



II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

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4TH OF JULY
Independence Day

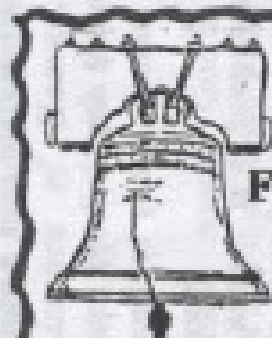
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
AMERICA
242 YEARS

Days Gone By

On July 1, 1864, the Battle of Gettysburg took place.

On July 2, 1937, Amelia Earhart's plane was lost in the Pacific Ocean.

On July 3, 1890, Idaho was admitted to the Union.



Let
Freedom
Ring

THANKFUL FOR AMERICA

I'm thankful for America,
The way of life we've known,
And all the precious freedoms
We call our very own.

I'm thankful that we have a voice
That we are free to use,
And pray to God for wisdom
In the leaders whom we choose.

I'm thankful for those patriots
Who loved honor more than fame,
Who instigated laws which have
Preserved America's name.

May it be always possible,
Down through the years that we,
Through conscientious effort
Keep this great land safe and free.

On July 4, 1776, in the city of Philadelphia, there was signed one of America's greatest historic documents, The Declaration of Independence. It marked the Birth of this Nation that, under God, was destined for world leadership. However, we often forget that in declaring INDEPENDENCE from an earthly power, our forefathers made a forthright declaration of DEPENDENCE upon Almighty God. The closing words of this historic document solemnly declared: "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

THE CONSTITUTION

Fifty-five men gathered at Independence Hall in Philadelphia in 1787 to frame a CONSTITUTION for this new nation. They met day after day for weeks without coming to agreement. It was then that BENJAMIN FRANKLIN addressed George Washington, who was presiding, and said to him:

"In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favors.

"To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?"

"I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

"We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.'

I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel . . .

"I therefore beg leave to move — that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning . . ."

These Founding Fathers sought God's help and blessing on their deliberations and the Constitution came into being.

George Washington was the unanimous choice to be the chairman of framing the Constitution. "It was the first time in history that men had ever had the opportunity to freely write a new constitution for their own government." By 1791, then amendments known as the BILL OF RIGHTS were added to the Constitution.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

The very first public singing of GOD BLESS AMERICA. The time was 1940. America was just coming out of a terrible economic depression. Hitler was taking over Europe and Americans were afraid we'd have to go to war. It was a time of hardship and worry for most Americans.

Kate Smith was very patriotic. It hurt her to see Americans so depressed and afraid of what the next day would bring. She had hope for America, and faith in the fellow Americans. She wanted to do something to cheer them up, so she went to the famous American song writer, Irving Berlin (also wrote White Christmas) and asked him to write a song that would make Americans feel good again about their country.

When she described what she was looking for, he said he had just the song for her. He went to his files and found a song that he had written, but never published, 22 years before — way back in 1917. He gave it to Kate Smith and she worked on it with her studio orchestra. She and Irving Berlin were not sure how the song would be received by the public, but both agreed they would not take any profits from *God Bless America*. Any profit would go to the Boy Scouts of America.

A video shows Kate Smith coming into the radio studio with the orchestra and an audience. She introduces the new song for the very first time, and starts singing. After the first couple verses, with her voice in the background still singing, scenes are shown from the 1940 movie, *You're In The Army Now*. At the 4:20 mark of the video you see a young actor in the movie, sitting in an office, reading a paper; it's Ronald Reagan, later to become President. The other man is George Murphy, later to become a U.S. Senator from California.

Frank Sinatra considered Kate Smith the best singer of her time, and said when he and a million other guys first heard her sing *God Bless America* on the radio, they all pretended to have dust in the eyes as they wiped away a tear or two. To this day, *God Bless America* stirs our patriotic feelings and pride in our country. Back in 1940, when Kate Smith went looking for a song to raise the spirits of her fellow Americans, most doubt she realized just how successful the results would be for her fellow Americans during those years of hardship and worry, and for many generations of Americans to follow. Now that you know the story of the song, I hope you will enjoy it and treasure it even more.

When riots were unthinkable...
 When you left the front doors open...
 When socialism was a dirty word...
 When the flag was a sacred symbol...
 When criminals actually went to jail...
 When you weren't afraid to go out at night...
 When taxes were only a necessary nuisance...
 When a boy was a boy & dressed like one...
 When the poor were too proud to take charity...
 When the clergy actually talked about religion...
 When clerks and repairman tried to please you...
 When songs had a tune and the words made sense...
 When young fellows tried to join the Army or Navy...
 When people knew what the 4th of July stood for...
 When a Sunday drive was a pleasant trip, not an ordeal...
 When you bragged about your hometown, and home state...
 When everybody didn't feel entitled to a college education...

**Do You
 Remember —
 the REAL
 AMERICA?**

When people expected less, and valued what they had more...
 When politicians proclaimed their patriotism, and meant it...
 When everybody knew the difference between right & wrong...
 When our government stood up for Americans, anywhere in the world...
 When you knew the law would be enforced, and that your safety was protected...
 When the law meant justice, and you felt a shiver of awe at the sight of a policeman...
 When you weren't embarrassed to say that this is the best country in the world...
 When America was a land filled with brave, proud, confident, hard-working people...
 When God was honored and revered as GOD!...
 May God help us to restore that STATE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

July 4, 2018 marks 242 years since the 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence. It marks 241 years since the first celebration of Independence Day in 1777.

Before the Declaration, 13 colonies existed under the rule of England's King George III. There had been growing unrest, particularly because the King levied taxes on the colonists, who had no political representation to King George or Parliament. When unrest became open rebellion, King George sent in troops.

In 1774, the colonies sent delegates to Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress. After trying to work out differences with England, the colonies formed the Second Continental Congress in May of 1776. The delegates determined that further negotiations with England were hopeless.

On June 28, 1776, Thomas Jefferson presented the first draft of the Declaration Of Independence to congress.

On July 4, after various changes, nine colonies voted in favor of the Declaration. Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted against it, Delaware was undecided, and New York abstained. But the Declaration was approved.

John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence. It is said that he signed his name "with a great flourish" so "King George can read that without spectacles!"

By 1800, parades, picnics, and fireworks were firmly established as part of America's Independence Day traditions.

The holiday was first observed in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, at which time the Declaration of Independence was read aloud, city bells rang, and bands played. It was not declared a legal holiday, however, until 1941. The Fourth is traditionally celebrated publicly with parades and pageants, patriotic speeches, and organized firing of guns and cannons and displays of fireworks; early in the 20th century public concern for a "safe and sane" holiday resulted in restrictions on general use of fireworks. Family picnics and outings are a feature of private Fourth of July celebrations.