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Declaration of Independence to Be Read at Ft. George on July 4

By Mirror Staff

The Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance will host a ceremonial reading of the Declaration of Independence at the ruins of Fort George on Friday, July 4, at 11 am.

The public ceremony will include the distribution of copies of the Declaration and feature re-enactors from Fort William Henry in 18th century military garb.

Constructed by the British in 1759, Fort George was captured by patriot forces on May 11, 1775. While there is no record of the Declaration being read to Continental soldiers at the fort after its ratification on July 4, 1776, the fortification and surrounding land in what is now Lake George Battlefield Park played a key role for the newly established nation as the site of army's largest hospital beginning on July 10.

The hospital eventually served over 3,000 patients that summer, victims of smallpox. The remains of 44 individuals that will be reinterred next May in Lake George Battlefield Park are believed to have perished from the pox at the Fort George hospital.

"Other than the Constitution, there is no more important

document in American history than the Declaration of Independence. It is well that we hear the words of America's founding document, and appreciate the risk to those who signed it, to ensure we remain true to our foundational principles," said Alliance Trustee Bob Wilcox, who will moderate the program.

The Battlefield Park is located on Fort George Road, Lake George, across the Lake George Battlefield Park Visitor Center, which will be open from 10 am to 4 pm on July 4.