

Independence

On the Fourth of July, two-hundred-thirty years ago, fifty six brave men put their signature on a document that is known as the Declaration of Independence. They took considerable risk in putting their names on that paper for the entire world to see. For their bravery, we now enjoy unparalleled freedom and a life in the greatest country in the world.

They wrote: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, -- That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, -- That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government ...”

What powerful words our forefathers wrote; what foresight! We now have 50 states and have grown into a multi-raced and multi-religious country with freedoms that none other enjoy in the world. Their words were inscribed in a time when such things were unspeakable and treasonous to the Queen. Death could be their punishment for simple words. Today, we enjoy those liberties and rights that they could only dream. At times, we take for granted those same liberties that they so bravely would have laid down their lives for.

The culture has changed but not the intent of the Declaration of Independence. I know we all salute our founding fathers for their great wisdom and bravery. There are over 1.4 million brave men and women in the United States armed forces around the world. Like our forefathers, bravely defending us all so that we can enjoy the life and pursuit of happiness.

Happy Fourth of July.

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President