



CITY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES FROM May 11, 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*
- Council: *Mayor Pro Tem Twining*
- Staff Liaison: *Julie Toledo*
- Other Staff: *None*
- Public: *Amory Hanson*
- Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)
 - *Amory Hanson stated about an event of reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 8 at 3pm in Stockton and Temecula. Started in Hawaii.*

Approve minutes from April 13, 2026 meeting (*Valentina Bankhead, 2nd by Julian Douglas*)

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. 2026 Celebration Calendar Themes

- a. ~~January – “Foundations of Freedom – Early HB Foundations”~~
- b. ~~February – “From the Sands of Iwo Jima to Sands of HB – The Legacy of Sacrifice & Service”~~
- c. ~~March – “Valor & Sacrifice – Celebrating Our Sworn Personnel”~~
- d. ~~April – “Patriotism & Remembrance”~~
- e. ~~May – “Honoring Service, Building Community – Military Appreciation Month”~~
- 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. **May – “Honoring Service, Building Community – Military Appreciation Month”**
 - The group thanked Patti for her work on the May 7 Chris Epting event.
 - Julie announced the May 21 event at Pier Plaza for the pennant unveiling and lighting of the pier event with Mayor McKeon
 - Julie said HB Symphony putting on Patriot Concert on Sunday, May 24 at 5:30pm at City Hall for Memorial Day
 - Memorial Day event on Monday, May 25 – reminded the group of the event.
 - MPT Twining asked if we could light up the pier for Mental Health Awareness Month. Julian suggested we look at dates in 2027 to light up the pier.
- b. **June – “Countdown to America 250 – Honoring Our Symbols & Sacrifice”**



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- Julian said he would write an article on D-Day
- Discussion about what “Symbols and Sacrifice” – what does that look like?

d. **July – “Happy 250 America”**

- Photo contest after July 4th – show us your best Independence Day photos. Categories for parade, kids/family, fireworks, etc. Julie to refine categories.
- Julie said “National Treasure” Movie to be shown on July 17 or 31 at Central Park

e. **August – “Honor & Valor – Honoring the Purple Hearts & Coast Guard”**

- A night with Dr. Stefan Bean and Supervisor Janet Nguyen will be held Aug. 3 at City Hall for their “American Dream” discussion. Patti suggested to host a reception for them
- MPT Twining suggested the Aug. 9 American Legion Post 133 Car Show. Also suggested Gas Monkey and getting involved with their events. Julian will look into.

f. **September – “Echoes of Bravery – Civil War Valor & 9/11 Resolve”**

- Julian brought up 9/11 at the 25th Anniversary and how do we make this bigger. Julian suggested getting donations and will look into.
- National Constitution Day is Sept. 17 and it was brought up that there be readings at the Sept. 15 City Council meeting. Reading of the preamble. Michael said his son Greyson could read.
- Patti would like to do some kind of lecture on the Constitution or Declaration of Independence.

g. **October – “Wings of Freedom”**

- Julian stated he would talk with Kevin Elliot about opportunities to get involved with the Air Show. Mayor Pro Tem Twining brought up influencers to help promote the City – to go with branding of Visit HB and the Downtown BID.

h. **November – “Honoring the Brave – Saluting Our Veterans”**

- Patti suggested we serve lemonade at the Veterans Day ceremony
- Tree planting idea by Patti.

i. **December – “Seasons of Remembrance & Reflection”**

- Time Capsule – Julie to research. Come up with ideas for how the community can become involved with it.
- Wreaths Across America – Julian brought up and will bring to next month’s meeting to discuss.

3. Review 250 HB Logo

- Did not review.

Adjournment – 6:53 PM *The next scheduled meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2026 at 5:30 PM*