



## PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** IN THE EARLY HOURS OF APRIL 19, 1775, THREE PATRIOTS – PAUL REVERE, WILLIAM DAWES AND DR. SAMUEL PRESCOTT – RODE THROUGH THE STREETS OF MASSACHUSETTS TO WARN FELLOW COLONISTS THAT BRITISH TROOPS HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED AND WERE ADVANCING WITH THE INTENTION OF CAPTURING PATRIOT LEADERS AND MILITARY STORES; AND
- WHEREAS,** ANSWERING THIS ALARM, 77 LEXINGTON MINUTEMEN BOLDLY STOOD BEFORE 600-800 BRITISH TROOPS WHO HAD GATHERED AT LEXINGTON GREEN; AND
- WHEREAS,** CAPTAIN JOHN PARKER COMMANDED HIS MINUTEMEN “DON’T FIRE UNLESS YOU ARE FIRED UPON; BUT IF THEY WANT A WAR, LET IT BEGIN HERE;” AND
- WHEREAS,** BRITISH REDCOATS FORMED BATTLE LINES AND AS THEY CHARGED TOWARD THE OUTNUMBERED MINUTEMEN WITH BAYONETS, A SHOT RANG OUT AND A VOLLEY CAME FROM THE BRITISH CLAIMING THE LIVES OF EIGHT PATRIOTS; AND
- WHEREAS,** WHEN THE BRITISH CONTINUED ONTO CONCORD, A BATTLED ENSUED AT THE OLD NORTH BRIDGE, WHERE MINUTEMEN FROM EVERY MIDDLESEX VILLAGE AND TOWN ROUTED THE BRITISH AND FORCED THEM TO RETREAT BACK TO BOSTON; AND
- WHEREAS,** RALPH WALDO EMERSON IMMORTALIZED THIS MOMENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY AS WHERE THE EMBATTLED FARMERS STOOD AND FIRED THE SHOT HEARD “ROUND THE WORLD;” AND
- WHEREAS,** THE CENTRAL IOWA CHAPTER OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION REMINDS US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RECALLING THE EXTRAORDINARY DEDICATION OF OUR NATION’S FIRST PATRIOTS AND HONORING THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF THOSE PATRIOTS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY AND FREEDOM DURING THE EARLIEST DAYS OF THE BATTLE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN APRIL, 1775.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM APRIL 19, 2009, AS:

### PATRIOTS’ DAY

AND URGE ALL CITIZENS TO BECOME MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE ROLE THE REVOLUTION PLAYED IN THE HISTORY OF OUR GREAT NATION.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS SIXTH DAY OF APRIL, TWO THOUSAND NINE.

**T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR  
CITY OF DES MOINES**

