



Rep. Adam Holmes
District 97

Thank you, Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson and Ranking Member Humphrey!

We are just a little over a year from America's 250th birthday and this resolution is intended to increase awareness, advocacy and excitement in Ohio's statewide efforts to celebrate the role Ohio has played in American history.

Working with Rep Miller on the America 250 Ohio Commission has been a true privilege, a tremendous educational experience and a great deal of fun. Commission members include historians, artists, musicians, and civic leaders from across Ohio, that have organized several creative ways to celebrate Ohio's rich traditions.

For example, our last meeting was in Representative Sims' district at the famous Akron Civic Theater. The Civic has a rich and spectacular history since 1929 and was fashioned after a Moorish castle featuring Mediterranean decor, medieval carvings, authentic European antiques and Italian alabaster sculptures. The Civic is one of only five remaining atmospheric theaters in the country where patrons experience a twinkling star-lit sky and intermittent clouds moving across the horizon, all while sitting inside the auditorium. Akron has a rich history of music including native artists as diverse as the Black Keys, Chryssi Hynde of the Pretenders, and DEVO. To be sure, Akron will celebrate America's 250th birthday with several projects related to that city's amazing relationship with music.

Another example is The Ohio Buckeye Train scheduled for **April 2026**

Starting from Columbus, the AM250-OH Buckeye Train will embark on a journey toward the [Dennison Railroad Depot Museum](#), a National Historic Landmark with deep roots in World War II history. Dennison hosted a canteen that was one of the last stops for servicemen and women headed to war, serving 1.5 million soldiers or 13% of all armed personnel. The historic train will be traveling upon a

former strategic national defense route on the way to Dennison, and the destination will honor our veterans' contribution with a variety of interactive experiences including a vintage planes flyover show. The Buckeye train will illustrate Ohio's rich contributions to both rail and air travel, creating a fitting tribute to the state's role in American transportation history.

Finally speaking of aviation, my office has been deeply involved in the Ohio Air and Space Trail that includes a planned 34 route stop to visit Ohio's most famous aviation sites. Stops include:

- Wright Brothers Birthplace
- WPAFB (National Museum of the USAF)
- WACO (Wah-kho) Airfield (1930's aviation)
- Wapakoneta (Neil Armstrong)
- New Concord (John Glenn)
- NASA Glenn Visitors Center (Sunita Williams-Euclid)

So many other programs exist, and much more is on its way! America's River Roots (Steamboat Rally) in Cincinnati, major fireworks show, community mural paintings, student interactions, and historical monument ceremonies are all coming in the next year.

Our purpose is to honor, recognize, celebrate, and highlight Ohio's indispensable contributions to our nation's past, present and future. A very positive mission and something we all can do together. Genuine thanks to all of you for helping us spread the message with this resolution and looking forward to the honor of serving in the Ohio House of Representatives with you on July 4, 2026. What a great place to celebrate America's birthday!