

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, DECLARING THE YEARS 2024-2027 AS THE  
3 PERIOD OF COMMEMORATION FOR AMERICA250 IN IDAHO, ENCOURAGING INDIVID-  
4 UALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES TO PLAN COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES  
5 THAT WILL HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE PRINCIPLES AND FOUNDATIONAL THOUGHTS  
6 THAT EMERGED DURING AMERICA'S REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD, AND CREATING AN AD-  
7 VISORY COUNCIL.

8 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 WHEREAS, in the year 2026, the United States will celebrate its  
10 semiquincentennial, known as America250, the 250th anniversary of the coun-  
11 try's founding and a momentous occasion in our nation's history when the  
12 Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July  
13 4, 1776; and

14 WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence encapsulates enduring truths  
15 and principles that define the national heritage of the United States, among  
16 them individual liberty, representative government, and equal and unalien-  
17 able rights; and

18 WHEREAS, the founding of the United States of America is one of the most  
19 extraordinary and providential events in human history and should be cele-  
20 brated accordingly; and

21 WHEREAS, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Indepen-  
22 dence serves as a reminder of the role of citizens in keeping our republic by  
23 preserving self-governance, fostering peace, pursuing happiness, inspiring  
24 gratitude and patriotism, and mentoring future generations by passing down  
25 patriotic traditions; and

26 WHEREAS, Public Law 114-196, passed by the 114th United States Congress  
27 and signed by the president on July 22, 2016, established the United States  
28 Semiquincentennial Commission and encouraged similar state and local ef-  
29 forts; and

30 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho shall participate in this national commemo-  
31 ration as "America250 in Idaho"; and

32 WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho provides an opportunity for Idahoans to  
33 participate in commemorating the ideals of the American revolution: equal-  
34 ity, liberty, and justice; and

35 WHEREAS, Idaho, known as the "Gem State," occupies a unique place in the  
36 mosaic of American history, with significant historical milestones, eras,  
37 innovations, and advancements; and

38 WHEREAS, learning about Idaho's history builds honor in our great state  
39 and its place in the American story and strengthens the values that char-  
40 acterize Idaho and its residents, including family, community, integrity,  
41 self-reliance, and patriotism; and

1           WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho will rely on the values of heritage rever-  
2           ence, education, respect, community resilience, and patriotism to guide its  
3           efforts; and

4           WHEREAS, in honoring these values, America250 in Idaho will make  
5           Idaho's unparalleled history and distinctive attributes and the invaluable  
6           contributions of its residents since time immemorial the foundation on which  
7           Idahoans understand their place in this region, the country, and the world;  
8           and

9           WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature invites partners, communities, organi-  
10           zations, and all Idahoans to participate in America250 in Idaho throughout  
11           the commemorative period.

12           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular  
13           Session of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the House of Representa-  
14           tives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature declares  
15           2024 through 2027 as the period of commemoration for America250 in Idaho  
16           during which time individuals, organizations, and communities may plan  
17           commemorative activities that will honor and recognize the principles and  
18           foundational thoughts that emerged during America's revolutionary period  
19           and which we all aspire to today.

20           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature invites all Idahoans  
21           to promote an awareness and understanding of the principles contained in the  
22           nation's founding documents, including but not limited to representative  
23           government, personal responsibility, individual liberty, and equal and  
24           inalienable rights. We encourage Idahoans to reflect on American and state  
25           history and heritage, develop deeper connections within their communities,  
26           and advance Idaho's contributions and values for the benefit of our children  
27           and future generations.

28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature hereby calls for the  
29           creation of the America250 in Idaho Advisory Council comprised of three mem-  
30           bers appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be the director of the State  
31           Historical Society, and four members appointed by the Legislative Council,  
32           to oversee and guide the implementation of America250 in Idaho.