National Park Service
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WWII Valor in the Pacific
National Monument

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Valor in the Pacific-News Release

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Rare, Original Copy of The Declaration of Independence on exhibit at Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, April 19 and 20

Rare document showcased as part of a multimedia exhibit featuring an extraordinary 14-minute film, produced at the Independence Hall in Philadelphia, in which a distinguished group of actors perform a powerful theatrical presentation of the document.

(Honolulu-Hawaii)— The community is invited to view one of only 25 remaining, original copies of the Declaration of Independence. This rare artifact will be on exhibit at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, April 19 and 20, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. The exhibit also features an entertaining and educational video hosted by actor Reese Witherspoon explaining the history of the Declaration and its relevance to contemporary America. Also showing is a 14-minute film, produced by Norman Lear and Rob Reiner at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.This film, which is powerful theatrical presentation of the document, features Mel Gibson, Benicio Del Toro, Michael Douglas, Morgan Freeman and Rene Zellweger.

Admission is free. Visitors will also have access to the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center's new museum, exhibits, expanded bookstore, audio tour and USS *Arizona* Memorial public tour. Free tickets for the USS *Arizona* Memorial public tours are distributed daily on a first-come, first-served basis, with tours available from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

This rare copy of the Declaration of Independence was one of approximately 200 copies printed on the night of July 4, 1776 by Philadelphia printer John Dunlap. As of 1989, only 24 copies of the Dunlap broadsides were known to exist, until a flea market shopper bought a framed painting for four dollars. While inspecting a tear in the painting, the owner discovered a folded Dunlap broadside behind it.

This 25th copy of the Dunlap broadside was authenticated by Sotheby's and an independent expert. In June 2000, producer Norman Lear and his wife Lyn purchased the document on Sotheby's online auction for $8 million and formed the Declaration of Independence Road Trip. Lear's goal for the ten-year, cross-country tour was to exhibit in all 50 States, bringing the "People's Document" directly to Americans – especially young people – to inspire them to participate in civic activism, to exercise their rights and, above all, to vote.
Hawaii will be 44th State on The Declaration of Independence Road Trip tour.

For more information on the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, contact the National Park Service at (808) 422-3300 or visit www.nps.gov/valr/