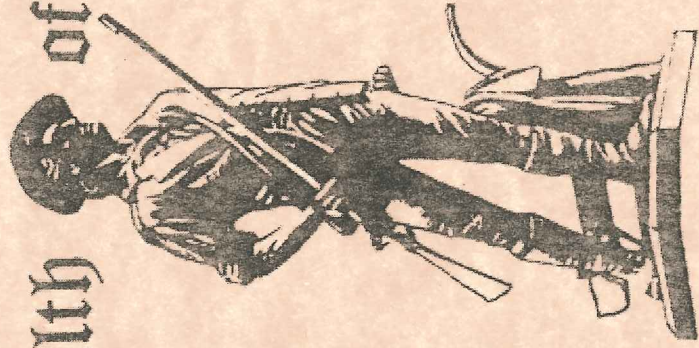


Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas This year we honor the 257th Anniversary of the birth and the 180th Anniversary of the death of Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette, one of America's greatest soldiers, statesmen and the best friend this country ever had; and

Whereas As a young man, La Fayette became inspired by the American colonists' struggle for independence, envisioning the Revolution as a turning point in the fight for freedom for all mankind, and thus beginning his long years of service to this country; and

Whereas The young Frenchman abandoned his position and honors at home to help our young nation by participating in numerous battles as a general in George Washington's army, enduring hardships, and setting a constant example of bravery, dignity and duty; and

Whereas General La Fayette made clear the destiny of this nation when he wrote: "The fortune of America is closely bound up with the fortune of humanity; she will become the safe and respected refuge of virtue, honesty, tolerance, equality, and of a peaceful liberty"; and

Whereas La Fayette was a life-long crusader for human rights and a constant supporter of the abolition of slavery,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with Chapter 148 of the Acts of 1935 of the General Laws, do hereby proclaim May 20th, 2014, to be

MASSACHUSETTS LA FAYETTE DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, sixteenth day of May, in the year two thousand and fourteen and the two hundred and thirty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.



By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts