

Proclamation

'Treaty of Paris Ending the Revolutionary War 225th Anniversary

WHEREAS, when the first rays of daylight broke on the Lexington Green on April 19, 1775, "the shot heard round the world" was fired as British soldiers and American patriots clashed and sparked the war of American Independence, and

WHEREAS, delegates to the Second Continental Congress declared on July 4, 1776 that "these colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States" and in support of that declaration mutually pledged to each other their Lives, their Fortunes, and their Sacred Honor, and

WHEREAS, General George Washington led an army of American patriots who lacked everything but courage, shouldered every burden and adversity, and persevered for eight long years to secure blessings of liberty for themselves and their posterity, and

WHEREAS, the liberty of our nation was rescued often by the largesse of France's King Louis XVI and Spain's King Carlos III and served by the daring of Europe's elite military officers, including La Fayette, Rochambeau, von Stuben, Pulaski, DeKalb and Galvez, and

WHEREAS, the surrender of British forces under the command of General Lord John Cornwallis at the Battle of Yorktown on October 19, 1781 by the allied forces under the command of General George Washington and General Comte de Rochambeau set the stage for peace initiatives abroad, and

WHEREAS, Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay to represent the United States and David Hartley was appointed by Great Britain's King George III to negotiate terms for peace; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1783, the peace commissioners of the United States and Great Britain signed a Treaty of Peace in Paris which recognized American Independence and boundaries and declared the intention of both parties to "forget all past misunderstandings and differences" and "secure to both perpetual peace and harmony," and

WHEREAS, Great Britain also signed the Treaty of Peace in Paris on September 3, 1783 with France and Spain and provisionally with the Netherlands to bring a cessation of hostilities between the nations; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, an organization of lineal descendents of the patriots of the American Revolution, encourages public observances of the 225th Anniversary of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 2008;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and Council hereby recognize and proclaim September 3, 2008 as Treaty of Paris Day in Georgia and encourage public observances of this anniversary.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the City of Milton, Georgia, on this 18th day of August, 2008.

Joe Lockwood, Mayor

