

King Charles says US-UK to continue to defend 'shared values' on 250th anniversary

London, United Kingdom

King Charles III yesterday said the US and UK would continue to defend "shared values", in a message to US President Donald Trump and the American people on the country's 250th independence anniversary.

The monarch wrote in a message posted on X that as the two countries "look ahead to the next 250 years, I have no doubt we will continue to defend our shared values", including liberty and the rule of law.

The 77-year-old along with Queen Camilla made a four-day state visit to the US at the end of April. Aimed at healing strained ties between Washington and London, the trip was hailed as a success by British and US media.

The king wrote Saturday that he believed the "connection between our peoples... will only grow stronger with time".

Prince Harry to visit London without wife, children

London, United Kingdom

Prince Harry will visit London without his wife and children as part of a trip to the UK next week, a source close to him told AFP Saturday, after he was reportedly refused police protection for his family.

The prince had previously been expected to make his first family trip back to the UK in four years, but the source close to the Duke of Sussex told AFP that his wife Meghan, son Archie and daughter Lilibet would not accompany him on the London part of the trip.

Arrangements for the rest of the trip were still under consideration, the source said, leaving it unclear whether the whole family would visit but stay outside the capital.

British media reported Harry, 41, would fly in on Monday for a five-day visit marking the one-year countdown towards next year's Invictus Games, launched by the prince in 2014 for wounded veterans.

The prince was also expected to attend engagements with his other charities during the trip.



A New York Fire Department ship sails past the Statue of Liberty



Colombian tall ship Arc Gloria sails past the Statue of Liberty during Sail 4th 250 in New York

US celebrates 250th birthday as Trump warns of enemy within

● Washington's traditional fireworks display on the National Mall has been super-sized, and is being touted as the biggest ever.

● With temperatures in the US capital expected to reach 102F (39C) -- and the heat index soaring to 110-115F, the Independence Day parade in Washington was canceled.

AFP | Washington, United States

Millions of Americans celebrated the country's 250th birthday yesterday -- a landmark celebration that comes at a time of deep political division, with a president determined to put his stamp on the festivities.

Washington's traditional fireworks display on the National Mall -- lined with monuments celebrating the nation's Founding Fathers -- has been super-sized, and is being touted as



US President Donald Trump delivers remarks during the Independence Day events at Mount Rushmore National Memorial in Keystone, South Dakota

the biggest ever.

President Donald Trump has added a programme of roaring military flyovers -- and an unusual campaign-style political rally -- for July Fourth, which marks the anniversary of the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence.

With temperatures in

the US capital expected to reach 102F (39C) -- and the heat index soaring to 110-115F, the Independence Day parade in Washington was canceled.

Trump, who turned 80 last month, remains undeterred by the sweltering temperatures.

"It's going to be approximately 107 degrees out, and I'm going

to go and I'm going to make a really long speech -- just to show that I can do anything," Trump said in the run-up to the revelry.

'Renewed attack'

Late Friday, Trump visited the iconic Mount Rushmore monument in South Dakota for an address under the gaze of four of his legendary predecessors, etched in granite -- George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt.

While he lauded US exceptionalism and praised the country's past leaders, he also said America's identity was under "renewed attack" from domestic "radicals and extremists," saving particular ire for a "resurgence of the communist menace."

On Friday, Trump said there has been an attempt to "beat the American spirit out of us, alienate us from our history" in recent years.

"You do not have to be born here, but you do have to love what we have built," he said.

In London, King Charles III said Britain and the country formed from its former colonies would "continue to defend our shared values."



US military planes fly over New York Harbour during Sail 4th 250 in New York on July 4, 2026.



The 250th birthday of the United States has a special name -- the "Semiquincentennial." It is one of the longest and most difficult anniversary names in common use, and many Americans jokingly admit they can't pronounce it correctly on the first try! The last major milestone celebration was the Bicentennial in 1976, making the 250th anniversary a true once-in-a-generation event.