off At Mount Vernon

From the Army News Service:

Army birthday celebrations began somberly in the nation's capital with a wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of the Continental Army's first general in Alexandria, Va.

Surrounded by several hundred visitors at the Mount Vernon estate of George and Martha Washington, Secretary of the Army John McHugh placed a wreath at the tomb of America's first president. The event marked the start of a week of festivities surrounding the Army's 238th birthday, which is officially Friday.

After the playing of taps, McHugh, Sgt. Maj. of the

Army Raymond Chandler, and Ann Bookout, the 20th regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, gathered in the estate auditorium to present Purple Hearts to wounded Soldiers Sgt. Sean P. Karpf, Spc. Arael Lopez and Pfc. Cory A. Doane.

Bookout opened the ceremony remarking that there was no better place for the Army to open its 238th birthday than at the home of the country's first commander-in-chief.

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