

OFFICIAL PLAN
*for the NATION-WIDE CELEBRATION of the
One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary
of the adoption of the*
DECLARATION
of
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN
INDEPENDENCE
and the
THOMAS JEFFERSON CENTENNIAL COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES



JUNE 18, 1926.—Ordered to be printed

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WASHINGTON
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[Public Resolution No. 20—Sixty-ninth Congress of the United States of America, at the first session, begun and held at the city of Washington on Monday, the seventh day of December, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five]

JOINT RESOLUTION Authorizing the establishment of a commission to be known as the Sesquicentennial of American Independence and the Thomas Jefferson Centennial Commission of the United States, in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That there is hereby established a commission to be known as the Sesquicentennial of American Independence and the Thomas Jefferson Centennial Commission of the United States, in commemoration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence (hereinafter referred to as the commission), and to be composed of 19 commissioners as follows:

The President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, ex officio; eight persons to be appointed by the President of the United States; four Senators by the Vice President; and four Representatives by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 2. The commissioners shall serve without compensation, and shall select a chairman from among their number, and no appropriation shall be made by Congress to carry out the purposes of this act.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the commissioners to promulgate to the American people an address relating to the reason of the creation of the commission and of its purposes and to prepare a plan or plans for a program in cooperation with the officers and board of governors of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, and the other National, State, city civic and patriotic committees, and other Jefferson centennial committees appointed throughout the country for the purpose of properly commemorating those signal events which have brought this commission into being, and to give due and proper consideration to any plan or plans which may be submitted to them; and to take such steps as may be necessary in the coordination and correlation of the various plans which may be submitted to the commission; and if the participation of other nations be deemed advisable, to communicate with the governments of such nations.

SEC. 4. When the commission shall have approved of a plan of celebration, then it shall submit for their consideration and approval such plan or plans, in so far as it or they may relate to the fine arts, to the Commission of Fine Arts in Washington, for their approval, and in accordance with statutory requirements.

SEC. 5. That the commission hereby created shall expire within two years after the expiration of the celebration, December 31, 1926.

SEC. 6. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

(Signed) NICHOLAS LONGWORTH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(Signed) CHARLES G. DAWES,
Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

Approved, April 26, 1926.

(Signed) CALVIN COOLIDGE.

Address to the American People

Promulgated by Honorable Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States, on behalf of the Sesquicentennial of American Independence and the Thomas Jefferson Centennial Commission of the United States as required by the Act of Congress creating the Commission

The Fourth of July, 1926, marks the sesquicentennial of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by which the American people declared their purpose to throw off the yoke of foreign control and establish their independence. The historical importance of this immortal document is measured by the progress of the Republic which was the fruit of its promulgation. In its enunciation of the fundamental principles of liberty and representative government, it has taken its place with Magna Charta as one of the outstanding pronouncements of all time that have made for the liberties of men and the advancement of the race. Its preamble sets forth with clarity and force the American conception of the relations of men to governments, which, in the intervening century and a half has constantly gained strength throughout the world.

After more than a century and a half these heroic signers of this immortal document, who, in the enunciation of the principles of liberty, equality, and representative government, challenged the power of the mighty empire "on which the sun never sets," have constantly grown in the appreciation of the Nation. When in support of the ideals set forth they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, they staked all in behalf of all the generations that have followed to this hour. No greater heritage has ever been bequeathed to any people.

As long as Americans remain worthy of such sires, the people of the United States must pledge anew in every generation their faith in the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence, and observe the Nation's natal day in such a manner as to carry inspiration to all freedom-loving people.

By a coincidence, the sesquicentennial of the Declaration of Independence falls upon the centennial of the death of Thomas Jefferson, who wrote it.

Among the founders of the Nation he was with the foremost, achieving with the pen as Washington with the sword and Adams with the spoken word. In his "Summary View of the Rights of British America" he gave such perfect expression to the political philosophy of the English-speaking race that it called forth the approval of Edmund Burke and the admiration of the Liberals of England.

In the Declaration of Independence he gave a vivid interpretation of the rightful and universal aspirations of the masses of mankind.

In his insistence upon the incorporation in the Constitution of the Bill of Rights there was effective provision made for the protection of the fundamental rights and liberties of the citizen, no matter how humble, against the tyranny of power.

By his reforms in Virginia he broke the backbone of feudalism in America and paved the way for democracy.

In drafting the ordinance of the Northwest Territory for the exclusion of slavery he not only saved the States to be carved from it from that calamity but pointed to its ultimate extinction on American soil.

Associating education with the success of popular government, he laid the basis for the public-school system in Virginia, founded the university of that State, and thus set an example to the Nation.

By the acquisition of Louisiana he added a rich empire to the Republic by peaceable methods.

It is a happy coincidence that the American people can renew their fidelity to the elemental principles of the Declaration of Independence, while according to its author the recognition due him by virtue of the services enumerated, on the sesquicentennial of the one and the centennial of the other.

To this end, this commission, by virtue of the authority vested in it by congressional action, has arranged a program for a nation-wide celebration commencing June 28 and ending July 5 this year, this period to be known as American Independence Week. The details of the program are attached to this address to the American people, and the commission, by virtue of the same authority, urges that in every community arrangements be made for a proper observance of these two anniversaries. Through the cooperation of State and municipal officials, and patriotic, civic, business, and fraternal societies, it is confidently believed that the celebrations of this year will result in a rededication of the American people to the ideals and principles which brought the Republic into existence.

Issued by order of the Sesquicentennial of American Independence and the Thomas Jefferson Centennial Commission of the United States at the city of Washington, D. C., on the 31st day of May, 1926.

(Signed) CALVIN COOLIDGE,
President of the United States,
Honorary Chairman of the Commission.

(Signed) FRANK B. KELLOGG,
Secretary of State.

(Signed) STUART G. GIBBONEY,
Chairman.

ATTEST:

(Signed) CLAUDE G. BOWERS,
Secretary.

American Independence Week

FROM JUNE 28 TO JULY 5, 1926

Celebrating the One Hundred and Fiftieth Birthday of the Declaration
of American Independence and Commemorating the
Centennial of the Death of its Author,
Thomas Jefferson

Monday, June 28.

PATRIOT'S PLEDGE OF FAITH DAY.

- A. In honor of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the day the Declaration, drafted by and in the handwriting of Thomas Jefferson, was first presented to the Continental Congress.
- B. Under direction of the President of the United States; the American Sesquicentennial and Jefferson Centennial Commission of the United States appointed by the President and by Congress; governors, mayors, and American Independence Week committees.
- C. Procedure:
 1. Echo of the Liberty Bell. At 11.11 a. m. a bell may be rung by the President of the United States in Washington. At the same time each governor and mayor may do likewise in their respective States and cities, the mayor of Philadelphia ringing the Liberty Bell. The ringing of these bells will be the signal for the ringing of bells in schools, churches, and everywhere throughout the Nation as the "Echo of the Liberty Bell."
 2. Flag salute: A formal "Flag Salute" should follow at all gatherings that may be arranged to attend the ceremony of the "Echo of the Liberty Bell."
 3. Patriot's Pledge of Faith: Immediately following the "Flag Salute" every man, woman, and child should be afforded the opportunity to pronounce the official "Patriot's Pledge of Faith."

Tuesday, June 29.

UNIVERSAL EDUCATION DAY.

- A. In honor of the great American system of free education which Thomas Jefferson aided in establishing as the foundation stone of our Republic.
- B. Under direction of educational authorities, organizations, and committees.
- C. Procedure: Special patriotic and educational exercises in all universities, colleges, schools, and libraries and by educational bodies and groups.

Wednesday, June 30.

FOUNDERS' DAY.

- A. In honor of the founders of America.
- B. Under direction of patriotic societies and committees.
- C. Procedure: Special meeting of patriotic societies and kindred bodies, with a public roll call of our founders, including Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and all other noble founders of America.

Thursday, July 1.

GREATER AMERICA DAY.

- A. In honor of the Louisiana Purchase by Jefferson.
- B. Under direction of commercial organizations and committees, such as real estate boards, chambers of commerce, merchants' associations, banking groups, etc.
- C. Procedure: Patriotic public meetings reviewing American expansion and growth in the past and the hopes for the future.

Friday, July 2.

SIGNERS' DAY.

- A. In honor of the brave and noble signers, who proclaimed to the world the immortal Declaration of American Independence.
- B. Under direction of The National Society of Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, historic societies, and other patriotic groups and committees.
- C. Procedure: Patriotic meetings, pageants, or performances recalling the signers and their heroic work.

Saturday, July 3.

MONTICELLO DAY.

- A. In honor of the establishment of Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, as a national memorial to the author of the Declaration of American Independence and as a patriotic shrine for the children of America.
- B. Under direction of all National, State, and local committees.
- C. Procedure: Parades, outdoor or indoor meetings, and other functions, according to local conditions. A greeting should be sent from all gatherings either by telegraph or by mail to Monticello, Charlottesville, Va., for the Centennial Record.

Sunday, July 4.

JEFFERSON CENTENNIAL DAY.

- A. In honor of the one-hundredth anniversary of the death of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence.
- B. Under direction of Jefferson Centennial Committees and all civic and patriotic bodies.
- C. Procedure: National services at Jefferson's grave at Monticello, which all are invited to attend. Floral tributes may be sent to Monticello, Charlottesville, Va., to be placed on Jefferson's grave. Services in churches of all creeds and denominations and public memorial services throughout the Nation.

Monday, July 5.

SESQUICENTENNIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY.

- A. In honor of the one hundred and fiftieth birthday of our Nation.
- B. Under direction of the American Sesquicentennial and Jefferson Centennial Commission of the United States and all affiliated and cooperating civic, patriotic, and educational bodies.
- C. Procedure: National exercises at Philadelphia and at Monticello.¹ Patriotic exercises and celebrations everywhere. Formal proclamation of the Declaration of Independence at all public gatherings followed by the official "Patriot's Pledge of Faith."

¹ The commission cordially invites all who may wish to attend the national services to be held at Monticello (Charlottesville, Va.) on July 3, 4, and 5, under the auspices of the commission. For directions and full particulars inquire of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation (Inc.), 115 Broadway, New York.

Instructions to all Committees for American Independence Week

Each committee is urged to organize promptly, study the nationwide plan for American Independence Week, determine to what extent and in what manner the program can be carried out most effectively in its territory; and organize accordingly.

Adopt only such parts of the program as you can reasonably expect to carry out successfully, bearing in mind that the purpose is educational and patriotic.

IMPORTANT

A. The "Echo of the Liberty Bell" ceremony is extremely important. It raises the curtain on the general activities of the "week" and should be so arranged as to arouse public attention and make a lasting impression worthy of the occasion.

To accomplish this purpose the committee should be careful to arrange:

(1) Public meeting in front of State capital, city hall, or other public places to be held early Monday morning, June 28.

(2) The governor, the mayor, or some other outstanding citizen to ring a bell at the meeting at the appointed time—11.11 a. m. (The local time of each place governs each ceremony respectively.)

(3) All churches, schools, boats, fire houses, etc., to ring their bells at 11.11 a. m.

(4) Immediately after the bells have rung have a color guard present the American flag in front of the gathering. Everyone rise, salute the flag, and then let every man, woman, and child pronounce the "Patriot's Pledge of Faith."

(5) Follow with patriotic exercises at the meeting—songs, band, address, and national anthem, etc.

B. Arrange balance of week's program in accordance with the local conditions.

(1) Invite State, city, and school authorities; historic, patriotic, civic, fraternal, religious, and commercial societies; luncheon, social, and political clubs, etc., to—

(a) Cooperate in general program.

(b) Arrange individual programs during week.

(2) Divide the work by appointing special committees to take charge of the various steps in the program. For instance:

(a) A Liberty Bell committee can arrange to have the bells ring at 11.11 a. m. Monday, June 28.

(b) An educational committee can arrange to have schools, colleges, libraries, etc., take part in the "week."

(c) A club committee can get the clubs to do their share.

(d) A publicity committee can cooperate with all the local newspapers.

(e) A Patriot's Pledge of Faith committee to distribute copies of the official Patriot's Pledge of Faith in the following form through newspapers, placards and handbills:

I do hereby pledge and declare my sincere belief and devout faith in the fundamental ideals of my country so bravely proclaimed to the world by the immortal signers of the Declaration of American Independence; and in their words and noble spirit "we pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor" to the support of those ideals; and as a token of my sincerity, and as an evidence of my gratitude for the blessings which that immortal document has assured to all Americans, I do hereby make this contribution for the preservation of Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, as a national memorial to the author of the Declaration of Independence and as a patriotic shrine for the children of America.

(Copies for distribution may be obtained from the National Headquarters of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, 115 Broadway, New York, N. Y.)

(f) Committees may be appointed for each day in the "week" to arrange the special activities pertaining to each day in accordance with the national plan.

C. Time.

The question has arisen as to whether standard or daylight saving time is to be followed in the Liberty Bell ceremony at 11.11 a. m. on Monday, June 28. It has been decided that the local time of the place of each ceremony should govern. In other words, when it is 11.11 on the clocks in your city, that will be the time for your ceremony. This decision is based on the desire to have a unity of spirit which will inaugurate that week at a *similar* hour in the life and work of the people, rather than attempt to adopt any one physical moment.

D. Publicity.

Appropriate publicity for each day of the week will be sent in advance to each newspaper by the commission. The committee should be in constant touch with the editors of all newspapers, who are always willing to assist in spreading lessons of patriotism. Report promptly to your local newspapers all news and activities.

E. Report.

At the conclusion of the week, the committee should make a report addressed to the Sesquicentennial of American Independence and the Jefferson Centennial Commission at its headquarters, No. 26 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C. This report will be included in the official record of the commission.

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E. Report.

At the conclusion of the work, the committee should make a report addressed to the Secretariat of American Indians and the Jefferson Contentment Commission at its headquarters, No. 20 Jackson Park, Washington, D. C. This report will be included in the official record of the commission.

H. D. 40-1-10-18-55

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

AND THE

THOMAS JEFFERSON CENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF THE UNITED STATES, 26 JACKSON PLACE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Dr. Edwin A. Alderman, President, University of Virginia.

July 1, 1920

Dear Sir,

One hundred and fifty

copies of

of the

Declaration

of

American Independence

and also

The Centennial of the Birth of

Thomas Jefferson

Author of the "Lancet" Document

July 4, 1926

marks the

One Hundred and Fiftieth

Anniversary

of the

Declaration

of

American Independence

and also

The Centennial of the Death of

Thomas Jefferson

Author of that Immortal Document