

Office of the Mayor
Foley, Alabama
Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Battle of Lexington was the start of the American War of Independence, an event of momentous importance to the history of the world. It was one of America’s longest and bloodiest wars but ended with the emergence of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The cause of the war begins with the right of Americans to govern themselves. This right was first established in British North America when the colonists of the new Virginia Colony in 1619 convened a legislature, the Virginia House of Delegates, consisting of elected representatives to make laws for the colony. As America developed into thirteen colonies, each had an elected legislature and prospered under the rule of their own government. In 1774 the British Parliament imposed the “Intolerable Acts” upon America which authorized the British Crown to abolish the colonial legislatures and impose direct rule on the Province of Massachusetts. The American response was to convene the First Continental Congress in 1774, composed of delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies, to coordinate a united response to this assault on American freedoms; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts, with the support from the other American colonies, refused the order to disband its legislature and authorized the reorganization of the militia and created special companies of the fittest and best trained men ready to respond on quick notice (“Minutemen”). A 700-man British Army force marched out of Boston the night of April 18/19 intending to raid the town of Concord and destroy supplies stockpiled for the Massachusetts militia. At dawn on 19 April the British force confronted the Lexington militia company of 86 men on the town green. The British vanguard opened fire and killed eight militiamen, forcing the Americans to retreat. Advancing to Concord the British Army confronted a much larger force of well-organized militia units and engaged them in battle, forcing the British force to retreat back to Boston. Within days the governments of New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island had committed their own troops to the conflict; and

WHEREAS, It must be remembered that the citizen soldiers who first confronted the army of the world’s most powerful empire were not a mob, nor a dissident group, nor a political faction—but men who served as soldiers under the authority of their own elected government. The American Army, created by the Continental Congress in June 1775 would go on to defeat the British and win independence in 1783; and

WHEREAS, The City of Foley commends the efforts of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to commemorate the anniversary of the great events of April 19, 1775. We also commend and support their efforts to commemorate the American Revolution and to educate the public in principles of freedom and self-government that motivated the Revolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Ralph G. Hellmich and on behalf of the Foley City Council, do hereby proclaim to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington which took place of April 19, 1775.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
on this **8th Day of April, 2025**

Attest: _____