



Monday Matters

July 7, 2014

A Time To Celebrate

This weekend we celebrate our country's 238th birthday. As with all birthdays, we tend to look back over the years and remember some of what has transpired during that time. The events and memories we have would fill libraries with books upon books. I found a few facts that I wanted to share:

- In 1870, Congress makes July 4th a national holiday.
- In 1884, France gave us the Statue of Liberty on July 4th.
- In 1912, Denmark first began celebrating our independence because so many immigrants from Denmark came to the U.S.
- Three presidents died on July 4th: John Adams in 1826, Thomas Jefferson also in 1826, and James Monroe in 1831.
- Calvin Coolidge, our 30th president, was born on July 4th in 1872.

As the Second Continent Congress was approving the wording of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote to his wife these words: "You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration and support and defend these States. Yet, through all the gloom, I can see rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth

all the means. And that posterity will triumph in that day's transactions, even although we should rue it, which I trust God we shall not."

Whenever we think or celebrate our country's birth, I'm sure most of the times we don't think of the sacrifice those men made, along with their families and citizens, to help create this country. It cost the lives of many people so that our country then and now could be independent and free. Over the past 238 years there have been numerous wars and hundreds of thousands of lives sacrificed to maintain our freedom. Let us not forget.



God Bless the U.S.A. by Lee Greenwood

The last paragraph of the Declaration of Independence states: "We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political Connection between them and the State of Great-Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which INDEPENDENT STATES may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

It would seem that today we are in need of making a second declaration. I believe the basis of that declaration can come from 2 Chronicles, Chapter 7, Verse 14 where it says, "If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

Again, let us not forget the principles this country was founded on. Have a great July 4th weekend.

RN



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