

By: Lowe

H.C.R. No. 91

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the  
2 adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second  
3 Continental Congress, which was convened in Philadelphia in 1776;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1760s, Great Britain's taxation and  
6 frontier policies became increasingly onerous to residents of its  
7 13 North American colonies; their vigorous protests were met with  
8 declaration of martial law in Massachusetts and the closing of the  
9 port of Boston; delegates from colonial governments met in a  
10 Continental Congress to organize a boycott of British goods; as  
11 fighting broke out between colonists and British troops in  
12 Massachusetts, the Continental Congress coordinated resistance  
13 efforts; and

14 WHEREAS, The prospect of reconciliation with Britain grew  
15 increasingly unlikely; on December 22, 1775, the British Parliament  
16 prohibited trade with the colonies, and the Continental Congress  
17 responded the following April by opening colonial ports; Thomas  
18 Paine championed the cause of independence in a widely-distributed  
19 pamphlet, *Common Sense*, and on June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee  
20 introduced a motion in the Continental Congress to declare  
21 independence; although not all members were ready to make this  
22 break, the Continental Congress formed a committee to write such a  
23 declaration, composed of five delegates: Thomas Jefferson, John  
24 Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and Benjamin Franklin; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Jefferson, a junior delegate from Virginia, was  
2 assigned to write the initial draft; drawing on George Mason's  
3 Virginia Declaration of Rights, as well as Mr. Jefferson's own  
4 drafts of the Virginia Constitution and *Summary View of the Rights*  
5 *of British Americans*, Mr. Jefferson produced a rough draft in a  
6 matter of days; Mr. Adams and Mr. Franklin made revisions, followed  
7 by the full committee, which then presented the final version to the  
8 full Continental Congress on June 28; and

9           WHEREAS, After voting for independence on July 2, 1776, the  
10 Continental Congress made 39 additional revisions to the committee  
11 draft; on the morning of July 4, the Declaration of Independence was  
12 adopted, a defining moment in the American Revolution; and

13           WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence consists of 27  
14 grievances against England's King George III in which the colonists  
15 outline the complaints that "impel them to the separation" from the  
16 "mother country"; among the most familiar and enduring protests has  
17 been against the oft-repeated "taxation without representation"--a  
18 refrain that continues in use today in various contexts; and

19           WHEREAS, Additionally, the Declaration of Independence  
20 asserts "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God" to which a people are  
21 "entitle[d]," including the belief that "all men are created equal,  
22 that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable  
23 Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of  
24 Happiness"; and

25           WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence provided a firm and  
26 enduring foundation for our liberty, and over the course of nearly  
27 two and a half centuries, this pivotal document has been a source of

1 inspiration to people the world over; now, therefore, be it

2           RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas  
3 hereby commemorate the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the  
4 Declaration of Independence, which founded the United States of  
5 America on July 4, 1776.