



Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island

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PRESS RELEASE

Founder's Day Ceremony to Continue 350th Anniversary Commemoration

North Kingstown, RI —While the 350th Anniversary Speaker Series and associated community events will continue as scheduled and publicized through the end of the 2024 calendar year, the upcoming Founder's Day Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2024, will be the final signature event of the Town of North Kingstown's 350th Anniversary event calendar.

Founder's Day has been planned by the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee to mark the historic establishment of the Town of North Kingstown, which occurred on Wednesday, October 28, 1674. The public is welcome to attend the 45-minute ceremony which will be in the second floor Council Chambers at the historic Town Hall (80 Boston Neck Road).

The Founder's Day ceremony will be emceed by A. Ralph Mollis, Town Manager, who will welcome attendees to hear the two winning essays of the 350th Anniversary Student Essay Contest, one by middle schooler Annaliese Conney, and another by North Kingstown High Schooler Suhani Srivastava. Each will be awarded a monetary prize for winning the contest amongst their peers. Following a parading of the colors by the 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, Sons of Veterans Reserve/Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Pastor Evan Howard of the First Baptist Church will provide the event's invocation. Later in the ceremony, Mr. Howard will premiere a 5-minute video he produced with drone operator and videographer Peter Vogt, celebrating the North Kingstown community and its assets. The 350th Anniversary Steering Committee Chairperson, Matt McCoy, will present limited edition brass challenge coins produced to commemorate the 350th Anniversary, to Randy Wietman, President of HistWick, a local non-profit organization that has been critical to the success of the fundraising and events commemorating this significant community milestone, and others. The Founder's Day ceremony will conclude outside with a Tree Dedication by Michael Donohue, the member of the 350th Anniversary Steering Committee largely behind the Heritage Tree Program that takes credit for the planting of a Linden Tree in publicly accessible location within each North Kingstown village as a gift to future generations.

Please contact Kate Glass, Executive Assistant and Director of Communications, in the Office of the Town Manager (kglass@northkingstownri.gov) with any questions. More information on HistWick, the non-profit fiduciary supporter of the events and heritage of the town's 350th Anniversary, including how to become a member, can be found on their website: www.histwick.org. For a complete list of 350th Anniversary events remaining in the 2024 calendar year, please visit <https://www.northkingstownri.gov/997/Calendar-of-Events>.

To purchase a remaining, limited edition 350th Anniversary brass challenge coin, visit the Office of the Town Clerk during business hours at 100 Fairway Drive while supplies last.

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