

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 986

Supporting a national and international celebration commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America's birth, to be held throughout the year 2026, focused on the Greater Philadelphia Region in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of Delaware, and the State of New Jersey.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2009

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GERLACH, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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## RESOLUTION

Supporting a national and international celebration commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States of America's birth, to be held throughout the year 2026, focused on the Greater Philadelphia Region in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of Delaware, and the State of New Jersey.

Whereas, on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the members of the Second Continental Congress adopted “The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America”, popularly known as the Declaration

of Independence, asserting independence from Great Britain;

Whereas the tri-state Greater Philadelphia Region played a pivotal role in the founding of the United States of America;

Whereas the Greater Philadelphia Region was the site of the meeting of the First and Second Continental Congresses, the drafting and signing of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, seminal battles of the Revolutionary War such as Princeton and Brandywine, and the historic encampment at Valley Forge;

Whereas individuals from diverse ethnic backgrounds, free and enslaved Africans, and members of the Oneida Nation fought side by side in the Revolutionary War to obtain liberty for all, thereby making the anniversary of the founding of the United States an occasion to celebrate both the Nation's diversity and the common pursuit of its peoples;

Whereas several foreign governments and individuals from nations such as France and Poland assisted the American colonies in their fight for Independence, and several nations such as Morocco were early supporters of the young United States of America, thereby making the anniversary of the founding of the United States an occasion for international celebration;

Whereas the Greater Philadelphia Region has hosted major celebrations honoring landmark anniversaries of the Nation's birth, including the Nation's first world's fair at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition, the Sesquicentennial of 1926, and the Bicentennial of 1976;

Whereas the Greater Philadelphia Region today contains numerous historical sites connected to our Nation's birth and Revolutionary-period history, including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, the Graff House site where Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, the site of Benjamin Franklin's house, the City of Dover, where Delaware became the first State to ratify the Constitution, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Washington Crossing Historic Park, Trenton Battlefield State Park, the President's House in Philadelphia, the Betsy Ross House, Fort Mifflin, Christ Church, and the National Constitution Center;

Whereas the United States, through the National Park Service, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of New Jersey, the State of Delaware, and numerous organizations have established extensive museums, tours, exhibitions, and print and online materials focused on interpreting the events and sites of 1776, and commemorating their significance in the Nation's founding history, military history, social and ethnic history, and history of African and African-American peoples in the Americas;

Whereas the year 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and thereby our Nation's birth;

Whereas a national celebration of the Nation's birth in 2026 will provide a milestone opportunity to commemorate the Nation's historic achievements, progress in social and civil rights, and contemporary patriotism;

Whereas such a celebration will provide an important opportunity to promote and celebrate the history, culture, traditions, and experiences of the diverse peoples and groups that shaped our Nation's history; and

Whereas it would be symbolically significant, educational, and exciting for families and visitors to commemorate the Nation's bicenquinquagenary at the physical places where the Nation's founding events took place: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports  
2 a national and international celebration commemorating  
3 the 250th anniversary of the United States of America's  
4 birth, to be hosted by the Greater Philadelphia Region in  
5 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of Dela-  
6 ware, and the State of New Jersey.

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