



# HOMMAGE AU GENERAL PATTON

**Dr. Robert M. Gates**  
**Secretary of Defense**  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

28 April 2009

Secretary Gates:

Our organization, *Hommage au General Patton*, was created in France in 2007. We are a group of private citizens – French and American – and our goal is to erect a statue in Paris to the memory of Gen. George Patton. In summary, we feel that General Patton is more than worthy of recognition for the roles that he played on French soil during both World Wars, but, additionally, he personifies many of the links that join our two countries. Drawn to French history, culture and language, he remained an unapologetic supporter of France throughout his life and we see in Patton an American analogy with the Marquis de Lafayette who remains a significant point of reference in the United States.

To date, we have successfully solicited support for our project from several ranking members of the French government and from the U.S. Embassy in France, as well as the grand-daughter of Gen. Patton. We have opened communications with the City Hall of Paris and with the Department of Veteran's Affairs within the Ministry of Defense. We are not seeking financial support. At the moment, we simply wish to make our project known to you, as it will likely involve high ranking officials from both governments when it comes to fruition. If you wish additional information, we are enclosing a brief educational brochure and full details of our organization can be seen on our web site at: <http://hommage-general-patton.org/>.

At some point in the future we may ask for the involvement of your Paris Defense Attaché's office for interface with the French Ministry of Defense. If this is acceptable to you, and if our project is of interest to you, we look forward to meeting with your representatives at some point to further clarify of project and to keep you informed of our progress. In any event, we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jean-Yves Rousseau  
President

Cc: Col. Raymond Hodgkins, Defense Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Paris

*Association Loi du 1er juillet 1901- Art. 5*