

**WHEREAS**, 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States of America, commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of a nation founded on the enduring principles of liberty, self-government, and the rule of law; and

**WHEREAS**, the movement toward American independence began with the convening of the First Continental Congress and the adoption of the Declaration and Resolves on October 14, 1774, affirming the colonies' fundamental rights, including life, liberty, property, local self-government, trial by jury, and representation in taxation; and

**WHEREAS**, established in 1858 and named for American statesman Henry Clay, Clay County has grown from a collection of small settlements including Green Cove Springs, Fleming Island, Orange Park, Keystone Heights, Penney Farms, and Middleburg, into a vibrant and diverse county whose residents have preserved its rich heritage and natural beauty along the St. Johns River and Black Creek, while contributing to its continued growth and prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, the 250th anniversary of the United States provides the residents of Clay County an opportunity to reflect upon our nation's founding principles, celebrate our shared heritage, honor those who have served, and inspire future generations to uphold the ideals upon which our nation was founded; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), founded in 1890 by descendants of American Revolution Patriots, is commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States by "Illuminating Our Legacy," honoring the sacrifices for independence and celebrating the nation's history, diversity of experience, and enduring values of liberty and democracy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of County Commissioners of Clay County, Florida, hereby recognizes and celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America and encourages all residents to honor our nation's history, the veterans, and public servants who support our democracy, and to participate in observances honoring our nation's founding, while celebrating the history and contributions of Clay County and its citizens.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this proclamation is presented to the Sophia Fleming Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, in recognition of the commitment to honoring America's past and inspiring its future.

**DULY ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners, Clay County, Florida, this 23rd day of June 2026.

**ATTEST:**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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Tara S. Green  
Clerk of Court & Comptroller  
Ex Officio Clerk of the Board

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Kristen Burke, DC, Chairman

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John Sgromolo, Vice Chairman

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Alexandra Compere

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Jim Renninger

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Betsy Condon