

# Supreme Court of Louisiana

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## RESOLUTION

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### **Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and In Support of Ongoing Efforts to Promote Civic Education and Public Engagement**

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence articulated the foundational principles of liberty, equality, self-government, and the rule of law that continue to guide the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration's assertion that all persons are created equal and entitled to certain unalienable rights remains central to the American system of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence condemned the King's obstruction of the administration of justice, including his refusal to assent to laws establishing independent judicial powers, a grievance that helped shape the Nation's commitment to a separate and coequal judicial branch; and

WHEREAS, for 250 years, state courts have served as guardians of those principles by resolving disputes peacefully, protecting individual rights, ensuring equal justice under law, and maintaining public confidence in the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, as a separate branch of government, an independent judiciary is essential to preserving the rule of law and ensuring that every person receives fair and impartial treatment regardless of status, wealth, or political influence; and

WHEREAS, the judiciary plays a vital role in advancing the ideals of the Declaration of Independence by promoting access to justice for all persons and supporting civic education initiatives that foster public understanding of the rule of law and the responsibilities of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, public understanding of the role of courts is critical to maintaining confidence in constitutional democracy and the fair administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, public trust and confidence in the courts is built not only through decisions, but through visibility, accessibility and engagement; and

WHEREAS, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence presents an opportunity for courts to engage with their communities, promote civic education, and highlight the enduring importance of fair and impartial courts;

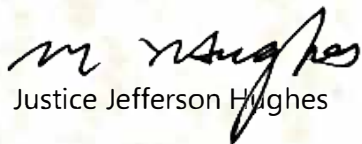
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supreme Court of Louisiana commemorates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and recognizes the enduring importance of the principles of liberty, equality, justice, and the rule of law embodied in that document;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supreme Court of Louisiana reaffirms its commitment to fair and impartial courts as a cornerstone of constitutional government and equal justice under law; and

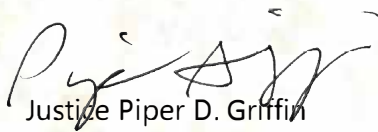
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supreme Court of Louisiana encourages courts to use the commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary as an ongoing opportunity to engage the public, promote civic education, and foster greater understanding of the role courts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supreme Court of Louisiana encourages courts to continue to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary going forward through continued public engagement, civic education, and community outreach activities, including courthouse tours, educational programs for students and teachers, public exhibits, off-site oral arguments, community conversations, partnerships with schools, libraries, and civic organizations, and other efforts that promote understanding of the judiciary's role in protecting individual rights, preserving the rule of law, and ensuring equal justice for all.

  
Chief Justice John L. Weimer

  
Justice Jefferson Hughes

  
Justice Jay B. McCallum

  
Justice Piper D. Griffin

  
Justice John Michael Guidry

  
Justice Cade R. Cole

  
Justice William H. Burris