



PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE REVOLUTION

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2003 LET FREEDOM RING SPECIAL EDITION III



**LET FREEDOM RING
35th YEAR**



Jessica Marie Burke



Rachel Nicole Burke

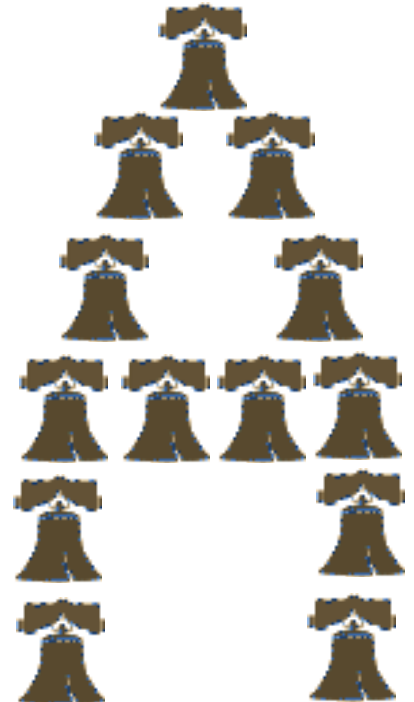


Robert Bruce Warden



David Wolcott Sturgeon

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!!



1969

OPERATION PATRIOTISM

Rededication ceremonies sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution were held at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, on July 4, 1969. Rear Admiral Robert H. Speck, USN (Ret.) presided and the flags of the Society were presented by the Color Guard under the leadership of Captain Charles E. Hires.

The ceremony included special messages from Richard Nixon, President of the United States, and Hugh Scott, Senior Senator from Pennsylvania, and a recital of the "Liberty Pledge" led by the President of the Society, followed by a tapping of the Liberty Bell by Margaret Ursular Rummel, a descendant of John Morton of Pennsylvania, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

The principle address was made by the Honorable Raymond H. Broderick, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and his remarks are printed in their entirety at the conclusion of this report.

The rededication ceremonies were most impressive and the members of the Fourth of July Committee are to be highly commended for their efficient organization and careful and detailed arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard W. Thorington
President

(Taken from 1969-70 Proceedings)

In 1969, the organization of the ceremony was overseen by the Americanism Committee whose duties were to put together programs and find various speakers according to Joe Loughran, PSSR President Emeritus, who was on the committee at that time. According to Joe's recollections, the term Let Freedom Ring was adopted a few years later. In reviewing past Proceedings, the Liberty Pledge was also a part of the program for many years.

Taken from the 1971 Proceedings: Our purpose in holding this service is to pledge our highest loyalty to our country. It

2003

LET FREEDOM RING

The 35th Let Freedom Ring ceremony sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution was held at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, July 4, 2003. Robert Reynolds Van Gulick, Jr. (PSSR Vice President) presided and the flags of the Society were presented by the Color Guard under the leadership of Captain Richard D. Smith.

The ceremony included special messages from Edward G. Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania and John Street, Mayor of Philadelphia. Rachel and Jessica Burke, descendants of John Hart of New Jersey; David Wolcott Sturgeon, descendant of Oliver Wolcott of Connecticut; and Robert Laubach, descendant of Thomas Nelson, Jr. of Virginia tapped the Liberty Bell at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

The principle address was made by the Honorable Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. His remarks are printed in their entirety on page 3.

The ceremony was most impressive and the members of the Let Freedom Ring Committee are to be highly commended for their efficient organization and careful and detailed arrangements.

Respectfully submitted,

Winchell S. Carroll
Vice President

is our way of showing that we wish with all our heart and with all our power to make the United States of America a better country, more just, more tolerant and more merciful, and if it is powerful, more wise in the use of that power.

The Let Freedom Ring ceremony, now trademarked by the Society, celebrated its 35th anniversary this year and it is still dedicated to its original goals.

Liberty Pledge printed on page 3.

THE LIBERTY PLEDGE

On July 4, 1776, the Founders of our Republic breathed a spirit into American Government totally dependent upon Revealed Truth. This Divine Spirit affirmed the sovereignty of the citizen as the just and reasonable consequence of the sovereignty of the soul. To this proposition, the essence of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America, we pledge our support and, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

*"Now the Lord is that Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."
-- II Cor. 3:17*

LET FREEDOM RING 2003 DATABASE

In reviewing this year's Let Freedom Ring database, it has demonstrated that participants are registered from all 50 states. This count only represents satellite ceremonies and not military sites.



Vice President Robert Van Gulick addressing the audience as this year's Master of Ceremonies



American Originals Fife and Drum Corp



World Famous Philadelphia Boys' Choir



**Kay Seamayer
Composer and Singer
"Let Freedom Ring"**



**Second Pennsylvania Regiment
Many years and many thank you's
for their Let Freedom Ring participation**



**Bell Tappers Receive 2003 Liberty Bells
presented by Vice Presidents
Di Stefano, Shirk, Van Gulick, and Carroll**



"Operation Tribute to Freedom"

Richard Smith (Color Guard Captain), Col. Richard Breen (US Army), Sgt. Leandro Aragoncillo (US Marines), Sr. Chief Steven Whitehead (US Coast Guard), Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, Commander Jeffrey Horton (US Navy), Lt. Col. Patrick Stamper (US Air Force), Leroy Lewis (PSSR President)

Operation "Tribute to Freedom" was created by an initiative from the Secretary of Defense to ensure that members of the U.S. Armed Forces, whether serving at home or abroad, are recognized by the American people for their accomplishments and sacrifices in the global war against terrorism. In addition, this project is facilitating Americans' expressions of support and appreciation for U.S. men and women in uniform and strengthening the bond between American citizens and the U.S. military.

This year's ceremony was the first to be represented by all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Upon introductions of the Tribute to Freedom's representatives at the Independence Day Luncheon, it was a heartwarming scene as all the luncheon attendees rose to give the representatives a standing ovation for their service and dedication to their country.

This year's ceremony, because of total military representation, was the first time that the branches of the military got to see the actual tapping of the Liberty Bell by the children descendants at 2:00 p.m. in the Liberty Bell Pavilion.

The Society Office has received the representatives' thank you's and they report it was a special day for them. All representatives felt very choked up when the audience rose to their feet to honor the military branches of this country and all felt it was an honor to meet Justice Scalia and pose for pictures with him.



**Justice Scalia receives Philadelphia Bowl from
President Leroy Lewis**



**Justice Scalia receives Let Freedom Ring T-shirt
from Jannie Baker of New Life Industries**

ADDRESS BY ASSOCIATE JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA



Associate Justice Antonin Scalia Addresses the Let Freedom Ring Audience

(Justice Scalia's LFR address has been printed in its entirety because of requests by many members)

My Fellow Americans:

The bell whose chime you will hear in a few minutes was cracked, so tradition says, when it was jubilantly tolled, to announce and celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence here in Philadelphia. Wherefore, it is called the Liberty Bell.

The Declaration of Independence, however, was merely the assertion of liberty and not the achievement of it. Between the assertion and the achievement - between the Declaration of Independence and the final defeat of the British - there were five years of what Tom Paine called "the times that try men's souls." Between the joyful tolling of the Liberty Bell and the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, there was the failed invasion of Canada, the Continental Army's hasty retreat from Long Island, the American losses at Brandywine Creek and Germantown that led to the British occupation of Philadelphia, the bitter winter of hardship and deprivation twenty miles northwest of here at Valley Forge. This Liberty Bell itself was ignominiously taken down from its belfry and spirited away to be hidden under a church floor in Allentown, so that the occupying redcoats would not melt it down for a cannon.

The outcome of that struggle for liberty was never a sure thing. The men who signed the Declaration of Independence did indeed put on the line, as they said, "their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor." Five of them were captured by the British and one died from the effects of imprisonment; eleven had their homes and property put to the torch. Thomas McKean of Delaware wrote to John Adams that he was "hunted like a fox by the enemy, compelled to remove my family five times in a few months." These were men and women of unwavering courage.

In the moral fantasy by C.S. Lewis called "The Screwtape Letters," the experienced devil who is serving as mentor to his nephew, the apprentice devil, says that he and his colleagues have managed to fool mankind into believing that all sorts of virtues are vices: modesty is prudery, humility is submissiveness, devoutness is sanctimony, etc., except for just one virtue that they just can't seem to get mankind to devalue, because it is so obviously and undeniably a virtue when it is needed. That is the virtue of courage. Quite so! And liberty, of course, is for the brave, not for those who believed in the old cold war slogan, "Better Red than Dead."

Just as courage (and the accompanying virtue of constancy) were necessary to establish our liberty, so have they been necessary to preserve it. From the War of 1812, in which our Capitol was again occupied by the British (and this time burned), to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, which confront the new tyranny of state, sponsored terrorism, our Armed Forces have responded with the courage that befits a great and free people.

But the courage needed to preserve our liberties is not only the physical courage of our warriors. It includes as well the moral courage or civic courage demanded of all our citizens if liberty is to survive; the courage to stand up against that tyranny most feared by the Framers of our Constitution, the tyranny of the majority. This is the courage of ordinary people like Rosa Parks, of great figures like Martin Luther King, and of all of those who resist popular moves to disregard the constitutionally established rights, or to subvert the constitutional structure of our democracy. Sometimes these opponents of the popular will are wrong (I will not name names); alas, civic courage is not always conjoined, as it should be, with civic wisdom. But better civic courage that is sometimes misdirected than no civic courage at all. When that virtue disappears from our midst, the central liberty of our democracy on which all other liberties depend, the freedom of speech will become in effect the freedom to agree with the prevailing view.

When we hear this old Liberty Bell sound, therefore, let us salute the American courage that makes it ring true. And let us resolve always to be the home of the brave - that we may always remain the land of the free.

PSSR wishes to express its sincere thank you to Justice Scalia for agreeing to be this year's Let Freedom Ring national guest speaker.



"Patriots of the Day"
Jessica Burke, Rachel Burke, Robert Laubach,
and David Sturgeon pose with Thomas Jefferson
(J. Bazzel) at Liberty Bell Pavilion



**Color Guard Captain Richard Dana Smith presents the
Colors at 2003 Let Freedom Ring Ceremony**



**President Emeritus Curt Cheney presents engraved
Liberty Bell to INHP Superintendant Mary Bomar and Staff
in appreciation for 35 years of service to Let Freedom Ring.
(left to right) Phil Sheridan, Curt Cheney,
Mary Bomar, Chris Schillizzi**



**Philadelphia Mayor John Street greets
Let Freedom Ring audience**



**INHP Staff
Thank you for 35 years of service and dedication to
Let Freedom Ring**



**President Leroy Lewis presents Governor Ed Rendell
with his own Liberty Bell in appreciation for his years of
support to the Let Freedom Ring ceremony**

Special Thank You's

The Let Freedom Ring Committees along with the office staff wish to thank Norma Dutcher and Anne Patten for their assistance in setting up the banquet room for the Independence Day Luncheon.



New Lancaster Regent Art Old converses with Past Regent John Bowman at Let Freedom Ring Luncheon and hosts the U.S. Air Force at their table

Society Office and Let Freedom Ring

Some of our Society members wonder why the Society's Admissions process slows down during the summer months. Beginning in February, the office staff, Shirley and Barbara, partially turn their attention to preparing the national promotional mailing for Let Freedom Ring (LFR), in addition to attending to the Independence Day Luncheon planning and the Let Freedom Ring ceremony along with the committees. By mid-June phones are operating in the office with incoming and outgoing calls almost on a continuous basis. One week before the ceremony you can walk into the office and find everything ringing at once, including the fax machine. It is not unusual to find Shirley there into the evening hours dealing with arrangements in all aspects of the luncheon and ceremony, organizing and answering many questions from committee members, the Pentagon, invited entertainers for the program, making sure that things are in order for a national speaker, answering questions via phone or email from bell ringing participants around the country, and assisting the bell tappers in their preparations to visit Philadelphia. Names are continuously being entered in the LFR database with an average of 1000 per year in new participants. Let Freedom Ring and Shirley also now play a significant role in the education of student interns from Temple's undergraduate program in event planning. LFR is still winding down in the office while participating sites send stories and pictures from all over the country.



Lancaster Chapter attends Let Freedom Ring

"A New Look for the Color Guard"

When the Color Guard, led by Captain Richard Dana Smith, came marching into this year's Let Freedom Ring Ceremony, there was a new look about them, and quite a "dapper" one at that. Yes, the Guard decided to bring back the "boater hat" from years ago and, as always, impressed the audience while carrying the replica Revolutionary flags.

While Commodore Barry looks out over the crowd and Thomas Jefferson is watching, Captain Smith and Jonathan Fitzgerald proudly stand in position during this year's Let Freedom Ring ceremony,



"A Handsome Pair"

Captain Richard Smith and Jonathan Fitzgerald

**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
2003 Let Freedom Ring Ceremony:*

- Let Freedom Ring Committees
- Captain Richard Dana Smith and the PSSR Color Guard
- Rev. William Preston Proctor, PSSR Chaplain, Bishop Vai Sikahema, Rev. Tim Safford
- Robert Reynolds Van Gulick, Jr., PSSR Vice President & MC and Curtis Paul Cheyney, III, PSSR President Emeritus
- Independence National Historical Park Staff
- Independence Hall Bell Ringers
- Richard Hanson Stromberg, DSDI President-General
- Liberty Bell Tappers & Families
- Associate Justice Antonin Scalia - United States Supreme Court
- Philadelphia Boys Choir
- Jay Green - Soloist
- Kay Seamayer - Soloist
- New Life Industries
- J. Bazzel (Thomas Jefferson)
- Governor Edward G Rendell
- Mayor John Street
- Second Pennsylvania Regiment of the Continental Line
- American Originals Fife and Drum Corps
- Operation Tribute to Freedom
- The Pentagon
- U.S. Military Personnel Participants Here and Around the World
- Bell Ringer Participants & Sponsors Here Around the World
- Ira Rosen, Entertainment On Location, Inc.



"The Colors Proudly Waving At the Close of the Ceremony"