

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility
C'est la Vie Apartments
Newsletter ~ July 2017
A Ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross

Independence Day

In the United States, Independence Day is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, games, political speeches and ceremonies celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the all-important national day of our United States and its history is rich in the heroism and courage of our national ancestors.

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the American colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776. On this day the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration was a statement explaining this decision and was prepared by a "Committee of Five" with Thomas Jefferson of Virginia as its principal author. The other members of the Committee were John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut and Robert R. Livingston of New York.

Congress debated and revised the Declaration and finally approved it on July 4th.

Earlier in the week, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

"The second of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It 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, with shows, games, sports... and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

The prediction of John Adams was off by two days. From the beginning, Americans celebrated independence on July 4th, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2nd, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress. One of the most enduring myths about Independence Day is that Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The myth had become so firmly established that, decades after the event and nearing the end of their lives, even the elderly Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had come to believe that they and the other delegates had signed the Declaration on July 4th. In fact, most delegates actually signed the Declaration on August 2, 1776.

In an extraordinary series of events, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, two

founding fathers of the United States and the only two men who signed the Declaration of Independence to later become President, died on the same day: July 4, 1826.

Their deaths occurred on the 50th anniversary of the United States of America!

As we commemorate this day, let us prayerfully remember the people who gave their lives for our nation's independence and those who continue to serve in our military.

Notable First Celebrations of July 4th:

In **1777**, thirteen gunshots were fired, once in the morning and again as evening fell, in Bristol, Rhode Island.

In **1777**, Philadelphia celebrated the first anniversary in a manner a modern American would find quite familiar: an official dinner for the Continental Congress, glasses raised in a toast, a 13-gun salute, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships were decked with red, white, and blue bunting.

In **1778**, General George Washington marked July 4th with a double ration of rum for his soldiers and an artillery salute.

In **1778**, across the Atlantic Ocean, ambassadors John Adams and Benjamin Franklin held a dinner for their fellow Americans in Paris, France.

In **1779**, July 4th fell on a Sunday. The holiday was celebrated on Monday, July 5th.

In **1781**, the Massachusetts General Court became the first state legislature to recognize July 4th as a state celebration.

In **1791** the first recorded use of the name "Independence Day" occurred.

In **1820** the first Fourth of July celebration was held in East Port, Maine which remains the largest in the state.

In **1870**, the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees.

In **1938**, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday and as the saying goes –

“The rest is history!”

In 1776, our ancestors struggled for independence from Great Britain and in their words: *“... 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.”* Today we struggle to live in *inter-dependence*. May our providential God strengthen and encourage us to pledge *our lives, our resources, and our sacred honor* to make our world a holy space where all can live together in justice and freedom.

May the Lord bless and keep us. May Lord's face shine upon us and be gracious to us.

May the Lord look upon us kindly and grant us abundant peace!

✠ Celebrating Birthdays in July ✠

J. Bordelon	7/16	E. J. Ortego	7/12
Sr. A. Fontenot	7/13	L. Pitre	7/08
M. Francois	7/14	G. Porter	7/30
P. Helton	7/24	J. L. Smith	7/09
D. Mitchell	7/23	Sr. M. Spotorno	7/10
Sr. A. Mouton	7/01	Sr. M. Welsh	7/11
		D. White	7/23

✠ Recently Deceased Resident ✠

Henry Myers – 6/14/2017

*May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed
through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.*



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