

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

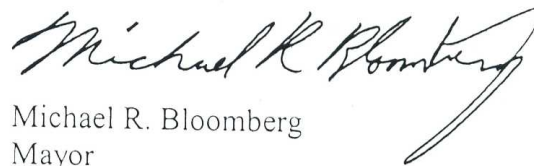
January 2003

The Liberty Bell has a long, rich history dating back to 1751 and everyday tourists visit this treasured icon of American freedom. Soon visitors will be able to view this important symbol of Americana at the new Liberty Bell Center in Philadelphia, where it will continue to teach us about our nation's history and inspire people from around the world.

This year we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Liberty Bell's arrival in Philadelphia and the timeless message it represents. Since before the birth of our nation, the Bell has weathered many crises both physically, as seen in its famous gap, and also symbolically, as wars and political upheavals took place in its midst. On September 11, 2001, our values were challenged by a senseless act of violence and once again the Liberty Bell stood strong as a symbol of independence.

Today we are more dedicated than ever to building a bigger and better city that honors the memory of those we lost on that tragic day. Most importantly, we are defending the ideals of freedom and opportunity that New York City and the United States represent to people throughout the world. On behalf of the City of New York, I thank all those who stood with us in our time of need. With the extraordinary efforts of our uniformed officers and the men and women of the armed forces, we will ensure the safety and preserve the liberties of all Americans.

The Portrait of Freedom: 250th Anniversary of the Liberty Bell illustrates our nation's history, celebrates our freedom and honors the brave men and women who defend our global interests. I am honored to join with all those who have contributed to this publication and commend your dedication to the vitality of the American spirit.


Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor