

250th Anniversary Signing Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776

The Declaration of Independence was primarily signed on August 2, 1776, by 56 delegates of the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. While the document was adopted on July 4, 1776, the formal signing took place later. John Hancock, as President of the Congress, was the first to sign. Other signatures were arranged by state, from North to South. Seven delegates signed later, after being absent on August 2nd.

Besides John Hancock, the list includes notable figures like John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson. Indeed, some delegates who voted for independence on July 4th did not sign the document.

What was the 'price' for signing the document? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the Revolutionary War. How proud we are that they signed.



Iowa Society Daughters of the American Revolution
State Commemorative Events