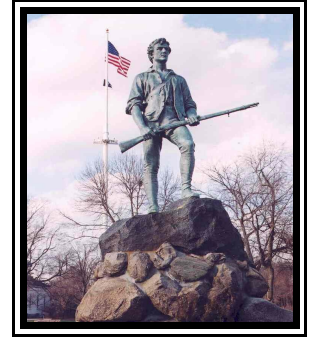




# HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!



By Gene Keith

July 5, 2009

I wonder how many young people in America today know what the 4th of July is all about. For most Americans, the fourth of July is all about fire-works and melon;



This Fourth of July is even worse. The big news this week is the death of Michael Jackson.

The memorial service for the King of Pop will be held next week in Los Angeles. The building where the service will be held will only hold 20,000 people. More than 100,000 are

expected and Jackson's fans have been camping out on the grounds since last Thursday (July 2, 2009).

Michael Jackson was indeed a very talented individual, but it's a sad day in America when the death of an entertainer is more important than the birth and death of a nation.

This fourth of July, we could not only be celebrating the birthday of our nation, we could easily be celebrating the funeral of this great nation.

In these next few minutes I am going to ask you to do three things.

1. I'm asking each of you forget Michael Jackson and focus on the Fourth of July and what it's all about.
2. Before you leave today, take a copy of the Declaration of Independence we have printed out for you. Take it home and read it, word, for word, before you go to bed tonight.
3. Get on your knees and pray for America. America is in deep trouble and God is the only one who can help us.

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**I wish there were 100,000 people camping outside of America's churches waiting to get in and pray for America. Don't you?**

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## AMERICA DECLARED INDEPENDENCE

On the fourth of July in 1776 representatives from thirteen British colonies in North America met in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and adopted one of the most important documents in the history of this great nation. That document is known as The Declaration of Independence. This great document spelled out the reasons those colonies declared their independence from Great Britain.

## **War Had Already Begun**

Very few people were surprised at this news. War against England had already begun. Battles had already been fought at Lexington, Concord, and Breed's Hill.

## **George Washington**

George Washington had been named to be the head of the Colonial Army.

## **Richard Henry Lee**

On June 7, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia moved in the Continental Congress that, "These United colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states."

## **A Declaration Drafted**

Three days later, congress voted to name a special committee to draft a declaration supporting Lee's resolution.

## **Committee Formed**

On June 11, 1776, congress named John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman, to that committee.

## **July 4, 1776**

On the fourth of July, congress adopted the final draft of the Declaration of Independence in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The draft was largely the work of Thomas Jefferson.

## **John Hancock**

John Hancock signed the document "by order and in behalf of congress." (Hancock signed his name so large that all of the other signers had to find space around his name to sign theirs).

## **Charles Thompson**

Charles Thompson, the Secretary of Congress, attested to Hancock's signature.

## **NOT UNANIMOUS AT FIRST**

The original document was titled "A Unanimous Declaration," but the word "unanimous" could not be used until July 19, when the New York delegation, which had not voted on July 4, reported that it favored the Declaration.

Congress then ordered a copy of the Declaration to be engrossed on parchment and signed by all members of congress.

Fifty members of congress signed the document on August 2, 1776. (The New World Book Encyclopedia, 1958: page 1906)

The general public did not learn of the actual words of the Declaration until July 8, 1776.

## **WHAT THE DECLARATION REVEALS**

As we celebrate the birthday of this great nation, let's look at the wording of that historical document and discover what it reveals about our Founding Fathers.

### **1. Their Philosophy**

The first words of this document reveal the philosophy (and world view) of the founders of this Republic.

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

### **2. They believed in Creation.**

The very first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence contains a clear reference to Creation . . . not Evolution! The Declaration states: ". . .that all men are created . . ."

### **3. They believed in God the Creator.**

There can be no creation without a Creator. The founders of the great country were not Atheists or evolutionists. This document clearly acknowledges the existence of God and that we the people are objects of special creation.

#### **4. They believed that all men are Equal**

Not only does the Declaration state that we were all created by our Creator - it states that we were created that way (equal).

Abraham Lincoln took the Declaration of Independence literally and believed it applied to all people, including Negro slaves. In his famous 1863 Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln began with these words:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

Class systems and oppression were to have no place in this new Republic. We are all equal because God created us that way. This Republic was designed to be a refuge for the oppressed people of the world.

#### **5. They believed in inalienable Rights**

Is it IN-alienable or UN-alienable? Actually both are correct and both are found in the original writings.

The Declaration states: "all men are created equal and they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights."

- What is an inalienable right?
- An inalienable right is a right that no King, no parliament, or no government has the power to give or to take away.
- The Declaration of Independence does not say that we are "endowed by our government" with certain alienable rights. It states that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights.
- The framers of the Declaration make it clear that God (our Creator) gave each individual certain rights that the government does not have the power to take away.

#### **6. They believed in the Right to Life**

The Declaration mentions three of those God-given, inalienable rights. They are: "the right to Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." Note carefully.

- Every American has the right to be born. There should be no abortions.
- Every American has the right to be free. Slavery is wrong.
- Every American has the right to live a normal life and die a natural death (no euthanasia).
- Every American has the right to pursue personal happiness.

#### **7. They understood the Purpose of Government.**

Why do we have governments? The Declaration then answers this question in the next paragraph.

"That to secure these rights, governments are ordained among men."

The only legitimate reason for government to exist, is to protect the rights God gave to every individual.

#### **8. They believed government received it's power of the people.**

Where does government get it's power? The government is not omnipotent, it has to get it's power from someone or somewhere. Let the Declaration answer this question.  
". . . deriving it's powers from the consent of the governed."

In other words, the only authority the government has is the authority given to it by the people. People empower the government.

## **9. They believed the people had the right to alter or abolish their government.**

The Declaration also gives the people the right to alter (change) or abolish the government if the government departs from its stated purpose.

" if it (government) becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it."

## **10. They made a final appeal to God to help them with their undertaking.**

The Declaration ends with another reference to God. This time, it is an appeal to God as the "Supreme Judge of the Universe" to protect the new nation in its dangerous undertaking.

### **THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION**

What kind of people were those brave souls who founded this nation and framed its legal documents?

"The men who signed the Declaration of Independence were not wild-eyed pirates. They were men of means. Most of them were rich men. They were not hungry men - they were prosperous men. They were wealthy land-owners, secure in their prosperity and well-respected in their communities." ("The Rebirth of America," published in 1986 by the Arthur S. DeMoss Foundation. p. 15)

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants. Nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

### **THE PRICE THEY PAID**

What happened to the brave men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

## **Carter Braxton**

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

## **Thomas McKeam**

Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

## **Homes Looted and Destroyed**

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

## **Francis Lewis**

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

## **John Hart**

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

Those fifty-six men who signed that document understood that if they succeeded, the best they could expect would be years of hardship and struggling. If they failed, they knew they would be arrested and hanged as traitors.

## THEY CALLED ON GOD

The framers of the Declaration believed that Liberty was impossible without the help of Almighty God.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states;

"And for the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge our lives, our fortunes, and sacred honor."

## CAN AMERICA SURVIVE?

This country is in deep trouble. You know it and I know it. The real question is, "What can we do to help preserve this great nation?"

### 1. Our First Amendment Rights are under attack.

The First Amendment was written to protect Religion from government. Activist judges have turned it upside down and used it to remove God, Christ, prayer, etc. from public life, beginning with our schools.

There is now a move to silence pulpits under the proposed Hate Crimes legislation. Sodomites have such power in government now that it will soon be a crime for a pastor to tell the truth about sexual perversion in the pulpits of American churches.

"A conservative black pastor and former NFL linebacker says he's highly offended that President Obama would compare the plight of homosexuals to that of blacks during the Civil Rights Era.

On Monday, President Obama told a gathering of homosexuals at the White House that he is aware that many of them "don't

believe progress has come fast enough," and compared their struggles to those of blacks during the Civil Rights Movement." (The preceding two paragraphs are from E-mail)

### 2. Our Second Amendment Rights are under attack.

The Second Amendment, like all Ten Amendments (called the Bill of Rights) was designed to protect the people from the government, not to protect the government from the people.

Our new President does not believe in the right of American citizens to keep and bear arms and he is pushing legislation to rob us of that right.

### 3. The Right to private ownership of property is under attack.

We citizens are like the proverbial frog in the kettle. If you put a frog in a kettle of boiling water it would try to jump out immediately. But, if you placed the frog in a kettle of cold spring water, then placed the kettle on a stove and turned the heat on, the water would get warm slowly, and before the frog knew it, he would be scalded to death.

In the same way the governments (local, state, and national) have slowly stolen our property rights away.

Property taxes are so high we actually rent our own homes from the government.

The very concept of building permits is foreign to my understanding of the US Constitution.

### 4. Our Economy and Capitalism is under attack.

Our new president is working as hard as he can to destroy this great nation and impose European Socialism on our once great nation.

**If Al Qaeda wants to demolish the America we know and love they better hurry because Obama is beating them to it**

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I saw a bumper sticker that read: If Al queda wants to demolish the America we know and

love they better hurry because Obama is beating them to it.

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**In your pastor's opinion, we have the worst, least qualified, most dangerous politicians in office in the history of our Republic.**

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The stage is being set for a one-world government, a world-court, a one-world monetary system, and a one-world dictator. If you are interested in more information on this simply ask me.

### **GOD'S PEOPLE ARE THE KEY TO AMERICA'S SURVIVAL**

There is one passage of Scripture that gives me a little hope and that is 2 Chronicles 7:14. The first thing this reveals is that the key to survival is in the hands of God's people. God's people can save a nation.

How can God's people save a nation? The Bible lists four things God's people must do if they want Him to save their nation. They (we) must:

#### **1. We must humble ourselves.**

God hates pride. The Bible says, "Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall."

God's Word warns: "God resists the proud but giveth grace to the humble."

#### **2. We must Pray.**

Where are the masses of people this weekend? Like I said earlier, I wish there were 100,000 people camping outside of America's churches waiting to get in and pray for America, rather than camping out for Michael Jackson's memorial service.

#### **3. We must seek God's face.**

This means that you seek God's will and seek God's pleasure. This means that you are really interested in pleasing God by the way you live.

Does your language please God? Does the way you dress please God? Does the music you listen to please God? Does your drinking and using drugs please God? Does the way you handle your money please God? Does the way you participate (or not participate) in Praise and worship please God? Does your business please God?

#### **4. We must turn from our sins.**

The church today is so full of sin you can't tell church members in the church from lost people outside the church. Pastors have a divorce record as bad as the world's. Our young people are leaving church after high-school and living like pagans. What is your sin?

#### **(Hebrews 12:1)**

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Each of us has "weights"  
and

Each of us has that certain, besetting sin!!!

What is THAT SIN in your life?

#### **1. We will either hear from heaven or we won't hear from heaven.**

#### **2. God will forgive our sins or He won't forgive our sins.**

#### **3. God Will heal our land or He won't heal our land and we will perish.**

Noah Webster: "All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery and war, proceed from the despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.

**THE FUTURE OF AMERICA IS IN OUR HANDS!**