



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Foundation for the National Archives Joins Archives' July 4th Celebration, Welcoming Thousands to See Original Declaration of Independence

John Hancock Financial, Dykema Sponsor Patriotic Program

Washington, DC – July 4, 2013 – The Foundation for the National Archives joined its partners at the National Archives to present an exciting day of July 4th activities, welcoming thousands of visitors to the home of the original Declaration of Independence.

The annual Independence Day festivities, which included patriotic music, a dramatic reading of the Declaration from the National Archives steps, and free family activities, were made possible in part by the generous support of lead sponsor John Hancock Financial as well as the national law firm Dykema.

“Leadership from our dedicated corporate donors – like John Hancock Financial and Dykema – helps the Foundation to reach a worldwide audience on a special day like today,” said Foundation Executive Director Patrick Madden. “Their support allows us to educate the public about the importance of these treasured historical records and the role of the National Archives in our democracy.”

John Hancock Financial has supported the event for the past nine years and Dykema has provided support for three years.

“John Hancock Financial is proud to support the National Archives and its Independence Day celebration,” said Tom Samoluk, vice president for external affairs at John Hancock Financial. “The Archives and its Foundation do a great job of educating the public about the value of preserving billions of important records, including the original Declaration of Independence, for future generations to appreciate. We are pleased to be a part of that effort.”

The National Archives' Independence Day celebration is a favorite starting point for thousands of visitors to the National Mall on July 4th each year. Visitors used a quill pen to sign a facsimile of the Declaration of Independence. Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero welcomed the crowd from the steps of the historic National Archives Building, and C-SPAN News Broadcaster Steve Scully returned to serve as emcee of the patriotic program for the second year.

Historical re-enactors portraying John and Abigail Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Gen. George Washington read the Declaration of Independence, with the crowd voicing outrage by booing as the grievances against King George III were read, and cheering as the Declaration concluded. A re-enactor portraying Private Ned Hector, an African American soldier in the Revolutionary War, then read the names of each of the signers as the crowd shouted “Huzzah!”

Attendees were entertained by the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry “The Old Guard” Continental Color Guard and Fife and Drum Corps, and the National Anthem was led by the United States Air Force Band. Soloist Dana J. Nearing sang “America the Beautiful.” The National Independence Day Parade on Constitution Avenue along the National Mall began shortly afterward.

The outdoor program on the steps of the National Archives also was shown on the screen of the William G. McGowan Theater inside the building and is available online via UStream at <http://www.ustream.tv/usnationalarchives>.

The public program followed the Foundation’s annual *Promise of America* breakfast and a private program and tours in the Archives’ Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom, the “Public Vaults” exhibition, and the Lawrence F. O’Brien Gallery, currently showing “Searching for the Seventies: The DOCUMERICA Photography Project.” Guests also enjoyed family activities in the Boeing Learning Center, including the opportunity to make a Colonial cockade or to have their photographs taken in Colonial period clothing.

Several members of Congress, the US Secretary of Commerce, representatives from the diplomatic corps, Foundation board members, representatives from John Hancock Financial and Dykema, returning soldiers in the Wounded Warrior Project, and a number of distinguished Washingtonians participated in the festivities.

About the Foundation for the National Archives

The Foundation for the National Archives is an independent nonprofit that serves as the National Archives’ private-sector partner in the creation of and ongoing support of the National Archives Experience, which includes permanent and traveling exhibits, educational programs, special events, film screenings, educational literature, and historical/records-related products and media. The Foundation helps the public understand the importance of the holdings of the National Archives by presenting the depth and diversity of the records through award-winning, interactive educational exhibits and programs. It generates financial and creative support for the National Archives from individuals,

foundations, and corporations who share a belief in the importance of innovative civics education.

About the National Archives Experience

The National Archives Experience, created by the National Archives in partnership with the Foundation for the National Archives, has transformed the visitor experience at the National Archives' Washington, DC building, and includes a renovated Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom, the award-winning Public Vaults permanent interactive exhibition, the William G. McGowan Theater, the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery for special exhibits, the Boeing Learning Center, the Digital Vaults online exhibit, and the DocsTeach website. These components make the rich resources of the National Archives accessible to Americans nationwide.

About John Hancock Financial and Manulife Financial Corporation

John Hancock Financial is a unit of Manulife Financial Corporation, a leading Canada-based financial services group with principal operations in Asia, Canada and the United States. In 2012, John Hancock celebrates 150 years of serving clients across the United States, while Manulife celebrates its 125th anniversary. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and in most of Asia, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States, Manulife Financial Corporation 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 C\$512 billion (US\$512 billion) as at March 31, 2012. Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at manulife.com.

The John Hancock unit, through its insurance companies, comprises one of the largest life insurers in the United States. John Hancock offers a broad range of financial products and services, including life insurance, fixed and variable annuities, fixed products, mutual funds, 401(k) plans, long-term care insurance, college savings, and other forms of business insurance. Additional information about John Hancock may be found at www.johnhancock.com.

About Dykema

Dykema serves business entities worldwide on a wide range of complex legal issues. Dykema lawyers and other professionals in 13 U.S. offices work in close partnership with clients – from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies – to deliver outstanding results, unparalleled service and exceptional value in every engagement. To learn more, visit www.dykema.com and follow Dykema on Twitter <http://twitter.com/Dykema>.

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