



CITY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES FROM July 13, 2026
Huntington Beach City Hall

Call to Order at 5:36 PM

Roll Call

- Committee Members: *(Present) Patricia (Patti) Pappas, Julian Douglas, Michael Latham, Valentina Bankhead, Ellen Kuhnert (on phone)*
- Council: *None*
- Staff Liaison: *Julie Toledo*
- Other Staff: *None*
- Public: *Amory Hanson*
- Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)
 - *Amory Hanson congratulated the committee for all the work they have done for America 250.*

Approve minutes from June 8, 2026 meeting (*1st by Julian Douglas; 2nd by Ellen Kuhnert*)

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. 2026 Celebration Calendar Themes

- f. June – “Countdown to America 250 – Honoring Our Symbols & Sacrifice”
- g. July – “Happy 250 America!”
- h. August – “Honor & Valor – Honoring the Purple Hearts & Coast Guard”
- i. September – “Echoes of Bravery – Civil War Valor & 9/11 Resolve”
- j. October – “Wings of Freedom”
- k. November – “Honoring the Brave – Saluting Our Veterans”
- l. December – “Season of Remembrance & Reflection”

2. Review Draft 2026 City Celebration Events/250 Semiquincentennial Calendar

- a. **June – “Countdown to America 250 – Honoring Our Symbols & Sacrifice”**
 - Coloring contest: More than 100 entries submitted. Julie stated she needs prizes for the winners for each category for a total of 18 prizes. All winners invited to the Mayor’s Spotlight Awards on July 28 and committee members invited as well.
- b. **July – “Happy 250 America”**
 - Photo contest: Julie said entries were coming in slow. Julian suggested changing social media graphics.
 - Movie night: The committee decided not to purchase “National Treasure” as it was going to cost too much.
 - Julian said he would write another America 250 story for this month.
- c. **August – “Honor & Valor – Honoring the Purple Hearts & Coast Guard”**
 - Cancelled: A night with Dr. Stefan Bean and Supervisor Janet Nguyen due to scheduling conflicts.
 - National Night Out: Committee to have a table. Yolanda to help coordinate.



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- Ellen requested to add National Dog Day to calendar for next year. Julie stated Dog Week is on the calendar for this September.
- d. **September -“Echoes of Bravery – Civil War Valor & 9/11 Resolve”**
 - National Constitution Day: Sept. 17 Reading of the preamble by Greyson Latham
 - Patti is reading about the Preamble and work on the reading.
 - Patti said she would write articles on the founding fathers and constitution in September and would contact Kathie Schey to work on stories.
- e. **October -“Wings of Freedom”**
 - Airshow 10th Anniversary
 - HBFD Open House Oct. 10: Julie to check in with Fire to see if there are any opportunities.
- f. **November -“Honoring the Brave – Saluting Our Veterans”**
 - Veterans Day Ceremony: Serve lemonade at the event. Julie to check with Kellee Fritzal at the BID about potential partnership.
 - Tree planting idea by Patti. Patti to check with Chris Epting on plaque.
- g. **December -“Seasons of Remembrance & Reflection”**
 - Time Capsule –Come up with ideas for how the community can become involved with it. We will discuss at the next meeting as to what will go inside the capsule. Where will it go? Suggested to have this done on Mayor McKeon’s last day as Mayor on Dec. 1.
 - Julian suggested small items be put in the capsule – USB of all events, challenge coins, 250 banner, photo of City Celebration Committee, Boy Scout speech from the 250 event, programs from events, at the Pier etc.

Adjournment – 6:49 PM *The next scheduled meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2026 at 5:30 PM*