



City of Framingham

Proclamation

June 17, 2025

PETER SALEM DAY

WHEREAS, Peter Salem, born in Framingham around 1750, was a former slave whose bravery and valor contributed significantly to the fight for American independence; and

WHEREAS, Peter Salem was freed from slavery to serve as a soldier in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, enlisting in Captain Simon Edgell's company of minutemen, and fighting in the pivotal battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775; and

WHEREAS, Peter Salem's courageous actions continued as he transferred to Captain Thomas Drury's company, which fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, where he may have been the soldier who fired the fatal shot that killed British Major John Pitcairn, a key moment in the American Revolution; and

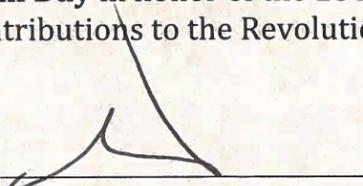
WHEREAS, Peter Salem re-enlisted in the Continental Army after the enactment of a new decree in December 1775, allowing free African Americans to serve, and he went on to fight in the Battles of Saratoga in 1777 and Stony Point in 1779, serving a total of seven years in the military; and

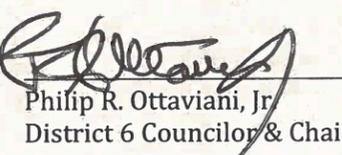
WHEREAS, after the war, Peter Salem returned to Framingham, where he contributed to the community through his craftsmanship, creating caned chairs and baskets; and

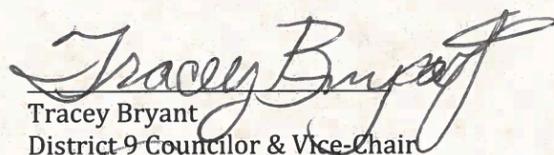
WHEREAS, despite his military service, Peter Salem faced hardship in his later years, relying on charity and the support of his former masters, Lawson Buckminster and Jeremiah Belknap, who ensured his well-being until his death on August 16, 1816, and is now honored with a monument erected in his memory at the Old Burying Ground in Framingham in 1882; and

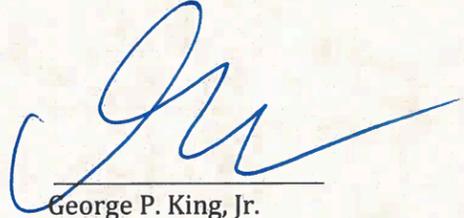
WHEREAS, the life and legacy of Peter Salem serves as a powerful reminder of the strength of the human spirit, the pursuit of freedom, and the important contributions made by individuals from all walks of life in the founding of our nation;

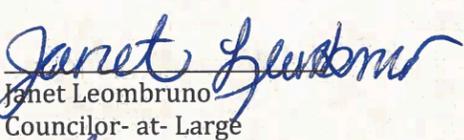
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, the Mayor of the City of Framingham and the Framingham City Council, hereby proclaim June 17, 2025, as **Peter Salem Day** in honor of the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, and in recognition of Peter Salem's heroic contributions to the Revolutionary War and to the history of Framingham and the United States of America.

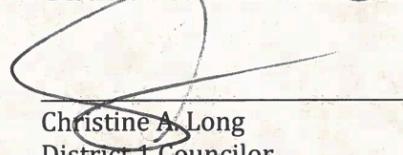

Charlie Sisitsky, Mayor

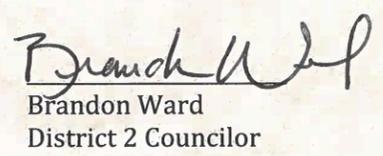

Philip R. Ottaviani, Jr.
District 6 Councilor & Chair

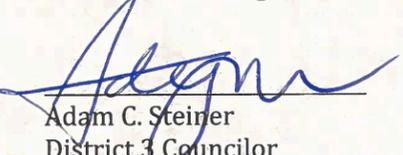

Tracey Bryant
District 9 Councilor & Vice-Chair

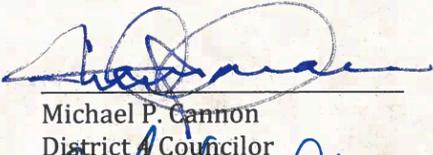

George P. King, Jr.
Councilor-at-Large

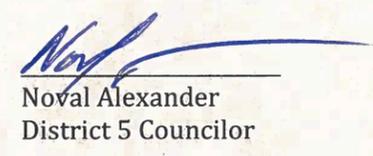

Janet Leombruno
Councilor-at-Large


Christine A. Long
District 1 Councilor

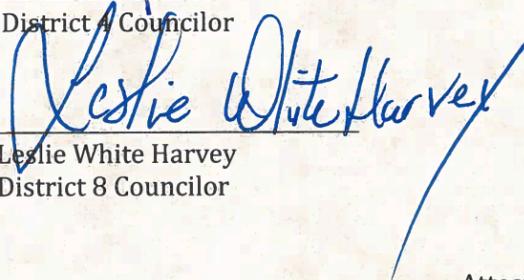

Brandon Ward
District 2 Councilor


Adam C. Steiner
District 3 Councilor

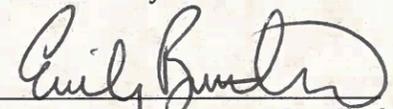

Michael P. Cannon
District 4 Councilor


Noval Alexander
District 5 Councilor


Leora Mallach
District 7 Councilor


Leslie White Harvey
District 8 Councilor

Attested to by:


Lisa Antonio Ferguson, City Clerk
Emily L. Butler, Assistant City Clerk

