

## ***237 President Gregory Floyd and Executive Board commemorate***



July 4, 2026, marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776. This document officially severed ties with Great Britain, which was then our parent nation. The signing of the Declaration of Independence was a crucial act that transformed a peoples' rebel lion against the British monarchy of King George III into a formal quest for independence... thereby creating a whole new, separate, sovereign nation. By putting their names on the document, 56 delegates moved beyond mere protesters to creators of a new nation founded on revolutionary — unheard of ideas such as equality and natural rights. Signing this document was an incredibly dangerous and courageous act. The British viewed the document as illegal, and the signers knew their names on the parchment could lead to charges of high treason, punishable by torture and execution. The Declaration of Independence officially proclaimed the separation of 13 colonies from Great Britain, and in so doing, ended the years-long conflict that had included seeking reconciliation, to establishing to a new country called the United States of America. John Hancock, who was President of the Continental Congress, as the group of 56 representatives was known, signed first and most boldly, making his name still used today as a symbol for a signature that could not be missed. The Declaration of Independence not only ushered in the birth of a nation, it also introduced many ideas — thought to be radical at the time — such as “all men are created equal and possess unalienable rights, as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Also, a new concept was that a government’s authority comes from the people it rules, rather than from divine right or hereditary monarchs. So popular are the concepts of the Declaration that since 1776, that over half of the 193 nations in the UN have issued their own Declarations of Independence, modeled after the original signed parchment that created America. But let’s not forget the warning of one of our Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin, who was very proud of their creation: a monarch-fee democracy. But he cautioned, the new nation required maintenance, saying: “America is "A republic, if you can keep it"

***From Teamsters Local 237:” Happy Birthday America! And here’s to another 250 years.”***