

## Suggestion Box Form

1. Point of Contact Title & Name
2. Point of Contact Phone Number
3. Point of Contact Email
4. Organization Name
5. Organization Address
6. Organization/Point of Contact Website
7. Is this a (Check one)
  - a. Program
  - b. Project
  - c. Event
8. Name of Program, Project or Event
9. Date of Program, Project or Event
10. Describe the program, project or event. You may attach additional documents for review.
  - a. (Attach here)
11. Idaho America250 themes represented (check all that apply)
  - a. Patriotism
  - b. Heritage
  - c. Education
  - d. Respect
  - e. Community resilience
12. Please explain how the selected themes will be represented.
  - a. (Comment box)

### Emails forwarded by

Jan Gallimore to Phil McGrane &  
Julie Ellsworth

- 1.) Todd Christensen, CMO, CapEd Credit Union and President of We The People 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Committee Inc.

We The People is the 501(C)3 that helps facilitate the Idaho 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Boise. The 2023 parade was this group's first time shepherding the event. And since then, it has expanded greatly to include a community breakfast managed by the Veteran Entrepreneur Alliance, over 85 quality entries parade entries, numerous musicians, and Capitol steps performances on July 4. They are very interested in making the 2026 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade spectacular and considering additional activities as well.

We The People's board of directors, including:  
Todd Christensen, CMO, CapEd Credit Union – Board President  
Ryan Hawes, News Director, CBS2 – Vice President  
Amanda Fuhriman, Marketing Manager, Peterson Chevrolet – Secretary  
Caity Denny, Promotions Director, Cumulus Radio – Treasurer  
Issac Belden, Executive Director, Veteran Entrepreneurial Alliance (VEA) - Director  
DC Carlton, General Manager, Rancho Radio – Director  
Lori Otter, First Lady – Director  
Alan Bosch, Attorney/CPA, Gravis Law – Ex-officio

Todd Christensen  
Board President  
We The People 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Committee Inc.  
Cell: 208-407-4768

- 2.) Paul Thornton, TAG PRESENTS, CEO & President

Paul reached out to us after President Trump's announcement about the 250<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and the state's involvements in lead up events throughout the 2026 year, and then the culmination at the United States State's Fair that will take place in IOWA at their state fairgrounds, in which every state is to be represented with its own activation spaces. Todd has created events for Gov. Kempthorne such as the National Governor's Convention Ball, and his inauguration events, and other projects. He is very interested in helping the state create major scale events and secure corporate support.

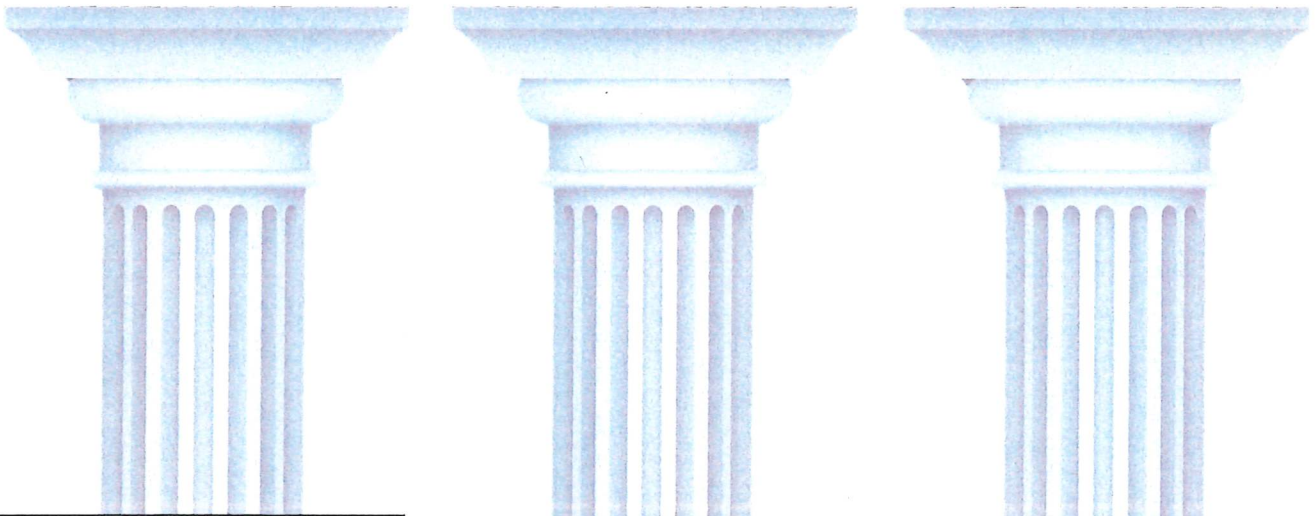
Paul Thornton  
TAG PRESENTS, CEO & President

737.279.5027  
<http://www.TagPresents.com>

Janet L. Gallimore  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
(208) 514-2325

**Three Pillars Update**

**America 250 in Idaho**  
Three Pillars of focus



**Idaho Celebrates America 250**

*The Idaho Legislature declares 2024 through 2027 as the period of commemoration for America250 in Idaho during which time individuals, organizations, and communities may plan commemorative activities that will honor and recognize the principles and foundational thoughts that emerged during America's revolutionary period and which we all aspire to today. (HCR31, 2024; pg.2, lines 14-19) (#1)*

*The America250 in Idaho Commemoration shall commence in July 2024 with events, projects, and activities celebrating our nation's founding, triumphant history, and promising future. (Governor's Proclamation) (#4)*

**Idaho Celebratory Events and Community Outreach by the oversight committee.**

**Idaho Honors the Ideals of the American Revolution**

*The Idaho Legislature invites all Idahoans to promote an awareness and understanding of the principles contained in the nation's founding documents. (HCR31, 2024; pg.2, lines 20-22) (#2)*

*The Council and Task Force shall coordinate and promote programs and activities throughout the state to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the history and valuable contributions Idaho and its people have made to the fabric of our nation. (Governor's Proclamation) (#5)*

**Education on the founding of America through Historical Society Grants**

**Public TV Programs  
College level civics courses**

**Idaho Recognizes Our State's Place in American History**

*We encourage Idahoans to reflect on American and state history and heritage, develop deeper connections within their communities, and advance Idaho's contributions and values for the benefit of our children and future generations. (HCR31, 2024; pg.2, lines 24-27) (#3)*

*The Idaho State Historical Society shall plan, encourage, develop, and promote initiatives and activities to be held in Idaho to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. (Governor's Proclamation) (#6)*

**Governor approved grants from the Idaho State Historical Society**

1. Met with LSO and verified they can get a suggestion Box link accessible to our committee.
2. Also met with Joan Varsek from the Governor's office and Jan about the Historical Society America 250 in Idaho about the expanded look (three pillars) for America 250 in Idaho.
3. To avoid duplication, we can expand the Historical Society website to include the full three pillar picture of America 250 in Idaho.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, DECLARING THE YEARS 2024-2027 AS THE PERIOD OF COMMEMORATION FOR AMERICA250 IN IDAHO, ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMMUNITIES TO PLAN COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES THAT WILL HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE PRINCIPLES AND FOUNDATIONAL THOUGHTS THAT EMERGED DURING AMERICA'S REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD, AND CREATING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, in the year 2026, the United States will celebrate its semiquincentennial, known as America250, the 250th anniversary of the country's founding and a momentous occasion in our nation's history when the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence encapsulates enduring truths and principles that define the national heritage of the United States, among them individual liberty, representative government, and equal and unalienable rights; and

WHEREAS, the founding of the United States of America is one of the most extraordinary and providential events in human history and should be celebrated accordingly; and

WHEREAS, the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence serves as a reminder of the role of citizens in keeping our republic by preserving self-governance, fostering peace, pursuing happiness, inspiring gratitude and patriotism, and mentoring future generations by passing down patriotic traditions; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 114-196, passed by the 114th United States Congress and signed by the president on July 22, 2016, established the United States Semiquincentennial Commission and encouraged similar state and local efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho shall participate in this national commemoration as "America250 in Idaho"; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho provides an opportunity for Idahoans to participate in commemorating the ideals of the American revolution: equality, liberty, and justice; and

WHEREAS, Idaho, known as the "Gem State," occupies a unique place in the mosaic of American history, with significant historical milestones, eras, innovations, and advancements; and

WHEREAS, learning about Idaho's history builds honor in our great state and its place in the American story and strengthens the values that characterize Idaho and its residents, including family, community, integrity, self-reliance, and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho will rely on the values of heritage reverence, education, respect, community resilience, and patriotism to guide its efforts; and

WHEREAS, in honoring these values, America250 in Idaho will make Idaho's unparalleled history and distinctive attributes and the invaluable contributions of its residents since time immemorial the foundation on which Idahoans understand their place in this region, the country, and the world; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature invites partners, communities, organizations, and all Idahoans to participate in America250 in Idaho throughout the commemorative period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature declares 2024 through 2027 as the period of commemoration for America250 in Idaho during which time individuals, organizations, and communities may plan commemorative activities that will honor and recognize the principles and foundational thoughts that emerged during America's revolutionary period and which we all aspire to today.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature invites all Idahoans to promote an awareness and understanding of the principles contained in the nation's founding documents, including but not limited to representative government, personal responsibility, individual liberty, and equal and inalienable rights. We encourage Idahoans to reflect on American and state history and heritage, develop deeper connections within their communities, and advance Idaho's contributions and values for the benefit of our children and future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature hereby calls for the creation of the America250 in Idaho Advisory Council comprised of three members appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be the director of the State Historical Society, and four members appointed by the Legislative Council, to oversee and guide the implementation of America250 in Idaho.

#1  
#2  
#3



The Office of the Governor  
Proclamation

Executive Department  
State of Idaho

State Capitol  
Boise

WHEREAS, in the year 2026, the United States of America will celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the country's founding and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and

WHEREAS, the founding of the United States of America is one of the most extraordinary and providential events in human history and should be celebrated accordingly; and

WHEREAS, in celebrating the Declaration of Independence, we are reminded that it is our responsibility as Americans to keep our Republic by preserving self-governance, pursuing happiness, inspiring gratitude and patriotism, and passing down patriotic traditions to future generations; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 114-196, passed by the 114<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress and signed by the president in 2016, established the U.S. Bicentennial Commission to direct the national commemoration of America's founding known as America250 and encourage similar state and local efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho shall participate in this national commemoration as "America250 in Idaho"; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's representation on the Congressional America250 Caucus by U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson and U.S. Sen. Jim Risch underscores our state's commitment to this historic milestone; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho provides an opportunity for Idahoans to participate in commemorating the ideals of the American Revolution, advancing liberty, equality, and justice; and

WHEREAS, Idaho, known as the "Gem State," occupies a unique place in the annals of American history, with significant historical milestones, events, innovations, and advancements; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho will make Idaho's unparalleled history, distinctive attributes, and the invaluable contributions of its residents the foundation on which Idahoans understand their place in this region, the country, and the world; and

WHEREAS, America250 in Idaho will commemorate our national founding while recognizing Idaho's historical significance, natural beauty, agricultural importance, tradition and heritage, economic impact, and education, arts, and the humanities; and

WHEREAS, learning about Idaho's history builds honor in our great state and strengthens Idahoans' shared values of family integrity, self-reliance, patriotism, and community belonging; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and Idaho Legislature invite partners, communities, organizations, and all Idahoans to participate in America250 in Idaho throughout the commemorative period

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brad Little, Governor of the State of Idaho, by the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the State of Idaho, do hereby order and direct the following:

Section 1. The Idaho State Historical Society is hereby the lead agency for executing the America250 in Idaho Commemoration.

1. The Idaho State Historical Society shall promote, encourage, develop, and promote initiatives and activities to be held in Idaho to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's founding.

2. The Idaho State Historical Society shall coordinate the work of the America250 in Idaho Task Force in executing the commemoration.

3. The Idaho State Historical Society shall inform and seek guidance from the America250 in Idaho Advisory Council created by House Concurrent Resolution 31.

Section 2. The America250 in Idaho Task Force will serve at the pleasure of the Governor and shall consist of the following:

1. The First Lady of Idaho, *honorary*
2. The Idaho Secretary of State
3. The Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction
4. The Director of the Idaho State Historical Society, serving as Chair
5. The Idaho State Historian, serving as Vice Chair and Secretary
6. The Executive Director or a representative from
  - a. Idaho State Department of Agriculture
  - b. Idaho Commission on the Arts
  - c. Idaho Department of Commerce
  - d. Idaho Department of Education
  - e. Idaho Commission for Libraries
  - f. Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
  - g. Idaho Public Television

The Task Force will meet on a minimum quarterly cadence in coordination with the Idaho State Historical Society. The Task Force shall have the authority to establish liaison subcommittees to execute the commemoration.

The Task Force Chair shall develop reports on major commemoration initiatives and public outreach efforts for the Advisory Council.

Section 3. The Council shall provide guidance and recommendations to key America250 stakeholders, including the Office of the Governor, to ensure a successful and impactful commemoration in Idaho. The Council shall foster statewide engagement of commemoration activities in local communities and enhance awareness of Idaho's history, values, and contributions to American history.

Section 4. The America250 in Idaho Commemoration shall commence in July 2024 with events, projects, and activities celebrating our nation's founding, triumphant history, and promising future.

Section 5. The Council and Task Force shall coordinate and promote programs and activities throughout the state to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the history and valuable contributions Idaho and its people have made in the fabric of our nation.

Section 6. The Council and Task Force shall complete its work and be dissolved and reported on June 30, 2027, with a final report to the Governor and Idaho Legislature to be maintained in the State Archives for a potential triennial commission to use in preparation for its work in 2076.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-eighth, and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred thirty-fourth.

BRAD LITTLE  
GOVERNOR

PHIL MCGRANE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## First Lady Teresa Little's brochure

Greetings,

The year 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of our country's Declaration of Independence.

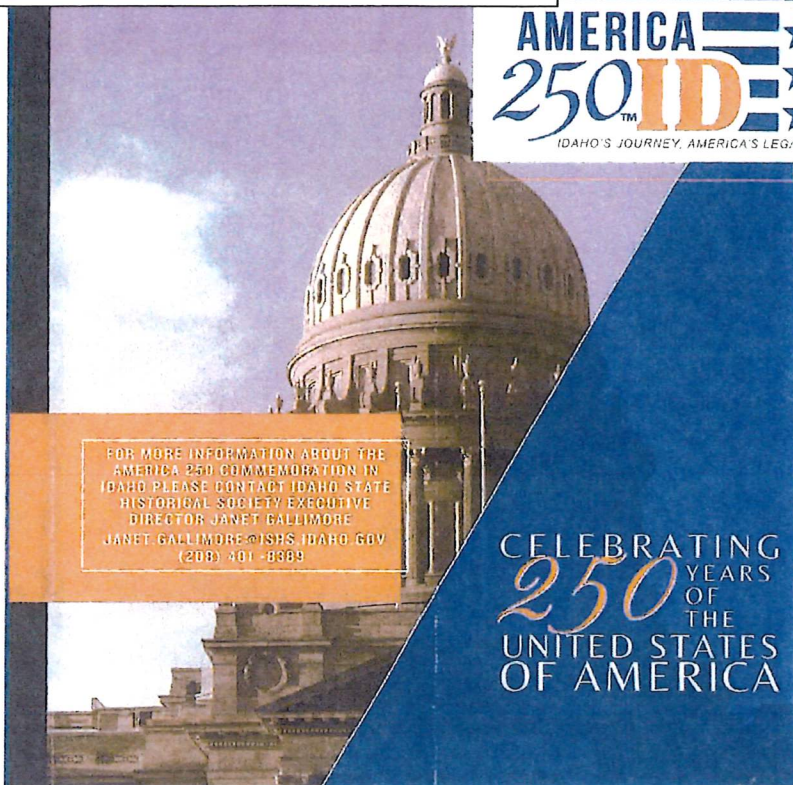
Now is the perfect time to deepen our knowledge and understanding of American history and the American experience.

Toward that goal, we have put together a list of books and documentaries.

Please visit your local library and our Idaho Public Television station for access to these and other materials.

With sincere good wishes,

First Lady Teresa Little 



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMERICA 250 COMMEMORATION IN IDAHO PLEASE CONTACT IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JANET GALLIMORE  
 JANET.GALLIMORE@ISHS.IDAHO.GOV  
 (208) 401-8889

CELEBRATING  
 250 YEARS  
 OF THE  
 UNITED STATES  
 OF AMERICA

## BOOKS

### PRIMARY SOURCES:

De Tocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America*. 1835.

Hamilton, Alexander. *The Federalist Papers*. 1788.

Paine, Thomas. *Common Sense*. 1776.

### SECONDARY SOURCES:

Amar, Akhil Reed. *America's Constitution: A Biography*. 2005.

Bailyn, Bernard. *The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution*. 1967.

Bowen, Catherine Drinker. *Miracle at Philadelphia: The Story of the Constitutional Convention*. 1966.

Chernow, Ron. *Alexander Hamilton*. 2004.

Chernow, Ron. *Washington: A Life*. 2011.

Ellis, Joseph J. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*. 2000.

Ellis, Joseph J. *The Quartet Orchestrating the Second American Revolution 1783-1789*. 2015.

Eustance, Nicole. *Passion is the Gale: Emotion, Power, and the Coming of the American Revolution*. 2008.

Fleming, Thomas J. *1776: Year of Illusions*. 1975.

### SECONDARY SOURCES:

Green, Jack P. and Pole, J.R. *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*. 1991.

Hakim, Joy. *Freedom: A History of Us*. 2003.

Isaacson, Walter. *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*. 2003.

Langguth, A.J. *Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution*. 1988.

McCullough, David. *1776*. 2005.

McCullough, David. *John Adams*. 2001.

Meacham, Jon. *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*. 2012.

Phillips, Donald T. *The Founding Fathers on Leadership*. 1997.

Ricks, Thomas E. *First Principles: What America's Founders Learned from the Greeks and Romans and How that Shaped our Country*. 2020.

Roberts, Cokie. *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised our Nation*. 2004.

Schiff, Stacy. *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*. 2022.

Unger, Harlow Giles. *Lion of Liberty: Patrick Henry and the Call to a New Nation*. 2010.

Wood, Gordon. *The Creation of the American Republic, 1776-1787*. 1978.

## DOCUMENTARIES & PROGRAMS

### BY KEN BURNS:

*The American Revolution*  
 • A six part series, 12 hours total  
 • In production now

*Benjamin Franklin, 2022*

*Thomas Jefferson, 1997*

### PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE (PBS):

*A Citizen's Guide to Preserving Democracy*  
 • One hour documentary

*Freedom A History of Us, 2003*  
 • 16 part series

### HISTORY CHANNEL:

*America: The Story of Us, 2010*  
 • 12 part series, nine hours total

### HBO:

*John Adams*  
 • Seven part series of films

### THE GREAT COURSES:

*America's Founding Fathers*  
 • 36 episodes

America 250 Idaho

### Advisory Council's Oversight and Guidance Duties

Senator Adams Co-chair  Rep. Mitchell Co-chair  Senator Jim Guthrie	Legislative Resources LSO meetings publicly recorded and noticed Outreach to Lawmakers in all districts Budgeting follow up
State Treasurer Juie Ellsworth  Sec of State Phil McGrane	Sub-committee co-chairs Outreach with Idaho's Federal delegation Outreach to Counties and Cities Outreach to Tribes Outreach to Business Community Outreach to other organizations
Businessman Jeff Newgard	Outreach to Business Community
ISHS Jan Galimore	Chair Governor's taskforce and outreach to state agencies: -Dept. of Ag -Commission on Arts -Dept. of Commerce -Dept. of Education -Libraries Commission -Dept. Parks & Rec -Idaho Public TV

- America 250 in Idaho Federal Delegation
- America 250 in Idaho State Elected Officials
- Legislators
- America 250 in Idaho Counties and Cities
- Tribes
- Veterans
- Service Organization
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Sons of the American Revolution
- Warhawk Air Museum
- Individual Idahoans with historic artifacts (Dave LeRoy)
- Idaho Celebrates America 250 branding
- Hospital Association
- America 250 ambassadors
- Kitchen Cabinet
- Idaho Businesses