



The Branding Iron

DUARTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUL-SEP 2026



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

I am a naturalized American citizen, having arrived in the US with my parents after World War II because they refused to return to their homeland, Poland, while it was under communist control. American was the land of opportunity. If you worked hard, you would succeed. They wanted the freedom to choose their own path in life.

This year we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. What a milestone! There have been ups and downs that we have managed to overcome. And here we are - a country stronger and prouder than ever.

The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence states: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."*

Now for a little History lesson:

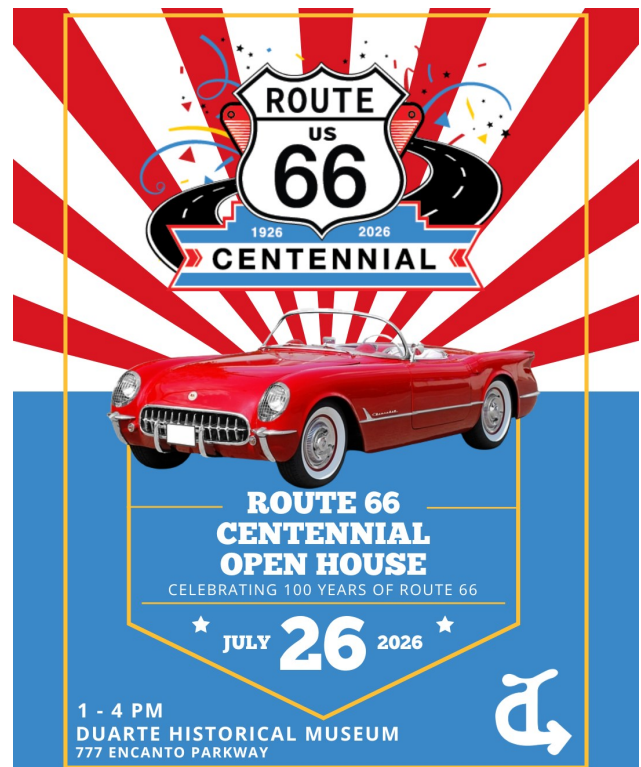
- June 11, 1776: The "Committee of Five" (John Adams, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston, and Thomas Jefferson) began drafting the Declaration. While Thomas Jefferson was the primary author, Adams and Franklin contributed revisions.
- July 4, 1776: The Declaration was officially adopted by Congress.
- August 2, 1776: 50 of 56 members officially signed the document.

There is only one handwritten, signed Declaration.

For more information, you can visit the National Archives at <https://www.archives.gov>.

May the 4th be with You.

WE'RE HAVING A PARTY



The Duarte Historical Museum is hosting an Open House to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Route 66.

**Sunday, July 26, 2026,
1:00 PM to 4:00 PM**

Highlights include a car show, music, and refreshments. You will also have the opportunity to visit the museum's new Route 66 Room, which features an extensive collection of Route 66 memorabilia.

The Duarte Historical Museum has a large, new map, dating from 1946, that shows the route taken by Route 66 through Duarte. See photos of the early landmarks and discover their locations.

We look forward to seeing you there for a wonderful afternoon.

A big thank you to the City of Duarte for their sponsorship and support.

IT'S FREE

FAREWELL TO THE "TRAILS" SIGN

In Celebration of the Route 66 Centennial, the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership organized a Centennial Caravan along Route 66 from Los Angeles to Chicago. One of its stops was Duarte.

In 2025, Alan Heller arranged to transfer the "Trails" sign that the City of Duarte had kept in storage, since the restaurant closed, to the Route 66 Museum in Barstow.

In recognition of the City donating its "Trails" Restaurant sign last year, the group expressed its gratitude by awarding a plaque on Sunday June 7.

Members of the Duarte Museum Board of Directors were there for the presentation which took place in the City Hall Courtyard.

After the ceremony, the Partnership caravan, which includes docent Richard Amadori and his wife, continued its three week trek to Chicago.



Judy Ann Blake holds photo of Trails Restaurant presented to the City of Duarte by the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership.

**The Duarte Historical Museum will
be closed:
4th of July - 7/1-7
Labor Day - 9/5-7**

Lots Happening at Duarte Museum

Rocktown was an area of Duarte located east of Highland Ave, west of Bradbourne Ave, and south of Central Avenue, extending south of Duarte Road.

Students in the Duarte High School Ethnic Studies program explored how the story of Rocktown has been told over time through media and community voices. They examined how perspective shapes history, identity, and storytelling by taking a deep dive into Rocktown's past.

The students projects were on display from May 14-17. A reception was held for parents, friends, and former Rocktown inhabitants on Thursday, May 14, at the Duarte Historical Museum - a pop up - which the students set up.

On Sunday, May 17, an open house was held for the general public to view the results of what they discovered.

I was truly impressed by the turnout. It was a reunion for the former residents of Rocktown, a gathering of old friends who hadn't seen each other in years. Everyone shared wonderful memories of growing up together in a close-knit neighborhood and spent time reminiscing about the "good ol' days," when they went out to play in the morning and didn't come home until suppertime.

It was wonderful seeing the student projects. The amount of work involved was evident, and the students and their families were very proud of their achievement.

To view more student projects and listen to interviews with former Rocktown residents, please visit the link below:

<https://youtube.com/@rocktownprojectsi=4ZJWjFYvILrgj2QU>



Docents Helen Mora and Alice Garcia, sisters who grew up in Rocktown, hold poster of photos, made by Alice, of their friends and family members.

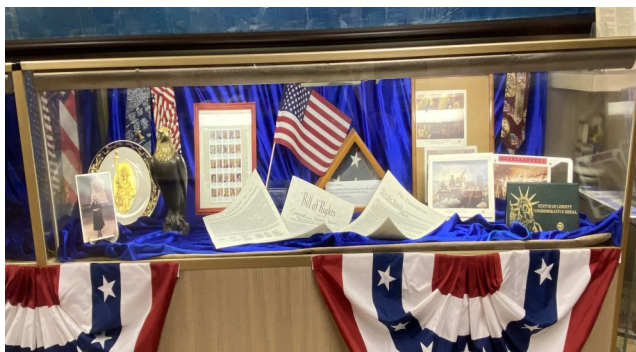
Celebrating 250 Years of America

To celebrate the 250th signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Duarte Historical Museum has created a special Temporary Exhibit of items that symbolize America.

Thank you to the item contributors and to Connie Ream and Carolina Flores-Helizon for setting up the display.

What items do you associate with America? I have a post card of opera star Marian Anderson standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt invited her to perform on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial after the Daughters of the American Revolution barred Ms. Anderson from singing at Constitution Hall because she was "colored".

On Easter Sunday, April 9, 1939, Marian Anderson began the concert, which is now an annual Washington, D.C. tradition, with the song "My Country 'tis of Thee" before a crowd of 75,000 people.



FLAGS OF AMERICA

During the month of July, the Duarte Historical Museum will display several of the 27 official versions of the American Flag. This is the second year we have been honored with this collection.

Thank you to Jerry Delker and Duarte Elks Lodge #1427 for providing the exhibit.



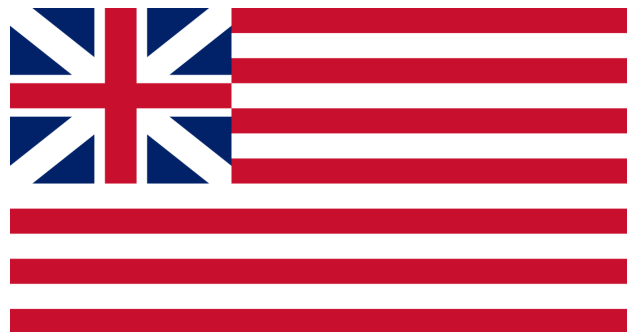
The American flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, alternating red and white, with a blue rectangle in the canton bearing fifty small, white, five-pointed stars arranged in nine horizontal rows, where rows of six stars alternate with rows of five stars.

The 50 stars on the flag form a constellation, representing the 50 states united, while the 13 stripes represent the original thirteen British colonies.

The 48-star flag was in use from 1912 to 1959. The current U.S. flag is the longest-used flag, 1959 to 2026 or 67 years.

According to Wikipedia, the first official flag resembling the "Stars and Stripes", the Continental Union Flag, was used from 1775 to 1777. It consisted of 13 red-and-white stripes, with the British Union Jack vertically in the canton.

It first appeared on December 3, 1775, and was used until June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution which stated: *"Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation"*.



DID YOU KNOW?

All new flags are flown for the first time on the 4th of July following the state's admission to the Union.

Congress permanently locked the number of stripes at 13 in 1818. Only the stars can increase.

The shortest-lived flag was the 49-star flag for Alaska in 1959, at 1 year.

The longest-lived flag, the 50-star, has flown since 1960 for 66 years.

JOIN DUARTE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Individual: \$20 Family: \$30

Lifetime Membership: \$500

Business/Organization: \$100

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

www.RanchoDeDuarte.org

OR MAIL A CHECK TO

Duarte Historical Society
P.O. Box 263, Duarte, CA 91009-0263

In 2026. The Duarte
Historical Museum will
be closed: 1/1-6, 4/4,
5/23, 7/1-7, 9/5,
11/21-30, 12/19-31



Duarte Historical Society & Museum
c/o Liz Reilly
3204 Conata Street
Duarte, CA 91010
RanchoDeDuarte.org



Duarte Historical Society & Museum
777 Encanto Parkway, Duarte, CA, 91010

Open: Wednesdays: 1-3 p.m.

Saturdays: 1-4 p.m.

President: Liz Reilly

Vice President: Judy Ann Blake

Treasurer: Evette Arcaro

Secretary: Connie Ream

Director: Ellen Worley

Curator: Dilip Tiwari

Docent Coordinator: Judy Ann Blake

Exhibit Coordinator: Mark Montgomery

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