



News Release

For Immediate Release

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**The Foundation for the National Archives and John Hancock Financial Services
Support a Washington, D.C. July Fourth Favorite**

JUNE 25, 2008--WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Foundation for the National Archives is pleased to announce that the National Archives’ traditional Independence Day ceremony and expanded family celebration will be sponsored for the fourth year in a row by John Hancock Financial Services. The company has increased its contribution to \$35,000 this year for a public program filled with patriotic music, a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence, and free family activities that have become an annual favorite for thousands of July 4th visitors to the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

“The signature of patriot John Hancock stands out prominently on the Declaration of Independence which is viewed by more than a million people each year in the National Archives Rotunda,” observed Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States. “This reminds us that John Hancock Financial Services has made an indelible mark on the National Archives’ annual July 4th celebration, and we thank the company most appreciatively for its continued support.”

One of the guests at the Independence Day celebration this year will be Kerry Martenis of Southgate, Michigan, the 15-year-old winner of the John Hancock essay contest: The Promise of America: Explore*Dream*Discover. Kerry will read the winning essay during a special Foundation for the National Archives private breakfast ceremony in the Rotunda

for the Charters of Freedom, in front of the original Declaration of Independence and near a life-size mural of John Hancock.

“We’re very pleased to support the National Archives in its Independence Day activities – and at the same time foster learning among our students – our future,” said John DesPrez, president and chief executive officer of John Hancock Financial Services. “We’re especially excited for Kerry, our winner, to be able to present her work at the Foundation’s breakfast and enjoy the festivities in our nation’s capital.”

The traditional Independence Day program takes place outside the National Archives, on the Constitution Avenue steps, and programming will occur throughout the day in the Archives Building’s Rotunda and Presidential Conference Rooms. This year’s event, with NBC4 News anchor Jim Handly serving as master of ceremonies, includes presentation of colors by the Continental Color Guard and a performance by the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry (The Old Guard) Fife and Drum Corps. Washington attorney Riley Temple, a longtime supporter of the culture and arts communities as well as a member of the Board of the Foundation for the National Archives, will join historical reenactors Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Ned Hector will perform a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence.

Other family activities include opportunities to “sign” the Declaration of Independence, make a campaign button or bumper sticker, use a quill pen, wear a tri-corner hat or get a patriotic National Archives temporary tattoo. Visitors also will have the chance to explore full-size facsimiles of historical documents and learn how to use the new web site, the “Digital Vaults,” to make a movie, poster and more. All activities are free and open to the public.

“We thank John Hancock Financial Services for its continued commitment as our partner in celebrating our nation’s independence at the National Archives,” said Tom Wheeler, President of the Foundation for the National Archives. “Our relationship began in 2005 and has grown stronger each year as John Hancock and the Foundation work together to improve civic education for all Americans.”

About the Foundation for the National Archives

Created in 1992, the Foundation for the National Archives is an independent nonprofit organization committed to increasing public awareness and appreciation of the National Archives as an essential resource in the American democracy. The Foundation serves as the private-sector partner of the National Archives in the creation of the *National Archives Experience*, a national civic literacy initiative which includes permanent exhibits, educational programs, traveling exhibits, special events and screenings, educational literature, and historical/records-related products and media. The Foundation supports these activities by generating financial and creative support from individuals, foundations and corporations who share a belief in the importance of innovative civic education.

About the National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration is a Federal agency that serves American democracy by safeguarding and preserving the records of our government, ensuring that the people can discover, use, and learn from this documentary heritage. It supports democracy, promotes civic education, and facilitates historical understanding of our national experience. Every subject relating to American history is covered in the nine billion pages, the millions of photographs, maps and electronic records and the thousands of motion pictures and audio recordings that are available to the public at the National Archives nationwide. The National Archives maintains 20 regional records facilities and 12 Presidential libraries nationwide, as well as the Office of the Federal Register, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO).

About John Hancock and Manulife Financial

John Hancock Financial Services is a unit of Manulife Financial Corporation, a leading Canadian-based financial services group serving millions of customers in 19 countries and territories worldwide. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia, and primarily through John Hancock Financial in the United States, the company 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 Cdn\$400 billion (UU\$389 billion) as of March 31, 2008.

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