

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

- as read in 2021 by residents of Park Tower Condominium Association -



read July 4, 2021
by Residents

The Declaration of Independence is a foundational document for all that we are in the United States. Its ideals drive us at once to recognize how perfect and how imperfect our union is and inspire us, as a nation, to strive continually for greater heights. Some of its language and ideas, as with other historical documents, are observed today with difficulty while other parts are imbued with eternal truths.

Today's reading of this document, written 245 years ago, is meant to be a reminder of all that it represents. We hope you take these stirring words to heart and imbue them with continual life as we emerge from this pandemic and reevaluate ourselves as a nation.

Thank you to Management and the Board of Directors for their support of this project.

Thank you also to Bob Shamo, director and videographer, Sheldon Atovsky, editor, Sharon Walker, researcher, and Rachita Gupta, Facebook publicity.

Sheldon Atovsky
Social Committee chair
PTCA

Below are resources for any who wish to learn more about the Declaration of Independence and explore that historical time in our country. Our sincere thanks to **Sharon Walker**, Park Tower resident, for suggesting we include them along with our video presentation!

Websites

This link to the History Channel has several articles and interviews on the formation and writing of the document.

<https://www.history.com/topics/american-revolution/declaration-of-independence>

This article on the ACES (American Copy Editors Society) site clarifies some of the language in the Declaration.

<https://aceseditors.org/news/2018/clarifying-the-language-of-the-declaration-of-independence>

History as only Wikipedia can do. Lots of information including the historical influence of the Declaration on the formation of other governments around the world.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Declaration_of_Independence

A comprehensive look at the Declaration and other of America's founding documents.

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration>

Books

[*The Founding Fathers: An Essential Guide to the Men Who Made America*](#) - Encyclopedia Britannica 2007

[*Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation*](#) by Cokie Roberts 2005

[*Reporting the Revolutionary War: Before It was History It was News*](#) by Todd Andrlik 2012

[*African Americans in the Revolutionary War*](#) by Lt Col Michael Lee Lanning 2000

[*The Trials of Phillis Wheatley: America's First Black Poet and Her Encounters with the Founding Fathers*](#) by Henry Louis Gates Jr. 2010

Films & TV Shows

[*John Adams*](#) HBO 2008 (Miniseries)

[*The Patriot*](#) Sony Pictures 2000 (Feature film)

[*Black Patriots: Heroes of the Revolution*](#) History Channel 2020 (Documentary)

[*Mary Silliman's War*](#) Citadel Films 1994 (Made for TV movie)

[*Hamilton*](#) Disney+ 2020 (Musical stage play and film)

[*1776*](#) Columbia Pictures 1972 (Musical feature film)

[*Liberty!*](#) The American Revolution PBS 2004 (Docudrama)

Participating residents and management in the order they appear in the video.

Each responded to three questions:

- How long have you lived at Park Tower?
- Where were you born?
- Why did you volunteer to participate in this project?



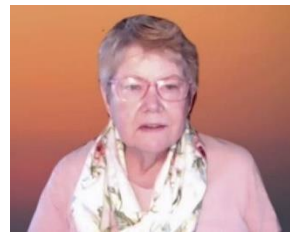
SUE BURKE

- Since March 2019
- Milwaukee, WI
To keep history alive.



TERRY GORMAN

- 27 years
- Manitowoc, WI
The document marks an important event in world history although, of course, it doesn't totally represent our current understanding of history.



LAURIE ROSENFELD

- Since March 2019
- Memphis, TN
To use my gift for oral interpretation to benefit the association.



EVE BROWNSTONE

- 2½ years
- Chicago
We need to come together as a country, especially given the circumstances this past year.

**RICHARD ROUSE**

- Since 2019
- Danville, IL

Seemed like a worthy project and made good use of my “voice over” recording experience.

**TIM PATRICIO**

- Park Tower’s property manager since 2014
- Pullman, WA

I think this is a great alternative to the 4th of July party – inventive, original and creative.

**GREGORY NIGOLIAN**

- 5 years
- Highland Park, MI

Glad for something beyond fireworks to celebrate the importance

of July 4 to the history of our county.

**VINCE DIFRUSCIO**

- Since 2003
- Miami, FL

Wanting to build the Park Tower community.

**SHERMAN LUNDY**

- 25 years
- Columbus, OH

I firmly believe in the principle values of the United States of America.

**DAVID FOLKES**

- 6 years
- Sydney, Australia

To support and treasure our democracy.

**JEAN SHAMO**

- 8 years full time
- Ypsilanti, MI

To support the Social Committee in this ambitious undertaking.

**LAURIE SHAMAN**

- 21 years
- Dayton, OH

Given that it’s been a very long time since I’ve read it, I did just that and also explored the National Archives website.

**RACHITA GUPTA**

- almost 2 years
- New Delhi, India

I wanted to be a part of America’s Independence Day and to say thank you to the country which is offering me endless growth opportunities.

**SHELDON ATOFSKY**

- 14 years
- Chicago, IL

I believe in the fundamental truths purported by the Declaration, extended to incorporate all people, and I wanted to celebrate the better

things about our nation.

**ELISA
PINZÒNUMAÑA**

- Since September 2020
- Colombia, South America

Since moving to Park Tower, I've taken an interest in the Social

Committee and wanted to contribute to this worthy project.

**BOB SHAMO**

- 8 years full time
- Mishawaka, IN

Long time member of the Social Committee, with a special

interest in building communications.

**PAM WOLL**

- 25 years
- Chicago

I like to read out loud, and my excerpt is ballsy(!)
