



**SHELBY COUNTY, OHIO  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***“One if by land, Two if by sea!”***

It seems appropriate that our nation begins its America 250 celebration on April 18 with the *America 250: Two Lights for Tomorrow* celebration, commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Paul Revere's “Midnight Ride.” On the night of April 18, 1775, Paul Revere rode to Lexington, Massachusetts to warn local households and minutemen of the approaching British forces. The code “one if by land, two if by sea” was known to those who would later be known as patriots. In the steeple of the North Church the two lanterns were lit in accordance with this code. It was greatly due to this message that the colonists were well prepared for the battles of Lexington and Concord that occurred the next day.

It is in this spirit that *Two Lights for Tomorrow* will serve as the first event of America 250. *Two Lights for Tomorrow* commemorates that famous ride and uses the imagery of those shining lights today to “spread a message calling on everyone in the country to join together in support of one another to serve each other, our neighbors, and our communities.” As part of the year-long celebrations leading up to the United States' 250th anniversary, *America 250: Two Lights for Tomorrow* will spotlight the nation's journey from its revolutionary beginnings to its bright future blending history with innovation to reflect the nation's enduring spirit of resilience and progress.

The *Two Lights for Tomorrow* event seeks to illuminate the path forward by honoring the pivotal moments of America's history with a special focus on the historic ride that signaled the beginning of the American Revolution. This milestone event symbolizes a commitment to innovation, unity, and hope as the nation reflects on its journey and looks forward to the next 250 years.

The Shelby County Commissioners invite you to join them on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am on the South side of the Courthouse as they make a proclamation charging the citizens of Shelby County to demonstrate our unity of hope for the future by taking part in this historic event. Help us not only to celebrate history and patriotism but also to create a new legacy through community involvement where we once again endeavor to make a better tomorrow and more perfect union.

The America 250 committee has challenged everyone in the country to light two candles or lanterns in their windows beginning on the evening of Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> through the weekend ending on evening of Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, symbolizing the two lanterns hung in the church steeple. In honor of Revere's famous ride, let us illuminate two beams of light symbolizing the nation's continuing journey of liberty and progress, the guiding light of freedom that continues to lead America towards a bright tomorrow. May these lights remind us of the sacrifices made for our freedoms and represent the dual pillars of America's legacy: honoring the past while embracing the future.