

Date: 1/12/26



Utah State Board of Education

1 Resolution Commemorating America's 250th Birthday and Her Guiding

2 Foundational Principles

3 WHEREAS, celebrating 250 years since America's founding, the Utah State Board of

4 Education acknowledges and remembers the guiding and foundational principles and

5 truths that have established and given birth to America's freedom and success as a nation.

6 A people cannot remain free without a thorough knowledge of those principles;

7 WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence boldly and clearly identified the political

8 philosophy of America when it stated, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men

9 are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,

10 that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," and that government's

11 sole legitimate purpose is to protect those ~~pre-existing~~ rights;

12 WHEREAS, the core political beliefs of the Founding Fathers included: ordered liberty;

13 equality; natural rights, including defense of self, community, and nation; freedom of

14 speech and press; and the free exercise of religion;

19 WHEREAS, America was founded as a Constitutional Republic, establishing separation of

20 powers and federalism under a written constitution, and thereby avoiding the fatal

21 tendencies of a democracy. The stability of our Republic relies upon self-governance, a

22 principle requiring that citizens govern their own conduct according to moral virtue and

Date: Resolution Commemorating America

Draft: 3

Contact Person and Email: Chair Jennie Earl

This draft is for consideration during the January 13, 2026 Special S&A Meeting

Rule/Statute: N/A

Date: 1/12/26



Utah State Board of Education

~~23 internal conscience societal order - John Adams stated, "our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." —a "moral and religious people" being, as the Founders noted, the~~
~~24 only people capable of sustaining a free Constitution;~~

15 WHEREAS, the Founding Fathers recognized historical events and texts—such as the
16 Ten Commandments, the Mosaic Law, the New Testament, and the experiences of the
17 ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans, the English Common Law, the Magna Carta, and
18 the English Bill of Rights—as a basis for American law and public policy;

25 WHEREAS, historical primary sources—including the Northwest Ordinance of 1787—
26 record that "religion, morality, and knowledge" are "necessary to good government and the
27 happiness of mankind," and therefore must be encouraged through our schools;

Paragraph (14) moved under 12

35 WHEREAS, America's history from the past 250 years has been marked by the
36 prevalence of faith and Divine Providence, and her history affirms a clear and firm reliance
37 on God and the Bible.

WHEREAS, since America's founding, fasting, humiliation, prayer and days of thanksgiving have been practiced by presidents, governors and legislatures for example;

- 1621- The pilgrims gave thanks to God for bringing them native friends and allies, and helping them survive.

Date: Resolution Commemorating America

Draft: 3

Contact Person and Email: Chair Jennie Earl

This draft is for consideration during the January 13, 2026 Special S&A Meeting

Rule/Statute: N/A

Date: 1/12/26



Utah State Board of Education

- March 30 1863 President Abraham Lincoln called for a day of Humiliation, fasting and pray during the Civil War.
- June 6, 1944, President Franklin D Roosevelt gave a 6 minute pray on behalf of our troops on D-day
- 1953-1961, Dwight D. Eisenhower started the national prayer breakfast, And added reference to God in the pledge of allegiance, currency and the national motto

28 WHEREAS, the American system is built upon the idea that governments derive “their just
powers from the consent of the governed” “consent of the governed,” wherein the
29 people are the principals of their government and elected officials are their agents,
30 necessitating that students understand their role as the ultimate sovereign authority in our
31 land;

32 ~~WHEREAS~~, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, public education plays a vital role in
preparing students to be informed,

33 responsible, and engaged citizens, capable of understanding the nation’s founding
principles history,

34 respecting rights of conscience and participating thoughtfully in civic responsibilities.

38 ~~NOW, THEREFORE~~, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Utah State Board of Education
reaffirms

39 its commitment to the principles upheld in the Declaration of Independence that we are
40 endowed by the Creator with inalienable rights, and it is with a firm reliance on the

Date: Resolution Commemorating America

Draft: 3

Contact Person and Email: Chair Jennie Earl

This draft is for consideration during the January 13, 2026 Special S&A Meeting

Rule/Statute: N/A

Date: 1/12/26



Utah State Board of Education

41 protection of divine providence that we mutually pledge together our lives and fortunes
and

42 sacred honor in preservation of America and her next 250 years.

Date: Resolution Commemorating America

Draft: 3

Contact Person and Email: Chair Jennie Earl

This draft is for consideration during the January 13, 2026 Special S&A Meeting

Rule/Statute: N/A