# "Patriots' Day - April 19, 1775" <u>UtahPatriotsDay.org</u>

The date April 19, 1775 (250th Anniversary in 3 months)

**The place** Lexington's Common and Concord North Bridge, Massachusetts

#### The people

Many of these communities had existed since the mid 1600's. For over a century they had carved out of the landscape their homes, farms and communities. These were families, many of their descendants settled and are found in Utah.

#### Why did they rally?

During the prior decade the American Colonists had endured the tyrannical demand of the King. They were not being heard by their government. Parliament's Intolerable Acts were enacted. Ports of commerce were closed, their prosperity and survival was being threatened. Communities were prohibited from holding town hall meetings, they were there to protect their families, their homes, their **freedoms**!

Then an army was sent to jail those that spoke, confiscate arms and ammunition from the communities.

#### What transpired there we can look on in awe.

As the 700 British soldiers arrived at Lexington, the 77 Minutemen who rallied to the cause of freedom that early morning, were instructed, "Throw down your arms! Ye villains, ye rebels". What did those farmers, mechanics and blacksmiths do when faced by a well trained army of 700 soldiers, from the greatest empire at that time?

Captain John Parker of the Lexington Training Band said "Stand your ground, do not fire unless fired upon," . . . "If they mean to have a war, let it begin here." His tactic was to delay the British Army to allow more of the militiamen to gather, and gather they did! Close to 2000 left their trades, their homes and farms, took up arms to protect their ammo magazine at Concord. By the end of the day, the British Army was on retreat back to Boston, being dogged and shot at from the militiamen.

The loss was great, of the first 77 men, one third were killed, close to 100 patriots lost their lives that day.

#### So, What does Utah say?

Last year Governor Spencer Cox declared "Patriots' Day 2024"

We need a bill passed by our State Legislature to recognize this date every year.

It is proposed to recognize April 19 each year in The Great State of Utah

"Patriots' Day in Utah"

### You can make this happen:

- 1. Write (short) letters/email to the Utah House and Senate **NOW**
- 2. **Share this** with family, friends, civic groups, church groups, teachers at school, media & talk radio, blogs, facebook.

Tools to help you - on page 2

## These are points to bring up in your letter to the Utah Legislature. Date *Greeting Representative / Senators* , Talking Points: (Don't copy & paste, use your own words.) 1. The United States of America is continuing in the events of it's 250th anniversary of this nation. 2. The Great State of Utah has an **opportunity** to recognize and be part of these events. 3. **April 19, 2025** is the date of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that first date of the Revolution. 4. Utah has only 3 months to prepare for this event. 5. Ask for their support of the Concurrent Resolution Recognizing Patriots Day by Rep. Walt Brooks to name April 19th - "Patriots' Day" each year in The Great State of Utah. 7. Include UtahPatriotsDay.org in your text. Your name Address City, State, Zip Code Who represents me? Find my legislature. Enter your: Address & Zip Code https://le.utah.gov/GIS/findDistrict.jsp I. Utah Senate senate.utah.gov Go to: Senators > Senator roster > (Select Table View)

#### II. Utah House of Representatives

house.utleg.gov Go to: Representatives > House Members > select View Table