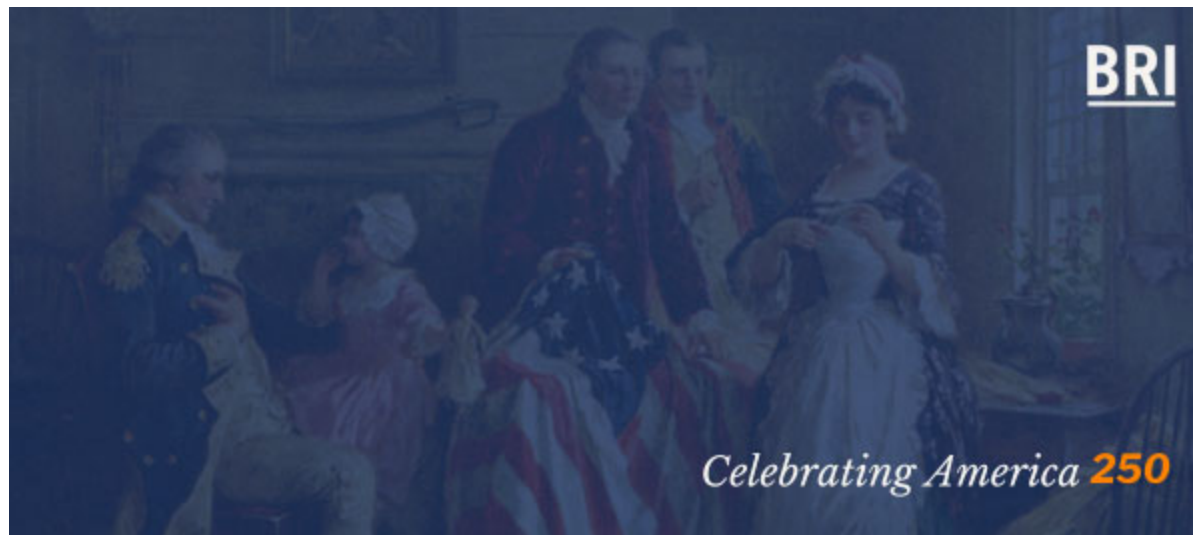

[View on Web browser](#)



Dear **Dominique**,

250 years ago this month, the Second Continental Congress drafted and sent King George III and Parliament the Olive Branch. The petition was a final attempt at reconciliation, seeking peace and compromise. In the same week, Thomas Jefferson and others established the rights of the colonists to take up arms as protection against the British in the Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms.

Both of these documents demonstrated the **founding principles** of natural rights, freedom of

speech, and consent and republican government.

A year later, on July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed by the same Congress. The Declaration of Independence highlighted the needs of the colonists to demonstrate the rights they were denied of liberty and equality for all.

July 5, 1775

The Olive Branch Petition

Written by John Dickinson, the Olive Branch Petition was signed and sent to King George III and Parliament by the Second Continental Congress. The petition was a final attempt at reconciliation, seeking peace and compromise.

[Read the Petition >>](#)

July 6, 1775

The Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms

As John Dickinson was attempting to maintain peace through the Olive Branch Petition, Thomas Jefferson and others established the rights of the colonists to take up arms as protection against the British in the Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms.

[Read the Statement >>](#)

How is BRI Celebrating America 250?

Our interactive [Celebrating A250 timeline](#) follows each anniversary along with other significant dates that have shaped American history. Follow along each week as new dates, summer activities, and [A250 Mini Documentaries](#) are added.



In partnership with iCivics, we will be running a year-long educator contest called Civics Star Challenge. Prizes will be awarded throughout the school year. This contest is open to all K-12 educators across the country. To participate, educators must:

- Use lessons and activities to teach the Declaration's themes
- Submit an entry that showcases their class participation

[Find out more](#) and share the contest with educators in your community.

Civics Champion

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Every \$100 helps supply 100 Pocket Constitutions to a classroom. Smaller gifts and gifts in excess of \$100 will support the Institute's mission that provides teachers with online curriculum and resources they can trust at no cost in your state.



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