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## **Fayette County Joins America250 in Commemorating the Nation's Semiquincentennial - Fayette County to Celebrate 250 Years of American Independence with Year-Long Events Honoring Its Pivotal Role in History**

February 20, 2025, FAYETTE COUNTY, PA – Fayette County is proud to announce its participation in America250, the nationwide commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States, with a series of events and initiatives that will honor the county's rich history, diverse communities, and enduring contributions to the nation. As a key partner in America250PA, the Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, Fayette County is committed to ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to engage, reflect, and celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime milestone.

Fayette County Commissioner Dave Lohr shared, "America's 250th is a time to reflect on our shared history, honor the sacrifices that built our nation, and inspire future generations to carry forward the ideals of freedom and democracy. This celebration is not just about the past—it's about shaping the future together."

From May 30, 2025, through July 4, 2026, Fayette County will lead a year-long celebration that highlights its historical significance in shaping America's past, present, and future. As the namesake of General Marquis de Lafayette, the French military hero who played a crucial role in the American Revolution, the county holds a unique place in national history. Fayette County's deep connections to the Revolutionary War, westward expansion, and industrial innovation will take center stage in a series of educational programs, heritage events, and community celebrations that will bring history to life for all generations.

### **A Community-Centered Celebration**

Fayette County's participation in America250 will be inclusive and expansive, ensuring that every citizen—regardless of age, background, or community—can take part in the celebration. Local municipalities, historical societies, schools, businesses, and civic organizations will have opportunities to engage through interactive exhibits, storytelling projects, living history demonstrations, and community engagement opportunities that showcase the county's impact on the nation.

"Our county is deeply woven into the fabric of American history," said Muriel Nuttall, Fayette County Chamber Executive Director. "As we approach the nation's 250th anniversary, Fayette County will not only honor its historical significance but also celebrate the people and communities that continue to shape our future. This is a celebration for everyone, and we invite all citizens to take part in this extraordinary journey."

Fayette County's 250 initiatives will align with Pennsylvania's broader America250PA efforts, ensuring that our local history is recognized on a national stage. As one of the first counties in the United States named for Lafayette, the county will highlight its ties to the Revolutionary War, including General Lafayette's historic visit to Brownsville and Uniontown in 1825 during his Farewell Tour. The county will also emphasize its contributions to transportation, industry, and innovation, showcasing the National Road's importance and the role of local communities in America's expansion.

A group of interested individuals has been working together for about a year to lay the foundation on which the celebration and commemoration will be held. “We have a great group of people,” said Commissioner Chairman, Scott Dunn, “from the Chamber, the County, several historical societies, libraries, parks, etc., who have been working hard to begin to develop this year-long celebration. They are excited to welcome others who want to be a part of this momentous event.”

**Key highlights of Fayette County’s America250 programming will include:**

- Lafayette Inaugural Event (May 30, 2025) – A special ceremony marking the 200th anniversary of Lafayette’s Farewell Tour, serving as the official kickoff to Fayette County’s America250 celebrations. This ceremony will include a reenactment that will begin in Brownsville, continue to the Fayette County Historical Society, then into Uniontown with a stop at the Gallatin Building and will conclude with a large celebration on the steps of the Fayette County Courthouse. That evening, a family event will be held at Washington Run Park in Perryopolis.
- Thirteen-Month Celebration – Each month leading up to July 4, 2026, will focus on some aspect of the original thirteen colonies, exploring their connection to Fayette County’s history and legacy.
- Educational and Cultural Programs – School partnerships, lecture series, and historical reenactments will educate residents and visitors about Fayette County’s role in the founding and development of the nation.
- Community Engagement Initiatives – A collaborative effort with local organizations to promote community pride, heritage preservation, and intergenerational storytelling.
- July 4, 2026, Grand Finale – A spectacular event uniting all of Fayette County in a celebration of America’s 250th birthday, complete with parades, music, and fireworks.

**A Call to Action for All Fayette County Citizens**

As part of its commitment to America250, Fayette County is inviting residents, businesses, schools, and organizations to get involved in the planning and execution of these historic celebrations. Opportunities for participation include volunteering, hosting events, sharing family histories, and supporting commemorative projects that reflect Fayette County’s diverse heritage and contributions. The Fayette Chamber of Commerce holds monthly planning meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Please reach out to the Chamber at 724-437-4571 for more information.

“This is a celebration that belongs to all of us,” said Commissioner Vince Vicites. “Whether your family has lived here for generations or you’re new to our community, you are part of our story. As we commemorate 250 years of American independence, we invite you to take part in honoring our past, celebrating our present, and shaping our future.”

For more information about Fayette County’s America250 celebrations, event schedules, and ways to participate visit Discover Fayette on Facebook @discoverfayettepa.

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*About America250 and America250PA*

*America250 is the official nationwide initiative to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The effort includes federal, state, and local programs designed to honor the past, inspire the future, and engage all Americans in the celebration of their shared history. America250PA is Pennsylvania’s official commission leading the state’s commemorative efforts, highlighting Pennsylvania’s integral role in the nation’s founding and evolution.*