

Boxing Returns to Aladdin For First Time in Five Years Sunday, July 5

Professional boxing returns to the new Aladdin Hotel and Casino for the first time since 1982 with a 10-round nationally televised super featherweight bout between former World Boxing Council featherweight champion Juan LaPorte and slugger Lupe Suarez Sunday, July 5.

LaPorte becomes the 12th world champion to fight at the Aladdin since the resort hotel-casino held its first bout in 1976.

Some of the biggest names in the sport during the 1970s and 1980s have fought at the Aladdin, including three-time world champions Alexis Arguello, Roberto Duran and Thomas Hearns.

Other world champions who have been in action at the Aladdin include Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini, Edwin Rosario, Leon Spinks, Richard Sandoval, Bruce Curry, Art Frias, Rafael "Bazooka" Limon and Rolando Navarrete.

The most recent fight at the Aladdin was on May 29, 1982, when Limon won the WBC junior lightweight championship by knocking out and dethroning Navarrete in the 12th round.

The winner of the LaPorte-Suarez fight could go on and



Juan LaPorte

fight for the vacant WBC super featherweight title in his next outing. LaPorte, ranked No. 1 among 130-pounders by the WBC, is the top contender for the super featherweight championship left vacant when Julio Cesar Chavez relinquished his crown and moved up to the

lightweight division. Suarez is rated No. 1 by the United States Boxing Association.

The card, promoted by Madison Square Garden Boxing in association with the Aladdin, will be held in the Aladdin Theatre For The Performing Arts.

Doors to the Theatre open at noon with the first bout beginning at 12:30 p.m. The LaPorte-Suarez main event starts at approximately 2.

LaPorte, originally from Puerto Rico but now living in Brooklyn, N.Y., has a record of 29-7 with 15 knockouts while Suarez, from Corpus Christi, Texas, has a mark of 22-1 with 18 knockouts.

The 27-year-old LaPorte won the WBC featherweight championship on Sept. 15, 1982, with a 10th-round knockout of Mario Miranda.

The LaPorte-Suarez bout will be nationally televised live by CBS on its "Sports Sunday" show. The live telecast will be blacked out in Southern Nevada.

LaPorte successfully defended twice, decisioning Ruben Castillo on Feb. 20, 1983, and then doing the same to Johnny de la Rosa on June 25.

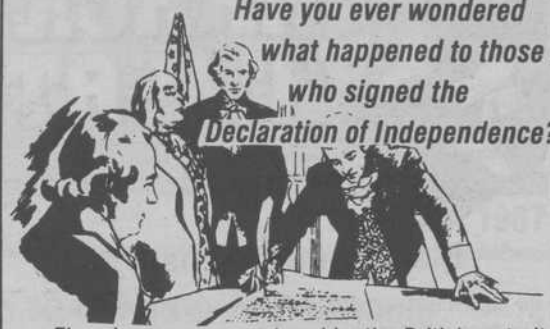
LaPorte, who turned pro at age 17, also has fought for the World Boxing Association featherweight title and the WBC super featherweight crown. He dropped a close verdict, losing by just one point on two of the three judges' scorecards, to WBC 130-pound champion Chavez last Dec. 12. LaPorte has won both his fights since.

Suarez, a hard hitter, has won his past three fights by knockout. The 26-year-old was ranked No. 6 by the WBC while campaigning as a featherweight.

The undercard will be announced later.

THE PRICE THEY PAID

Have you ever wondered what happened to those men who signed the Declaration of Independence?



Five signers were captured by the British as traitors. At least a dozen of the fifty-six had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Continental Army. Another had two sons captured. Several took part in various battles of the American Revolution, and many suffered wounds or other physical hardships.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-five were lawyers or jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers or large plantation owners. These were men of means and education. Yet they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty could be death if they were captured.

When these courageous men signed, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the cause of freedom and independence.

Richard Stockton returned to New Jersey in the fall of 1776 to find the state overrun by the enemy. He removed his wife to safety but was himself captured. His home, his fine library, his writings — all were destroyed. Stockton was so badly treated in prison that his health was ruined, and he died before the war's end.

Carter Braxton was a wealthy planter and trader. One by one his ships were captured by the British navy. He loaned a large sum of money to the American cause; it was never paid back. He was forced to sell his plantations and mortgage his other properties to pay his debts.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he had to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Continental Congress without pay, and kept his family in hiding.

Vandals or soldiers or both looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Heyward, Middleton, Harrison, Hopkinson and Livingston.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the family home for his headquarters. Nelson urged General George Washington to open fire on his own home. This was done, and the home was destroyed. Nelson later died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis also had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife for two months, and that and other hardships from the war so affected her health that she died only two years later.

"Honest John" Hart was driven from his wife's bedside when she was near death. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. Hart's fields and his grist mill were laid waste. While eluding capture, he never knew where his bed would be the next night. He often slept in forests and caves. When he returned home, he found that his wife had died, and his children were gone.

Such are the stories and sacrifices of those who risked everything to sign The Declaration of Independence. These men were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

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