

E-NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF PELHAM
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Pelham Joins the Nation in Celebrating America 250

In 2026, the United States will mark a once-in-a-generation milestone—the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Known as America 250, the semiquincentennial offers communities across the country a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the nation’s founding ideals, honor the sacrifices that secured our freedoms, and look ahead to the future we are building together.

The City of Pelham is proud to be part of this historic national observance. In support of the celebration, the Pelham City Council has passed a resolution endorsing the Alabama USA Semiquincentennial Commission (AMERICA250AL), aligning the city with statewide efforts to commemorate this important anniversary. As a visible symbol of that commitment, an America 250 flag now flies over Pelham City Hall, representing unity, reflection, and civic pride.

Mayor Rick Wash believes this milestone arrives at a particularly important moment in the nation’s story.

“In this day and age, we need to take every opportunity available to celebrate our country’s history,” Wash said. “America 250 helps us better understand how we achieved our independence and how we established our system of constitutional self-government.”

To guide Pelham’s local efforts, Mayor Wash has appointed a citizen-led America 250 committee charged with planning and coordinating activities throughout the year. The committee’s goal is to create events that are inclusive, educational, and engaging, offering residents of all ages meaningful experiences.

Through community gatherings, educational programming, and celebratory events, Pelham’s

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America 250 initiative will highlight both national history and the city's own local story.

"This celebration plays a huge role not only for our country, but for our own community," Wash said. "I hope the events we're planning allow families to get involved and learn more about the role Pelham has played in shaping our nation's history, as well as our rich tradition of honoring veterans."

Pelham's participation also complements Alabama's broader America 250 efforts, many of which are centered at American Village in Shelby County. As a neighboring community, Pelham is uniquely positioned to connect residents with these statewide resources while also offering programming that reflects Pelham's own heritage, culture, and sense of community.

For Mayor Wash, the semiquincentennial also carries a deeply personal meaning—one tied to memory, pride, and the next generation.

"I was a seventh grader during the Bicentennial celebration in 1976, and I still remember how important that moment felt," he said. "I hope the youth of our community remember that they had the opportunity to live through the celebration of our nation's birth. This is a historic time, and we should all stand with pride and gratitude for what we have. Most importantly, it's a reminder that we are all Americans."

As plans continue to take shape, Pelham's America 250 efforts will emphasize participation, learning, and community connection.

Residents and visitors alike will be invited to take part in honoring the past, celebrating the present, and envisioning the future.

Mayor Wash hopes the celebration serves as a reminder of the values that unite us—especially during challenging times.

"Our country is at a crossroads," he said. "But it's often at our lowest points, and when our neighbors need help, that we put our differences aside and stand side by side. I hope America 250 helps remind us of the foundation on which our country was built: liberty and justice for all. God bless America."

Additional details, events, and opportunities to get involved will be shared as planning continues. Together, Pelham will honor America's past, celebrate its present, and look confidently toward the future.



Pelham's America 250 committee is hard at work planning activities, events, and educational opportunities throughout the semiquincentennial.