

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON
AND CONCORD**

WHEREAS, the battles of Lexington and Concord took place on April 19, 1775; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the Seven Years' War, the British government sought to pay for the costs of the war by increasing taxes on its North American territories without their consent; and

WHEREAS, British subjects in the American colonies resisted taxation without representation through political action and civil agitation, culminating in the destruction of a cargo of imported tea, an event known as the Boston Tea Party, in December 1773; and

WHEREAS, the British Government responded to the resistance in Massachusetts by passing the "Intolerable Acts," which, among other measures, revoked the charter of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, which encompassed much of today's State of Maine, concentrated power in a Governor appointed by the King, forbade town meetings without the Governor's approval and placed Boston under military occupation; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1774, the royally appointed Governor Thomas Gage dissolved the provincial assembly of Massachusetts Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts provincial assembly defied Governor Gage, adjourning to Concord and organizing themselves as a Provincial Congress on October 7, 1774, and with John Hancock as its president, it became the de facto government of Massachusetts outside of Boston, including representatives from York and Cumberland Counties and other parts of present-day Maine; and

WHEREAS, beginning in October 1774, the Provincial Congress initiated actions for the defense and safety of the Province of Massachusetts Bay by providing for procurement and disbursement of arms and munitions, assembling a militia and appointing as the militia's commander the Honorable Jedediah Preble, Esquire, of Falmouth, now Portland, Maine; and

WHEREAS, on the evening of April 18, 1775, British forces commenced a military operation to apprehend the leaders of the Provincial Congress in Lexington and confiscate the arms and munitions stored in Concord; and

WHEREAS, local militia volunteers, distinguished by the term "Minutemen," having been notified through the night of the approaching soldiers, fought British forces on the Lexington Green and at the North Bridge in Concord, protecting their munitions from seizure and harrying the British forces throughout their retreat to Boston; and

WHEREAS, these battles launched a successful war for our nation's independence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who risked their lives by taking up public service and armed service in defiance of tyranny and in defense of the principles and practice of representative self-government that is their legacy and our heritage.