

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From Jimmy Buffett's Hometown, a Birthday Song for America's 250th

Mobile, Alabama band Paid In Mullet releases "Two Hundred Fiddy" and gives it away free to fireworks stands, boat parades, and backyard videos nationwide for the Semiquincentennial

MOBILE, Ala. — June 11, 2026 — The town that raised Jimmy Buffett has produced a new Gulf Coast anthem, and this one arrives right on time: **"Two Hundred Fiddy,"** by Mobile group Paid In Mullet, is a love song to Lady Liberty written for America's 250th birthday, a celebration that comes around exactly once. Hear world class fiddle and mandolin by friends... Calep Lewis and stand-up bass fiddle by his daughter Rayleigh and Blake Hall on the snare drum.

The song is a call to buy the big mortars, shoot 'em high over the water, and remember the wars, the fires, and the sacrifice behind the spectacle. Its central image is already a pose anyone can strike at dusk on the Fourth: a woman holding a sparkler high like the Statue of Liberty.

When a lady holds that sparkler up high like Lady Liberty, she's saying something to our hearts: "regard me, revere me, empower me, protect me," said Will G. Phillips, who wrote the song. "This is a love song for our dear Lady Liberty. That's why it makes sense for the money we spent on mortar that they call King Kong."

Free for America's 250th. In the spirit of the birthday, Paid In Mullet is offering "Two Hundred Fiddy" under a free, non-exclusive license for all of America's 250th, not just July 4th, but all year! This covers fireworks demo videos, retail tents and store playlists, boat parades, community displays, backyard celebration footage, and other commercial and non-commercial uses, with a simple credit to @paidinmullet. Details at www.paidinmullet.com.

About Paid in Mullet. Paid In Mullet's Will G. Phillips' and Britt V. Bethea's songs are about fish, tides, and Alacoastal people from the city whose culture inspired Jimmy Buffett. Their previous single, "Mobile's My Home," features Mobile's Excelsior Band, believed to be the oldest marching jazz band in the United States and a 2022 National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship recipient.

Phillips' musical roots run back to a Waylon Jennings show he attended with his parents in the 1970s, at age nine. "I liked the way he played the guitar in Ramblin Man," he said. "Fifty years later, I'm writing a song my country only gets to hear once — on her 250th. Shoot the big ones. Shoot 'em high. And remember why."

The band encourages listeners to make a pilgrimage this year: Philadelphia, Yorktown, Valley Forge, Mount Vernon, Washington, and to stand where the founders stood, and to learn a quote or two from a Roosevelt (TR or FDR).

Story angles for press

- **The 250th needs a soundtrack** — a once-in-a-lifetime national birthday with no obvious anthem, and an indie Gulf Coast band volunteering theirs, free.
- **Hometown hook** — the next chapter in Mobile's musical lineage, from Buffett to the Excelsior Band to Paid In Mullet.
- **The sparkler pose** — a built-in, family-friendly visual anyone can recreate on July 4th: hold your sparkler like Lady Liberty.
- **The fireworks economy** — possibly the biggest fireworks sales year in American history, and a song that name-checks a real mortar (the King Kong) is being offered free to the industry.

Listen

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tB0CUZPQXe0>
- Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/track/5eGc2MYm76Y1GnMHZ2FwHx>
- Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/song/6777344981>
- YouTube Music: <https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-jlX5-h6EM>
- Lyrics, artwork, and photos: <https://www.paidinmullet.com>

Availability

Will G. Phillips is available for phone, Zoom, and in-studio interviews any morning through July 4th, including same-day bookings for July 4th-week segments.

About Paid In Mullet

Paid In Mullet features Will G. Phillips and Britt V. Bethea of Mobile, Alabama. It's Gulf Coast music full of nostalgia, stories, hurricane-stubborn people, and catchy tunes, with reverence for the gospel oldies. Previous release: "Mobile's My Home" featuring Mobile's Excelsior Band. Produced by Ben Brenner.

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