



PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE REVOLUTION
www.amrev.org

2002 LET FREEDOM RING SPECIAL EDITION II



GOLDEN HILL NURSING HOME, PA

SUNY AT ALBANY, NY



USS COLE

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, TX



BOYSCOUTS OF AMERICA



BELL TAPPERS AT THE LIBERTY BELL



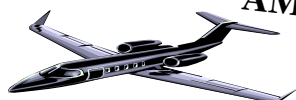
BEN FRANKLIN, THOMAS JEFFERSON AND JOSEPH TORSSELLA, PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER WATCH WHILE IAN GARCIA-GRANT, CHRISTOPHER, ELIZABETH AND JAMES BURKE PREPARE TO TAP THE LIBERTY BELL ON JULY 4TH AT 2:00 PM



WOODLAWN MEMORIUM, FL
CONTINENTAL EXPRESS FLIGHT #3198

AMERICAN LEGION POST 227, CA

BEECH FORK STATE PARK, WV



AMERICAN BELL ASSOCIATION, CT

DARKEST DAYS OF THE REVOLUTION



HIDING THE BELL

The republic was only a year old and its army, commanded by General Washington, faced another crisis in that September of 1777. Unable to defend the city of Philadelphia, Washington planned to withdraw his tattered troops to Valley Forge because the capital of the new nation was about to fall into enemy hands.

The British were short of ammunition and it was no secret that they would melt down the city's church bells for musket and cannon balls. The Liberty Bell would meet a similar fate. The nation's Executive Council decided to send the bells to a distant settlement for safekeeping. They chose as the sanctuary the village of Northampton Town 50 miles to the north. Today that is the city of Allentown.

A train of 700 wagons was organized to carry military stores to Bethlehem. Carefully camouflaged on one wagon was the Liberty Bell. Then the authorities announced that this most precious of bells had been sunken under the waters of the Delaware River.

The trek began and the wagons, with their guard of 200 cavalymen, arrived in Bethlehem on September 24, 1777. That night or the next morning the bells were hauled to Allentown where they were hidden under the floor of old Zion Reformed Church. There they remained in safety until the following June.



"Sandy" Stromberg (DSDI), Joseph Torsella (National Constitution Center) and Thomas Jefferson pose for a picture

LIBERTY BELL MUSEUM

In 1958 the Liberty Bell Committee of Zion Church, in anticipation of the bicentennial of both the church and Allentown, sought the exact spot where the bell was hidden. Cross trenches were dug in the unexcavated area under the sanctuary and the long-buried foundations of the original church were unearthed. Since they corresponded precisely to the dimensions cited in old church records, the committee decided that a shrine should occupy this very same area.

The presentation of a full-size and official Liberty Bell replica by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania the following year spurred the effort. Dr. Morgan Person, Ralph Griesemer, Esq. and the Rev. Dr. Ernest F. Andrews, pastor of Zion United Church of Christ, played a key role in the project and the excavation. Construction and furnishing of the Liberty Bell Shrine was completed at a cost of \$75,000. It was dedicated on May 30, 1962, as a part of the city's Bicentennial Celebration.

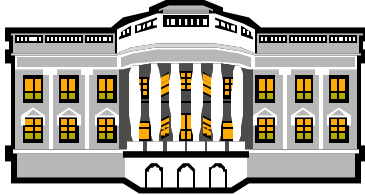
JULY 3RD GUESTS AT THE PHILLIES GAME

The Phillies introduced this year's bell tappers to the crowd while the TR Malone Gospel Choir sang the National Anthem during the pre-game activities on July 3rd; all are wearing the new Let Freedom Ring T-shirts available through the Society website.



HERE COMES THAT PHILLY PHANATIC!!!

**A MESSAGE
FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**



**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

June 28, 2002

I send greetings to those gathered for the "Let Freedom Ring" ceremony.

Each year on the Fourth of July, Americans celebrate the courage and leadership of our Forefathers. In founding the United States, they changed the course of history and created a Nation that stands as an enduring symbol of liberty, hope, and opportunity.

Despite the intentions of evildoers to harm our country, Americans have demonstrated a renewed sense of patriotism and love for the democratic ideals that make our Nation great. As you honor those who won our Nation's freedom, I encourage you to thank the men and women who are bravely working to defeat terrorism around the world. By joining together to commemorate this important day in history, we show the American spirit remains strong.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable celebration. God bless you, and God bless America.

George Bush



President Cheney prepares to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary Soldier

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Governor's Office

Proclamation

**Independence Day
July 4, 2002**

WHEREAS, On this day in 1776, the members of the Continental Congress met at the State House in Philadelphia and voted unanimously to adopt the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, now known as Independence Day, July 4th was first declared a legal holiday by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1873. On July 4th we celebrate the birth of our nation with joy, hope and spirit; and

WHEREAS, this day will forever be the reminder to all United States citizens of the commitment, dedication and vigilance our ancestors have provided for the perpetuation of liberty and democracy throughout this great nation; and

WHEREAS, Independence Day, especially in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, serves as the commemoration and celebration that America is an idea, a hope and a way of life that we cherish; and

WHEREAS, as we reflect upon our history, let us never forget the visions that have been fulfilled, the battles that have been fought, and the sacrifices that have been made to preserve the magnificent ideals that have created the distinct foundation of this country.

THEREFORE, In recognition of this historic date, I, Mark S. Schweiker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim July 4, 2002, INDEPENDENCE DAY and encourage all citizens to pause in recognition of the National Bell Ringing Ceremony, Let Freedom Ring, at 2:00 p.m. EDST at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.



Given under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-third day in the month of July, our Lord

and of the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

PICTURES, PICTURES, PICTURES



"The Room Is Ready For The Independence Day Luncheon"



"General Anthony Wayne"
Statue Debuted At Reception



James, Elizabeth, Christopher, and Ian receive their Liberty Bell Trophies at the Independence Day Luncheon



James Burke and other children in a separate luncheon designed for kids and their guests enjoy the antics of the magician



Independence Day Reception debuted U.S. President's letter, Proclamations, new Let Freedom Ring t-shirt, and the newly completed Anthony Wayne statue in miniature



Committee members Herb Zeafoss and David Humphrey with wives at Independence Day Luncheon



Over 225 members, guests, and children enjoyed the Independence Day Luncheon held at the Society Hill Sheraton in Philadelphia



Second Pennsylvania Regiment ready to lead the group to the ceremony

AND MORE PICTURES.....



Leroy M. Lewis, III, PSSR Vice President, talks to Richard H. Stromberg, DSDI President-General, while he gets ready for his role as Master of Ceremonies with other members of the dias



James, Christopher, and Elizabeth Burke and Ian Garcia-Grant take a practice pull on the Providence Forum bell before the tapping at 2 o'clock at the Bell Pavilion



Curtis P. Cheyney, III, PSSR President, welcomes the audience to the ceremony



Joseph Torsella rings the Providence Forum bell in memory of September 11th with William Proctor (PSSR Chaplin), Curtis Cheyney (PSSR President) and Captain Scott Bethman (Pentagon)



Captain Richard Dana Smith and the PSSR Color Guard "Present the Colors"



Attendees watch the Let Freedom Ring Ceremony



Richard H. Stromberg, DSDI President-General, rings the bell 13 times at 2 o'clock while the bell tappers are at the Pavilion



A Special "Thank You" To The PSSR Color Guard



PROCLAMATION FROM

State of New York

Executive Chamber

Whereas, the citizens of the Empire State are instilled with a great sense of patriotism and are therefore, proud to recognize and commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence; on July 4, 1776, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the tolling of the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania hailed the signing of the Declaration of Independence; and

Whereas, the adoption of the Declaration of Independence marked the birth of our country as a free and independent Nation; each year, Americans celebrate this historic day, remembering the achievements of our founders and reflecting on the rights and privileges of citizenship, as well as its responsibilities; and

Whereas, in 1963, an act of Congress officially authorized the Let Freedom Ring National Bell Ringing Ceremony in honor of the signing of the Declaration of Independence; throughout the following years, a larger number of church towers, fire halls, universities, carillons, state houses and other bell ringing institutions have participated in this national observance; and

Whereas, participating bells now include Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the Arizona Memorial Harbor, the National Cathedral in Washington, Old North Church in Boston, Arlington Cemetery and thousands of churches, synagogues, state capitols, radio stations, as well as every one of the 316 commissioned ships in the United States Navy; and

Whereas, all who have the honor of being an American citizen, whether by birth or naturalization, should take this unique opportunity to recognize the anniversary of this great event that celebrates our freedom, liberties and independence; as citizens throughout our Nation prepare to join in the Let Freedom Ring National Bell Ringing Ceremony, we pause to reflect and rededicate ourselves to the great ideals that motivated our Nation's founding fathers;

Now, Therefore, I, George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize July 4, 2002 as

LET FREEDOM RING DAY

in the Empire State.

George E. Pataki
Governor

He's Been Ringing for 34 Years

Mr. William P. Wunderlich has been ringing for 34 years but didn't know about the Let Freedom Ring Ceremony until he was reported to the Society Office by Mr. Crawford King, a local resident who knew Mr. Wunderlich.

Mr. King writes: On July 4th I took my bell, which is 30 inches in diameter and 40 inches high, and cast in 1890, to Mr. William Wunderlich's house, which is in a subdivision in Chesterfield, Missouri. They had about 150 people in attendance, including the mayor of Chesterfield. Mr. Wunderlich has a large flag pole in his front yard, which is flying the British flag. The program began with a parade of about 20 men dressed in Revolutionary attire led by the fife and drums, followed by a parade of youngsters with bicycles and wagons, and dogs all dressed up.

The troop stopped at the flag pole and fired a round. The British flag was taken down and the American flag was hoisted. Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Wunderlich had a speech on John Adams and how he thought the 4th of July should be celebrated, he then read the names of the 13 colonies. After each one I rang the bell. Then the guns were fired ending the program. He had soda and doughnuts for everyone at his expense.

Mr. Wunderlich has been doing this for 34 years. Please send Mr. Wunderlich the National Bell Ringing Certificate instead of me.

Crawford King

The Society Office contacted Mr. Wunderlich and ironically enough he started ringing the same year the PSSR started sponsoring the Let Freedom Ring ceremony, but as Mr. King said, he had never heard of the ceremony until Mr. King told him about it. Not only did Mr. Wunderlich get a certificate for his participation for the year 2002, but he was also sent another certificate covering the years from 1969 to 2001 in gratitude of his patriotism and faithfulness to being a bell ringer. Not to worry, Mr. King got one too!

Let Freedom Ring "Goes To New Heights"

Robert Farling doesn't like to miss the bell ringing ceremony on July 4th so when he had to be on a flight from Nashville to Cleveland he decided to take a bell with him to ring 13 times. At the approaching hour, the Continental Express flight crew, after talking to Bob, introduced the Let Freedom Ring Ceremony to the passengers of Flight #3198 and at the 2 o'clock hour the bell was rung 13 times to a round of applause.

The Society Office contacted Jeff Await at the Continental Express Airlines Public Relations Department who provided the office with the crews' names and Roll of Honor certificates have been forwarded to Jeff for distribution to the flight crew.

Ceremonies Across the Land

Dave Lash of Rockville, Indiana writes: For several weeks I have been meaning to write to you and tell you what happened at our first National Bell Ringing Ceremony. When I first got your letter about the idea, I tossed it on the far corner of my desk to "think about it." I'm 60 years old, a former band director, now a real estate agent. I thought that I just didn't have time to "fool around" with a ceremony like yours. I was very wrong!!! About June 1st, I found out that our local school music program is down to only 3 players in the entire junior/senior high school band and just a few girls in their choir; no boys.

Next, I foolishly decided to try out for the band/choir job at the school and try to hold onto my position as head of my small real estate company all at the same time. I thought that if I could help the school that maybe I could restore music in our schools.

About the same time I again found your letter laying on my desk about the National Bell Ringing Ceremony while cleaning up my desk. My secretary encouraged me to give it a try. I called the local school superintendent and talked him into letting me use the local band room to build a local community band to play for the bell ringing ceremony. He let me use the instruments, band music and the band room for only 2 rehearsals. I got the county commissioners to get their custodian to ring the courthouse bell 13 times at 1 o'clock (our time) on July 4th. I got our local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution to say the Pledge of Allegiance and give the speech. I called up the newspapers and the local TV stations and got them to promote and cover the story of the ceremony on the courthouse lawn. I found a little 10-year-old girl that can sing almost as good as Sandy Patti and had her sing the National Anthem and God Bless America with our little band of 20 members.

Our band had young kids, middle age people as well as one old 90-year-old clarinet player. I couldn't find a cymbal player for the crashes during the National Anthem so I taught one guy off the streets how to crash the cymbals together when I pointed at him to play. The guy had never played an instrument nor read music in his life.

I expected about 15 to 20 people to show up for the program. Over 250 people came to hear the speech, hear the band play, hear the little girl sing, listen to the 13 gun salute and listen to the 13 chimes at 1 o'clock from the old courthouse.

Several little things went wrong (i.e. the color guard lost count of the shots and the speechmaker became bedazzled when he found out that he was "On Television:). All in all it was a colossal success. Everybody wants to do it again next year.

The guy who played the cymbals couldn't believe that he played in a real band. The color guard promised me that next year "it will be RIGHT!" Everybody was so proud of themselves and the people who came said the speech was as good as any they had ever heard. Our pictures were all over

the newspapers and the story was on three television networks. Patriotism was running at an all time high in our little town of 2,650 people.

You have a great idea with your bell ceremony. I want to apologize for tossing your letter on the backside of my desk when I first got it. I never got the band job at the high school but everybody wants me to lead a community band. I believe that is what God really wants me to do. Everybody had more fun and felt so proud of themselves. Success all boils down to one very important thing; *Everybody needs some kind of encouragement.* I encouraged everybody instead of just asking them to help me.

Keep up the good work and maybe we will be ringing our bell again next year.

Sincerely yours,
Dave Lash

Upon receipt of Mr. Lash's letter, the Society Office called him and asked permission to print his letter in the newsletter. By the end of the telephone conversation, Mr. Lash's "maybe" turned into a definite yes.

The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution looks forward to hearing from Mr. Lash after next year's ceremony to get an update.

**Thanks for your participation
from all of us Dave at PSSR!**

Everybody needs some kind of encouragement!!!



**David Lash with his trombone at Rockville's first
Let Freedom Ring Ceremony**

(see above story)

PSSR Captain Smith Retires the Colors

Until Next Year's Ceremony

*The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution
sincerely thank the following for a great
2002 Let Freedom Ring Ceremony:*



Let Freedom Ring Committee

Captain Richard Dana Smith and the PSSR Color Guard

Rev. William Preston Proctor, PSSR Chaplain & Rabbi Ira Stone

Leroy Moody Lewis, III, PSSR Vice President & MC

Benjamin Charles Frick, PSSR Vice President & D. Weston Darby, PSSR

President Emeritus

Acting Superintendent Dennis Reidenbach & Independence National

Historical Park Staff

Richard Hanson Stromberg, DSDI President-General &

Philip Schuyler Pyne, DSDI Past President-General

Rev. Dr. Peter Lillback

Captain Scott Bethman, USN

Ambassador Edward Ridley Finch

Liberty Bell Tappers & Families

Joseph Torsella, President & CEO - National Constitution Center

TR Malone Gospel Choir

New Life Industries

Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson & Mayor John Street

Dennis L Hangey, Bagpiper

Second Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line

Nathan Hale Fife and Drum Corps

Hermitage Press

U.S. Military Personnel Participants Here and Around the World

Bell Tapper Participants & Sponsors Here Around the World

Ira Rosen, Entertainment On Location, Inc.

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