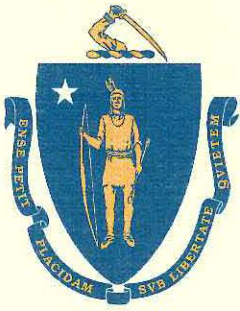


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, The opening phase of the American Revolutionary War, known as the Siege of Boston, began on April 19, 1775 with militia from Massachusetts' communities surrounding Boston, blocking land access, and limiting British resupply of naval operations; and

Whereas, At the time of the Siege of Boston, there were 14,000-16,000 troops in the American Continental Army based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and 10,000 troops in the British Army garrisoned in Boston; and

Whereas, Following the Battle of Bunker Hill that took place on Breads Hill in June 1775, which gave control of the fortification to the British, but at great cost, thereby severely limiting Britain's power and ability to retaliate; and

Whereas, In November 1775, General George Washington moved to end the stalemate between the British and the Continental Army by instructing 25 year old bookseller-turned-soldier Henry Knox to bring heavy artillery that had been captured at Fort Ticonderoga to Boston; and

Whereas, On March 2, 1776 these cannons opened fire on the British, creating a diversion and thereby allowing preparations by the Continental Army for the fortification of Dorchester Heights; and

Whereas, On March 4, 1776 General John Thomas and 2,000 American troops marched to the top of Dorchester Heights to fortify it against British retaliation, successfully gaining a strategic advantage over the British and causing British General Howe to concede defeat to the Continental Army on March 10, 1776; and

Whereas, On March 13, 1776 General George Washington assembled his officers and directed their movements from "Brinley Place," later known as "Pierpont Castle," and now the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Mission Church), for the evacuation of British troops from Boston; and

Whereas, On March 17, 1776; with favorable winds, the British troops finally evacuated Boston, in a fleet of 120 ships, carrying 9,906 British troops and 1,000 British loyalists, setting sail for Halifax, Nova Scotia,

*Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim
March 17th, 2019, to be,*

MASSACHUSETTS EVACUATION DAY

*And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take
cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.*

*Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this thirteenth day of March, in the year two thousand and
nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.*

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts