

**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor



**David M. Apatang**  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2024-007**

**SUBJECT:** Establishing the CNMI America250 Commission

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Semi quincennial Commission was established by Congress in 2016 to plan and orchestrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, appointed by the House and Senate leadership of both parties, the nonpartisan Commission is composed of 16 private citizens, 4 U.S. Representatives and 4 Senators, as well as 12 ex-officio members from all three branches of the federal government and its independent agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, America250.org is the nonprofit supporting organization to the U.S. Semi quincennial Commission with a focus on procurement, development, and facilitation with our team of expert service providers for programming purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations and institutions across America – from federal agencies to tribal nations, from nonprofits to corporations, and from state and territorial commissions to local community groups – will play a vital role in marking America’s 250th anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, these organizations will lend their expertise and resources, craft memorable events nationwide, and help engage all Americans in this historic commemoration;

**NOW THEREFORE I, ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby order the establishment of the CNMI America250 Commission as follows:

Section 1: Purpose

The CNMI America250 Commission (“the Commission”) is established to plan and implement events and activities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) leading up to July 4, 2026, to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States of America’s independence

## Section 2: Commission Formation and Membership

- (a) The Commission shall be composed of (11) members appointed by the Governor. The members shall represent a diverse range of stakeholders, including representatives from the Legislature, representatives from government agencies, community organizations, cultural institutions, and private sector entities.
- (b) The Governor shall designate a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from among the Commission members.
- (c) The members shall serve without compensation and shall be responsible for their own expenses related to Commission activities, subject to the availability of funds.

## Section 3: Commission Responsibilities

The Commission shall have the following responsibilities:

- (a) Develop and implement a comprehensive plan for organizing and coordinating events, activities and initiatives to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States of America's independence in the CNMI
- (b) Foster collaboration among government agencies, community organizations, cultural institutions, private sector entities, and other stakeholders to ensure a unified and successful commemoration
- (c) Promote public engagement and participation by organizing educational programs, exhibitions, cultural performances, parades, festivals, conferences, and other related events.
- (d) Develop partnership with relevant federal agencies, state and local governments, national America250 organizations to leverage resources, expertise, and funding opportunities.
- (e) Establish subcommittees or working groups as necessary to focus on specific areas, such as fundraising, marketing, logistics, and community outreach.
- (f) Advise the Governor and provide regular progress reports on the Commission's activities, plans, and budgetary needs.

## Section 4: Administrative Support

- (a) The Governor shall provide administrative support and necessary resources to enable the Commission to carry out its duties effectively.
- (b) The Commission may seek assistance from relevant government agencies, as appropriate, to obtain data, information, and logistical support required for the execution of its responsibilities.

Section 5: Funding

The Commission shall seek funding through public and private sources, including grants, sponsorships, donations and appropriations, to support the planning and implementation of events and activities related to the CNMI America250 commemoration.

Section 6: Duration and Termination

The Commission shall operate from the effective date of this executive order until March 30, 2027, after which it shall be dissolved, and its functions and responsibilities shall be considered fulfilled.

Section 7: Effective Date

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its issuance.

It is So Ordered,

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

  
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
Governor