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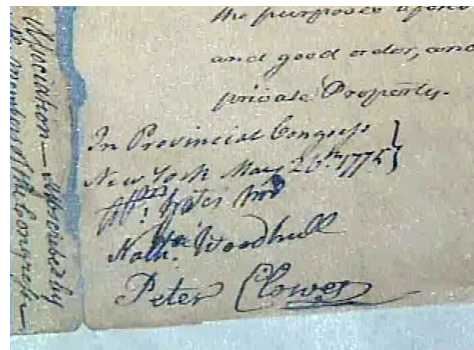
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State treasures put on permanent display at Capitol

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 By: Bill Lambdin



ALBANY - Gov. Cuomo's reminder of the the impressive history of New York's leadership in his State of the State address is still practically echoing through the halls of the Capitol.

"We built that Empire State Building, 102 stories. We did it in 400 days in the middle of a depression. We built the Erie Canal. It opened up the entire west to commerce. We declared independence from Britain before they (colonists) signed the Declaration of Independence. We birthed the Women's Suffrage Movement. The Workers Rights Movement. The Environmental Movement. All were born in this state. In this Capitol. By this government," the governor said in his address Wednesday.

Now state officials have taken action so that all Albany Capitol visitors can see how the Empire State has led.

The Hall of Governors has been reorganized. The polished stone walls now hold dozens of yearly markers -- including 1879, the year Woolworth opened the first five and dime in Utica; 1969, the Woodstock Music and Arts Festival; 1981, the launch of MTV.

Governors who became president, including the Roosevelts -- cousins Teddy and Franklin -- are seen facing each other.

"I'm amazed how many governors in New York State went on to do other great things for the country," said Seth Lieberman, who was looking at the display while waiting to argue a case at the Court of Appeals.

By consensus, Cuomo accomplished a great deal in his first year as governor, but one thing he didn't manage was convincing his own father, Mario, to sit and pose for his official portrait that would go right between Hugh Carey and George Pataki on the reorganized display the current governor helped organize.

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