

## About - “Sharing the Spirit of America” – July 8, 2026

The premise of ‘Sharing the Spirit of America’ is pretty simple, and its implementation is equally simple – and it has limited cost in doing so.

Just as the Declaration was read to the people of Philadelphia on July 8, 1776 outside the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall), 250-years later (July 8, 2026), Americans across the country (spanning 9,500-miles across 9-time zones) may read the Declaration of Independence, together.

By simply emailing and/or providing hyperlinks to the Declaration of Independence text and the start times in each time zone, everyone will have what they need, and we may start reading the Declaration, together.

All files are in Basecamp; here are associated documents:

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Sharing the Spirit of America - Declaration of Independence – Context, Spirit, Full Text, Signers

Declaration of Independence - Full Text (Typed)

Sharing the Spirit of America - Scheduled Start Times

Declaration of Independence - Original Parchment (High Resolution - \*.jpg)

Declaration of Independence - Engraving (High Resolution - \*.jpg)

Just as the Declaration of Independence was read to the people on July 8, 1776, now, 250-years later, Americans in all 50 States and 16 Territories of the United States will read the Declaration of Independence ‘together’. These readings will occur at State Capitols, City Halls, County and Municipal Buildings, Schools, Libraries, Community Centers, Parks, etc (including individual families sharing the words and vision of the Declaration of Independence in their own homes).

The American spirit, principles, and values memorialized in the Declaration of Independence 250-years ago continue to hold true today. The “self evident” “truths”, then, “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” are valid today, as are the personal and collective responsibilities we share in protecting and perpetuating these values.

With a start time of 6 pm (EDT), Wednesday, July 8, 2026 (to commemorate the first public reading), people in communities across America will begin reading the Declaration of Independence.

Unlike the extent of the Colonies in 1776, today, America spans about 9,500-miles from one extreme to the other (the Caribbean across North America to the western edge of the Pacific). Even though the United States is spread across thousands of miles and nine different time zones, all of us in America may read the Declaration of Independence ‘together’, at the ‘same’ time.

The scheduled reading time correlates to the relative time in each portion of America, based on its own timekeeping. The time conversions note the corresponding local time commensurate with 6 pm (EDT). Given the nature of time and varying time zones, at these times, we would all be reading the Declaration of Independence ‘together’, despite our differing and widely separated locations. (For instance, 6 pm (EDT), July 8, 2026 in Philadelphia is the same moment as 8 am, July 9, 2026 in Guam. (Guam and two other US Territories are west of the International Date Line.))