

118th ANNUAL CONGRESS
OF THE
DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS
OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

JULY 3-4, 2025

PROGRAM

Thursday, July 3, 2025

10: 00 AM **Plaque dedication for Sarah Armitage McKean**, 2nd wife of Thomas McKean, at The Laurel Hill East Cemetery, 3822 Ridge Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19132.

12:00 PM **Plaque dedication for Elizabeth Mathews Heyward**, wife of Thomas Heyward, Jr., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 313 Pine St, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

For those interested in attending one or both dedications, we will send the directions and exact times to arrive at the cemetery. We will need to arrive 10 to 15 minutes prior to each of the dedication services to find the grave and set up. For more information, please contact Ellen Brinker, elbrinker@aol.com, or Sheryll Albert, albertsp9324@outlook.com.

2:00 PM **Board Meeting** in the Adams Room, Wyndham Hotel, 400 Arch Street, Philadelphia. 1-877-999-3223.

5:00 PM **Welcome to Philadelphia celebration at historic Carpenters' Hall!** Carpenters' Hall is a treasure in historic Philadelphia. It hosted the First Continental Congress in 1774 and was home to Franklin's Library Company, The American Philosophical Society, and the First and Second Banks of the United States. The DSDI will have private use of the Hall for self guided tours, light food options, wine and beer. (Dress is summer casual - keep in mind it is usually very hot and humid in Philadelphia in July and while Carpenters' Hall is air conditioned, it is an old building)

In addition to the scheduled evening event, there is typically a free concert held on Independence Mall at approximately 6:00 PM.

The pool at the Wyndham Hotel is open from 10am to 9 pm.

Friday, July 4, 2025

7:30 AM Tappers and their Parents will meet in the lobby of the Wyndham Hotel to walk to the Liberty Bell Pavilion for practice. Only Tappers and their Parents can enter the Pavilion during the morning practice. The National Park Service no longer allows posed photos following the Tapping Ceremony. Pictures are allowed during the Ceremony, but there is no time for formal photos of the Tappers in front of the bell after the tapping. However, there is time for photos during the morning practice.

For the Tappers, dress for the Bell Tapping Ceremony is slacks, collared shirt and tie for the gentleman and summer dresses/dressy separates for the ladies. Bonus points if they incorporate red, white and blue!

9:30 AM **Celebration Breakfast Buffet** in honor of the Bell Tappers at the Wyndham Hotel.

11:00 AM Salute to America Independence Day Parade - East Market Street between 2nd and City Hall. (The Wyndham Hotel is ½ block off of Market Street) .

12:30 PM Tappers, their Parents and any DSDI members and guests wishing to attend, will reconvene in the lobby of the Wyndham Hotel to walk to the Liberty Bell Pavilion for the Let Freedom Ring Ceremony. Registration is required as all names must be provided to the National Parks Service for security. ***Time is approximate and a final meeting time will be determined that morning, and shared at breakfast, as dictated by the National Parks Service.***

2:00 PM Junior Members of the DSDI will symbolically tap the Liberty Bell, at the Liberty Bell Pavilion, Independence Park.

We are very proud of our Junior Members who will be tapping the Liberty Bell:

Junior Member:	Descended from:
Ashby Jane Croft	William Hooper
Edward Maximilian Croft	William Hooper
Eloise Thea Croft	William Hooper
Marshall St. Julien Croft, Jr.	William Hooper
Timothy William Klingler	John Hart
Arthur Remy Livingston	Philip Livingston
Philip Robert Livingston IV	Philip Livingston
Adelaide Inge Tingle	Benjamin Harrison V.
Charles Montgomery Tingle	Benjamin Harrison V.
Broderick Robert Ward	John Morton

2:30 PM Gather for the DSDI Annual Meeting

Members and family and guests should come to 6th and Chestnut Streets in front of Congress Hall to pass through the security check.

Please make sure you include on the registration form the name of each person who will be coming to the Annual Meeting, or they may not be admitted. The names will be listed with the Park Service to be checked off upon arrival. Please note that the Long Gallery at Independence Hall is NOT handicap accessible. While the Long Gallery is not open to the public, we have been privileged to have our meetings there for over 100 years.

3:00 PM Annual Meeting in the Long Gallery, second floor of Independence Hall.

5:00 PM Informal "4th of July style" picnic buffet with nonalcoholic beverages served in the dining room of the Wyndham Hotel. Cash bar service will be available at Coin's Pub in the lobby. Casual dress.

7:00 PM Join fellow members for a private, one-hour, walking tour with Historic Philadelphia Incorporated. They will whisk us back in time as we walk through America's "most historic square mile." The tour, approximately one mile long, covers the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and other prominent buildings in Old City that connect to our History Maker's lived historical experience. Fun for all ages! (Dress is casual and comfortable shoes are recommended)

The City of Philadelphia's celebration is from 7 pm to 10 pm. Entertainment and fireworks on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 20th and Eakins Oval. It will also be televised on local TV.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

PLEASE NOTE THE CUT-OFF DATE

Wyndham Hotel, 400 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 1-877-999-3223 (Two blocks from the Liberty bell). Ask for Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence Group Rate of \$184 per night, double room, plus taxes.

Check-in time is 4pm. Check out time is 11am.

The cutoff date for hotel reservation is Monday, June 2, 2025. Self-parking is 40 per night at the Wyndham Hotel.

This [link](#) will allow you to make your reservation under the group rate.

If you have any problems with your hotel reservation, call Stacie Pagano at 1-717-330-7458.

DSDI Board of Governors for 2024-2025	
Position	Name
President General	Mrs Nancy McBride Wark
1st Vice President	Leroy Anderson Keller
2nd Vice President & 250 Chair	Barbara Teter Greeley
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Historian General	Stephanie Lynn Nelson
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