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Signs of the times

No Kings artwork created by city artist at Boylston library

▲ Artist Kat Hastings with some of her political signs at the Boylston Public Library Oct. 17.
PHOTOS BY RICK CINCLAIR/TELEGRAM & GAZETTE
▼ The exhibit also features books selected by the librarians to complement the topic she showcased: liberty and the art of mass protest.

GETTY IMAGES

Kinga Borondy
Worcester Telegram & Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

WORCESTER — After her first experience attending an organized rally, the No Kings 2.0 protest in front of Worcester City Hall on July 4, Worcester artist Kat Hastings was inspired to create an interactive exhibit that invites dialogue, now on view at Boylston Public Library through October.

Hastings, a Spencer native who returned to Massachusetts after a lifetime of travel, was impressed by the creativity of the people attending that rally. She enjoyed being welcomed into the community formed by the large numbers of diverse people coming together for a common cause.

"I'm always up for questions about liberty," said Hastings on Oct. 17, as she discussed her artwork on display at the library. The exhibit also features books selected by the librarians to complement the topic she showcased: liberty and the art of mass protest.

Hastings took full advantage of the library policy that allows local artists to exhibit in the space. Her artwork graced the tables and low bookcases, leaned against the walls on higher

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Hegseth wants leaders like Gen. Patton – warts and all

Secretary of war introduces reforms targeting 'zero-defect' culture in U.S. military ranks

Davis Winkie
USA TODAY

Secretary of War Pete Hegseth wants military officers to take risks again – and history may be on his side.

A case in point: the day a 31-year-old U.S. Army lieutenant assigned to hunt Mexican rebel general Pancho Villa was ordered to take 10 men and two cars to buy corn.

After dutifully securing the corn in the spring of 1916, 2nd Lt. George Patton went rogue.

He followed a hunch that Villa's second-in-command was holed up in a nearby ranch.

Three horsemen burst forth from the ranch, setting off a flurry of gunfire. The outcome? Patton fatally shot Villa's deputy. The future general triumphantly returned to headquarters with the rebel leader's body strapped to the hood of his car.

This was neither the first nor the last time that Patton disobeyed an order. But in that era, Gen. John Pershing promoted the young officer instead of punishing him. When Pershing crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1917 to lead the American Expeditionary Force in the grinding trench warfare of World War I, he appointed Captain Patton to lead the force's experimental tank school. Patton wrote the Army's tank-fighting rules and ultimately became a decisive battlefield commander during World War II.

Hegseth invoked the steel-jawed general in both image and name in his Sept. 30 speech to the military's generals and admirals at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia.

Standing before an American flag backdrop reminiscent of the opening speech in Francis Ford Coppola's 1970 "Patton" biopic, Hegseth denounced "fat" and "woke" generals and said he was looking for the "Stockdales, the Schwarzkopfs, and the Pattons," referencing a stoic Vietnam-era Navy leader and a Gulf War Army general both known for their no-nonsense approach. Hegseth went on to announce an understated but crucially important set of changes aimed at empowering hard-nosed leaders – and giving them chances to learn from their failures. In military terms, Hegseth was flagging that he intended to eliminate a problem he called a "zero-defect command culture."

Military leaders have warned for decades that minor mistakes can destroy an officer's career and



Hegseth

See **MILITARY**, Page 5A



Secretary of War Pete Hegseth's department, now restyled as the Department of War, is ready for its leaders to take leaps of faith when the circumstances warrant.

OMAR ORNELAS/EL PASO TIMES FILE

