

## SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

Whereas, to secure the blessings of liberty for themselves and future generations, the founding fathers of the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, proclaiming the thirteen American colonies were free and independent from the king of England's rule; and

Whereas, to commemorate this joyous event, the America 250 Missouri Commission, and its forty-nine counterparts from other states, will join to celebrate the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United States of America on July 4, 2026, with patriotic celebrations in cities and small towns across the beautiful Show-Me State and around the country; and

Whereas, comprised of a group from the private and public sectors, trade associations, fraternal organizations, and veterans agencies, the America 250 Missouri Commission has planned, promoted, and implemented a plethora of public celebrations to educate, engage, and celebrate this monumental milestone; and

Whereas, throughout 2026, the twenty-first state to enter the Union, in tandem with the America 250 Missouri Commission, will host statewide events, community projects, educational initiatives, and patriotic traditions to mark the United States of America Semiquincentennial; and

Whereas, formed as a democratic republic with three co-equal branches of government and a Constitution that limits government and protects the individual rights of We the People, the unique American experiment has been steered by a diverse population of descendants from every continent who were drawn to the promise of freedom and justice for all; and

Whereas, the price of freedom has been afforded by the sacrifices and selfless service of countless brave military men and women, who battled and perished in domestic conflicts and foreign wars with their unwavering belief in the American way of life and will to uphold her creed of equality; and

Whereas, the United States' primordial topography, complete with majestic mountain ranges, fertile plains, rolling hills, sprawling forests, and abundant lakes and rivers, has been home to generations of patriotic citizens who have made their livelihoods from the land and hope to preserve its natural beauty for future Americans to enjoy; and

Whereas, for two hundred fifty years, iconic American symbols, poetry, and songs about independence have united and instilled an unmatched sense of pride in all who live between her shores; and

Whereas, centuries of struggles and triumphs have inspired artists to create world-renowned musical genres, distinctive paintings and architecture, and expressive literature and fine arts, which orchestrate the notes and melodies of the United States' diversity, history, and untold stories; and

Whereas, the ideals and collective culture of the United States of America will continue to inspire and lead the free world as the nation works toward a more perfect union in the future:

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the members of the Missouri Senate of the One Hundred Third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby encourage all Missouri citizens to engage in appropriate patriotic programs and events in

observance of Show-Me America 250 on July 4, 2026, and throughout the year; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate and the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for presentation.