

## Sharing the Spirit of America – Please Join US



All Americans are invited to come together and participate in ‘Sharing the Spirit of America’, a program that commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and its first public reading that was done on July 8, 1776.

An important aspect of ‘Sharing the Spirit of America’ is that the reading of the Declaration of Independence will be simultaneous; each location, nationally and internationally, will read at their own local time, wherever they are, that correlates with 6 pm (EDT), Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

Now, 250 years after its adoption, there will be readings that will include thousands of Americans on all 7 continents, from Europe and Africa, across North and South America, across the Pacific (including Australia), to Asia, and to Antarctica

Americans in all 50 States, each of the 5 Territories, DC, as well as Midway, Wake, and Palmyra (the only US Minor Outlying Islands with staffing that day) will be participating. There will be readings at all places of US soil that will have people on it that day.

To say it another way, across the US we have commitments to read the Declaration of Independence “from sea to shining sea” (and we don’t mean just the 13 Colonies nor just across the contiguous ‘lower 48’, from the Atlantic to the Pacific).

‘Sharing the Spirit of America’ will have Americans reading the Declaration of Independence, ‘together’ from the Caribbean Sea (US Virgin Islands & Puerto Rico), across the US States in North America (including Alaska), across the Pacific (including (Hawai’i), to the Western edge of the Pacific and the Philippine Sea (Guam & Northern Mariana Islands).

To top (and bottom) it off, Americans will be reading the Declaration of Independence together from above the Arctic Circle (Wiseman, Alaska) to below the Equator (American Samoa).

Americans in Europe will be reading in England, France, Italy, Sweden, and on the Danube in Austria. There will be readings at Château de Chavaniac-Lafayette (the birthplace of Marquis de Lafayette, a Frenchman who helped the Americans), and Picpus Cemetery (Lafayette’s gravesite). There will be a reading in Morocco (Africa) and in Antarctica.

Americans in Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Brazil, Australia (at Brisbane, Melbourne, and Perth), New Zealand (on North Island and South Island), South Korea, and Thailand will be joining us. The New Zealand, Australia, and Far East readings will be in the early morning on July 9 (due to the International Date Line).

‘Sharing the Spirit of America’ provides Americans the opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation’s past; celebrate our rich history and shared values; and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence and explained that he “was not striving for originality of principal or sentiment.” instead, he hoped his words served as an “expression of the American mind”.

The American spirit, principles, and values memorialized in the Declaration of Independence 250-years ago are valid today, as are the personal and collective responsibilities we share in protecting and perpetuating these values.

As it states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed”.

You have to admit, it’s waaay cool that Americans across the US, as well as on all continents, from Europe and Africa, North and South America, across the Pacific (including Australia), Asia, and Antarctica, will be doing something positive together, reading the founding document of the United States, the Declaration of Independence.

At that moment, though widely separated geographically, Americans around the world will be joined together in time.

Please join ‘Sharing the Spirit of America’.

<https://hawaiiamerica250.org/sharing-the-spirit-of-america>

For Information: Peter T Young, Chair  
Hawai’i America250 Commission  
[Contact@HawaiiAmerica250.org](mailto:Contact@HawaiiAmerica250.org)  
[www.HawaiiAmerica250.org](http://www.HawaiiAmerica250.org)

