



Sent to Reporter

from the office of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

news:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 1975

ARCHBISHOP MANOOGIAN PARTICIPATES IN THE OPENING OF NEW YORK CITY'S OBSERVANCE OF 200 YEARS OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

On Thursday, May 22, on the opening of N.Y.C.'s Observance of the Bicentennial of the Independence of the U.S.A., His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, accompanied by the Canon Sacrist of St. Vartan Cathedral, participated at the opening ceremonies with church and civic dignitaries from New York City. At 11 a.m. at St. Paul's Chapel, Trinity Parish, where George Washington had prayed, a religious observance was held in front of the chapel where the Mayor of New York City, The Honorable Abraham Beame, laid a wreath in memory of those who gave their lives for the independence of our country.

His Eminence Terence Cardinal Cooke, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of the Greek Orthodox Church, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, His Grace Bishop J. S. Wetmore, Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Church of New York, Rabbi Usher Kirshblum and leaders of the New York City Council of Churches took part in this religious observance.

The religious dignitaries then viewed the colorful parade, which led to the City Hall park where the civil ceremonies took place. The Declaration of Independence was read by Mr. Walter Cronkite, and Marian Anderson narrated during the singing of the All City Chorus. A picture of Archbishop Manoogian and the other church leaders appeared in the New York Times the following day.

The invitation to His Eminence Archbishop Manoogian was extended by the Mayor of New York City.

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Rec'd

The New York City
Bicentennial Corporation
355 Lexington Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017
212 490 8560



Mayor Abraham D. Beame
Honorary Chairman
Mr. J. Clarence Davies, Jr.
Chairman and President
Dr. Ronald Lee Gaudreau
Executive Vice President

April 11, 1975

The Right Reverend Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Archbishop Manoogian:

I am writing you on behalf of the Mayor of New York to ask that you be present and participate in the opening ceremony of the City's observance of the Nation's 200th Anniversary on Thursday, May 22, 1975. Representatives of the religious community will gather at St. Paul's Chapel, Broadway and Vesey Street, at 10:15 a.m. This will give you ample time to vest and move in procession to the steps of the Chapel to greet the Mayor where he will lay a wreath in memory of those who have died in the defense of our liberties.

Following this, representatives of the religious community will escort the Mayor to City Hall Park where the ceremony continues.

This is an extremely important day in the life of our City. The events which are planned throughout the day and during the following week, will establish the style, the seriousness and the emphasis which will mark our observance of the Bicentennial. The historic contribution of religion in determining the quality of life and its pastoral and prophetic ministry are essential to the health of the City. Your presence and that of the other religious dignitaries will witness to the vitality of the religious communities' commitment to the City and to those values which give meaning to our lives.

Within the next few weeks, a formal invitation will be sent to you by the Mayor. However, for the press releases and the programs it is important that we know as soon as possible that you plan to accept the Mayor's invitation.

With every good wish.

Sincerely yours,

J. Clarence Davies, Jr.
J. Clarence Davies, Jr.
Chairman

JCD/sc

Please contact: The Reverend Richard R. Kirk
Director of Festival Programs
TEL: 490-8560

*Called Friday April 18 to say yes (Sidney Jackson - sec)
call after 20 10.1 May 5 OK*