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History Takes the Field: Historic Augusta and Meadow Garden Bring Living History to the Augusta GreenJackets

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AUGUSTA, Ga. (June 26, 2026) — Historic Augusta, Inc. and Historic Meadow Garden invite the community to celebrate Independence Day with a unique blend of baseball and American history at the **Augusta GreenJackets** game on **Saturday, July 4, at 6:35 p.m.**

As the steward of the **Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson**, Historic Augusta is partnering with the **Augusta GreenJackets** to celebrate one of Augusta's most notable historical figures. As a boy growing up in Augusta, **"Tommy" Wilson** developed a love for baseball, organizing neighborhood games and captaining his own team, the **Lightfoots**, before later becoming the **first U.S. president** to throw a ceremonial first pitch.

Young interpreter **Rylen Peek**, a member of the **Augusta Players Jr. League**, will portray **"Tommy" Wilson**, the childhood nickname of **President Woodrow Wilson**. Dressed in **1880s-inspired period attire**, Rylen will bring the future president's boyhood to life, sharing Wilson's love of baseball and his years growing up in Augusta.

George Walton was just 26 years old when he signed the Declaration of Independence. He lived here in Augusta at **Meadow Garden** from 1791 to 1804. George started his life very differently than most of the founding generation. He was orphaned at a young age and apprenticed with a builder but changed his life to become a successful lawyer and play an important role in the American Revolution. Though he probably never played baseball, **George Walton** will step up to sign the ball for **"Tommy" Wilson** as we explore our Augusta history for America250.

Local attorney **Carlton Powers** will portray **George Walton** who, in addition to signing the Declaration, had a successful legal and judicial career in early Georgia, serving as Chief Justice of the state. Powers will also portray Walton and perform a reading of the Declaration of Independence to kick off **Independence Day at Meadow Garden**.

The pregame ceremony will feature a symbolic connection between Augusta's Revolutionary and presidential history. The commemorative baseball will first be signed by **George Walton**, representing one of Georgia's signers of the Declaration of Independence then will be presented to **"Tommy" Wilson**, who will take the mound to throw the **ceremonial first pitch**.

"This partnership brings together two important chapters of Augusta's history through one of America's favorite traditions," said Erick Montgomery, Executive Director of Historic Augusta. "We're excited to share these stories with families in a fun and memorable way."

Fans are encouraged to visit the Historic Augusta and Meadow Garden exhibits located in the concourse to explore artifacts, learn more about Augusta's history, meet the interpreters, and take photos throughout the evening.

Tickets are available now through the Augusta GreenJackets website or box office.

About Historic Augusta

Historic Augusta is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and sharing Augusta's historic sites and structures. Historic Augusta operates the historic house museum of the **Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson**, where visitors can explore the early life of the nation's 28th president and discover Augusta's important role in American history.

About Meadow Garden

Meadow Garden, home of George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, is a historic house museum and National Landmark owned and operated by the Georgia State Society, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Since opening in 1901, Meadow Garden has shared the story of American Independence and is now proud to celebrate 125 years of preservation.

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