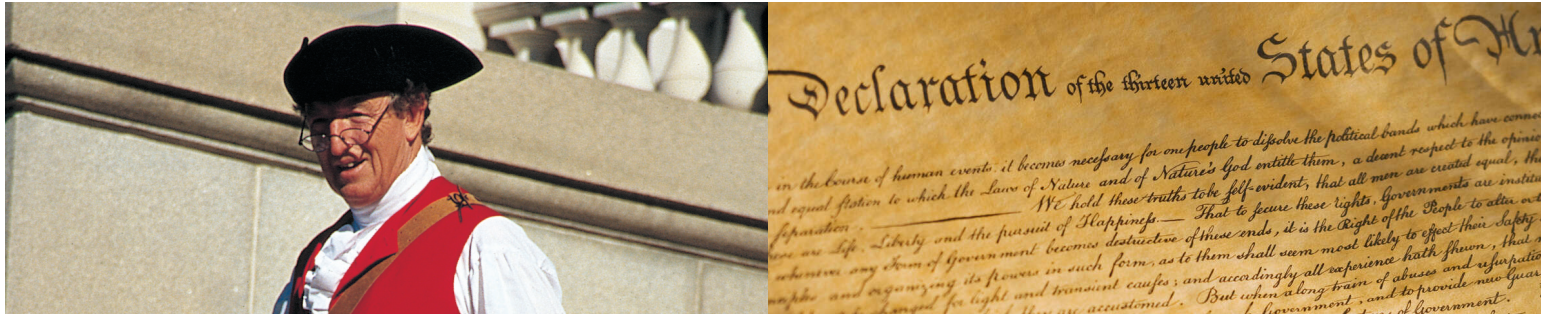


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Watermark Joins Nationwide “Sharing the Spirit of America” Declaration of Independence Reading

[ANNAPOLIS, Md.] — Watermark Journeys has partnered with Chesapeake Crossroads to host a public reading of the Declaration of Independence on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, as part of the nationwide “Sharing the Spirit of America” initiative commemorating America’s Semiquincentennial.

Presented by the Hawai’i America250 Commission in partnership with America250 organizations nationwide, “Sharing the Spirit of America” commemorates the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, delivered in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. On July 8, 2026, participants in all 50 states, 16 U.S. territories, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Minor Outlying Islands will join together in a coordinated reading to honor the nation’s founding ideals and shared history.

As part of the nationwide program, sponsored by the Hawai’i America250 Commission, and locally supported by Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area, Watermark is hosting a reading on the Maryland State House grounds. This special gathering will take place on Wednesday, July 8th, 2026 at the front of the newly restored Old Treasury Building. Opening remarks will begin at 5:45pm and the reading will take place at 6:00pm. Along with Watermark tour guides and staff, there will be several special guests participating in the reading from the Maryland State Archives and Maryland General Assembly.

“It is a privilege to participate in Sharing the Spirit of America and stand with communities across the country in reading the Declaration of Independence,” said Jamie Foster, Watermark Director of Guide Operations “As we give voice to the words that launched our nation, we honor the courage, vision, and sacrifice of those who declared that all are created equal and endowed with unalienable rights. Together, we celebrate the enduring ideals of freedom, liberty, and self-government that continue to unite and inspire Americans across generations.” Watermark owner Jake Iverson adds, “At Watermark, we’ve always believed in bringing history to life in a way that connects people to this place and to each other. Participating in the Sharing the Spirit of America initiative is a meaningful opportunity to do just that by standing together as a community and giving voice to the words that helped shape our nation right here in Annapolis.”

The event is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to arrive a few minutes early to receive a printed copy of the Declaration and be in place before the synchronized reading begins at 6:00pm.

About Watermark: Watermark immerses people in the history, culture and fun of the Chesapeake area more completely than any other tour or charter company. Whether you want to learn or just enjoy, no one else offers so many ways to experience this special place, both by land and by water. Watermark® an Annapolis-based, locally owned and operated business, has been creating authentic experiences since 1972. Watermark sub-brands include Annapolis Tours® by Watermark®, offering the original Annapolis colonial tours; Cruises on the Bay® by Watermark®, with the easiest way to have fun on the water; Yacht Charters on the Bay® by Watermark®, and Wedding on the Bay® by Watermark®, offer flawless events on pristine yachts; Destination Education® by Watermark®, gives teachers the most engaging way to immerse their students in history. For a complete list of walking tours, sightseeing cruises, yacht charters and services offered by Watermark visit www.watermarkjourney.com.