



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, each year, Americans commemorate those events 247 years ago, when on July 2, 1776 the Second Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later – on July 4, 1776 – delegates from the original thirteen colonies ratified The Declaration of Independence; and

**Whereas**, The Declaration of Independence set forth our founders' guiding principles for seeking independence and, with its adoption, the colonies announced the official formation of an independent nation, the United States of America; and

**Whereas**, New York State is proud of its crucial role in America's founding: nearly one third of all the battles fought during the American Revolution took place on New York soil – more than in any other state – including the Battle of Ticonderoga, America's first clear victory, and the Battle of Saratoga, site of a pivotal battle that turned the War in the Continental Army's favor; and

**Whereas**, we recognize that at the time of our nation's creation, the principles of freedom and equality enshrined in our founding documents were not guaranteed to all people, and generations of Americans have fought – and sacrificed their lives – to move the United States toward the ideals expressed at our beloved country's birth; and

**Whereas**, many New Yorkers have been leaders in this effort, and are committed to ensuring that America lives up to its foundational promises as the world's foremost symbol of strength, freedom, and courage, and a beacon of hope for all; today, our state continues to welcome new immigrants and people of all nationalities, races, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and political viewpoints to our shores; and

**Whereas**, on this Independence Day, communities across New York State and the United States renew their allegiance to our nation and celebrate the freedoms and rights that belong to us all and which have inspired so many to join the Great American Experiment, and we are grateful that many naturalization ceremonies are taking place today, where thousands of immigrants will take the Oath of Allegiance and become sworn in as American citizens; and

**Whereas**, throughout the history of humankind, the cause of freedom has been the single most compelling and important objective of people who seek a better life and a more just world; we take this opportunity to reflect upon the words of our nation's founders declaring that all people are created equal and endowed with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and we recommit ourselves to these principles and extend them to others who deserve the opportunity to thrive in a free and democratic society;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim July 4, 2023 as

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

in the Empire State and officially mark the founding of our nation on this day, 247 years ago.

**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth  
day of July in the year two thousand twenty-three.



*Kathy Hochul*  
Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*  
Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh