



April 7, 2025

Dear County Connect Chair,

We are on our way!! I know you have begun to meet and organize your County America250 Committee, and had your first meetings. Thank you for your communications to me. In this fifth letter I hope to bring you up-to-date with America 250 happenings, activities planned, and future guidelines. We are now looking at the 2025 calendar – and getting close to just a year to that 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 4, 2026 of our Declaration of Independence being signed and proclaimed. Events and activities are being planned.

\*\* Here is some information on an event that Indiana and all our counties can participate in. The event that is being planned and celebrated in all our 50 states and 6 Territories is named “Two Light for Tomorrow.” The first shots on the green at Lexington were fired on April 19, 1775. The night before was the famous ride of Paul Revere when he saw the two lights in the Old North Church in Boston and rode to alert the colonists was on the night of April 18 -19, 1775. “Two Lights for Tomorrow” will commemorate that famous ride and those first shots. In honor of these events we are asking that in every county have two lights placed in your county courthouse – in a high window and on the north side (if possible) on the nights of April 18 and 19. Also, you can encourage and promote lights in other county buildings, businesses, and every citizen’s home on April 18 and 19. This can be a very meaningful activity to promote awareness of our coming Semiquincentennial Celebration of America250! Also, we hope that service projects can be planned for that weekend or the week/weekend that follow. Maybe help collect items for a food pantry in your county, clean a park, etc.

\*\*The second coming event I shared with you in my last letter is to mark the date of June 14, 2025, on your calendar. That date will serve as Indiana’s Official Kick-Off to its celebration and commemoration of America 250. We hope each of our counties will plan for a special event/s that day to officially begin our celebration and commemoration of America 250 here in Indiana.

We will also hold an event at the Indiana War Memorial. As you know, June 14 is Flag Day and the birth date of our United States Army. A great day to officially begin our Indiana celebration!

**\*\* Reminder -** The end date for submitting entries into the 2024-2025 American Field Trip contest for students grade 3 – 12 is April 16. Entries are submitted on line and must be submitted by 5:00 pm Eastern time that day. Please encourage young people to enter the “What America Means to Me” contest. Go to the National America250 web site for more details [America250.org](http://America250.org). The third and final year of the contest will be held during the 2025-2026 school year.

**\*\* A reminder that as you form your County Committees and begin to plan and develop programs and activities be sure your committee secretary is keeping a good detailed record of what is being planned and happening, including other supportive groups in your county that have America250 activities. At the end of this celebration we will be asking for each county's report to be sent to me so that all 92 county reports can be printed and bound in a remembrance of Indiana's Semiquincentennial Celebration. A copy of this book will be placed in each county.**

**\*\* Your State Commission has been working in these last few months and weeks to request and promote continued funding in Indiana's next state budget funds to support our celebration. One of the items we hope to be able to fund will be having some grant funds available for counties to request to help promote America250 in your county. When we know and it should be soon, if any grant funds will be available I will get you more details on what is available and on how to apply. Remember that your county committee treasurer does need to keep accurate and detailed records of any funding/donations received and keep records for everything received and receipts for everything spent.**

**\*\* Planning service projects in our counties is a focus that all committees should promote with the activities and programs you plan. Throughout the years since our Declaration of Independence was proclaimed, the legacy of service to our country from those who have served in our military to the millions of citizens who have given of their time and talent to reach out to provide service to others. Please promote service projects in your counties under the title of “America Gives.”**

**\*\* As your county committee plans activities, work to promote the history of your county as well as the State of Indiana. Publicize historic markers already placed in your county. Plan a county tour or two. When you have solid dates for tours and your other events, be sure to complete an event form that I sent to you in an earlier mailing and return to me so I may post it on the state website. Send it in the US Mail or attach to an email. Some county events have already been posted on our state website [in.gov/usa250](http://in.gov/usa250)**

**\*\* Continue to promote a “Fact a Month” about your county to share in a local paper or social media site. Set-up displays in local businesses, schools, and community buildings. Keep your**

local papers informed of your plans and events. I know as we get closer there will be heightened interest in our celebration.

**\*\*Your State Commission is very close to posting some tool-kit items for you to use in publicizing and promoting America250, such as posters, flyers, banners. I will inform you when those become available and how you gain access to them.**

**\*\*In my last letter I included a form for you to use to identify the members of your County Committee and who they represent. Thank you to those county connect chairs that have returned their listing to me. I realize some members may change during the days ahead, but I need to have a beginning listing. We will make a final listing of your committee when you submit that final report. If you haven't yet - please return your County Committee listing form to me upon receipt of this letter. You may send the list in the US Mail or attach it to an email to me. My contact information is at the end of this letter.**

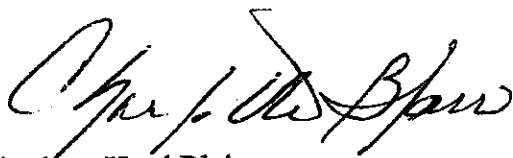
**\*\*It is also very important that you, as County Committee Chair, keep your contact information current with me (mailing address, phone, and email). Also, if for some reason a new person takes over the chair position, please inform me.**

**\*\*I hope you will continue to promote purchase of the specialty license plate that became available as of January 1, 2025, at your local BMV office. As of this time, over five hundred of these specialty plates have been purchased.**

**\*\*As you begin to hold events, remember to take pictures. Pictures can be used to promote the America250 program and be used in your final report. Be sure you have pictures of your county courthouse with the two lights.**

Again, thank you for your willingness to serve and the time and many talents you have to promote our country's Celebration and Commemoration of America 250.

If you have questions along the way and/or need some additional information, please contact me



Charlotte Hurd Blair

Co-Chair

Indiana Semiquincentennial Commission

[csblair06@gmail.com](mailto:csblair06@gmail.com)

260-229-0908

943 West Keiser Road Columbia City, IN 46725