



News Release

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National Archives' 'Freedom Plane National Tour' to Make Historic First Stop at National WWI Museum and Memorial

Original founding-era documents will tour the country together for the first time in history for America's 250th anniversary

KANSAS CITY, MO. – The National Archives and Records Administration announced the [*Freedom Plane National Tour: Documents That Forged a Nation*](#) traveling exhibition, with the nation's first stop at the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, MO. The [*Freedom Plane National Tour*](#) brings original founding-era documents to eight American cities throughout 2026 in honor of the nation's 250th anniversary. It will be on display at the Museum and Memorial from Friday, March 6 through Sunday, March 22.

The original National Archives records featured in the *Freedom Plane: Documents That Forged a Nation* traveling exhibition —most of which are leaving Washington, D.C. for the first time in many decades— include:

- **Original Engraving of the Declaration of Independence, 1823:** One of only about 50 known engraved copies of the Declaration of Independence, printed from a copperplate of the original. Commissioned by John Quincy Adams and made by engraver William J. Stone, the engraving captured the size, text, lettering, and signatures of the original document (on loan from David M. Rubenstein).
- **Articles of Association, 1774:** The most important agreement at the time, adopted by the First Continental Congress and signed by all 53 delegates, urged colonists to boycott British goods.
- **George Washington's, Alexander Hamilton's, and Aaron Burr's Oaths of Allegiance, 1778:** Oaths of Allegiance all officers of the Continental Army signed during the Revolutionary War.
- **Treaty of Paris, 1783:** Signed by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and John Jay, the Treaty with Great Britain formally recognized the United States as an independent nation.
- **Secret Printing of the Constitution in Draft Form, 1787:** A rare copy of the U.S. Constitution in draft form, with a delegate's handwritten notes made during the Constitutional Convention.



- **Tally of Votes Approving the Constitution, 1787:** The voting records of the Constitutional Convention reflecting the debates, resolutions, and eventual vote on the final text that would become the Constitution.

Traveling together for the first time in history, the tour will make these historic and consequential documents, fundamental to America's founding, accessible to Americans across the nation.

"That the first stop on this tour is the National WWI Museum and Memorial is particularly meaningful, especially in our centennial year," said Matthew Naylor, President and CEO, National WWI Museum and Memorial. "For the past 100 years, the Museum and Memorial has honored the courage and sacrifice of those who left our shores during WWI in defense of liberty and democracy, ideals forged in the very documents that founded our nation and that will be on display here."

Freedom Plane National Tour: Documents That Forged a Nation will depart Kansas City for Atlanta, Los Angeles, Houston, Denver, Miami, Dearborn and Seattle, where the tour will conclude on Aug. 16. They will journey from Washington, DC to all eight cities via a Boeing plane. *The Freedom Plane National Tour* was inspired by the [Bicentennial Freedom Train that stopped in Kansas City, KS](#) on March 27-30, 1976 at the GM plant in Fairfax.

"Americans across the country can bear witness to the people and principles that shaped our nation through the Freedom Plane National Tour," said Senior Advisor to the Archivist of the United States Jim Byron. "There is no more noteworthy an occasion than America's 250th birthday to share this history, to inspire our fellow Americans to champion our nation's founding ideals into the future."

The Freedom Plane National Tour is made possible in part by the National Archives Foundation, through the generous support of The Boeing Company, Comcast Corporation, Microsoft, and P&G. The exhibition at the Museum and Memorial is supported by Presenting Sponsor America 250 Missouri Commission and Premier Sponsor E&K.

Freedom Plane National Tour: Documents That Forged a Nation will be on display in Memory Hall from Friday, March 6 to Sunday, March 22, 2026. The exhibition is free to the public. Details about free tickets will be made available on Friday, Feb. 6.

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About the National WWI Museum and Memorial



The National WWI Museum and Memorial is America's leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. The Museum and Memorial holds the most comprehensive collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and experiences of the war. The Museum and Memorial takes visitors of all ages on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and Memorial and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National WWI Museum and Memorial inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit theworldwar.org.

About the National Archives

The National Archives and Records Administration is a federal agency that serves the American people by preserving and making available the records of the United States Government through a nationwide network of archives, records centers, and Presidential Libraries. The National Archives is the custodian of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, on display for all to experience in Washington, DC. Learn more about the holdings of the National Archives at www.archives.gov.

About the National Archives Foundation

The National Archives Foundation is an independent nonprofit foundation that increases public awareness of the National Archives, inspires a deeper appreciation of our country's heritage, and encourages citizen engagement in our democracy. The Foundation generates financial and creative support for National Archives exhibitions, public programs, and educational initiatives, introducing America's records to people around the U.S. and the world. Learn more at www.archivesfoundation.org.