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AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION celebrating the role of Princeton in the American Revolution.

Celebrates role of Princeton in American Revolution.

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Same as \_\_\_\_\_ 24/25                      Same as \_\_\_\_\_ 26/27

Suggested allocation: N/A

**AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** celebrating the role of Princeton in the American Revolution.

**WHEREAS**, Princeton, New Jersey was an epicenter of both conflict and accomplishment throughout the American Revolution; and

**WHEREAS**, Princeton notably served as the home to two signers of the Declaration of Independence: John Witherspoon, the President of the College of New Jersey, now known as Princeton University, and Richard Stockton, a prominent lawyer for whom Stockton University was named; and

**WHEREAS**, In the war that followed the Declaration, New Jersey would become known as the Crossroads of the American Revolution; and

**WHEREAS**, The town of Princeton might rightly be known as the Crossroads of New Jersey, since it was situated halfway along the main postroad that connected New York City and Philadelphia, and thus saw almost constant occupation and disruption during the course of the Revolutionary War; and

**WHEREAS**, After General George Washington suffered defeat in New York in the fall of 1776, the Continental Army was forced to retreat across New Jersey and over the Delaware River to Pennsylvania, leaving Princeton occupied by British troops; and

**WHEREAS**, Princeton would remain in British hands until General Washington led a surprise attack on the British and their Hessian mercenaries at the Battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776, swiftly followed by an assault on Princeton; and

**WHEREAS**, Patriot troops defeated the British near Thomas Clarke’s farmhouse, now Princeton Battlefield State Park, and forced them to make their final stand from Nassau Hall, the main building of the College of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, As the British sought refuge, a Continental Artillery Regiment, led in part by Alexander Hamilton, fired cannonballs into the building, destroying a portrait of King George II and forcing the British to surrender; and

**WHEREAS**, Legend has it, Alexander Hamilton himself fired the shot that would destroy the portrait of King George II at Nassau Hall, bolstering Hamilton’s reputation and accelerating his rise through the ranks; and

**WHEREAS**, The two battles of Trenton and Princeton would prove to be turning points in the Revolutionary War, demonstrating that the Continental Army was capable of defeating the British, encouraging patriot soldiers to reenlist, and paving the way for a vital alliance with France; and

**WHEREAS**, For the remainder of the war, Princeton would be a critical supply depot and Nassau Hall an important military hospital, serving the Continental Army as they passed through for resupply and rest, including on the way to the Battle of Monmouth and Battle of Yorktown, and treating injured soldiers from the Battle of Princeton and Battle of Monmouth; and

**WHEREAS**, In the years that followed, Princeton was given the honor of serving as the seat of both the State and federal governments, with

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the General Assembly, Governor, and Continental Congress frequently meeting there, and was temporarily designated the capital of the United States for several months in 1783; and

**WHEREAS**, At the close of the war, General Washington established his final wartime headquarters near Princeton, at Rockingham house; and

**WHEREAS**, While at Rockingham, he summarized Princeton's meaningful place in the history of the Revolutionary War: "The prosperous situation of our public affairs, the flourishing state of this place, and the revival of the seat of literature from the ravages of war, increase to the highest degree, the pleasure I feel in visiting (at the return of peace) the scene of our important military transactions, and in recollecting the period when the tide of adversity began to turn, and better fortune to smile upon us"; and

**WHEREAS**, It is thus fitting and proper for this House to use the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence to celebrate the role of Princeton in the founding of our nation and to recognize the challenges endured by the people of Princeton in pursuit of freedom; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*:

1. The General Assembly celebrates the role of Princeton, Princeton University, and the surrounding area in the American Revolution, and honors the many sacrifices made by residents of the area during the Revolutionary War.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the Mayor of Princeton, New Jersey and the President of Princeton University.

#### STATEMENT

This Assembly resolution celebrates the role of Princeton in the American Revolution and honors the many sacrifices made by residents of the area during the Revolutionary War.

Princeton, New Jersey was an epicenter of both conflict and accomplishment throughout the American Revolution. Notably, Princeton served as the home to two signers of the Declaration of Independence: John Witherspoon, the President of the College of New Jersey, now known as Princeton University, and Richard Stockton, a prominent lawyer for whom Stockton University was named.

In the war that followed the Declaration, New Jersey would become known as the Crossroads of the American Revolution. The town of Princeton might rightly be known as the Crossroads of New

Jersey, since it was situated halfway along the main postroad that connected New York City and Philadelphia, and thus saw almost constant occupation and disruption during the course of the Revolutionary War.

After General George Washington suffered defeat in New York in the fall of 1776, the Continental Army was forced to retreat across New Jersey and over the Delaware River to Pennsylvania, leaving Princeton occupied by British troops. Princeton would remain in British hands until General Washington led a surprise attack on the British and their Hessian mercenaries at the Battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776, swiftly followed by an assault on Princeton.

Patriot troops defeated the British near Thomas Clarke's farmhouse, now Princeton Battlefield State Park, and forced them to make their final stand from Nassau Hall, the main building of the College of New Jersey. As the British sought refuge, a Continental Artillery Regiment, led in part by Alexander Hamilton, fired cannonballs into the building, destroying a portrait of King George II and forcing the British to surrender. Legend has it, Alexander Hamilton himself fired the shot that would destroy the portrait of King George II at Nassau Hall, bolstering Hamilton's reputation and accelerating his rise through the ranks.

The two battles of Trenton and Princeton would prove to be turning points in the Revolutionary War, demonstrating that the Continental Army was capable of defeating the British, encouraging patriot soldiers to reenlist, and paving the way for a vital alliance with France. For the remainder of the war, Princeton would be a critical supply depot and Nassau Hall an important military hospital, serving the Continental Army as they passed through for resupply and rest, including on the way to the Battles of Monmouth and Battle of Yorktown, and treating injured soldiers from the Battle of Princeton and Battle of Monmouth.

In the years that followed, Princeton was given the honor of serving as the seat of both the State and federal governments, with the General Assembly, Governor, and Continental Congress frequently meeting there, and was temporarily designated the capital of the United States for several months in 1783.

At the close of the war, General Washington established his final wartime headquarters near Princeton, at Rockingham house. While at Rockingham, he summarized Princeton's meaningful place in the history of the Revolutionary War: "The prosperous situation of our public affairs, the flourishing state of this place, and the revival of the seat of literature from the ravages of war, increase to the highest degree, the pleasure I feel in visiting... the scene of our important military transactions, and in recollecting the period when the tide of adversity began to turn, and better fortune to smile upon us."

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