



Independence Day celebrates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

Founding Father and past President John Adams wrote, “It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

Today we gather, in accordance with Connecticut state law, to hold an appropriate ceremony as part of the official observance of our Independence Day.

OFFICIAL STATE OBSERVANCE



4TH OF JULY 2025 | HALL OF FLAGS STATE CAPITOL

0830 ARRIVE | 0900 CEREMONY | 210 CAPITOL AVE. HARTFORD, CT 06106

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES TITLE 1, CHAPTER 2, SEC. 1-5.
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION. AS PART OF THE OFFICIAL OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, APPROPRIATE CEREMONIES SHALL BE HELD IN THE HALL OF FLAGS OF THE STATE CAPITOL ON JULY FOURTH IN EACH YEAR.





OFFICIAL STATE OBSERVANCE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies	Charles M. Pickett, State Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars
Presenting the Colors	American Legion Department Color Guard Led by Color Guard Captain Steve Fahy & Patriotic Massing of the Colors
Invocation	Kenneth C. Hartline, State Chaplain Veterans of Foreign Wars
Pledge of Allegiance	Domenic M. Guiliano, State Adjutant Veterans of Foreign Wars
National Anthem	Cynthia L. Riley, State Patriotic Instructor Veterans of Foreign Wars
Remarks	Hon. Denise W. Merrill, CT Chair America 250 CT Commission
Principal Speaker	Matthew Vallier Connecticut Capitol Flag Preservation Office of Legislative Management
“God Bless America”	Cynthia L. Riley, State Patriotic Instructor Veterans of Foreign Wars
Benediction	Kenneth C. Hartline, State Chaplain Veterans of Foreign Wars
Retiring the Colors	American Legion Department Color Guard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

NATIONAL ANTHEM (“THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER”)

O say can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

“GOD BLESS AMERICA”

God Bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam
God bless America, My home sweet home.