



News Release

For Immediate Release

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The Foundation for the National Archives and John Hancock Financial Services Partner to Present a Washington, D.C. July Fourth Favorite

Washington, D.C....The Foundation for the National Archives is pleased to announce that the National Archives' traditional Independence Day ceremony and expanded family programming will be sponsored for the third year in a row by John Hancock Financial Services. The company has contributed \$25,000 each year for a public program filled with patriotic music, dramatic readings of the Declaration of Independence, and free family activities that are enjoyed by thousands of visitors to the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein said, "The patriot John Hancock made a lasting contribution to American history. One has only to see the Declaration of Independence in the National Archives Rotunda. It is fitting that John Hancock Financial Services has developed its imprint on our Independence Day celebration. We thank the company for its continued support."

One of the guests at the Independence Day celebration this year will be the winner of the inaugural John Hancock *The Promise of America: Past ★ Present ★ Future* essay contest. Selvin Chambers of Boston, Massachusetts, was selected among students in the Boston Public Schools and partnering nonprofit organizations and will receive a free family trip to the Nation's Capital for the National Archives celebration, courtesy of John Hancock. The 14-year-old will read the winning essay during a special Foundation for the National Archives private breakfast ceremony.

"We're very pleased to support the National Archives in its Independence Day activities – and at the same time foster learning among students in Boston," said John DesPrez, president and chief executive officer of John Hancock Financial Services. "We're especially excited for our winner to be able to present his or her work at the Foundation's breakfast and enjoy the festivities in our nation's capital."

The traditional Independence Day program takes place on the Constitution Avenue steps and programming will occur throughout the day in the National Archives Building and the family activities tent on the Pennsylvania Avenue plaza. The programming includes a performance of the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry "Old Guard" Fife and Drum Corps; the

presentation of the Colors; a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence; special historical guests, such as Thomas Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Hancock himself; opportunities to “sign” the Declaration of Independence, and other family activities; and unique historical performances. All activities are free and open to the public.

Tom Wheeler, President of the Foundation for the National Archives, said, “It is a pleasure to welcome John Hancock Financial Services as a continuing partner in celebrating our nation’s Independence at the National Archives. Since our relationship began in 2005, we have seen it grow stronger each year as we explore new ways to combine our efforts for civics education. We thank John Hancock for its continued commitment.”

About the Foundation for the National Archives

Created in 1992, the Foundation for the National Archives is an independent nonprofit organization committed to increasing public awareness and appreciation of the National Archives as an essential resource in the American democracy. The Foundation serves as the private-sector partner of the National Archives in the creation of the *National Archives Experience*, a national civic literacy initiative which includes permanent exhibits, educational programs, traveling exhibits, special events and screenings, educational literature, and historical/records-related products and media. The Foundation supports these activities by generating financial and creative support from individuals, foundations and corporations who share a belief in the importance of innovative civics education.

About the National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration is a Federal agency that serves American democracy by safeguarding and preserving the records of our government, ensuring that the people can discover, use, and learn from this documentary heritage. It supports democracy, promotes civic education, and facilitates historical understanding of our national experience. Every subject relating to American history is covered in the nine billion pages, the millions of photographs, maps and electronic records and the thousands of motion pictures and audio recordings that are available to the public at the National Archives nationwide. The National Archives maintains 20 regional records facilities and 12 Presidential libraries nationwide, as well as the Office of the Federal Register, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO).

About John Hancock and Manulife Financial

John Hancock Financial Services is a unit of Manulife Financial Corporation, a leading Canadian-based financial services group serving millions of customers in 19 countries and territories worldwide. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia, and primarily through John Hancock in the United States, the company offers clients a diverse range of financial protection products and wealth management services through its extensive network of employees, agents and distribution partners. Funds under

management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were Cdn\$426 billion (US\$370 billion) at March 31, 2007.

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