

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



## PROCLAMATION

**CONGRATULATIONS AMERICA ON OUR 250<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**

**KNOW YOU BY THESE PRESENTS,**

**WHEREAS**, 250 years ago to this year, Founding Father Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence, America's gateway document to American Independence; and

**WHEREAS**, 250 years ago on July 4th, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was ratified, signed, and read out to the nation at the United States Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, George Washington founded the Continental Army -the United States Army on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1775, more than a year before the Declaration of Independence; and

**WHEREAS**, only months later under George Washington, the United States Navy October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1775, and United States Marine Corps November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1775, were formed; and

**WHEREAS**, 78 years after the American Revolution ended, in 1861, a devastating "War of the Rebellion" - the American Civil War, raged for 4 years, until 1865; and

**WHEREAS**, in defending the Republic and Freedom, the Union soldier sacrificed livelihoods, family, with many ultimately giving the last full measure of devotion to the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Union forces successfully defended the Republic and Freedom of all peoples of the United States in defeating a rebel Confederacy, PRESERVING the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation would FREE those enslaved as matters of God-given rights - equality, freedom, rights to self-determination and property; and

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln was fondly termed America's "SAVIOR", and the Boys in Blue, her "DEFENDERS"; and

**WHEREAS**, for 250 years, in preserving the United States, our nation has held the global role as the PROTECTOR of Freedom and Democracy around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Order salutes our Military Personnel of our six branches, our Veterans and their families - then and now, our Public Safety professionals and families, all who fight daily and fought to protect and preserve our freedom and republic; and

**WHEREAS**, for 250 years, the Declaration of Independence July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776 is considered the founding date of the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS, and therefore**, as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I, Kevin P. Tucker, declare the Spirit of America and the 250th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence is alive and well, that American Freedom and our Republic are strong, that we BLESS our July 4<sup>th</sup> and nationwide America 250 celebrations marking the founding of the United States of America, and all 250 years of history. We steadfastly bestow these blessings to our nation as we also faithfully remember and celebrate the Boys in Blue Union Soldiers who fought to keep our United States ONE nation, under God.

**Bless America and God Bless America 250 Celebrations across the USA!**

Signed this day, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,



Kevin P. Tucker  
Commander in Chief  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Roderick J. Fraser Jr  
Chair, America 250 Committee

J. Benjamin Hobbins  
Partners Officer, America 250 Committee