City Of Philadelphia
Michael A. Nutter, Mayor

PROCLAMATION

The City of Philadelphia holds a singular place in the founding history of America. Our country's Founding Fathers gave life to a new system of democracy in Philadelphia that continues to serve as a beacon on the path to freedom and independence throughout the world.

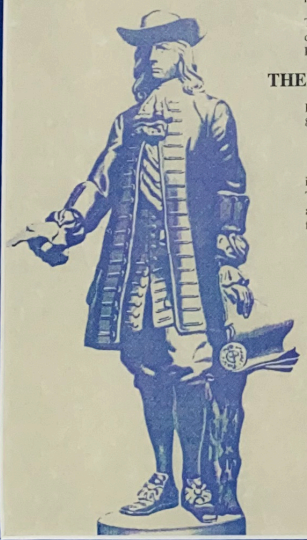
Looking back to Philadelphia's colonial past, it is important to acknowledge that our Founding Fathers were strongly influenced by the thoughts, speeches, and writings of one of the most outspoken of their peers, Thomas Paine.

Thomas Paine came to Philadelphia, then the political and cultural center of America, in 1774 after making the acquaintance of Benjamin Franklin while in London. Shortly after arriving here he became the editor of the Pennsylvania Magazine and began publishing essays against the practice of slavery that pointed out the immorality of advocating for American freedom and independence while allowing human beings to be sold. Thomas Paine was one of the first members of the Pennsylvania Abolitionist Society.

Thomas Paine described a new political philosophy in his 1775 pamphlet *Common Sense*. This publication was the first time that a democracy "by and for" the people was mentioned. It sent out a call for citizens to take control of their country and their destinies. Throughout the Revolutionary War, Paine continued to write stirring essays such as *The American Crisis*, written in December of 1776, encouraging people to stay the course of freedom and continue in the struggle for independence. In later years, his *Rights of Man* and *the Age of Reason* inspired people throughout the world to strive for political, economic, and social advances while calling for economic and social reforms.

Thomas Paine's writings acknowledge that freedom depends on people who form opinions based on reason, independent of tradition, authority or previously established beliefs. His final work, *Agrarian Justice*, written in 1795, dealt with problems caused by poverty and the inequitable distribution of property and laid the groundwork for tax reforms and fair employment practices that were introduced in later years.

Thomas Paine died on June 8, 1809. On June 8, 1994, the first Thomas Paine Day was declared in the City of Philadelphia. June 8, 2014 marks the 20th Anniversary of Thomas Paine Day in our City.



THEREFORE…

I, Michael A. Nutter, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 8, 2014 to be

THOMAS PAINE DAY – 20TH ANNIVERSARY

in Philadelphia and urge all citizens to join in this celebration by honoring the memory of Thomas Paine by participating in the commemorative events and activities taking place and give thoughtful recognition to his contributions to establish the precious American freedom and democracy that we flourish under today.

Michael A. Nutter
Mayor

Given under my hand and the seal of the City of Philadelphia on this eighth day of June, two thousand and fourteen

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