

A Proclamation of the Town of Brookville, Indiana

Whereas, between 1607, with the establishment of the Colony of Virginia, and 1732, with the establishment of the Province of Georgia, the British Empire expanded into the New World through the creation of thirteen chartered colonies located along the East Coast of North America;

Whereas, by 1774, the population of the Thirteen Colonies had expanded to 2.4 million people and, while granted limited autonomy, these individuals, freemen and slaves alike, were subjects of the British Crown;

Whereas, saddled with debt from the French and Indian War and the Seven Years' War, King George III and Parliament sought to bolster British coffers through increased taxation and control in the Thirteen Colonies;

Whereas, English Parliament enacted the Stamp Act in 1765, thus giving rise to the "no taxation without representation" rallying cry in the Colonies, and the Tea Act in 1773. These Acts bypassed colonial legislatures and sowed discontent, leading to organized protests such as the Boston Tea Party by the Sons of Liberty in December, 1773;

Whereas, the opening shots of the Revolutionary War were fired at the Battles of Lexington and Concord in April, 1775 as a group of Patriots repelled British forces; thereafter, all royal officials were expelled from the Colonies. In response, British Parliament formally declared the Colonies to be in a "state of rebellion" in August, 1775;

Whereas, the Second Continental Congress was called in May, 1775 and included delegates from all of the Thirteen Colonies. This Congress authorized the raising of an army to be commanded by General George Washington and charged the "Committee of Five", John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman, with authoring a Declaration to be issued to King George III;

Whereas, the Declaration of Independence was drafted largely by Thomas Jefferson between June 11, 1776 and June 28, 1776 and the Preamble famously begins with the following universal declaration of rights: "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*"

Whereas, the Second Continental Congress approved a Resolution for Independence on July 2, 1776 and unanimously approved the **Declaration of Independence** on July 4, 1776;

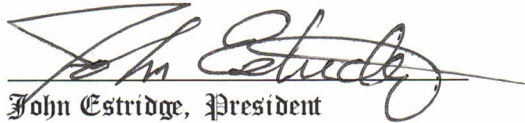
Whereas, the American War of Independence was fought over a period of eight years before formally ending with the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783;

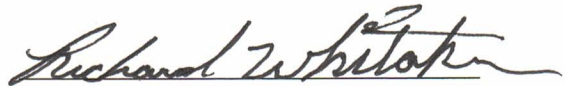
Whereas, the 4th day of July, 2026 will be the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of our great nation; and

Whereas, the Town of Brookville, Indiana, itself platted in 1808 and incorporated in 1814, in anticipation of this historic anniversary, does hereby reaffirm those basic tenets of human dignity, that we are all endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, chief among these being Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

Therefore, be it proclaimed by the Town Council of the Town of Brookville, Indiana that throughout the year 2026, the Town of Brookville will be celebrating the **Declaration of Independence** and honoring those extraordinary Patriots that fought not only for the independence of our nation, but also for unalienable the rights of all people and did so “...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

In Witness whereof, this Proclamation, bearing the seal of the Town of Brookville, Indiana and the Signatures of its authorized officers, is duly approved at Brookville, Indiana this the Eighteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.


John Estridge, President


Richard Whitaker, Vice President

Fred Neeley, Member

Rebecca Beesley, Member


Ethan Erschell, Member

Attest:


Gina Gillman, Clerk-Treasurer