

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, each year, hundreds of visitors, many of them school children and many veterans from all over America, tour the Ethan Allen Homestead Museum; and

WHEREAS, Ethan Allen's house, built according to his specifications in 1786 and restored exactly two centuries later, allows museum visitors to see how people lived day-to-day during Vermont's frontier days; and

WHEREAS, the Homestead -- house, garden and grounds -- is the state's only surviving home of a founder and his family -- a Founding Father of Vermont and of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Ethan Allen was Founder of the Green Mountain Boys, America's largest paramilitary force when the Revolution broke out; and

WHEREAS, Allen and 83 of the Boys, farmers, storekeepers, lawyers, freed blacks and impoverished immigrants, bloodlessly captured Fort Ticonderoga, providing the cannon needed by George Washington to drive the British out of Boston; and

WHEREAS, Allen's Green Mountain Boys were honored by the Continental Congress on June 23rd, 1775 and duly constituted one of the first Continental Army Regiments, with Ethan Allen commissioned as lieutenant-colonel its commanding officer; and

WHEREAS, Allen, impatient to launch a surprise attack on Montreal, was captured and spent nearly three years under harsh conditions as a prisoner-of-war of the British, his ordeal the subject of his bestselling captivity narrative, which went through eight editions during the Revolution and still remains in print; and

WHEREAS, champion of Vermont statehood, Allen was the author of at least four books and scores of pamphlets. Allen courageously went on to become the first published American philosopher, much of his writing, read by American leaders and French philosophers in Paris as well, took place in this Homestead, where he died in 1789; and

WHEREAS, Ethan Allen lived and farmed here with his wife Fanny, Ethan's three daughters, a son, two farmhands (a free African-American and a partially scalped Highland Scot who had fought at his side from Ticonderoga to Montreal) and possibly a lady's maid; and

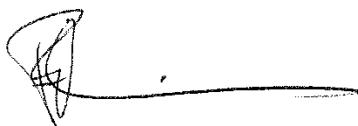
WHEREAS, Ethan Allen was also a Founder of Burlington as the Allens, in this Homestead, were one family among only a handful in the Burlington area when they settled here; here, on Vermont's northwest frontier; and

WHEREAS, the Homestead is Vermont's Mount Vernon just as Ethan Allen is its George Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim June 23, 2016 as

ETHAN ALLEN DAY
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 18th day of May, A.D. 2016



Peter Shumlin
Governor

