

# STATE TO MARK UNIQUE HERITAGE WITH 400 YEARS' HISTORY

**T**ODAY, Plymouth 400 commemorates a unique heritage that captures the “spirit of America,” *writes our culture editor, April 24, 2020.*

The event marks the 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony. Earlier this month, the annual Patriots' Day commemorated the Battles of Lexington and Concord, early conflicts of the Revolutionary War that led to American independence.

The story of Massachusetts is the story of America. Its history includes not only Native Americans, Pilgrims and Presidents but also



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pioneers of industry, leaders of anti-slavery and women's rights movements. The Wampanoag people are among Native survivors of European colonization, and two of their communities are today federally recognized. Their common

history with English settlers is being fully retold by Plymouth 400's Wampanoag Advisory Committee.

With a diverse population of nearly seven million people, modern Massachusetts is a leader in higher education, technology, and health care. The “Big Dig” under Boston remains one of America's most ambitious highway projects.

“Bay Staters” can draw on a spirit of endurance, innovation, and hard work. In the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings, they came together to show solidarity. What will the next 400 years hold?