



THE COURIER

JULY 2018: Independence Day

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain in 1776, actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it two days later on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

"The second day 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, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Coincidentally, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, James Monroe, another Founding Father who was elected as President, also died on July 4, 1831. He was the third President who died on the anniversary of independence. Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872; so far he is the only U.S. President to have been born on Independence Day.

A salute of one gun for each state in the United States, called a "salute to the union," is fired on Independence Day at noon by any capable military base

The night before the Fourth was once the focal point of celebrations, marked by raucous gatherings often incorporating bonfires as their centerpiece. In New England, towns competed to build towering pyramids, assembled from barrels and casks. They were lit at nightfall to usher in the celebration. The highest were in Salem, Massachusetts, with pyramids composed of as many as forty tiers of barrels. These made the tallest bonfires ever recorded. The custom flourished in the 19th and 20th centuries and is still practiced in some New England towns.

While fireworks may seem like a very American tradition, especially on the Fourth of July, their origins go back centuries before the first Independence Day fireworks display in Philadelphia in 1777, to celebrate the one year anniversary of the signing. As the generations have passed since this original celebration it is important to realize the gravity of that event and how it shaped the world as we know it. It is more than just a day off from work - picnics, burgers and beer. It's about the courage it took for those men to step forward and become our forefathers.

Community Corner and Updates

- The Resident Computer has been repaired and is operational. In addition, there was also a donation of a new TV in the activity room.
- Congratulations to the Winner of IOM Resident of the Month – Joyce! Always positive and a pillar of the Community Joyce participates in activities and lends a helping hand onboarding new residents.
- Please also welcome Aaron and Loretta to the Indian Oaks family. We hope they make fast friends and enjoy their time in the community.
- Welcome back, Bill Letton after a prolonged hospital stay, It is great to have you back!!
- And Last but not Least, Please wish a Happy Birthday to Edna, John and Charlotte! With many happy returns!!

Aaron



Loretta



Edna



John (and baxter)



Charlotte

