Santa Fe County Proclamation

PROCLAIMING JULY 4, 2026, AS "THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

Introduced by: Commissioner Lisa Cacari Stone

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, marking the birth of the United States and setting forth the enduring ideals of liberty, self-determination, and democratic governance; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 2026, the United States will observe its 250th anniversary, known as the "Semiquincentennial," providing an opportunity to reflect upon the nation's history and to renew commitment to strengthening democracy and expanding opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, throughout the nation's history, the United States flag has served as a symbol of democratic ideals and the continuing pursuit of liberty, representative government, civic participation, and equal justice under law; and

WHEREAS, the United States has been shaped by the labor, service, creativity, and resilience of Indigenous peoples; descendants of enslaved Africans; immigrant communities from across the world; and Hispanic/Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Arab American, Jewish, and many other communities whose cultural, intellectual, and civic contributions continue to define and strengthen the nation; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing effort to realize the ideals expressed in the Constitution and symbolized by the flag has been advanced by abolitionists, suffrage advocates, labor organizers, civil rights leaders, Tribal leaders, and others whose work helped secure landmark protections including the Reconstruction Amendments, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the American Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, as well as continued movements advancing workers' rights, gender and LGBTQIA2S+ equity, disability inclusion, immigrant justice, and broader democratic participation; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's history is interwoven with the broader story of the United States, shaped by Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples, Hispano and Latinx communities, generations of immigrants, military veterans, and residents from all backgrounds who have contributed to the cultural, civic, and communal fabric of the state and Santa Fe County; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County lies within the ancestral homelands of Indigenous peoples and maintains enduring relationships with the sovereign Pueblo Nations of northern New Mexico, including Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Pojoaque Pueblo, Nambé Pueblo, Tesuque Pueblo, and neighboring Tribal Nations, whose cultures, languages, traditions, and stewardship of the land sustained and continue to shape the region; and

WHEREAS, the freedoms symbolized by the flag are reflected in the everyday lives of New Mexicans through civic participation, cultural expression, religious freedom, education, public service, stewardship of the land, and the ability of individuals and communities to pursue their aspirations while honoring one another's differences; and

WHEREAS, the values represented by the United States flag belong to all people regardless of race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, language, faith, immigration status, gender identity, disability, economic circumstance, or any other aspect of identity; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County recognizes that liberty is most meaningful when it is shared broadly and equitably, and when public institutions are committed to serving all people with fairness, transparency, and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA FE COUNTY, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE 4th OF JULY AS:

"THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that Santa Fe County commits to advancing liberty and equity for all residents through the work of its departments, programs, and community partnerships by ensuring that County government remains transparent, accessible, and accountable, and that services are delivered with fairness and respect for the dignity of every person.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND PASSED ON THIS 30TH DAY OF JUNE, 2026.

Justin S. Greene, Chair
Commissioner District 1

Adam F. Johnson, Vice Chair
Commissioner District 4

Lisa Cacari Stone
Commissioner District 2

Camilla Bustamante
Commissioner District 3

Hank Hughes
Commissioner District 5

for Gregory Shaffer
Gregory S. Shaffer
Santa Fe County Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Peter Valencia for
Walker Boyd
Santa Fe County Attorney

ATTESTATION:

Katharine E. Clark
Santa Fe County Clerk