



2025 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 17

March 11, 2025 - Introduced by Representatives FRANKLIN, HURD, DITTRICH, GUNDRUM, KNODL, MURPHY, MURSAU, O'CONNOR, PENTERMAN and TITTL, cosponsored by Senators CABRAL-GUEVARA, HESSELBEIN and SPREITZER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming the week of April 14, 2025, as Two Lights for Tomorrow
2 Week in the state of Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, the Wisconsin Legislature recognizes the importance of honoring
4 and commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation and
5 reminding our citizens of the vital significance and relevance of our founding
6 principles and ideals that created a unique national identity worth fighting for; and

7 Whereas, the events of 1775 that began the revolution the year before
8 independence was declared are significant moments that signaled the creation of a
9 national identity and unity of purpose that transcended traditional geographic,
10 cultural, and societal divides; and

11 Whereas, individuals and communities across all the colonies came together
12 to support their fellow countrymen; and

13 Whereas, on the evening of April 18, 1775, with impending hostile action from
14 the British army in Boston, Massachusetts, Paul Revere and William Dawes along

1 with other alarm riders undertook a perilous ride to alert everyone in the
2 countryside of the coming danger; and

3 Whereas, preceding their departure from Boston, a prearranged signal was
4 set in the Old North Church steeple to ensure that the message got out and did not
5 solely rely on just one or two alarm riders; and

6 Whereas, the two lanterns that were the signal were immortalized in Henry
7 Wadsworth Longfellow's poem *Paul Revere's Ride* as "one if by land, and two if by
8 sea" and have become an enduring symbol of American vigilance, perseverance,
9 and preparedness in the face of adversity; and

10 Whereas, those alarm riders and the citizens that answered the call to arms to
11 serve and defend their fellow countrymen that night and the following day at the
12 Battles of Lexington and Concord exemplify the spirit of community and shared
13 responsibility that has defined our nation since its inception; and

14 Whereas, we are reminded, 250 years later, that the call for unity and the call
15 to serve each other is no less relevant today than it was then; and

16 Whereas, a national initiative has been proposed by the staff of the Wisconsin
17 Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial Commission that two lights
18 be displayed in public spaces across the country for all to see, marking that
19 significant anniversary in April 2025 and the beginning of the 250th anniversary
20 commemorations leading up to the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of
21 Independence on July 4, 2026; and

22 Whereas, state commissions, state governments, federal agencies, and
23 community, heritage, and historical organizations across the country have eagerly

1 endorsed the initiative, have pledged to support it and participate in it, and have
2 encouraged others to do the same; and

3 Whereas, some participating entities have also pledged to encourage a day of
4 community service on April 19, 2025, as a way to encourage understanding about
5 the true meaning of these historical commemorations, knowing that these events
6 are not just marking history for history's sake but rather encouraging reflection on
7 the idea that all of these historic events were endeavoring toward one common goal:
8 the chance for a better tomorrow, together; now, therefore, be it

9 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of
10 the Wisconsin Legislature do hereby proclaim the week of April 14, 2025, as Two
11 Lights for Tomorrow Week and call on all citizens to unite in remembrance of our
12 shared history, honoring the sacrifices made by those who fought for our
13 independence and reminding ourselves of the values we hold dear today; and, be it
14 further

15 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin Legislature encourages all government
16 buildings, community centers, public spaces, and citizens to take part in this
17 symbolic display by prominently displaying two lights for all to see during the week
18 of April 14, 2025, and to reflect on how those lights shining out in the darkness
19 during this vigil symbolically illustrate our ongoing journey as a nation.

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(END)