



Independence Day

On July 2nd 1776 the Second Continental Congress voted to declare the thirteen American Colonies a new and independent nation; free from the rule of the British Empire. On July 4th, a congressional committee of five people met to draft the Declaration of Independence. Those five men were John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston and Roger Sherman. It was decided that Thomas Jefferson would write it.

In a letter to his wife Abigail, John Adams wrote, "This day ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade.....from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." If you want to read a great book about John and Abigail Adams, try "Abigail & John: Portrait of a Marriage". It is a collection of letters between the two that reads like a history book from the perspective of a man and wife completely committed to the liberty of our new nation with all the pain, sacrifices and separation that commitment brought to their marriage and family. The personal sacrifices our more present political leaders are expected to make pale in comparison. That is all I will say about that.

Interesting Facts

- Many historians have concluded that the Declaration of Independence was actually signed by Congress on August 2nd. However, all 5 on the Congressional Committee went to their deathbeds swearing it was signed on July 4th. Of course, it is dated July 4th.
- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson later became Presidents and both died on July 4th, 1826.
- Founding Father James Monroe later became President and died on July 4th, 1831.
- Seward Nebraska is officially known as "America's Official 4th of July City". Since 1868, it has held a celebration at the same town square. Normally a town of 6,000 people, the population swells to over 40,000 people who take part in the festivities.

From our families to yours, we wish you a happy and safe 4th of July. May we keep in mind all those in continued service to our country. May we pray for those families enduring sacrifices and loneliness as their loved ones are elsewhere protecting and defending our liberties.

Finally, may our freedom forever ring.

Mark



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