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Museum of Appalachia Celebrates America's 250th with New TN 250 Trail and Expanded Independence Day Event

Norris, TN — March 25, 2026 – As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, the Museum of Appalachia is joining the statewide *Tennessee America 250* celebration by highlighting the people, stories, and artifacts that connect Tennessee to the broader American story.

As part of this effort, the Museum has introduced their TN 250 Trail, a self-guided experience that leads visitors to objects and stories throughout the Museum's grounds and exhibit buildings. The trail is fully integrated into the Museum's regular visit, allowing guests to explore at their own pace while discovering how Tennesseans have shaped the nation's history.

"This is an opportunity for us to connect the stories we share every day to the larger American story," said Lindsey Gallaher, President of the Museum of Appalachia. "Tennessee has played a major role in shaping this country, and we're proud to be part of telling that story as we approach this milestone."

Along the trail, visitors will encounter artifacts and stories tied to figures such as Sgt. Alvin C. York, Cordell Hull, Bessie Harvey, and many more. Additional artifacts and stories will be added throughout the year, creating an experience that continues to evolve over time.

The Museum's participation in *Tennessee America 250* is supported in part by grant funding from the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial. This support also allows the Museum to expand its annual Independence Day Anvil Shoot Celebration into a two-day event on July 3 and 4, featuring enhanced programming that explores Tennessee's role in the founding and development of the United States.

In addition, grant funding is supporting the preservation of the Museum's historic Cantilever Barn, ensuring that an important piece of East Tennessee architecture is protected for future generations.

The TN 250 Museum Trail is now available and is included with regular Museum admission. Guests can pick up a guide at the Visitor Center.

Tickets for the Independence Day Anvil Shoot Celebration will be available for purchase beginning April 15 at museumofappalachia.org.

This project is supported in part by the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial.