

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, DECLARING 2026 TO BE THE YEAR OF VOL-
3 UNTEERISM AND THE AMERICA250 IN IDAHO SERVICE CHALLENGE, RECOGNIZING
4 A THEME SONG TO CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY, ENCOURAGING ALL
5 IDAHOANS TO COMMEMORATE AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY BY SIGNING IDAHO'S
6 REPLICA OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AND ENCOURAGING THE IDAHO
7 DEPARTMENT OF LANDS TO PLANT TREES AS PART OF THE LIBERTY GROVES: ROOTS
8 OF FREEDOM INITIATIVE IN COMMEMORATION OF AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY.

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

10 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature has invited all Idahoans to promote an
11 awareness and understanding of the principles contained in the nation's
12 founding documents, including representative government, personal respon-
13 sibility, individual liberty, and equal and inalienable rights; and

14 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature has encouraged Idahoans to reflect on
15 American and state history and heritage, develop deeper connections within
16 their communities, and advance Idaho's contributions and values for the
17 benefit of our children and future generations; and

18 WHEREAS, Idaho is proudly joining the nation in celebrating America's
19 250th birthday by implementing America250 in Idaho, a statewide effort to
20 honor our nation's founding, engage families and students, and create last-
21 ing memories for future generations; and

22 WHEREAS, using Spuddy Buddy, the official mascot of the Idaho Potato
23 Commission, the Revolutionary Spud characters were created to honor his-
24 toric revolutionary leaders, and each was given a personality as well as
25 handcrafted costumes to make history fun, approachable, and unforgettable
26 for Idahoans of all ages; and

27 WHEREAS, the Revolutionary Spuds are official America250 in Idaho am-
28 bassadors and have traveled thousands of miles throughout the state visiting
29 community events and collecting signatures for the historic capitol rotunda
30 Declaration of Independence; and

31 WHEREAS, thousands of Idahoans have already signed Idaho's replica of
32 the Declaration of Independence, which hangs in the capitol rotunda; and

33 WHEREAS, "Forever Idaho" is the official theme song for America250 in
34 Idaho ambassadors and the Revolutionary Spuds and was created as a gift for
35 all Idahoans; and

36 WHEREAS, the song "Forever Idaho" celebrates Idaho's breathtaking
37 landscapes, resilient communities, and shared love of home as we come to-
38 gether to honor America's 250th birthday and beyond; and

39 WHEREAS, the America250 in Idaho ambassadors are setting a bold vision
40 and challenging Idahoans to collectively perform 250,000 acts of ser-
41 vice from January until July 4, 2026, inviting every generation, from our
42 youngest students to our wisest seniors, to join hands in this shared en-
43 deavor and fill our communities with hope and kindness; and

1 WHEREAS, Liberty Groves: Roots of Freedom is an America250 in Idaho
2 initiative that celebrates Idaho's growth and resilience through the estab-
3 lishment of groves of working forests across the state to symbolize liberty,
4 unity, and renewal, while engaging communities, schools, veterans, and
5 civic organizations in honoring America's founding principles and preserv-
6 ing Idaho's natural and historical heritage for future generations.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
8 sion of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
9 the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature declares 2026 to
10 be the Year of Volunteerism and the America250 in Idaho Service Challenge.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Legislature recognize
12 "Forever Idaho" as the theme song of the America250 in Idaho ambassadors and
13 the Revolutionary Spuds and invite all Idahoans to include this song in their
14 celebrations throughout 2026 and beyond.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Legislature encourage all
16 Idahoans to commemorate America's 250th birthday by signing Idaho's replica
17 of the Declaration of Independence, so that their names will be included in
18 this powerful display of American patriotism.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Legislature encourage the
20 Idaho Department of Lands to plant trees as part of the Liberty Groves: Roots
21 of Freedom initiative, establishing groves of working forests throughout
22 Idaho in commemoration of America's 250th birthday.