

Resolution on the 200th Anniversary of General Lafayette's visit to



WHEREAS, Vermont was the last official stop of the Marquis de Lafayette's triumphal tour of America in the 24 existing states in the Union on June 28 and 29, 1825; and

WHEREAS, Vermont citizens have volunteered with the support of the American Friends of Lafayette and Lafayette 200 to commemorate Lafayette's historic visit with events and re-enactments in the towns he visited, including Windsor, Hartland, Woodstock, East Barnard, Royalton, Barre, Montpelier, Waterbury, Williston, and Burlington, and

WHEREAS, in 1824-5 Lafayette was the last living general of the American Revolution and had survived wounds at the Battle of Brandywine at age 20 and gone on to lead troops at the critical Battle of Yorktown; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette was a lifelong champion of human rights, racial equality, religious liberty, women's rights, native rights, and actively worked for democratic ideals; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette, with his son George Washington Lafayette and personal secretary August Levasseur, toured Vermont with Governor Cornelius Van Ness and passed through Waterbury on the way to Burlington on June 29, 1825; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette and his entourage reportedly stopped at the home of future Governor Ezra Butler on Main Street in Waterbury where they were met by Butler and his daughter Fanny; and

WHEREAS, Ezra Butler in 1825 served as Chair of the Vermont House of Representatives Appropriations Committee which had to approve all state government spending; and

WHEREAS, Governor Van Ness had expended a substantial amount to finance the many expenses of the Lafayette Farewell Tour and planned to seek reimbursement from the House Appropriations Committee for his largesse; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette's entourage passed by both the Old Stagecoach Inn and the home of Henry Janes (now part of the town municipal complex) to stop at the Butler House..

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE WATERBURY, VERMONT SELECTBOARD, does hereby applaud the wise decision of Governor Van Ness and General Lafayette to stop in Waterbury in 1825, and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Sunday, June 29, 2025 will be a day of remembrance to honor the memory of General Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de

Lafayette and celebrate his historic visit by re-enacting the Waterbury welcome at the Governor Ezra Butler House on Route 2 at 10:00 am. The public is invited, and General Lafayette will be there!

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Waterbury Selectboard that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent records of the Town of Waterbury and a copy of this Resolution be presented to Waterbury Historical Society and the Lafayette 200 Planning Committee

This day of June 2025.

Chair Waterbury Selectboard

Alyssa A. Johnson