

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

America's Birthday

I WAS BORN on July 4, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence is my Birth Certificate. The bloodlines of the world run in my veins, because I offered freedom to the oppressed.

I am many things, and many people. I am One Nation Under God.

I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and fired the shots heard around the world. I am Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry. I am John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain Boys and Davy Crockett. I am Generals Lee and Grant and President Abe Lincoln.

I remember the Alamo in Texas and Battleship Arizona in Pearl Harbor. When Freedom called I answered and stayed until it was over --- over there. I left my heroic dead in Flanders Fields, on the barren rocks of the Pacific, on the frozen slopes of Korea, the steaming jungles of Vietnam, cities of Iraq and mountainous Afghanistan.

I am the Brooklyn Bridge, the wheat lands of Kansas and the granite hills of Vermont. I am the coalfields of the Virginias, the fertile lands of the Midwest, the Golden Gate and the Grand Canyon. I am Independence Hall, the warships Monitor and Merrimac.

I am big. I sprawl from the Atlantic to the Pacific --- my arms reach out to embrace Alaska and Hawaii --- three million square miles of industry. I am more than five million farms. I am forests, lakes, fields, mountains and deserts. I am quiet towns and cities that never sleep.

You can look at me and see Ben Franklin walking down the streets of Philadelphia with his bread-loaf under his arm. You can see Betsy Ross with her needle. You can see the lights of Christmas, and hear the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" as the calendar turns.

I am Babe Ruth and the World Series. I am free schools and private colleges, and most of all, tens of thousands of churches where my people worship God as they think best. I am a ballot dropped in a box, the roar of a crowd in a stadium and the voice of a choir in a cathedral. I am an editorial in a newspaper and a letter to a Congressman.

I am Eli Whitney, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and Billy Graham. I am Horace Greeley, Will Rogers and the Wright Brothers. I am George Washington Carver, Daniel Webster and Jonas Salk. I am Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walt Whitman, Thomas Paine, John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King and President Ronald Reagan.

Yes, I am the NATION, and these are the things that I am. I was conceived in FREEDOM, and, God willing, in FREEDOM I will spend the rest of my days.

May I possess always the integrity, courage and strength to keep myself unshackled from wickedness. And remain a CITADEL of FREEDOM, a BEACON of HOPE to the world and a place where GOD IS REVERED, LIFTED UP AND FREELY WORSHIPPED.

Yes, this is who I am for so many years since my birth as I placed
MY TRUST IN GOD.

~ Author Unknown ~