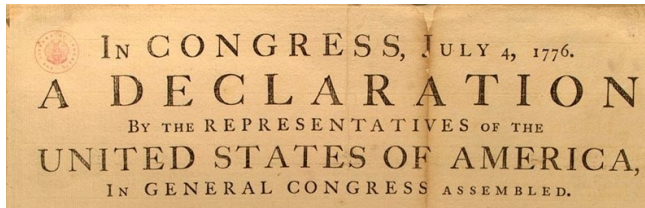


# United States Semiquincentennial

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the United States marks the 250<sup>th</sup> year of its independence. Like other milestone years, the United States government and several private entities are already establishing Semiquincentennial Commissions. Several states have already begun their plans. This is an opportunity to look back on the vision and beliefs of the country's founders and respond to how we as a nation have implemented them.



# Venice Centennial



July 1<sup>st</sup> is when the State of Florida law incorporating the Town of Venice went into effect. This

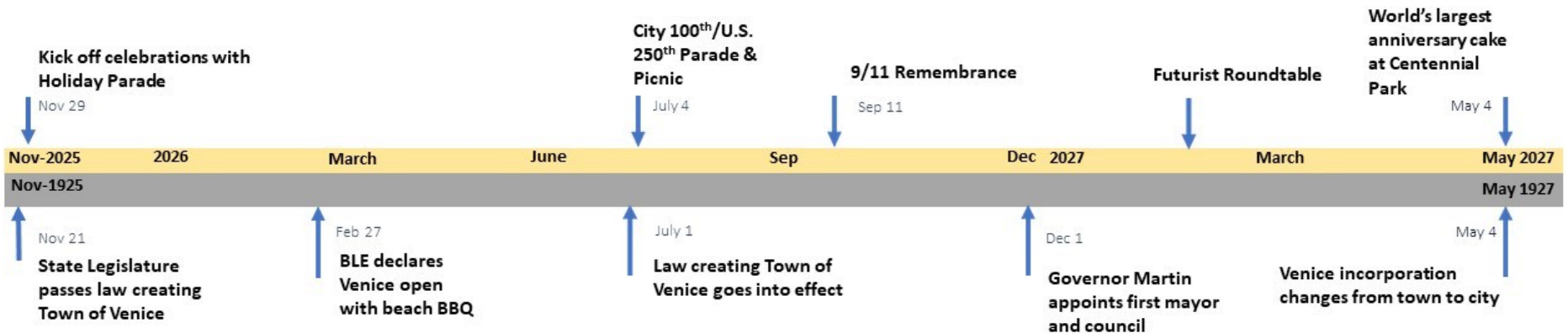
centennial will provide an official temporal place to plant the flag of Venice's beginning. It's still possible to give a nod to other significant dates (the post office of Venice opening in what is now Nokomis, the change in incorporation from town to city, etc.), but this year and anniversary can provide a clear official "birth date" of the municipality.

# 9-11 Quadranscentennial

On September 11, the United States and Venice will have had twenty-five years to reflect on the worst terrorist attack on American soil that has ties to this community. Although national attention will be focused on New York City, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA, it would be remiss for the City to not recognize its association to this historic event.



## Proposed Anniversary Timeline



# Why You Should Participate

In 2026 there will be three milestone anniversaries in Venice. The 250<sup>th</sup> of the United States, the 100<sup>th</sup> of the City of Venice, and the 25<sup>th</sup> for 9/11.

Anniversaries are a time to celebrate, remember, and commemorate, as well as reflect. Your business, organization, company, church, neighborhood group, or social club are part of the fabric that makes up this community and this nation.

Even if you don't have a milestone anniversary, this is the time to share stories, collect memories and mementos, celebrate achievements, and take stock of where and when we are while we also look forward to the next milestones.

A successful anniversary is one where a place and its past is defined by the communities that make it up. Your participation can only make these events and our community better for it.

There are all kinds of ways to participate. Be creative and be reflective. Feel free to work with the City to help in developing your ideas. Together, we can recognize the broad history and community that is Venice.

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# Themes to Consider

## Unfinished Revolutions

When have members of your community advocated for liberty and equality? How have those with power responded?

## Power of Place

How has our "place" changed over time? Who has historically lived in your community and how did they experience major events in our past? What has been the relationship of people and nature over time in the community?

## We the People

How, when, and why have definitions of "the people" and ideas about belonging changed in the United States, in your state, or in your community?

## American Experiment

How can understanding the origins of government inform civic engagement in the present?

## Doing History

Whose stories have been collected in archives and museums and whose have been excluded? How has that influenced the way history is typically told?

## Defining Venice

What are the people, places, and stories that make up Venice? How does that definition vary among different classes, races, generations, and residential status?

## My History is Our History

What can the community do about providing a fuller picture of Venice's past? Where is your story?

## The Next Milestones

What will Venice and the United States be like in another 25, 50, or 100 years?

# One City Three Anniversaries

## Planning for 2026

