

# The Declaration of Independence and The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

by Dr. Catherine Millard © 2011, 2023

## The Declaration of Independence

the Constitution, and U.S. Bill of Rights form the foundational documents of our nation. These three original, signed documents are permanently on display in the Main Rotunda of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), an agency of the Executive Branch of government. The two historical personages most closely associated with these writings are Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence; and George Washington, first President of the United States.

Construction for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) building, designed by architect John Russell Pope, began in 1932, and was completed in 1937. Two 38-foot, 7-inch tall bronze doors, each weighing 6.5 tons, slide into the walls.

A large, circular, bronze design is embossed in the marble floor of the inner entranceway to the Rotunda. It symbolizes the purpose and function for the National Archives and Records Administration. The four allegorical, winged figures represent Legislation, Justice, History and War and Defense – indicative of the documents housed within this structure. Interestingly enough, God's magnificent Ten Commandments stand out in prominence with the Senate and Justice to the right, portraying America's legislative and judicial systems of government, and showing forth from whence the nation's power is derived.

**The Rotunda**, or Great Hall, houses three items of great value. These are the original, embossed parchments upon which the American Republic is based: The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. On December 15, 1952, they were removed from thermostated, mahogany and glass display cabinets in the historic Thomas Jefferson building of the Library of Congress, where they had been on display since 1921, and installed in the National Archives and Records Administration building on Constitution Avenue. The perfectly-legible **Declaration of Independence**, printed in black ink, was placed in a helium-filled bronze and glass display case at that time.



The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA),  
Washington, D.C.

## The Declaration of Independence – Targeted

Since its inception in 1984, *Christian Heritage Tours, Inc.* has watched the rapid disintegration and fading of this original document. The 56 signatures are no longer decipherable – its text illegible. Only the heading is now barely legible for the millions of history-loving Americans viewing their Charters of Freedom annually.

In stark contrast, both the 39 signatures, and text of the original Constitution are perfectly legible, in black ink. There is only one original Declaration of Independence in existence.

## The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is the forerunner to the U.S. Constitution. Composed by Thomas Jefferson, it begins with an acknowledgment that man's freedom and equality was bestowed upon him by Almighty God:

...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness...

A compilation of 27 grievances against the current power are then cited, after which a final conclusion is drawn:

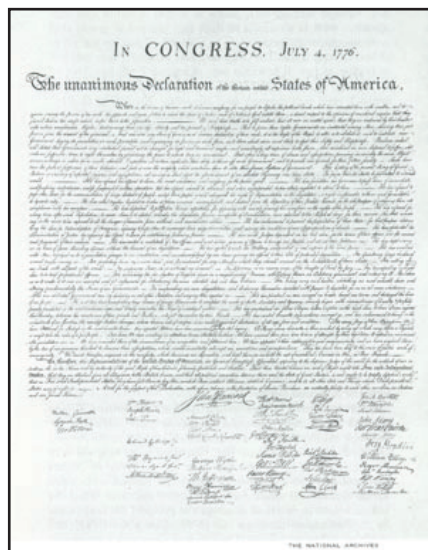
We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free and Independent states;...And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of

Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

Signed by order and in behalf of Congress, John Hancock, President, July 4th, 1776.



The only original Declaration of Independence, signed by 56 founding fathers, on permanent exhibition in the Main Rotunda of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. – as it now appears, Spring, 2016. It was placed in helium (a chemical gas which fades parchment) by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), an agency under the jurisdiction of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government. The wording and signatures are now totally illegible.



Photograph of the original Declaration of Independence taken in the National Archives in 1967.

The “**Frequently Asked Questions**” section of the National Archives and Records Administration’s 2011 Visitors’ Guide states,

### Why is the Declaration of Independence so faded?

#### NARA’s Answer:

“This parchment has been proudly displayed over many decades, including 10 years of exposure to sunlight opposite a window in the Patent Office Building. Today, it is sealed in the most scientifically advanced housing that preservation technology can provide.”

### Truth vs. Counterfeit

However, the Library of Congress Manuscript Division’s official documentation states that the **Declaration of Independence was displayed in the Patent Office from 1841-1876**, giving a detailed account of the Declaration’s whereabouts from 1776 to December 13, 1952, when it was transferred to the National Archives and Records and Administration building on Constitution Avenue. A photograph taken of the Declaration of Independence in 1967 shows that it was perfectly legible, in black ink, at that time. It states:

“The engrossed Declaration of Independence (on parchment)\* was assured by a resolution of the Continental Congress dated July 19, 1776. This resolution provided that the text be written on parchment to which ‘every Member of Congress’ should affix his signature. Most of the members signed on the 2nd of August, and the document became one of the official papers of Congress entrusted to its secretary, Charles Thomson...In 1789, with the National Government functioning under the Constitution, Charles Thomson relinquished his commission and the priceless papers in his charge. They were transferred to the Department of State, and the following year were taken once more to Philadelphia, the temporary capital. In 1800 they were transported to the new and permanent seat of Government, the federal city of Washington.

When British troops threatened the capital in the War of 1812, the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were concealed in an idle grist mill on the Virginia side of the Potomac. Thence they were carried to Leesburg, Virginia, where they remained until the period of danger was over. **The Declaration of Independence was displayed in the Patent Office from 1841-1876**; at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 and 1877, and in the State, War and Navy Building in Washington from 1877-1894.

On September 30, 1921, the two treasured documents were transferred to the Library of Congress (under the general authorization of the act of Congress of February 25, 1903). Formalities were observed in the Department of State, and the Honorable Charles Evans Hughes, Secretary of State, delivered the papers to Dr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress. On February 28, 1924, they were placed in the Shrine which has since sheltered them (Mezzanine Level of the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson building).\* The installation was solemnly effected in the presence of the President of the United States, the Secretary of State and a representative group from Congress. The Library of Congress reported: ‘The impression upon the audience proved the emotional potency of documents animate with a great tradition.’

During World War II – from December 26, 1941, to October 1, 1944 – prudence dictated their removal from the Shrine to Fort Knox, Kentucky.

**On December 13, 1952**, the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were transferred from the Library of Congress shrine to the **National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)**. The Declaration of Independence was placed in a helium-filled display cabinet.”

– Library of Congress Manuscript Division.

**Helium** is a chemical gas which yellows and fades parchment. Hence the Declaration’s faded and illegible appearance today. All 56 signatures and text have disappeared. A photograph taken of the **Declaration of Independence** in the National Archives and Records and Administration building’s Main Rotunda in 1967 shows

\*Author’s text in parentheses.



that both its text and fifty-six signatures were perfectly legible, in black ink, at that time.

No other nation possesses such a priceless document, which boldly declares that God created each American equal, endowing each person with certain unalienable rights, among which are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness...and supporting its affirmation with a firm reliance upon the protection of Divine Providence (Almighty God); the fifty-six signers pledging to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

What a tragedy to have witnessed this foremost document of America's history targeted – fading into oblivion while housed at the National Archives and Records Administration building (NARA), an agency of the White House, in the nation's capital.

### NARA's "David M. Rubenstein Records of Rights Gallery," circa 2013.

Regardless of Jefferson's **Declaration of Independence** being the legal charter of the United States (the U.S. Constitution, its bylaws), the "David M. Rubenstein Records of Rights Gallery" (circa 2013), prominently situated opposite the new, sub-level main entranceway into the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C., promotes a contradictory account, greeting visitors with,

The democratic aspiration is no mere recent phase in human history...It was written in Magna Carta.

– Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1941 Inaugural Address.

This proclamation appears to the right of Rubenstein's glass-encased 1297 A.D. Magna Carta, the "Confirmatio Chartarum" of King Edward I of England – the first

Magna Carta signed at Runnymede on June 15, 1215 A.D. by King John I being in the British Museum. Billionaire Rubenstein bought his 1297 Magna Carta at Sotheby's Auction House in New York for this permanent "David M. Rubenstein Records of Rights Gallery" Exhibit created at NARA in 2013, furnishing the National Archives and Records Administration (**NARA's tax exempt 501(c)3 Foundation with \$13.5 million for its implementation.**

Prior to entry into the "**David M. Rubenstein Records of Rights Gallery,**" on the outer, left-hand wall, an enlarged photograph of marchers dressed in white outfits with basher straw hats, greets the visitor. A large, central banner reads, "LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY, July 8, 1789" – the freemasons' slogan for the French "Reign of Terror" Revolution: "LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ, 8 juillet, 1789." (Commencement of the French Revolution). Of what influence was the 1789 French Revolution to the American Revolution of 1774-1781? According to historic records – none. However, photographs of violent protesters appear on screens within this exhibit. They merge intermittently with Barry Faulkner's famed murals, "Signing of the Declaration of Independence," and "Signing of the U.S. Constitution," (displayed in the 2nd floor's Main Rotunda above the three original Charters of Freedom), confusing modern-day marches and political protests with the American Republic's severance from Great Britain. Her laws and institutions, including the Magna Carta, were replaced by "the Creator, political Sovereign and Redeemer King" in these United States. *World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community* member and speaker, Rubenstein's Exhibit provides a powerful means of diverting American youth from their original "Three Charters of Freedom," permanently displayed in the 2nd floor's Main Rotunda, to the British Magna Carta and 20th/21st century Civil Rights Protest movements. This Exhibit is quite in keeping with the removal, de-emphasis



Original Charters of Freedom – Declaration of Independence (top display) and U.S. Constitution (lower display), Grand Foyer, National Archives, as they appeared prior to closure for "renovations" (2001-2005), after which the Declaration of Independence was moved to the left, extreme lower side.

The U.S. Constitution was centered, with a guard and a U.S. flag on either side, denoting predominance. The new, 2005, beveled inscriptions were carved into the original walls, the Declaration of Independence being removed from its original place of predominance, as the greatest Document of American history, upon which the U.S. Constitution is based. Photograph by John W. Wrigley © 1990.



and/or defamation of America’s heroic founders and their legacy of God-endowed freedoms – evidenced in modern-day history books nationwide.

## “David M. Rubenstein Records of Rights Gallery” created during October, 2013 Government Shutdown

Unbeknownst to the public, the “David M. Rubenstein Records and Rights Gallery” exhibit came into being during the two-week Obama Administration’s government shutdown in October, 2013, at which time the new opulent marble entranceway floors, walls, steps and exhibit were created! The National Archives and Records Administration’s Senior Guard told *Christian Heritage Tours, Inc.* that “workmen labored twenty-four hours around the clock during the two-week government shutdown” in order to complete this new configuration prior to the Archives’ reopening to the public.

## NARA’S Bookstore Promotes Far-left Political Authors and Views

“The David M. Rubenstein Records of Rights Gallery” museum exhibit is adjacent to NARA’S Bookstore, which promotes his leftist revisionist books and those of his “master historians,” so-named by him – including Jon Meacham (Chairman of *Monticello*, and member of the *Council on Foreign Relations*\* – of which Rubenstein is Chairman), as well as other like-minded books promoting Joseph Biden, Kamala Harris, Nancy Pelosi, Michelle Obama, and others. NARA’s Bookstore, formerly historical, is visited by millions of American students on their annual field trips. It now indoctrinates vulnerable youth with far-left political propaganda, to include a black T-shirt upon which the Declaration of Independence is imprinted, superimposed with freemasonic and illuminati symbols, and random numbers thereon, casting notoriety and ridicule upon the Declaration’s immortal words – contrary to the Christian conservative ideology exemplified by the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson, its author, had no connection whatever with either of these demonic symbols representing sorcery.

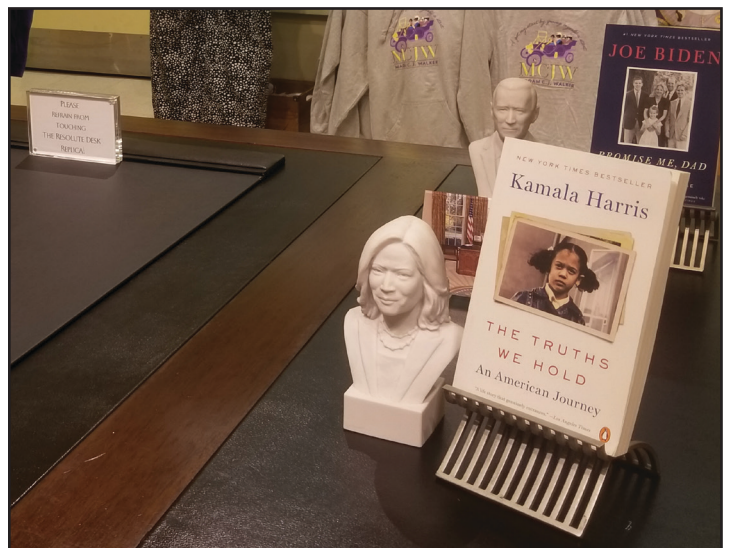
Men and women of America, it is now time to stand up and reverse this blatant leftist federal government political propaganda indoctrinating impressionable youth with biased, revisionist “history” in order to manipulate their minds with falsehoods while visiting their National Archives and Records Administration building (NARA). These school groups from the 50 United States come primarily to view and admire their Three Charters of Freedom– not to be victimized by far-left political ideological indoctrination and falsehoods.



NARA’s Bookstore prominently ridiculing and degrading the Declaration of Independence imprinted on a black T-shirt, with freemasonic and illuminati symbols, and random numbers emblazoned thereon; topped with a baseball cap reading, *National Treasure*.



NARA’s Bookstore shelves promote Far-left political authors and their views.



NARA’s Bookstore display tables promoting far-left political ideology. Books authored by Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and others.

\*The Council on Foreign Relations was founded in 1921 by Marxist Edward Mandell House, whose aim was to destroy the liberties and sovereignty of the United States for a world government.