



MEDIA KIT — 250th Anniversary of Evacuation Day **Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – Dorchester Heights, South Boston**

1. Event Overview

On Tuesday, March 17, 2026, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will commemorate the **250th Anniversary of Evacuation Day**, marking the historic departure of British forces from Boston in 1776 and the first major victory of the American Revolutionary War.

The commemoration includes an ecumenical service at Saint Augustine Chapel at 9:00 a.m., followed by a procession at 10:30 a.m. from the South Boston Boys and Girls Club on West Sixth Street, and finishing atop Dorchester Heights at 11:00 a.m. (See the attached map.)

A commemorative program will begin at 11:00 a.m., and rededicate the newly refurbished monument at Dorchester Heights. The event will honor the service and sacrifice of thousands of soldiers and civilians whose efforts ended the 332-day Siege of Boston and altered the course of American history.

Facing a fortified American position atop Dorchester Heights and weakened by weather and strained conditions, British General William Howe ordered the evacuation of more than 11,000 soldiers and over 1,200 Loyalist civilians aboard a fleet of 120 ships on March 17, 1776. British forces never again occupied Massachusetts.

The 250th anniversary event honors the collaboration of colonies whose combined efforts helped secure American independence.

2. Event Schedule

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Ecumenical Service – Saint Augustine’s Chapel
9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Wreath laying & black powder demonstration, St. Augustine Cemetery
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Processional March from Boys and Girls Club to Dorchester Heights
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Commemorative program and rededication
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Monument open for all

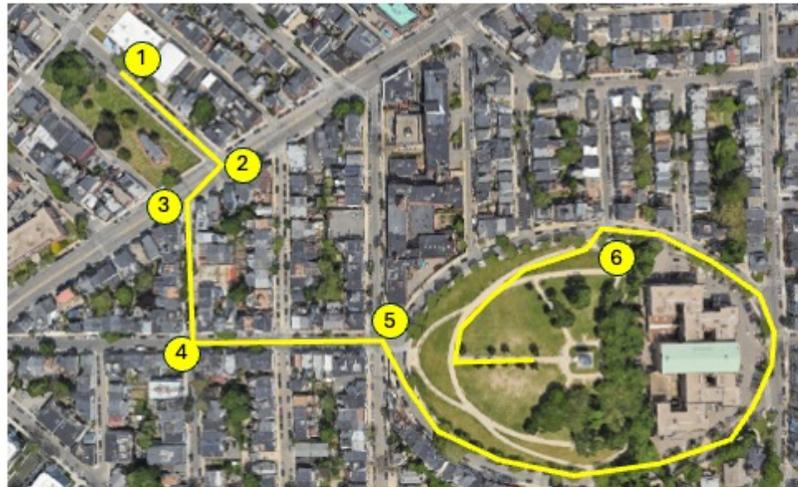


3. Procession Route



Evacuation Day Commemoration Procession Route Tuesday, March 17, 2026 – 10:15 a.m. Start

- 1.) Depart from Boys and Girls Club on W. Sixth St., heading East
- 2.) Turn right on Dorchester St.
- 3.) Turn left on Mercer Street.
- 4.) Turn left on Telegraph Street.
- 5.) Turn right on Thomas Park
- 6.) Enter Dorchester Heights Park, and proceed counter-clockwise towards center walkway.



4. Historical Background

- Siege of Boston lasted 332 days (April 1775–March 1776).
- American forces numbered 10,000–14,000 soldiers from multiple colonies.
- Artillery transported from Fort Ticonderoga enabled American forces to fortify Dorchester Heights.
- British evacuation included 11,000 troops and 1,200 Loyalists.
- The British never again occupied Massachusetts after March 17, 1776.
- The “Washington Before Boston” medal was the first medal authorized by the Continental Congress

5. Event Program Highlights

Dorchester Heights Ceremony (11:00 a.m.)

- Procession led by color guard, band, and reenactors
- Monument rededication
- Official remarks
- Community time capsule
- Wreath laying and Taps



5. Key Participants (Expected)

- National Park Service leadership
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts officials
- Federal delegation
- City of Boston leadership
- South Boston Citizens Association
- Military ceremonial units
- Historical reenactment groups
- Community organizations

7. Media Opportunities

- Monument rededication visuals
- Revolutionary War reenactors
- Procession and parade elements
- “Horses & Sleds” from the Henry Knox Trail, sleds built by BOCES (Boards of Cooperative Educational Services of New York State) students (Vocational-Technical Students) in Saratoga and provided by Saratoga 250
- Interviews with historians and elected officials
- Livestream broadcast access

8. About Massachusetts 250SM

Massachusetts 250SM commemorates the Commonwealth’s central role in the American Revolution through statewide programming, education initiatives, and public events leading up to the United States Semiquincentennial in 2026.