

Mecklenburg County

North Carolina

Proclamation

WHEREAS, on May 19, 1775, Charlotte Town's founder, Colonel Thomas Polk, called for a convention of the Mecklenburg County militia leaders to be held in Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, those twenty-six men, upon hearing of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which had occurred exactly one month earlier, unanimously adopted resolutions to declare themselves "a free and independent people" in a document that came to be known as the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (or "MeckDec"); and

WHEREAS, at noon on May 20, 1775, Colonel Polk read the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence from the steps of the County Courthouse to the assembled citizens; and

WHEREAS, on May 31, 1775, members of the Mecklenburg Committee of Safety adopted twenty additional resolutions to directly govern themselves, which came to be known as the Mecklenburg Resolves; and

WHEREAS, a local tavern owner named Captain James Jack was called upon to deliver, on horseback, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and Mecklenburg Resolves to North Carolina's delegates at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Captain Jack completed his errand, delivering the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and telling the delegates that "*gentlemen, you may debate here about reconciliation and memorialize your king, but, bear it in mind, Mecklenburg owes no allegiance to, and is separated from the crown of Great Britain forever!*"; and

WHEREAS, President John Adams was to later write of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence that, "*the genuine sense of America at that moment was never expressed so well before, nor since*"; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte's revolutionary spirit was personified by the words of British cavalry officer Banastre Tarleton, who observed, "*the counties of Mecklenburg and Rohan were more hostile to England than any other in America*"; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has chosen to recognize the significance of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence by placing the date of its signing "May 20, 1775" upon our state flag and Great Seal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners call upon all citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to join in the commemoration of the 243rd anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and does hereby proclaim May 13 – 19, 2018 as

"MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WEEK"

This the 15th day of May 2018

Ella B. Scarborough

Ella B. Scarborough, Chair
Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners

