

LADY *Lady of Loyalty* LOYALTY

A wall of British soldiers charged across the green field as the brave American soldiers retreated to higher ground.

One of the soldiers was wounded and could not retreat. Just then a woman came up, quickly lifted the wounded soldier and carried him to a safe spot. "You will be all right, soldier," she said as she gave him a sip of water. The woman's name was Mary Ludwig Hays, but most people called her Molly Pitcher.

Molly's husband fought in the Continental Army under General George Washington. Even though he was at war, Molly stayed with her husband to help him and serve however she could.

The day was hot, and Molly was very tired. However, she still moved among the wounded, carrying cool water to each soldier. Word spread that Molly had water, and the men began to call, "Molly, bring your pitcher!"

The Americans were still fighting. "Ready... Aim... FIRE!" the officers shouted. The soldiers shot their rifles and reloaded.

Molly's husband, William Hays, was in charge of a cannon crew and worked hard to run it well. Mr. Hays and his men lit the cannon's fuse and turned away. CABOOOOM!!! The men stood again and started to reload the cannon.

The British soldiers fired back and Molly dove for cover. When she looked up, she saw her husband stagger from a bullet wound and collapse to the ground.

Molly ran across the battlefield to his side. As the soldiers carried him away to a safer spot he whispered, "It's okay, Molly. I'll be all right."

"We're going to move your cannon to the rear of the army," Molly heard an officer say to the crew behind her. She turned around and faced the men. "We've got a

battle to win!" Molly said. "I can help run it. Even if I have to do it all by myself, this cannon must stay here!"

The officer agreed, and Molly grabbed the cannon's ramrod. The soldiers cheered for Molly and her bravery.

"Hurray for Molly! Hurray for Molly Pitcher!" they cried. Molly led her cannon crew in shot after shot against the British Army.

The Americans fought bravely, and soon won the battle. Legend has it that just then, General George Washington rode up to Molly and her cannon crew. "Word has reached me of your gallant deeds today," the general said to Molly.

"Thank you, sir," Molly replied, "but it is the least I can do for my country."

"You're very kind, Miss Pitcher," the general said, "And today I proclaim that Molly Pitcher is a sergeant in this Continental Army!"

