



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 marked the birth of our country as a sovereign nation and, each year, Americans celebrate this historic day, remembering the achievements of our founders and reflecting on their future vision for a fledgling nation; and

Whereas, America's independence was sparked by social and political unrest among the original thirteen colonies and the desire to break free of British rule, and this movement for independence led to a series of events culminating in the American Revolutionary War, resulting in the victory and formation of the United States of America; and

Whereas, New York State is proud of its pivotal role in the birth of our nation: more battles of the Revolutionary War were fought in New York than in any other state – including the Battle of Ticonderoga, America's first clear victory, and the Battle of Saratoga, site of a key battle that turned the War in the Continental Army's favor; New York was also the site of other important events in our nation's early history, including the inauguration of George Washington as our country's first President at Federal Hall in New York City, which at the time served as the Capital of the United States of America; and

Whereas, a symbol of hope and freedom worldwide, America is a nation of immigrants, welcoming people of all abilities, ethnicities, faiths, nationalities, and sexual orientations to its shores and, on the Fourth of July, communities across this great country celebrate our independence with parades and ceremonies, honoring the legacy we share as a society whose strength is its inclusiveness, based upon democratically-inspired values and an enduring belief in equality and justice for all; and

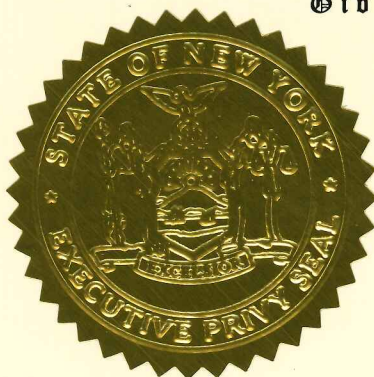
Whereas, it is fitting to take the opportunity to reflect upon the anniversary of an historic day which celebrates the liberties, rights, and rewards of life in this great country, and we therefore join with communities across America to reflect upon the meaning and benefits of our freedom and remember the passion and wisdom with which our founding fathers led this nation in its earliest years;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim July 4, 2016 as

INDEPENDENCE DAY

in the Empire State and officially mark this 240th birthday of our great nation.

G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirtieth
day of June in the year two thousand sixteen.



Governor

William J. Mahon
Secretary to the Governor