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**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF TOMS RIVER, OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, ENDORSING
“REVOLUTION NJ” CELEBRATING THE 250 TH ANNIVERSARY OF
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AND DESIGNATING THE TOMS RIVER
TOWNSHIP HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TO PLAN
AND HOLD EVENTS AND PROGRAMS TO COMMEMORATE OUR
NATION’S INDEPENDENCE AND TOMS RIVER’S HISTORIC ROLE
IN THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND LIBERTY**

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026 shall mark the 250th anniversary of the independence of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, numerous celebrations are now being planned in the Nation and this State to commemorate this historic milestone; and

WHEREAS, Toms River played a pivotal role in the struggle for American independence; and

WHEREAS, our community, then known as the “Town of Dover” was established in 1767 by the colonial Assembly of the Province of New Jersey—some nine years before America's independence; and

WHEREAS, the village of Toms River was a patriot stronghold during the Revolutionary period of history; and

WHEREAS, the village was defended by a roughly made wooden “blockhouse” which was located on the crest of present day Robbins Street in downtown Toms River; and

WHEREAS, the blockhouse was defended by local residents—all volunteers—who gave one month service annually in the cause of liberty; and

WHEREAS, Toms River was attacked by the British several times during the war, including the fateful battle of March 24, 1782; and

WHEREAS, in that battle, nine Americans were killed and Captain Joshua Huddy was captured and later hung, without trial, setting off an international incident which delayed the peace talks then ongoing in Paris; and

WHEREAS, Toms River was also the site of several naval battles, and in three cemeteries in the Township, lie at rest numerous local patriots who fought in the war; and

WHEREAS, it is all together fitting and proper for our community to remember these events and patriots in our Nation’s and our town's history; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has established “RevolutionNJ” to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, New Jersey’s pivotal role in the American Revolution, and the contributions of its diverse peoples to the nation’s past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Historical Commission, with its non-profit partner Crossroads of the American Revolution established RevolutionNJ to advance the role that history plays in public discourse, community engagement, education, tourism, and scholarship in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, RevolutionNJ will engage New Jerseyans in all 21 counties and 564 municipalities through 2033 through its officially recognized programs, initiatives, and events over the next several years; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and desirable that we commemorate the beginning of the Nation and the role New Jersey played over the past 250 years as well as its present and future role

as part of the United States, with particular focus on the individuals, ideas, and events that shaped our Nation, State, County, and Township and

WHEREAS, RevolutionNJ will consider the role New Jersey played during the American Revolution as it saw more battles and skirmishes than any other State and was truly the "crossroads" of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, RevolutionNJ will highlight the role New Jerseyans played beyond the battlefield during the American Revolution when people of diverse backgrounds contributed to the development of the State and the Nation in various ways and fought for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, preserving, studying, and enjoying State history strengthens communities and builds bonds between New Jersey residents as we work together toward the goals of justice and equality embedded in the United States Constitution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Toms River, Ocean County, New Jersey, with the full concurrence and support of the Mayor of Toms River, that it commemorates the upcoming 250th anniversary of American independence in 2026;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize the Toms River Township Historic Preservation Commission to plan events and programs to commemorate and celebrate American independence and Toms River's historic role in the struggle for freedom and liberty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council urge all its residents to reflect upon the significance of this event and the role that our State and its people have played in the history and development of our Nation and to participate in this important commemoration, endeavoring to include the stories of all those whose lives are part of the history of what we now know as New Jersey, and understanding that the revolution continues today as we uphold the ideals of our founding;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be provided by the Office of the Township Clerk to each of the following:

- a) Mayor Daniel T. Rodrick
- b) Township Council
- c) Business Administrator
- d) Township Clerk
- e) Purchasing Division
- f) Chief Financial Officer
- g) Township Attorney
- h) New Jersey Historical Commission
- i) P.O. Box 305
- j) Trenton, NJ 08625
- k) Crossroads of the American Revolution Assoc. Inc.
124 W. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
- l) J. Mark Mutter
Township Historian and Commission Member
- m) R. Joseph Latshaw III,
Historic Preservation Commission Member

Approved as to Legal Form:



PETER S. PASCARELLA
ASSISTANT TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY

Certified as a true copy of the Resolution adopted
by the Council on this 26 day of Feb,
2025.



STEPHEN A. MENSEL
ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK

L-Feb 26, 2025-12 Reso 250th Anniversary

