



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF TOURIST DEVELOPMENT
WILLIAM SNODGRASS/TENNESSEE TOWER BUILDING
13TH FLOOR, 312 ROSA L. PARKS AVENUE
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MARK EZELL
COMMISSIONER

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

December 23, 2020

Delivered via email

Dear Honorable Members,

The Department of Tourist Development respectfully submits this report in accordance with Public Chapter 384, passed in 2019, relative to the Tennessee Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial Commission's accomplishments in 2020.

The Tennessee Semiquincentennial Commission accomplished two major goals in 2020; the calling of its official first meeting and the election of a Chairman. The Commission held its first meeting, via video conference, on Tuesday, December 15, 2020. At this meeting, Commissioner Mark Ezell led the Commission through an agenda that allowed each member to introduce themselves and identify their interests in the Commission's legislative mission. The Commission elected Dr. Carroll Van West, the State's Historian as Chairman. Dr. West laid out the goals for the Commission to the membership including:

- to lead a comprehensive and inclusive commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding;
- to listen to Tennesseans, Tennessee communities, and elected officials regarding wishes for official commemorations;
- to ensure that projects, programs, and materials are established to embrace and include the youth of Tennessee in the 250th anniversary commemorations;
- to partner with the state's tourism industry and local businesses to ensure a positive economic impact across Tennessee; and,
- to work closely with Tennessee's outstanding heritage organizations--the Sons of the American Revolution, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Tennessee Historical Commission, the Tennessee State Museum, the Tennessee State Library and Archives, the Tennessee Historical Society, the East Tennessee Historical Society, and the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation—to support their projects, programs, and publications for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence.

At this time, no funds have been received or expended for the Commission.

The commission agreed that regularly scheduled public meetings of the Commission would begin in late January 2021.

Other Activities in 2020

Dr. West, acting as State historian, met with Commissioner Ezell about the 250th anniversary in early 2020 to begin discussing ideas for the celebration and setting the stage for public meetings that would occur throughout the coming years. Dr. West, acting as State Historian, met with individuals in Knoxville in January 2020, to begin to establish an initial outline of potential events across the state.

If there should be any questions concerning the 2020 accomplishments of the Tennessee Commission on the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark F. Ezell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mark Ezell, Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Bill Lee, Governor