

## **250th Anniversary of the Treaty of Alliance and Treaty of Amity and Commerce with France February 6, 1778**

Believing that they would benefit militarily by allying themselves with a powerful nation, the Colonies formed an alliance with France against Great Britain during the Revolutionary War.

According to this first military treaty of the new nation, the United States agreed to provide a defensive alliance to aid France should England attack.

Benjamin Franklin in France on behalf of the American Colonies negotiated the treaty. It is written in both English and French.

The two sides also agreed that neither side would make peace with England until the independence of the United States was recognized.

France also recognized the independence of the United States, as dependent upon a military victory. The treaty stipulated that "The essential and direct End of the present defensive alliance is to maintain effectually the liberty, Sovereignty, and independence absolute and unlimited of the said United States, as well in Matters of Government as of commerce."

The United States and France agreed "not to lay down their arms, until the Independence of the United States was won.

Source: National Achieves website; <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/treaty-of-alliance-with-france>



Iowa Society Daughters of the American Revolution  
State Commemorative Events

2025