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To our good friends in France on July 14, Bastille day, "Bonne fête nationale!"
May France be free forever.

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Independence Day festivities at the
Kalkaska Senior Center

By Tina Norris Fields

Kalkaska, July 2, 2026 - In preparation for the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence,a commemoration event was held at the Kalkaska County Commission on Aging Senior Center, that was both solemn and joyous.

In solemnity and reverence, a color guard unit from the Kalkaska American Legion Post 480 presented the flag and led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance, then seven-year-old Hallie Golden sang the Star Spangled Banner. Three historical and patriotic videos offered inspiration. A prayer of thanks was offered before staff members began delivering luncheon plates to the crowd.

That's when the joyous portion began. Dominic Fortuna entertained the crowd whit selections reaching all the way back into the 1630s and coming forward to some of today's modern country music. Songs from Creedence Clearwater Revival, Seals & Crofts, England Dan, The Temptations, and other favorites kept the fun going. Dominic ended his show with a rollicking dance tune that got the crowd out on the floor.

There was a solid, solemn yet jubilant flavor to the entire celebration.

