



***Recognizing and Celebrating
The 4th of July, 2023 as Independence Day***

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence was ratified by representatives from the thirteen original states in July 1776 and the Declaration documented objections raised against the King of Great Britain – summarily describing the King’s governance as *“absolute Tyranny over these States”*; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence not only communicated these objections to the King of Great Britain, and further the Declaration of Independence proclaimed to the world the core principles and values upon which our nation was to be founded and sustained; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence proclaimed that *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”* and the Declaration proclaimed that *“to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed”*; and

WHEREAS, over the 247 years since the Declaration of Independence, our nation has continued to work toward realizing these core values and principles, including amending our Constitution to better define a person’s freedoms in the Bill of Rights, to abolish the enslavement of people in the 13th Amendment, to expand equal protection and personal liberties in the 14th Amendment, and to expand access of the governed to the government in the 15th, 19th, 23rd, 24th, and 26th Amendments; and

WHEREAS, countries across the globe look to the United States of America as the leader in self-government and the advancement of personal liberties and have themselves sought to emulate and realize these core values in their countries; and

WHEREAS, it is paramount that we celebrate our independence, and also educate ourselves on the core values and principles within the Declaration of Independence and affirm our commitment to protecting, sustaining, and continuing to expand the realization of these values for ourselves and for one another.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor of the City of Monroe, Washington, do hereby recognize

**4th of July 2023 as
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

AND ENCOURAGE our residents, employers, and visitors to

Learn more about our Declaration of Independence; **Give thanks** for people today and within our history that have worked to protect and expand the core values and principles in the Declaration of Independence to all our residents and expand them abroad; and **Celebrate** our nation’s Independence on July 4, 2023 with friends, family, and neighbors!

Geoffrey Thomas, Mayor