



250th Anniversaries and Key Special Events

* Events in **red** denote a Major Signature Event

2023 Anniversaries and Events (1773):

****"A Common Cause to All: A Convening of States" Committees of Correspondence 250th*** (March 10-12, 2023 and annually through the commemoration) Colonial Williamsburg - Launching the 250th commemoration, Virginia leads the nation by facilitating collaboration, information sharing, and opportunities for states, local committees, and businesses to partner together during the semiquincentennial, signaling a shared commitment to a meaningful commemoration for Virginia, for every state, and the nation. Based on the overwhelming success of the 2023 event, this will become an annual national conference.

****For 2026: A Five-Year Conference Series Marking the 250th Anniversary of American Independence*** (October 2022 and annually through 2027) – In partnership with Omohundro Institute, William & Mary, and Colonial Williamsburg – Held annually at William & Mary, sessions supported in 2022 included “The Test of Time: How We Commemorate Historical Moments,” “Juneteenth’s Revolutionary Roots,” and RevEd Teacher’s Summit

2024 Anniversaries and Events (1774):

“A Common Cause to All: Second Annual Convening of States on the 250th” (March 15-17, 2024) Colonial Williamsburg

Day of Fasting and Prayer (June 1, 2024) To show solidarity with Massachusetts, the House of Burgesses directed a day of fasting and prayer across Virginia.

Fairfax Resolves 250th (July 18, 2024) - Key document that rejected the supremacy of British authority

Resolution of the Freeholders of Albemarle County (July 2024) - Key document declaring that only their own legislature could rightfully exercise authority over them

First Virginia Convention (August 1-6, 2024) – Voted to boycott British goods and sent delegates to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Edmund Randolph was elected president of the Congress.

Launch of VA250 mobile exhibition (Fall 2024)

****Lafayette Grand Tour 200th anniversary*** (Fall 2024) at multiple locations – Commemoration of Lafayette’s cross-country tour 50 years after the Revolutionary War (in 1824). Locations will likely include Charlottesville (Monticello), Fairfax County (Mount Vernon), Loudon County,



Fredericksburg, Yorktown, and Washington, DC. For example, Fredericksburg is planning a large-scale city-wide event involving the National Park Service and multiple museums

****Battle of Point Pleasant*** (October 10, 2024) – Point Pleasant, West Virginia – 250th anniversary joint-state commemorative event featuring Governors and dignitaries from West Virginia and Virginia, and representation of the 13 original colonies. Opportunity to have a commemoration specific to the dilemma the Revolution posed for Indigenous Peoples, as the battle (which some argue was the [first battle](#) of the Revolutionary War, occurring before Lexington and Concord) was between Virginia militia, led by General Andrew Lewis, and Shawnee, Delaware, Mingo, and Ottawa warriors, led by Shawnee leader Chief Cornstalk.

Fort Gower Resolves (November 2024) - Officers of Col. Andrew Lewis’ army declare that their love of liberty, and attachment to the real interests and just rights of America that outweigh allegiance to the Crown [opportunities for commemoration in Salem/Roanoke area where Andrew Lewis lived]

****Yorktown Tea Party 250th*** (Weekend of events, November 7 - 9, 2024)

2025 Anniversaries and Events (1775):

****Law Symposium: Virginia Bar Association (VBA), Virginia Law Foundation (VLF), and Marshall Center for Constitutional History & Civics (three-part conference series in 2025 and 2026)*** – “*The Legal Revolution: Virginia Leads the Way to Liberty 1776-2026*” Held at public law schools across Virginia, these seminars will examine the nation’s founding documents and founding fathers, both as lawyers and as leaders, who enabled America to become the greatest example of individual liberty and opportunity in the world.

Fincastle Resolutions 250th (Monday, January 20, 2025) – First American pledge of resistance to tyranny unto death

“A Common Cause to All: Third Annual Convening of States on the 250th anniversary of a Revolution of Ideas” (March 21-23, 2025) Colonial Williamsburg / Richmond

****250th Anniversary of Patrick Henry’s “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death” speech*** (Sunday, March 23, 2025) St. John’s Church, Richmond and Red Hill- Major event with dramatic readings by national celebrities and famous Virginians.

****Opening of “Give Me Liberty” exhibition*** (March 22, 2025) Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Richmond

Debut of “Give Me Liberty” panel exhibit to travel throughout localities (March 2025)

****250th Anniversary of the Gunpowder Incident*** (Sunday, April 20, 2025) Colonial Williamsburg

VIRGINIA²⁵⁰ AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Beeline March (July 16, 2025) – Daniel Morgan led local militia 400 miles in 16 days to arrive in Boston (Winchester/Shenandoah Valley and Shepherdstown, WV)

****250th Anniversary of the Battle of Hampton*** (October 26, 2025)

Dunmore’s Proclamation (November 7, 2025) – Promised freedom for enslaved persons who were willing to fight for the British Army; Anniversary is a key opportunity to examine emancipation and freedom in the Revolutionary era.

****250th Anniversary of the Battle of Kemps Landing*** (Saturday, November 15, 2025)

****250th Anniversary of the Battle of Great Bridge*** (December 9, 1775/2025)

2026 Anniversaries and Events (1776)

250th Anniversary of the Burning of Norfolk (Thursday, January 1, 2026)

Conference in partnership with Monticello – Examination and analysis of the Declaration of Independence

****Opening of “Give Me Liberty” exhibition*** (April 2026) American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

****Sail 250*** (May - June 2026) - Six-port sail docking in Alexandria and Norfolk

****250th Anniversary of Fifth Virginia Convention: Virginia’s Independence Day*** (Friday, May 15, 2026) Williamsburg – Large-scale event with General Assembly Special Commemorative Session in Colonial Capitol with international dignitaries

****250th Anniversary of Virginia Declaration of Rights*** (Friday, June 12, 2026) Gunston Hall

****250th Anniversary of Declaration of Independence: “Let Freedom Ring”*** (Saturday, July 4, 2026):

- ✓ Much like New Year’s Eve, events across the state will be linked by simulcast, with the key locations being Colonial Williamsburg and the Virginia State Capitol. Events throughout the weekend-long celebration will include:



- ✓ Statewide naturalization ceremony at key locations with nationally recognized speakers simulcast at prominent historic venues throughout the state (Monticello,



Mount Vernon, Montpelier, Colonial Williamsburg, State Capitol, Red Hill, Gunston Hall, and Stratford Hall)

- ✓ Statewide tolling of bells 13 times at a 2:00 pm on July 4 ([Joint Concurrent Res 25, 1963](#))
- ✓ Cultural events, to include music, dance, Native American powwows, activities for families, student recognition, at key locations, etc.
- ✓ Events to honor military and veterans
- ✓ Keynote speakers, history talks, historical interpretation
- ✓ Coordination, broadcast, and amplification of hundreds of local events across the state, including local ceremonies and parades
- ✓ Massive firework displays across the state with patriotic music

****250th Anniversary of Formation of First Baptist Church*** (October 2026) Williamsburg – One of the country’s earliest African American congregations, founded by free and enslaved Black worshippers