

## **Proposal to Fund a Statue Honoring Haym Salomon, the Jew Who Funded the American Revolution**

Whereas Haym Salomon personally financed the American Revolution and our newly formed nation, yet this Jewish financier is largely unknown as one of our Founding Fathers, and

Whereas he learned to speak eight languages while traveling Europe and was highly respected by the European banking houses, and

Whereas he arrived in New York City in 1772, at age 32, and immediately joined the “Sons of Liberty,” fighting for American independence, and

Whereas he had to operate as a minority, since Jews comprised only 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% of the population of the Thirteen Colonies, and there were still taxes on Jews, and Jews were not allowed to hold office in many jurisdictions, and

Whereas he immediately began funding the cause for American liberty, and

Whereas he was arrested by the British for helping the Patriots, and

Whereas even as a prisoner, he continued helping the Colonist cause due to his linguistic skills, persuading the German-speaking Hessian mercenary soldiers to desert the British fighting forces, and

Whereas when the British discovered this, they tortured him and sentenced him to death, and

Whereas during his imprisonment, he contracted tuberculosis, which would cause his early death six years later at age 44, and

Whereas he miraculously escaped to Philadelphia, having to initially leave his wife Rachel and son Ezekiel behind, and

Whereas once in Philadelphia, Robert Morris, Secretary of Finance of the new nation, recruited Haym Salomon to help fund the War of Independence, and

Whereas before the Battle of Yorktown, General George Washington’s troops were deserting due to having no pay, no food, no weapons, and

Whereas it is often reported that General George Washington uttered to Robert Morris four words that would change the course of the Revolutionary War which were, “Send for Haym Salomon,” and

Whereas despite it being reported that Robert Morris arrived in Philadelphia on what was a high holy day, Yom Kippur, on which Haym Salomon, a Jew, was not permitted to transact business, and

Whereas Haym Salomon acknowledged that business can be transacted by Jewish law on a high holy day if it will save a life, and

Whereas he raised \$20,000 immediately, thus saving General Washington's army, causing them to be able to fight and win the battle at Yorktown, the decisive victory that turned the war for the Patriots, and

Whereas from 1781 to 1784, Haym Salomon helped provide over \$650,000, considered to be well over \$15 million in today's dollars, as an official broker, converting bills of exchange and foreign government notes from primarily France and Holland, into spendable cash, and

Whereas the banking houses in Europe did not believe that the new nation could honor its loans, thus would not lend to the newly formed American government, but trusted Haym Salomon, thus would lend to him, and he in turn, loaned the funds to the newly established American army and government, and

Whereas the normal commission was two to five percent, but he only charged one or sometimes one-half of a percent, and

Whereas he made many private loans, charging no interest, to George Washington, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Alexander Hamilton, and other Founding Fathers, and

Whereas according to *The Congressional Record* of March 25, 1975, it states: "When Morris was appointed Superintendent of Finance, he turned to Salomon for help in raising the money needed to carry on the war and later to save the emerging nation from financial collapse. Salomon advanced direct loans to the government and also gave generously of his own resources to pay the salaries of government officials and army officers. With frequent entries of 'I sent for Haym Salomon,' Morris' diary for the years 1781-84 records some 75 transactions between the two men," and

Whereas it is commonly reported that General George Washington knew he could always count on Haym Salomon to secure money to keep the Continental Army and newly formed nation running, and

Whereas according to some reports, the government owed Salomon more than \$650,000 in 1785 dollars, and

Whereas, despite donating his entire fortune to the Continental Army, the new nation and several of the key Founding Fathers of our nation, he died penniless in Philadelphia due to the failure of government officials and private lenders to repay the debt they owed him, and

Whereas history books emphasize that the French funded the war, but fail to mention that it was actually through the credibility and sacrifice of Haym Salomon that multiple nations loaned money to the new nation, and

Whereas Haym Salomon and his descendants were never repaid, although they requested such in 1785, 1800, 1827, 1848, 1864, 1893 and 2008, and

Whereas various attempts to honor him have occurred including in a 1893 proposal by the 52nd U.S. Congress ordering a gold medal be struck in recognition of Salomon's contributions to America, recommended by the Committee on the Library that Congress pass a bill for such a gold medal in recognition of his service, but it was never done, and

Whereas numerous books have been written in an attempt to call attention to his sacrifice for our nation including Madison C. Peters, *Haym Salomon, the Financier Of The Revolution: An Unwritten Chapter in American History*, 1911; Charles Edward Russell, *Haym Salomon and the Revolution*, 1930; Howard Fast, *Haym Salomon, Son of Liberty*, 1941; Shirley Milgrim (Illustrated by Richard Fish), *Haym Salomon, Liberty's Son*, 1979; David Allen Lewis, *Forgotten Patriot: The Story of Haym Salomon*, 2007; T.J. Allen, *Haym Salomon and the Creation of America*, 2025, and

Whereas in the 1920s, one hundred years ago, Ohio Congressman Charles Mooney proposed that Congress erect a statue in his honor, but never did, and

Whereas a statue honoring him, with George Washington in the middle, Robert Morris on one side of Washington and Haym Salomon on the other side, was begun in 1936 in Chicago on Wacker Drive, but when Sculptor Lorado Taft died, was later completed by Leonard Crunelle, Nellie Walker and Fred Dorrey in 1941, and on September 15, 1971, was designated a Chicago Landmark, and

Whereas in 1939, a film titled *Sons of Liberty* was released by Warner Bros, with actor Claud Rains playing the role of Haym Salomon, and

Whereas on May 17, 1943, during World War II, a "Liberty ship" was named in honor of Haym Salomon, about which it was said that one of the reasons for naming a ship in Salomon's honor at that time was to challenge Nazi racial theories during the season of intense Jew-hatred, and

Whereas on January 6, 1944, a statue of Haym Salomon was dedicated in Hollenbeck Park, Los Angeles, part of a war bond drive, but later moved several times, finally being placed in 2008 in the Pan-Pacific Park, at the intersection of Gardner Street and Third Street, Los Angeles, and

Whereas in 1975, the U.S. Government honored Haym Salomon with a stamp, part of a "Contributors to the Cause" series, which was printed on both sides, including the side with glue, where it stated, "Financial Hero – Businessman and broker Haym Salomon was responsible for raising most of the money needed to finance the American Revolution and later to save the new nation from collapse," and

Whereas Sculptor Scott Stearman has sculpted a beautiful 11-inch statue of Haym Salomon, and is prepared to sculpt a full-sized stature to honor this Patriot, and

Whereas on this is the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our nation, as we focus on the American Revolution and remember our Founding Fathers, and

Whereas Congress and others have attempted to properly honor and memorialize Haym Salomon for over 200 years, and

Whereas there has been a rise of antisemitism, and failure to properly treat Jews, and

Whereas on May 4, 2026, President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/05/jewish-american-heritage-month-2026/>) declaring May to be Jewish American Heritage Month 2026, and specifically acknowledged the remarkable contribution of one particular Jewish man, Haym Salomon, stating, "...Among (the American Jews) was the iconic Haym Salomon, an early supporter of the war for independence. As stories tell us, Salomon was instrumental in the success of our Continental Congress and Founding Fathers, and rallied support for freedom. He was a zealous advocate against tyranny, and even after imprisonment by the British Crown, he continued his work in defense of freedom. In the end, he gave everything to the success of the American Revolution. Like so many Jewish Americans who follow in his footsteps, Salomon's legacy stands as a testament to the unshakable belief in the American promise," and

Whereas it is long overdue that We the People, and the Congress of the United States properly honor and acknowledge "the Jew who saved America,"

Resolved that Congress pass a resolution to officially commission and fund a statue of Haym Salomon to be designed, created, and located in a prominent place in Washington, DC which would honor the legacy of this man who sacrificed so much for our nation,

Resolved that Congress give careful consideration to commissioning Sculptor Scott Stearman to sculpt Haym Salomon's statue given the fact that he has been working on this for years.

Signed by

Date