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## **Fraunces Tavern® Museum to open exhibition highlighting a selection of regimental flags from the American Revolution.**

New York: On **Friday, April 2, 2021**, Fraunces Tavern® Museum will debut its newest exhibition: *To the Beat of Their Own Drums: American Regimental Flags of the Revolutionary War.*

On display in the Kathryn & Shelby Cullom Davis Educational Center for American History, *To the Beat of Their Own Drums* explores the history of the flags flown by the distinct regiments which made up the Continental Army. Flags have long served as visual representations of human groups, expressing a collective experience and forming communities around a set of shared values and ideals. Before uniting around the Stars and Stripes, regimental battle flags bore special importance to their members.

“The gallery takes a closer look into the important role flags played in shaping a regiments' identity during the Revolutionary War,” says the exhibition’s **Co-Curator Mary Tsaltas-Ottomanelli**. “Flags depicting images from hornets to hand grenades, and even the early versions of the stars and stripes, were used to symbolize these soldiers' bravery and courage.”

Among the flags on display is the Bucks of America Flag, a bright yellow and blue flag which was carried by the only all-Black militia company during the Revolutionary War; the Third New York Regiment flag whose detailed images inspired the modern version of the New York State flag; and the Bedford Minuteman Standard flag which bears the Latin phrase “VINCE AUT MORIRE,” meaning “Conquer or Die.”

The exhibition also highlights early iterations of the American Flag, including the Serapis Flag, whose 13 stars and stripes would go on to solidify the standard American Flag design we know today. When viewed together, these flags tell the story of a growing national identity.

“As the country continues to recover from both the pandemic and a turbulent presidential election, this exhibition presents a timely tale of the communities that came together to fight for their independence and, ultimately, negotiate their shared values to form a unified nation,” says **Co-Curator Lisa Goulet**.

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