

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4702, by Representatives Eslick, Barkis, Abell, Mendoza, Schmidt, Dent, Ley, Abbarno, Griffey, Dufault, Walsh, Burnett, Marshall, Keaton, Stuebe, Steele, Bergquist, Parshley, Zahn, Stearns, Taylor, Barnard, Hall, Dye, Penner, Thai, Connors, Engell, Callan, Bronoske, Leavitt, Ybarra, Pollet, and Corry

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

5       WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence proclaimed timeless  
6 principles of profound significance to the national heritage of the  
7 United States, including that all are created equal and endowed with  
8 certain inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit  
9 of happiness, and that governments derive their just powers from the  
10 consent of the governed; and

11       WHEREAS, The founding of the United States established the  
12 principle of federalism, emphasizing a decentralized system of  
13 government wherein powers are divided between national and state  
14 governments, fostering liberty, accountability, and responsiveness to  
15 local communities; and

16       WHEREAS, This decentralized governance model has allowed for  
17 innovation, diverse policy approaches, and stronger accountability to  
18 the citizens of each state, ensuring that government remains close to  
19 and reflective of the people's will; and

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

1       WHEREAS, The state of Washington has played a significant role  
2 throughout the history of the United States, contributing to the  
3 nation's development, culture, economy, and defense through the  
4 efforts and sacrifices of its citizens; and

5       WHEREAS, The Semiquincentennial offers a unique opportunity for  
6 the people of Washington to reflect on our shared history, honor the  
7 diverse contributions of all Americans, celebrate our heritage of  
8 liberty, and look forward to the future we strive to create for  
9 subsequent generations; and

10       WHEREAS, Commemorative activities across Washington State will  
11 provide educational opportunities, foster civic engagement, encourage  
12 community participation, and strengthen appreciation for the history,  
13 federalist principles, and foundational ideals upon which both the  
14 nation and our state were built;

15       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
16 hereby recognize and commemorate the upcoming 250th Anniversary of  
17 the founding of the United States of America on July 4, 2026; and

18       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage all citizens,  
19 communities, educational institutions, civic organizations, and  
20 businesses within Washington State to participate in commemorative  
21 events and activities that reflect on our history, celebrate our  
22 achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of liberty,  
23 equality, self-government, and federalism.

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