



RESOLUTION

*of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
on the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence*



Two hundred fifty years ago, the Second Continental Congress issued a written declaration, signed by the fifty-six representatives of the thirteen subscribing states, that “totally dissolve[s]” each state’s “political bands” with Great Britain, that declares the states “absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown,” and that establishes the states as “Independent States” with the “full Power[s]” characteristic of a sovereign nation. This declaration of independence, a historic and singular document, presents neither a declaration of war nor a threat of other aggression against Great Britain but, to rightly inform the “Opinions of Mankind,” specifies the ample causes that “impel[led]” the states “to the separation.”

The declaration reminds other nations that the king regularly and purposefully, among many “Injuries and Usurpations,” obstructed the administration of justice by opposing the independence of the judiciary, submitting judges to the royal will, depriving persons in the states of trial by jury, and creating zones subject to “arbitrary Government” rather than “the free System of English Laws.” The declaration affirms that without “[t]he complete independence of the courts of justice . . . all the reservations of particular rights or privileges [protected by a limited constitutional government] would amount to nothing.”¹ The declaration resolves emphatically that only an independent judiciary can guard the rights of the people if “individuals who wield the power of government . . . confuse dissent with insurrection, and preservation of government with preservation of the status quo and their own power.”² The declaration affirms resolutely that each judge must act with utmost justice, fealty, integrity, and courage in fulfilling a judge’s duty to decide each case “according to our oath, doing equal right to the poor and to the rich, and performing all of our duties faithfully and impartially under the Constitution and laws of the United States.”³

By this resolution, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida affirms an enduring and unwavering commitment to the principles of justice, fealty, integrity, and courage exemplified by The Declaration of Independence, to which the signatories pledged their “Lives,” their “Fortunes,” and their “sacred Honor.”

Signed on behalf of all the Judges of the Court on July 4, 2026,

Marcia Morales Howard
Chief United States District Judge

¹ Alexander Hamilton, Federalist 78.

² Circuit Judge David L. Bazelon, 1978.

³ Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., 2025.