

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 225th 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 31st day of January, A.D. 2012.



/S/
Peter Shumlin
Governor