



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

APRIL 18, 2025

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Matt Darragh

Director of Communications & Marketing,  
America250PA

[Matt@America250PA.org](mailto:Matt@America250PA.org)

### **Pennsylvania Lights the Way in National Semiquincentennial Tribute**

PENNSYLVANIA — This evening, Pennsylvania joined states across the country in lighting up landmarks, homes, and civic spaces as part of *Two Lights for Tomorrow*, a national initiative marking the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's historic ride and the dawn of America's journey toward independence.

Inspired by that original lantern signal, *Two Lights for Tomorrow* invited Americans— at home, at visitor centers, at cultural and historical sites, in community spaces, and in government buildings—to display two lights as a collective gesture of reflection and recommitment to a brighter, more unified future. **In Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania Capitol was illuminated to mark the occasion.**

America250PA, the Commonwealth's official Semiquincentennial commission, coordinated Pennsylvania's participation in this national tribute. From the illumination of our Capitol dome to lanterns on front porches and borough buildings, every light helped tell our shared story. Participation took many forms, but each display represented a commitment to marking this historic anniversary.

*"America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reflect on who we are, what we've built together, and where we're going next,"* said Cassandra Coleman, Executive Director of America250PA. *"As communities lit up across the country, the message was simple but powerful: we're in this together. The Semiquincentennial isn't just a milestone—it's a movement, and it's only just begun."*

*"It was here in Pennsylvania that our story of freedom and democracy began nearly 249 years ago, when leaders from across our new nation gathered in Philadelphia to chart our own course and set ourselves on a path of self-determination – and in the two-and-a-half centuries since, and it's been here where that story has continued to be written,"* said Governor Josh Shapiro. *"Our Commonwealth is proud to participate in this historic commemoration of Paul Revere's ride, and we're mindful that all eyes will be on Pennsylvania as we celebrate America's 250th birthday in 2026 and welcome millions to the Commonwealth where it all began. I'm proud that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is going to play such a central role in these celebrations and the next chapter of that story."*

We thank our colleagues at Virginia250 for developing the concept of *Two Lights for Tomorrow*. To learn more or see how other communities participated, visit [va250.org/two-lights](http://va250.org/two-lights).

# # #

### **About America250PA**

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) was established by the General Assembly and Governor in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event, and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future. The Commission is made up of current and past Pennsylvania leaders, celebrating the rich history and diversity of the state.

America250PA hopes to engage all citizens of the Commonwealth, from each of its 67 counties, to participate in creating a statewide celebration and bringing the Commonwealth's history into the conversation. That shared history gives us the foundation to better understand the origins and diverse viewpoints on the challenges affecting both our Commonwealth and our nation. The Commission's ability to communicate its vision, engage various audiences, and encourage inclusive and cohesive participation is key to a successful America250PA. The visionary framework – especially our E.P.I.C. theme of Educate, Preserve, Innovate, and Celebrate, contains the essential messaging to bring the Semiquincentennial to life across the Commonwealth.

For more information, visit [www.america250pa.org](http://www.america250pa.org).