



Supreme Court of Illinois

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JUSTICE KARMEIER TO PRESENT REMARKS AT 46TH ANNUAL PATRIOTIC CEREMONY ON JULY 4TH AT FORT KASKASKIA

Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier of the Illinois Supreme Court will speak at the 46th Annual Patriotic Ceremony on July 4 at Fort Kaskaskia.

The ceremony, which will be at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, celebrates Independence Day and the day Kaskaskia was liberated from the British by American Colonel George Rogers Clark. Kaskaskia, Illinois' first state capital, was at the center of French colonial activity in the area in the 18th century.

The event is typically held at the Kaskaskia Bell Memorial, the home of the Liberty Bell of the West, but high water has moved it to Fort Kaskaskia, just outside Chester in downstate Randolph County.

The Liberty Bell of the West weighs half as much as the better-known Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, but is slightly older. King Louis XV of France sent the 650-pound bell to Kaskaskia as a gift in 1741.

Originally housed in a church, the bell is now displayed in a brick building at a state historic site administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

During his remarks at the July 4 ceremony, Justice Karmeier will discuss the history and importance of Kaskaskia and its Liberty Bell, as well as the Magna Carta and Independence Day.

The ceremony will include remarks from the mayor of Perryville and others, a re-enactment and patriotic music. It is being sponsored by the Chester Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, the City of Chester, the Kaskaskia Church Foundation and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

Media coverage is invited.

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