

250 Years History of the United States – One Nation Under God

As we celebrate our country's 250th anniversary, let us reflect on how our nation has grown.

On December 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party was led by the Sons of Liberty, disguised as Native Americans, they boarded the Dartmouth and threw chests of tea into the Boston Harbor. This “tea party” was accomplished to protest British tax on tea.

The American Revolutionary War began in 1775. On June 17, 1775, the Battle of Bunker Hill, led by George Washington, Commander of the Continental Army, led in the victory of the Patriotic Forces against the British Empire. George Washington was the first President of the United States.

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It declared that the thirteen colonies had separated from Great Britain, and on August 2, it was signed by 56 delegates. The author of this document was Thomas Jefferson who also was the third President of the United States.

Christmas night 1776 Washington and the Continental Army crossed the icy Delaware River and won several American victories. Notable patriots in the Revolution included Paul Revere, famous for his midnight ride to warn the patriots of British advances, and Patrick Henry known for his “Give me Liberty or give me Death” speech.

On October 19, 1781, the British surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia. John Adams helped in the negotiation of the Treaty of Paris, which was signed on September 3, 1783 and ended the Revolutionary War and the United States was recognized as an Independent Nation.

September 17, 1787, the United States Constitution was signed at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments which guarantee freedom and protection for all citizens.

Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the “Star Spangled Banner” when he saw the American Flag flying over Fort McHenry. In 1931 this became the official national anthem of the United States. In 1776, Betty Ross was credited with making the first American flag which had 13 strips with 13 stars. The Stars and Strips was approved by Continental Congress as the First National Flag on June 14, 1777. Today, It is known as the Betsy Ross Flag.

The War Between the States divided the North and the South. The President of the United States was Abraham Lincoln. After the war began, Jefferson Davis (who was Secretary of War before the secession) became President of the Confederacy. On April 9, 1865, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia. More than 620,000 soldiers died in this war which is more than any other war in American History.

Clara Barton known as the “Angel of the Battlefield” was a pioneering nurse who founded the American Red Cross after the war was over.

The Statue of Liberty is located on Liberty Island in the New York Harbor and was a gift to the United States from the people of France. It became an icon of freedom and a welcoming symbol to immigrants arriving by sea.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was originally written in 1892 by Frances Bellamy, a Baptist Minister and Christian socialist. It was first published in a magazine called "The Youth's Companion." Between 1923 and 1924, the phrasing of the Pledge of Allegiance was altered from "my Flag" to "the Flag of the United States of America. It was not until 1942 that the U. S. Congress formally recognized the Pledge of Allegiance. In 1954 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a law adding the phrase "under God" into the Pledge. Many events in the history of the United States have played a part in the United States:

Women's suffrage led by Susan B. Anthony

Civil Rights movement led by Martin Luther King, Jr.

19th Amendment to the US Constitution extended the right of women to vote.

After the Stock Market Crash and Great Depression there was a rise in American Industry.

America became a leader in invention and technological advancements from electricity to the internet. Inventions by Thomas Edison included the incandescent light bulb, phonograph, and the motion picture camera.

In both World War I and II, the United States played a decisive role and emerged as a global leader for peace and progress. During World War II, American forces were committed to the Allied cause by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. One monument that is etched in the minds of many Americans. Six Marines took an American Flag to the highest point on the island of Mount Surbachi. Three of the six Marines raising the Flag were killed during the Battle. With the United States being a part of this war, men joined by the millions. Empty civilian and military jobs were filled by women, stepping in to fill the jobs to replace the men in assembly lines and factories. Images like Rosie the Riveter, inspired strength, patriotism and liberation for women.

During our country's 250 years, Aviation pioneers Wilbur and Orville Wright are remembered for their first flight in 1903 in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. They were the first to master the art of flying powered-controlled aircraft. In addition to the warplane and the smartphone, America's ingenuity changed the world. After space exploration began in the 1950s, the US created NASA. John Glenn, Jr. was the first American astronaut to orbit the earth. In 1969, Neil Armstrong, Commander of NASA's Apollo 11 mission became the first person to set foot on the moon. Astronaut Sally Ride was the first American woman to fly in space.

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States, not only do we remember our past accomplishments, but commemorate the historic milestones, challenges, and our leaders, especially in time of war and hardships. A special remembrance is to our men and women who fought, and many died in the defense of our country. May we remember to always work together, love one another, and put God First!

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In Celebration of America's 250 years.