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Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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## **OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY**

Tuesday is Independence Day and many of us will celebrate by having picnics attending parades and watching a fireworks display at dusk. Let us not forget why we celebrate on this very special day the day that our Forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence.



On July 4, 1776, the United States of America was founded with the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Fifty-six men of simple means and education put their lives, happiness, and worldly possessions on the line to give future generations freedom by inscribing their names on a piece of paper. These men had security in life with money and property, but above all else they wanted freedom and liberty. They gave us a nation that believes in its people, a government of the people and by the people, and a people whose freedom will be defended against all enemies. On July 4, 2006, the United States of America will celebrate its 230<sup>th</sup> birthday, 230 years of independence, liberty, freedom, and the uninterrupted pursuit of happiness.

Our forefathers gave more than time and hard work to the cause of independence. Most of these men sacrificed everything they had, including their lives. The British charged some with treason, others fought and died in the Revolutionary War, and many witnessed their homes and livelihood taken from them and destroyed. Yet all stood proud and with determination pledged their devotion: "For the support of this Declaration, with the firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." With the stroke of a pen, 56 men created the United States of America and Democracy was born.

We, as Americans, should never forget why we have our freedoms and how they were won. Lest we forget September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 when terrorists struck at our heart, wounding us but by no means delivering a fatal blow. The renewed American spirit that resulted from that tragedy reminded us that we will always have to fight for our freedom whether the enemy is foreign or domestic. We are not perfect, but we enjoy more freedoms than any other nation on the planet and our promise is perfect. The Fourth of July is just one day a year when we as a nation can stop and reflect on the free and independent life we all have and the struggles of those before us, among us, and in the future. Happy 230<sup>th</sup> birthday America, may it just be one of many, many more to come.

## **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <a href="http://www.jasoncrowell.com">http://www.jasoncrowell.com</a>.

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