

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HCR 60

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: April 20, 2021 8:00 AM

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Lynn Young, America 250 Commissioner

America 250 Commission

Rockdale, TX

I am Lynn Forney Young and have the honor of serving as one of 16 private citizens appointed by the U. S. Congressional leadership to serve on the United States. Semiquincentennial Commission. Also serving on the Commission are eight members of Congress, and more than a dozen ex-officio members such as the Secretaries of State, Defense, Interior, Education, Smithsonian Institution, and the Library of Congress.

Established by Congress in 2016, the Commission was charged with planning and implementing an overall program to observe and commemorate all 250+ years of this country's history. The Commission's mission statement is to Inspire the American Spirit within all Americans and each American, grounded in our nation's founding principles, for our continuing journey to a more perfect Union. The goal of the Commission is to Engage, Educate and Unite all Americans. We are identifying the Commission as America 250.

The current division in our nation reminds me very much of the era of the late sixties and early seventies prior to the Bicentennial when our country was engaged in the Vietnam War, experiencing race riots, the Kent State shooting, the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Watergate. Protests were common and Flags were burned. However, what I remember even more clearly is that we came together as Americans in 1976. Every house flew the Flag and mailboxes and fire hydrants were painted red, white and blue. There was a resurgence of patriotism not seen since Pearl Harbor. We were all proud to be Americans.

This bill paves the way for a partnership with the Federal Semiquincentennial Commission as we strive to engage all Americans in this milestone anniversary. Further, it affords Texas the opportunity to increase awareness of the unique role Texas played in the American Revolution. To date, 12 states have established entities to begin planning the most significant milestone of our lifetimes and other states have pending legislation. I urge you to approve this bill so that Texas can join the Commission in educating, engaging, and uniting this country once again. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynn Forney Young

U.S. Semiquincentennial Commissioner

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Frank Holman

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Austin, TX

We have the greatest country in the world. Our countries history must be preserved and celebrated. Vote to send this bill to the house floor.