



Ceremonial Dedication of the Liberty Tree and Historical Plaque to State of Michigan



**Michigan Veterans Memorial Park
925 W. Ottawa Street, Lansing, Michigan
Friday, April 26, 2024
2:00 PM**

**An Early 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Founding
of the United States of America by Patriots Signing the
Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, in
Philadelphia, PA**

Program

Welcome and Introductions	Compatriot Bob Craig
Presentation of The Colors	MISSAR Vice Commander Robert Hawcroft MISSAR Color Guard American Legion Grand Ledge Post Honor Guard
Invocation	MISSAR Chaplain John Thurber
<i>The Star Spangled Banner</i>	Lansing Concert Band Brass Quintet & Drummer
Pledge of Allegiance	Vietnam War Veteran Jack Devine
Posting of The Colors	
SAR Pledge	All SAR Members
Liberty Tree Historical Context	NSSAR Vice President General Lakes District and Wheaton Chapter President David VanHooft
Remarks	DAR of Michigan State Regent Kelly VanWormer Member of America250MI Committee
Remarks	State Commander Brian Mohlman
Remarks	American Legion, Michigan State Council Former National Officer Mr. Jack DeVine Vietnam Veterans of America
Message from the Governor of Michigan	
Michigan Legislative Tribute	The Honorable Sam Singh Senate Majority Floor Leader
<i>Amazing Grace</i>	Compatriot Bagpiper Ronald Barnard
Remarks	MISSAR State President Joe Williams
Inspirational Moment for Liberty Tree and Environmental Education	Michigan CAR President, Ms. Parker Hagle
Introduction	MISSAR Central Michigan Chapter President Don Rothenberger
MISSAR State Knight Essay Contest Winner	Mr. Louis Huang H. H. Dow High School

Unveiling of Liberty Tree Plaque and Liberty Tree

Introduction of Military Honors	Compatriot Bob Craig
Full Military Honors	
21 Gun Salute	American Legion Grand Ledge Post Veterans
Cannon Volleys	MISSAR Artillery Commander Larry Blackett & Crew
ECHO TAPS	Buglers from Lansing Concert Band Brass Quintet
Spreading Liberty by Partners Planting 100 Liberty Trees Across Michigan	Kurt Wolf, Executive Director Clinton Conservation District
Conclusion	Compatriot Bob Craig
SAR Recessional	All SAR Members
Benediction	Compatriot John Thurber
Retiring The Colors	

Eastern White Pine Tree seedlings are available to all attendees following the conclusion of the ceremony. Planting the seedlings in local sites is encouraged to further spread Liberty and celebrate America's 250th Anniversary.

**Prior to Beginning of Program and Following Conclusion
Patriotic and Religious Music by Lansing Concert Band Brass
Quintet, Drummer John Craig and Bagpiper Ronald Barnard**

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All.

SAR Pledge

We descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution who, by their sacrifices, established the United States of America, reaffirm our faith in the principles of Liberty and our Constitutional Republic, and solemnly pledge ourselves to defend them against every foe.

Recessional

Until we meet again, let us remember our obligations to our forefathers, who gave us our Constitution, the Bill of Rights, an independent Supreme Court and a Nation of Free Men.

Special Appreciation

NSSAR George Washington Endowment Fund
National Society of Sons of the American Revolution
Michigan Society of Sons of the American Revolution (MISSAR)
Daughters of the American Revolution of Michigan
Lansing Chapter, NSDAR
MISSAR Pvt. Ephraim Wheaton Chapter
MISSAR Central Michigan Chapter
Lansing Concert Band Brass Quintet, Drummer John Craig and MISSAR
Bagpiper Ronald Barnard
American Legion, Michigan State Council
Vietnam Veterans of America, Michigan State Council
Plum Line Landscaping and Peter Motz, St. Johns
Clinton Conservation District
Michigan Dept. of Technology, Management and Budget
Michigan Veterans Memorial Park Commission
American Legion, Grand Ledge Post
America250MI Committee
Arbor Day Foundation
Michigan Association of FFA, State FFA Officers

Text on Liberty Tree Plaque

THE LIBERTY TREE

Large trees in towns all across the American Colonies were popular meeting places. The “Liberty Tree” of varying species soon became a rallying point for colonists protesting the rule of Britain over the American Colonies. The celebration of the Founding of America period begins when the British imposed the Stamp Act in 1765 to the signing of the Treaty of Paris which ended the American Revolutionary War in 1783.

The planting of this Liberty Tree (Jefferson Elm) and erection of this Plaque recognizes the 250th Anniversary celebration of July 4, 1776, when the United States Declaration of Independence was published by the Continental Congress.

Funding for this Liberty Tree and Marker made possible by grants from NSSAR George Washington Endowment Fund, MISSAR, Pvt. Ephraim Wheaton Chapter, Central Michigan Chapter and Veteran Partner Donors American Legion of Michigan and Vietnam Veterans of America, Michigan State Council.

Placed in Celebration of the Nation’s 250th Anniversary in 2026.
2024

