

1 A RESOLUTION commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the
2 United States of America.

3 WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, marks the 250th Anniversary, or Semiquincentennial, of
4 the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress in
5 Philadelphia in 1776, signifying the founding of the United States of America; and

6 WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence opens with the profound statement
7 acknowledging "when in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one
8 people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to
9 assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws
10 of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them," therefore laying the foundation for which
11 our nation was to be built upon the self-evident truth that all men are created equal and
12 that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these
13 are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness; and

14 WHEREAS, the founding of the United States established the principles of
15 separation of powers, states' rights, and federalism, emphasizing a decentralized system
16 of government wherein powers are divided between national and state governments,
17 fostering liberty, accountability, and shared sovereignty; and

18 WHEREAS, this decentralized governance model has allowed for a unique form of
19 limited government with a strong level of accountability to the citizens of each state,
20 ensuring that government remains close to and reflective of the people's will, operating
21 out of the belief that in order to secure the people's rights, governments instituted by men
22 derive their powers from the consent of those they govern; and

23 WHEREAS, the signers of the Declaration of Independence, with a firm reliance on
24 the protection of Divine providence, pledged to one another their lives, their fortunes, and
25 their sacred honor, and appealed to the Supreme Judge of the world to validate the moral
26 integrity, righteousness, and justness of the founders' intentions to declare the right to be
27 free and independent states, and therefore a free and independent people; and

1 WHEREAS, the founding of the United States initiated a journey toward forming a
2 "more perfect Union," marked by historic achievements, struggles, and progress in
3 realizing the nation's founding ideals for all its citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has played a significant role
5 throughout the history of the United States, contributing to the nation's development,
6 economy, and defense through the efforts and sacrifices of its citizens, and to the creation
7 of the American culture of liberty, independence, and prosperity; and

8 WHEREAS, the Semiquincentennial offers a unique opportunity for the people of
9 Kentucky to reflect on our history, honor the contributions of all Americans, celebrate
10 our heritage of liberty, and look forward to the future we strive to create for subsequent
11 generations; and

12 WHEREAS, George Washington acknowledged the value of protecting our liberty
13 through future generations in stating, "a primary object should be the education of our
14 youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be
15 equally important? And what duty more pressing than communicating it to those who are
16 to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?"; and

17 WHEREAS, commemorative activities across Kentucky will provide educational
18 opportunities, foster civic engagement, encourage community participation, and
19 strengthen appreciation for our unique and rich history, the principles of federalism and
20 self-governance, and foundational ideals upon which both the nation and our
21 Commonwealth were built;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
24 ***Kentucky:***

25 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby recognizes and commemorates the upcoming
26 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America on July 4, 2026.

27 ➔Section 2. The Senate encourages all citizens, communities, educational

1 institutions, civic organizations, and businesses within the Commonwealth of Kentucky
2 to participate in commemorative events and activities that reflect on our history, celebrate
3 our achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of civil, political and
4 religious liberty, equality, self-government, and federalism, upholding our gratefulness to
5 Almighty God and invoking the continuance of these many blessings.

6 ➔Section 3. The Senate strongly encourages educational institutions across the
7 Commonwealth of Kentucky to enhance civics education, ensuring that future
8 generations understand the critical importance of active civic participation, the principles
9 of federalism, and the decentralized governance that protects liberty and promotes
10 responsive government.

11 ➔Section 4. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
12 Resolution to Senator Lindsey Tichenor and Senator Steve Rawlings.