

## **PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the United States of America will commemorate its 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026, marking a historic milestone in the nation's history; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, asserting the American colonies' freedom from British rule and laying the foundation for the principles of democracy and self-governance; and

WHEREAS, those principles of democracy and self-governance declared that all people are created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights, setting in motion a nation founded on liberty and the never-ending pursuit of a more perfect union; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Semi-quincentennial Commission, known as the America250 Commission ([america250.org](http://america250.org)) was established by Congress in 2016 to plan and orchestrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, aiming to engage all Americans in commemorating this historic event through educational initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois America250 Commission ([ilamerica250.org](http://ilamerica250.org)) was established to develop, encourage and execute an inclusive commemoration and observance of the founding of the United States of America, and Illinois' imperative role in the nation's history; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois America250 Commission encourages communities, libraries, schools, local governments, historical societies, cultural institutions and individuals of all ages to develop inclusive commemorations that reflect on Illinois' role in the nation's history and development; and

WHEREAS, recognizing and supporting the Illinois America250 Commission will help ensure a meaningful and educational commemoration for all residents and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration provides an opportunity to reflect on the state's historical significance, honor the achievements of its people and inspire civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Downers Grove hereby formally supports the Illinois America250 Commission and its mission to commemorate our nation's 250th anniversary.

THEREFORE, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of Downers Grove, express my support for the Illinois America250 Commission, and encourage all Illinois communities to organize and participate in local events leading up to and culminating on July 4, 2026, to celebrate America's 250th anniversary.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2026, at Downers Grove, Illinois



Robert T. Barnett, Mayor