

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas John Adams, lawyer, diplomat, statesman, Founding Father, was born on October 30th, 1735 in Braintree, Massachusetts; and

Whereas A prominent Boston lawyer and an outspoken critic of British policies, Adams was elected to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in June 1744, where he nominated George Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army. Called the “Colossus of Independence” by Thomas Jefferson, Adams was a driving force behind the Declaration of Independence; and

Whereas During the Revolutionary War, Adams served as a diplomat to France and the Netherlands, working to secure loans and relationships. In 1783, Adams negotiated and signed the Treaty of Paris, securing recognition of United States independence from Great Britain. He then served as the first Minister to the Court of St. James; and

Whereas As the Braintree delegate to the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention, John Adams was the primary author of the Massachusetts Constitution. Ratified by the people on June 15th, 1780, the Massachusetts Constitution is the oldest written constitution in the world still in effect; and

Whereas Elected in 1788, Adams served as our country’s first Vice President under George Washington. After eight years of service, Adams was elected our second President of the United States; and

Whereas During his term as President, Adams worked to keep the United States out of the Napoleonic Wars, established the Department of the Navy and launched the U.S.S. Constitution, currently the oldest commissioned ship afloat in the world. The Adams Family were also the first occupants of the newly built Executive Mansion in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas Throughout his life, John Adams was dedicated to the cause of American democracy. His ideals and actions shaped the early years of our nation. Adams’ impact has left a lasting imprint on our Commonwealth and country and his legacy continues to inspire us today,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 30th, 2007, to be

JOHN ADAMS 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, this thirtieth day of October, in the year two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-first.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts