

Fourth of July INDEPENDENCE DAY

Freedom is Not Free



The Fourth of July. Independence Day. The day we celebrate when a few (less than 3% of the population) said ENOUGH! We are not going to live under oppression or be subjugated by a government who doesn't regard its citizens or value them as more than mere humans; as men and women created in God's image with certain inalienable rights. The Declaration of Independence was written in Boston some 240 years ago, but it is still relevant today. Every year on this weekend, we get together with family and friends, have parades, fairs, picnics and light fireworks to celebrate, but do we still remember what we are celebrating?

On July 2, 1776, courageous men and women took a stand, at great risk of death and loss of personal property, safety and security for their loved ones and imprisonment. People like Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Josiah Bartlett and 53 others. They "Resolved: 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."



Congress adopted the more poetic Declaration of Independence, drafted by Thomas Jefferson, two days later, on July 4. The president of Congress, John Hancock, and its secretary, Charles Thompson, immediately signed the handwritten draft, which was dispatched to nearby printers. On July 19, Congress decided to produce a handwritten copy to bear all the delegates' signatures. Secretary Thompson's assistant, Philadelphia Quaker and merchant Timothy Matlack, penned the draft.

News of the Declaration of Independence arrived in London eight days later, on August 10. The draft bearing the delegates' signatures was first printed on January 18 of the following year by Baltimore printer Mary Katharine Goddard.

We all remember (hopefully) why these men were motivated to make such a bold move. Taxation without representation, Illegal search and seizure, tyranny, The right to keep and bear arms, Infringements upon the rights of the individual to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I can't help but reflect upon how far we've come since then in terms of industrialization, technology, quality of life and all the other things that have together created the highest standard of living in The United States or anywhere else since time immemorial. I also can see where we have lost ground through the generations since then in terms of small compromises of our liberty, all seemingly innocuous when considered individually but unsettlingly troubling when considered as a whole.

*"Freedom is the oxygen of the soul."
~Moshe Dayan*



Ronald Reagan said a lot of insightful things that we should take heed of, like "If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under." Since the early 1950's our federal government has done all they can to take God out of our society, based upon a flawed decision handed down by the Supreme Court that interpreted the Separation of Church and State to mean that the state could not be influenced by or even acknowledge religion in the conduct of its affairs. That is not what the framers of the Constitution intended. Rather, they wanted to protect religious organizations from intrusion by the State. The First Amendment speaks in terms of the non-establishment of a state-sponsored religion and free exercise of religion.

In 1947, The Supreme Court ruled in *Everson v. Board of Education*, that it meant there should be a "high and impregnable" wall of separation (thus the term separation of Church and State), but that is NOT in the Constitution. The framers intention was to prevent a state-sponsored religion similar to The Church of England that would control all religion in the country. They believed that the Government should be influenced by religion, however, in setting policy and preserving goodness and morality based upon biblical teachings. If you visit Washington D.C., you will see countless examples of biblical influence throughout the architecture, manuscripts, addresses and legislative decisions. Contrary to popular culture, America is INDEED a Christian Nation. But alas, we have backslidden in these past 5 or so decades and we are paying the price.

Since we have removed God from schools, the dropout rate has skyrocketed. As has out of wedlock children, single parent homes, crime rate, imprisonment and an erosion of our morals as a people. Look at these statistics:

A. Young People

For 15 years before 1963 pregnancies in girls ages 15 through 19 years had been no more than 15 per thousand. After 1963 pregnancies increased 187% in the next 15 years.

For younger girls, ages 10 to 14 years, pregnancies since 1963 are up 553%. This does not take into account the abortions performed, without which, would make this number much higher. It is estimated that 1 million teenagers a year become pregnant and 35% of them choose to have an abortion.

Before 1963 sexually transmitted diseases (STD) among students were 400 per 100,000. Since 1963, they were up 226% in the next 12 years. Today, 1 in 4 teenagers who have sex will contract an STD.

B. The Family

Before 1963 divorce rates had been declining for 15 years. After 1963 divorces increased 300% each year for the next 15 years. Today, the number is estimated as high as 50% of marriages end in divorce.

Since 1963 unmarried people living together is up 353%. Today there are over 7.5 million unmarried couples living together (2010 US Census)

Since 1963 single parent families are up 140%. Today, the number is 29.5% (much higher in Latino (42%) and African-American (72%) households)

Since 1963 out of wedlock births are up 232%

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C. Education

The educational standard of measure has been the SAT scores. SAT scores had been steady for many years before 1963. From 1963 they rapidly declined for 18 consecutive years, even though the same test has been used since 1941.

In 1974-75 the rate of decline of the SAT scores decreased, even though they continued to decline. That was when there was an explosion of private religious schools. There were only 1000 Christian schools in 1965. Between 1974 to 1984 they increased to 32,000.

That could have an impact if the private schools had higher SAT scores. In checking with the SAT Board it was found that indeed the SAT scores for private schools were nearly 100 points higher than public schools. In fact the scores were at the point where the public schools had been before their decline started in 1963 when prayer and Bible reading/ instruction was removed from the schools.

The scores in the public schools were still declining.

Of the nation's top academic scholars, three times as many come from private religious schools, which operate on one-third the funds as do the public schools.

D. The Nation

Since 1963 violent crime has increased 544%.

Illegal drugs have become an enormous & uncontrollable problem.

The nation has been deprived of an estimated 30 million citizens through legal abortions just since 1973.

Our forefathers fought to have freedom from religious oppression. Today, we see a surge in Islamic Fascism and widespread intolerance fueled by a group of fanatics who want to force us into their belief system. These extremists will kill anyone who does not embrace their belief system, as evidenced most recently in Orlando, Florida, yet our current Federal Government seems to want to ignore the facts and shift the blame, embracing the Muslim religion, while at the same time censoring anything deemed to be Christian.

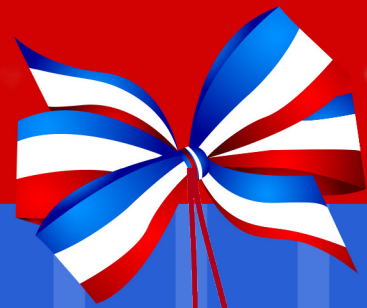
President Reagan said "Of the four wars in my lifetime none came about because the U.S. was too strong." If we don't heed his advice, I fear that we are in for tough times ahead. Our leadership's primary role is to protect our freedoms; not take them away from us.

We as a Free Society are Americans FIRST. We should no longer be Democrat or Republican, African-American, Mexican-American, Native-American, European-American or Asian-American, Gay or Straight, Pro-Life or Pro-Choice, Pro-Gun or Anti-Gun; We should ALL just be Americans. We can agree to disagree and still be civil, We should have the freedom to live our lives the way we choose without harming others. That's what the pursuit of happiness thing is all about.

Do you have a family member that is sometimes a pain in your neck? You might yell at them because they make you mad or disapprove of their behavior, but they're still your family. What happens when someone outside your family mistreats them? You defend them right? That's what we as Americans need to do. America is OUR Family.



INDEPENDENCE DAY



We are ONE PEOPLE; One Nation Under God, E Pluribus Unum, A melting pot where we take the best of everything the world has to offer and we unite as one. Preserving our heritage but being Americans FIRST.

When someone inside or outside of our country wants to destroy what we have, take away our rights or liberties, they are looking for a fight. United we stand. You attack one of us, you're attacking all of us.

During the Holocaust, Martin Niemöller, a protestant pastor who spent seven years in a Nazi concentration camp for his stance, said the following:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.



Well now, I see the same thing happening here in America. We can sit by idly and let it happen or we can learn from history and preserve what the blood of patriots has created for us. I encourage you to remember that when you vote in November. Not as a Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or whatever else you associate yourself with, but as an AMERICAN.

"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

May God Bless you and your family this Independence Day and may GOD BLESS AMERICA!!!

Sincerely,
Mark and Larry Peabody

