

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** Charles Gravier, Count de Vergennes, foreign minister and among the most influential advisors of young King Louis XVI of France, welcomed American representatives who turned for help to France, England's longstanding enemy, soon after the English colonies had declared their independence on July 4, 1776; and

**WHEREAS,** thanks to French support, the help brought by militiamen of Vermont in rear-guard actions at Hubbardton on July 7, with reinforcements at Bennington on August 16, allowed the American insurgents under General Gates finally to succeed, at Saratoga on September 19 and October 7, 1777, in achieving the surrender of General Burgoyne with his British army of some eight thousand men; and

**WHEREAS,** on February 6, 1778 a treaty of friendship was signed at Paris by the Count de Vergennes, according to which the two countries "engage not to put down arms until the independence of the United States will have been guaranteed by treaties ending the war"; and

**WHEREAS,** the name Vergennes was proposed in 1785 by Saint John de Crèvecoeur, French consul, to Ethan Allen; and

**WHEREAS,** on October 24, 1788 the Governor and Council of the State of Vermont erected by their authority a new municipality, formally named *the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council and Freemen of the City of Vergennes*; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Versailles and the French Society of the Sons of the American Revolution plan a festive convocation, which is to take place at Versailles on February 13, 2012, in the city where the Count of Vergennes ended his life, on the occasion of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the man who deservedly is renowned as "the French father of American independence";

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim February 13, 2012 as

**COUNT DE VERGENNES DAY**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, A.D. 2012.



/S/  
Peter Shumlin  
Governor