



To: City Council
From: Ashley Wysocki, Director of Community & Library Services
CC: Travis Hopkins, City Manager
Date: August 13, 2026
Subject: Supplemental Communication for Item #27 (Approval of the Design and Language for the America 250 Plaque at Pier Plaza)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AW', is located to the right of the 'From' and 'CC' lines.

This supplemental communication is to submit the following attachments:

- 1) Community & Library Services Commission's suggested edits to the America 250 Plaque
- 2) PowerPoint Presentation



250th Anniversary of the United States of America

Commemoration Ceremony Date TBA

***Huntington Beach celebrates
America's 250th Birthday as a patriotic city,
proudly honoring and thanking all those
who have served our great nation.***

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE



Huntington Beach City Council

Casey McKeon, Mayor

Butch Twining, Mayor Pro Tem

Pat Burns • Andrew Gruel • Don Kennedy

Gracey Van Der Mark • Chad Williams

City Manager

Travis Hopkins



America 250 Plaque at Pier Plaza

August 18, 2026

Background

At the July 21, 2026, meeting, City Council approved Councilmember Item 26-638, setting aside Resolution No. 2017-25 and directed staff to create an engraving template memorializing the Huntington Beach America Semiquincentennial celebration for one of the black granite panels located at the Pier Plaza monument, with a final draft brought back to City Council for consideration at the August 18, 2026, meeting.

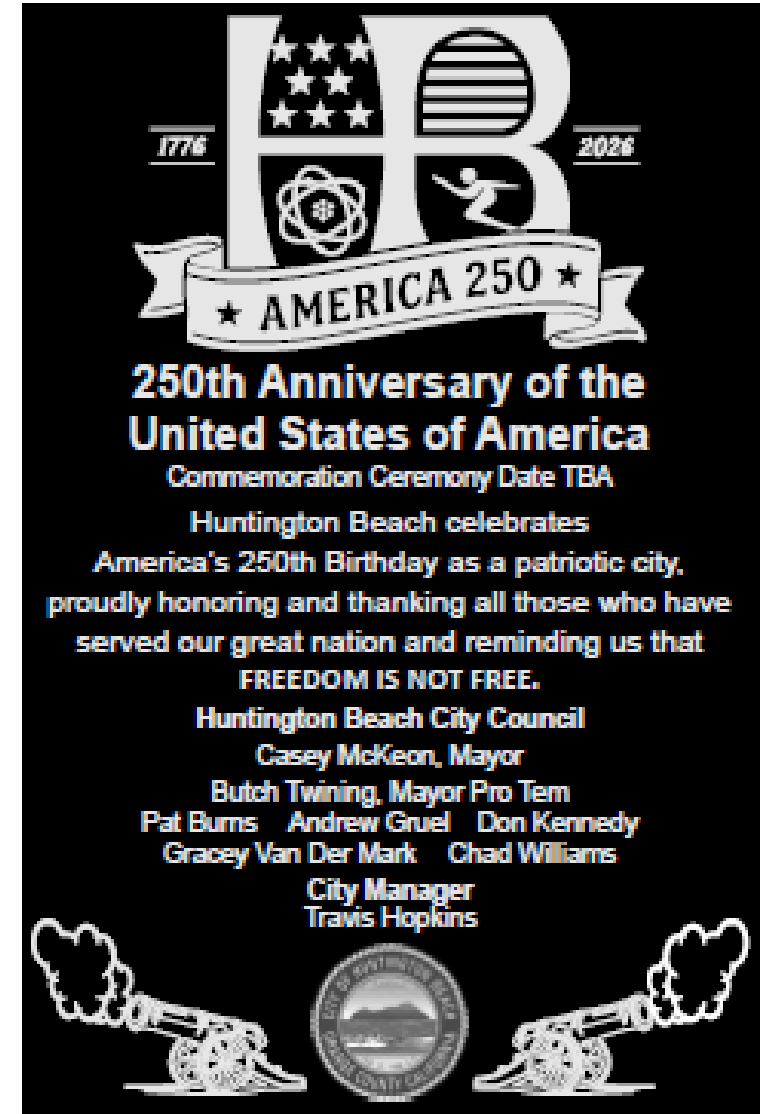
Staff were also directed to collect input from the Historic Resources Board and the Community & Library Services Commission.



Additional Background

Working with Mayor McKeon and Councilmembers Burns and Kennedy (Attachment 1), the proposed plaque is 24" x 36" and includes the following:

- Huntington Beach America 250 Logo
- Placeholder for a Commemoration Date
- “Huntington Beach celebrates America’s 250th Birthday as a patriotic city, proudly honoring and thanking all those who served our great nation, who remind us that freedom is not free.”
- City Council and City Manager names
- Two cannons
- City Seal



Historic Resources Board Edits

On Monday, August 10, 2026, the Historic Resources Board (HRB) reviewed and provided suggested edits to the plaque.



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Community & Library Services Commission Edits

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, the Community & Library Services Commission (Commission) reviewed and provided suggested edits to the HRB iteration of the plaque.



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Recommendation

All components of the first iteration of the plaque designed by Mayor McKeon and Councilmembers Burns and Kennedy are included in subsequent iterations.

Suggested edits included relocating the cannons and City seal, adding decorative elements between City Council names and including more than one font to differentiate between the different sections of text.

Approve the design and inscription for the America 250 Celebration plaque at the Pier Plaza Memorial.



Questions?

