250th Anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord

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By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Two and a half centuries ago, a small band of minutemen answered the call of freedom in the legendary Battles of Lexington and Concord, an epic tale of American strength and the first major armed conflict of the Revolutionary War. We honor the memories, remember the sacrifices, and summon the courage of every hero of liberty who gallantly shed his blood for the cause of independence on April 19, 1775.

After years of intensifying frictions and escalating hostility between the British Crown and the American Colonies, all avenues to peace and diplomacy had been exhausted, and it became clear to the patriots that war was inevitable. Following the Boston Massacre, the oppressive Intolerable Acts, and the lasting grievance of taxation without representation, the colonists began organizing militias as a final recourse in defense of their right to self-government.

The British regime's reign of tyranny reached a breaking point when, in his fearless midnight ride from Boston, Massachusetts, Paul Revere announced the news that the Redcoats were marching to Concord, Massachusetts, to arrest Colonial leaders and seize American arms. By the time they reached Lexington at dawn, the British encountered 77 intrepid American minutemen, led by Captain John Parker, boldly standing their ground in defense of their independence. The surprised British fired a volley, mortally wounding eight American patriots -- the very first American soldiers to lay down their lives for our emerging Nation.

The British ambush at Lexington became known as the "shot heard 'round the world," prompting thousands of brave young men to leave behind their homes and livelihoods to fight for our freedom on the frontlines of the American Revolution -- commencing the greatest fight for liberty in the history of the world.

Later that morning, the Redcoats arrived at Concord to find and set fire to patriot military supplies. At the sight of rising smoke from atop a lofty hill, the colonists believed the Redcoats were burning the town, provoking them to advance to the North Bridge. As Captain Isaac Davis, whose company stood at the front of the column, said of his soldiers gearing up to take on the Redcoats, "I haven't a man who is afraid to go."

As 400 daring militiamen descended down Punkatasset Hill toward the North Bridge, the startled British opened fire, killing 49 Americans, including Captain Davis. "Fire, fellow soldiers, for God's sake, fire!" shouted Major John Buttrick of the Concord militia at the sound of the discharging muskets -- sending the British running back to Boston in retreat in a resounding victory for Colonial forces. For the next 12 miles, the patriots relentlessly pursued the Redcoats, ambushing them from behind trees, walls, and other cover. As one British soldier is said to have recalled, the Americans "fought like bears, and I would as soon storm hell as fight them again."

April 19, 1775, stands to this day as a seminal milestone in our Nation's righteous crusade for liberty and independence. On this day 250 years ago, with the fire of freedom blazing in their souls, an extraordinary army of American minutemen defeated one of the mightiest armies on the face of the earth and laid the foundation for America's ultimate triumph over tyranny.

Two and a half centuries later, their fortitude remains our inheritance, their resolve remains our birthright, and their unwavering loyalty to God and country remains the duty of every American patriot. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our Nation's independence next year, we honor the valiant men who fought in defense of their sacred right to self-government, we renew our pledge to restore our republic to all of its greatness and glory, and we commit to rebuilding a country and a culture that inspires pride in our past and faith in our future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2025, as a day in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord and the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this

seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

DONALD J. TRUMP

03/20/25

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF PATRICK HENRY'S "GIVE ME LIBERTY,

OR GIVE ME DEATH!" SPEECH

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation proudly commemorates the 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry's address to the Second Virginia Convention -- a seminal moment in our great American story and a fateful turning point in America's epic struggle for Independence.

On March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry rose to the pulpit of St. John's Church in Richmond, Virginia, to speak those immortal words that remain etched upon every American heart: "Give me Liberty, or give me death!"

In the wake of escalating tensions between the Patriots and the Redcoats, Henry delivered this stirring address before more than 100 delegates, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and many of the statesmen who would go on to sign the Declaration of Independence. Following the bloody Boston Massacre and the British Parliament's authoritarian imposition of the Intolerable Acts -- which closed the Boston Harbor and stripped New England Colonists of their right to self-govern -- American leaders deliberated whether to continue their pursuit of peace, or as a final recourse, to take up arms in the rebellion.

With British tyranny on the rise and American confidence in retreat, the Second Virginia Convention assembled. Patrick Henry, a respected lawyer who had recently served as a delegate to the Continental Congress, arrived at the Convention with one goal in mind: to galvanize militiamen into securing "our inestimable rights and liberties, from those further violations with which they are threatened."

Some members cautioned against such decisive action, insisting that peaceful reconciliation was still possible, but as Henry listened, he grew more impatient. A Baptist minister who observed the proceedings later recalled that he had "an unearthly fire burning in his eye." Overcome with righteous indignation, Henry rose from his seat with no notes in hand, boldly beseeching his fellow Virginians: "If we wish to be free... we must fight!"

At a moment when America's fate hung in the balance, Henry's words sparked daring action in the souls of patriots, fortified the cause of freedom, and set America on the path to ultimate triumph over forces of tyranny and oppression. By a narrow margin, the Second Virginia Convention passed the resolution to form a militia -- the first critical step to Independence.

"It is not now easy to say what we should have done without Patrick Henry," Thomas Jefferson later wrote. "He was before us all in maintaining the spirit of the Revolution."

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our Nation's Independence on July 4, 2026, we look to Patrick Henry, a son of the frontier, the first and sixth Governor of Virginia, an unflinching advocate for American Independence, and a true man of his moment. Today, we invoke his courage, we honor his legacy, and we fearlessly summon the spirit of 1776 to build a future that we will be proud to impart on our children. Like Patrick Henry and the giants of American liberty who came before us, now is our time to ring that great bell of American freedom and to propel our Nation into a new and radiant golden age.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 23, 2025, as a day in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Patrick Henry's speech to the Second Virginia Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-ninth.

DONALD J. TRUMP