

Ceremonial Ratification of the Declaration of Independence, 1776

An Act of the People



We, the People of California, having peaceably resettled and restored our sovereign California Republic with the blessing of our creator and by His word, the Holy Bible, do hereby solemnly ratify the Declaration of Independence, 1776, and in so doing, we knowingly and intentionally affix our names and signatures to the same with the full force, effect, and intent as though we were original signers thereof, in the same spirit and resolve as our forefathers who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to secure the blessings of liberty for themselves and their posterity.

Done this seventeenth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty six.

Autographs of the People

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Declaration of Certification

Reprint of the Founding Documents for united States of America

I hereby certify that the documents reproduced herein are faithful and accurate reprints of the original founding documents for the united States of America and the Republic for California, prepared for We the People's benefit, educational, historical, and informational purposes.

The united States of America founding documents referenced in this reprint include The Declaration of Independence (1776)

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Executed this 26th day of December, 2025

Certified by:

Laura Leigh Farnsworth

Name: Laura Leigh Farnsworth

Title / Affiliation: Intern State Justice

Organization (if applicable): The Republic

Location: California

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The

history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice,
by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing
Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will
alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the
amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and
sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our
people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace,
Standing Armies without the Consent of our
legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military
independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a
jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and
unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent
to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops
among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from
punishment for any Murders which they should
commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the
world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits
of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for
pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws
in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein
an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its
Boundaries so as to render it at once an
example and fit instrument for introducing the
same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our
most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally
the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and
declaring themselves invested with power to
legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by
declaring us out of his Protection and waging
War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts,
burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our
people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of
foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of
death, desolation and tyranny, already begun
with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy
scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages,
and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized
nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken
Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against
their Country, to become the executioners of
their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves
by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst
us, and has endeavoured to bring on the
inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian
Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an
undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes
and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have
Petitioned for Redress in the most humble
terms: Our repeated Petitions have been
answered only by repeated injury. A Prince,
whose character is thus marked by every act
which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the
ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our
Brittish brethren. We have warned them from

time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Georgia

Button Gwinnett

Lyman Hall

George Walton

North Carolina

William Hooper

Joseph Hewes

John Penn

South Carolina

Edward Rutledge

Thomas Heyward, Jr.

Thomas Lynch, Jr.

Arthur Middleton

Massachusetts

John Hancock

Maryland

Samuel Chase

William Paca

Thomas Stone

Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia

George Wythe

Richard Henry Lee

Thomas Jefferson

Benjamin Harrison

Thomas Nelson, Jr.

Francis Lightfoot Lee

Carter Braxton

Pennsylvania

Robert Morris

Benjamin Rush

Benjamin Franklin

John Morton

George Clymer

James Smith

George Taylor

James Wilson

George Ross

Delaware

Caesar Rodney

George Read

Thomas McKean

New York

William Floyd

Philip Livingston

Francis Lewis

Lewis Morris

New Jersey

Richard Stockton

John Witherspoon

Francis Hopkinson

John Hart

Abraham Clark

New Hampshire

Josiah Bartlett

William Whipple

Massachusetts

Samuel Adams

John Adams

Robert Treat Paine

Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island

Stephen Hopkins

William Ellery

Connecticut

Roger Sherman

Samuel Huntington

William Williams

Oliver Wolcott

New Hampshire

Matthew Thornton