THOMAS JEFFERSON DECLARES -

The Story of the Declaration of Independence By Jonathan Kruk, Master Storyteller

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Master storyteller Jonathan Kruk reads the Declaration of Independence during the city of White Plains centennial celebration in 2016.

Mark Vergari/The Journal News / USA TODAY NETWORK

The Declaration of Independence is more than the "birth certificate of the United States." It is a sacred guide to our national principles. It defines the truths we hold to be self-evident and rights we assert as inalienable. It states the why causes We the People have to establish and change our government. Thus, during "trying times" it shows us how to purse happiness.

Jonathan Kruk, the Hudson Valley storyteller, portrays Thomas Jefferson giving a dramatic reading of the document. We see and feel the passion the Founding Fathers had for liberty and independence. He then shares stories of Jefferson's sources from John Locke to John Jay, to John Adams and Ben Franklin.

Kruk a.k.a Jefferson details why King George III was a tyrant. Audiences will get Jefferson's perspective on why the new nation could not in ban slavery in 1776. They will see in spite of modern criticism what made Jefferson's Declaration a progressive proclamation for the rights of all people, and a template for today's "trying times."

- ~ Jonathan Kruk portrays in period garb, Thomas Jefferson, giving a dramatic reading of *The Declaration of Independence*.
 - ~ The origin story, sources and controversies of the document are shared.

~ Q & A with Jefferson.