



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**The official home of the North Carolina Fourth of July Celebration
INVITES THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNITY PLEDGE**

SOUTHPORT-OAK ISLAND AREA, NC –A celebration of America’s Independence from Great Britain would not be complete without a salute to the United States Flag, what has come to represent the freedoms we enjoy in this country. The US Flag was originally created by a Continental Congress act establishing an official flag of the nation. Our Founding Fathers “Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” Throughout America’s history the flag has flown over many cultural and economic revolutions and stars and stripes have been added as the nation grew.

The day of July 4th is full of patriotic events to include a special reading of the Declaration of Independence by local resident, Lee Norris. A flag raising ceremony with the singing of the National Anthem by Ron Thompson. And a flag folding tutorial by Boy Scout Troop #238. And at the time we would normally be together to watch the world-famous parade, we will offer the framework for a community wide pledge.

We invite the public to join in a community wide pledge on July 4th beginning at 11 a.m. Listen for the bells which will ring out from local churches to mark the beginning of the Community Pledge at 11 a.m. At 11:03 step out of your building or stop where you are at and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The Community Pledge will be closed by the sounds of sirens and horns at 11:05.

A special thanks to the City of Southport, the Southport Fire Department and the Lions Club who will be decorating Southport in patriotic flags and streamers to mark the holiday. Thank you to [The Village Chapel of Bald Head Island](#), [1st Baptist Church of Southport](#), [Generations Church](#), [St. Philip's Episcopal Church](#), [Southport Baptist Church](#), [Southport Presbyterian Church](#), and [Trinity United Methodist Church](#) for the ringing of the bells.

Virtual Festival dates are July 2-July 4, 2020. “Like” the official 4th Of July Facebook page to watch and participate: <https://www.facebook.com/nc4thofjulyfestival/>. View the entire VIRTUAL Festival schedule and contests <http://www.nc4thofjuly.com>.

Photo credit: Cathy St.George Johnstone