

NYS STATE SENATOR JOHN LIU

AMERICA'S 250TH

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

JUNE 28, 2026

@ FRANCIS LEWIS HIGH SCHOOL

**STUDENT RECITATION
CONTEST**

**THE HIGHLIGHT OF THIS SPECIAL CELEBRATION WILL
BE A READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
BY 13 STUDENTS FROM AREA SCHOOLS**

REQUIRED TEXT

"WE, THEREFORE, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS, ASSEMBLED, APPEALING TO THE SUPREME JUDGE OF THE WORLD FOR THE RECTITUDE OF OUR INTENTIONS, DO, IN THE NAME, AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THESE COLONIES, SOLEMNLY PUBLISH AND DECLARE, THAT THESE UNITED COLONIES ARE, AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; THAT THEY ARE ABSOLVED FROM ALL ALLEGIANCE TO THE BRITISH CROWN, AND THAT ALL POLITICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM AND THE STATE OF GREAT BRITAIN, IS AND OUGHT TO BE TOTALLY DISSOLVED; AND THAT AS FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, THEY HAVE FULL POWER TO LEVY WAR, CONCLUDE PEACE, CONTRACT ALLIANCES, ESTABLISH COMMERCE, AND TO DO ALL OTHER ACTS AND THINGS WHICH INDEPENDENT STATES MAY OF RIGHT DO. AND FOR THE SUPPORT OF THIS DECLARATION, WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE, WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES AND OUR SACRED HONOR."

HOW TO APPLY

CREATE A ONE-MINUTE VIDEO READING THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND UPLOAD IT VIA THE GOOGLE FORM BELOW

VIDEO/ESSAY UPLOAD

IMPORTANT DATES

- THE DEADLINE TO ENTER THE CONTEST: MAY 22.
- THE FINAL 13 STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED INDIVIDUALLY ON MAY 27. **SELECTED STUDENTS MUST BE AVAILABLE TO ATTEND TWO PRACTICE SESSIONS AND ONE DRESS REHEARSAL AT FRANCIS LEWIS HIGH SCHOOL:**
- PRACTICE SESSIONS: FRIDAY, MAY 29 (3:30–4:30 PM) AND FRIDAY, JUNE 5 (3:30–4:30 PM)
- DRESS REHEARSAL: SATURDAY, JUNE 27 (10:00 AM–1:00 PM)