

TOP STORY SPOTLIGHT

Guilford time capsule celebration is 'a word to the next America'

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Apr 22, 2026

Several 2025 pennies were among the first items donated to fill a time capsule scheduled to be sealed later this year in celebration of the country's 250th birthday.

The U.S. Mint stopped producing pennies last year and on Saturday they were unveiled along with a furniture catalogue, Greensboro Gargoyles hockey puck and memorabilia from High Point University as part of the America 250-Guilford County time capsule.

The capsule is scheduled to be opened in 50 years and its planning joins in with activities taking place across the country in commemoration of the Declaration of Independence, which was adopted on July 4, 1776.

"In 50 years people might not know what a penny is," said Sarah Lanse, chair of the Guilford committee.

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Period reenactors, members of the Native American community — with a message that "We are still here," from Jennifer Revels Baxter of the Guilford Native American Association — and others joined in for the time capsule's dedication.

The group is soliciting other items through the end of the year. An online form is available at **America250guilford.com**.

The time capsule won't be buried, with the committee opting to have it stored at the High Point Museum in the High Point Historical Society's Collection Storage, where organizers said it won't fall prey to the elements seeping in and faded memories on where it was actually buried.

"I hope that some of you will be here," quipped keynote speaker Jay Callahan, as he spoke to the children in the room about coming back for the unveiling. An expert on military history and a former adviser for The Patriot, the storyteller had taken the audience on a journey through the last 250 years.

The Rev. Darryl Aaron of Providence Baptist Church in Greensboro, gave a community blessing, acknowledging the country's 'complicated story.' "

"Let's say a word to the next America, to you who will open this capsule in a future we can only imagine," Aaron said. "We speak to you with hope, the same hope that carried our ancestors through the storms they did not choose, and the struggles that they did not deserve. Hope has been a quiet drum beat beneath every chapter in America's long and complicated story."

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