New Book Celebrates Independence Day at Monticello

The pageantry and patriotism that are the hallmarks of July 4 at Monticello have been captured in a new book published by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

_The Great Birthday of Our Republic: Celebrating Independence Day at Monticello_ presents a collection of images from the annual festivities and some of the moving words that have been spoken from the steps of Jefferson’s mountaintop home on the Fourth of July.

The 80-page hardcover book features 61 photographs from the Fourth of July at Monticello, which has been the site of a naturalization ceremony for new U.S. citizens every year since 1963.

Also featured are the texts of 14 Independence Day speeches delivered at Monticello, including those by Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt (1936), Harry S. Truman (1947), and Gerald R. Ford (1976); astronomer Carl Sagan (1992); historian David McCullough (1994); Coca-Cola Company Chairman Roberto C. Goizueta (1995); Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Colin L. Powell (1997); Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright (2000); and author Frank McCourt (2001).

_The Great Birthday of Our Republic_ also includes a preface by its editor, Laura Malkin; an introduction by Foundation President Daniel P. Jordan; and the text of the Declaration of Independence.

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Birthday Book

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Publication of The Great Birthday of Our Republic was made possible by the initiative and support of the Peter Malkin family of New York. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation regularly publishes both scholarly studies and general-audience books about Monticello, Jefferson, his life, and his times. Foundation publications are available in bookstores, at the two Monticello Museum Shops, online through the Web site www.monticello.org, and by telephone at (800) 243-1743. The University of North Carolina Press of Chapel Hill, N.C., is the exclusive trade distributor for Foundation publications.