



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Fourth of July

JEFFERSON CITY – As we prepare to gather with family and friends to grill burgers and brats and watch our local fireworks display, we should take a moment to remember what the Fourth of July celebration is all about.

On July 4, 1776, the United States of America was founded with the signing of the Declaration of Independence, an event that signified America officially cutting its ties with Britain.

“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, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.”

But this country did not achieve its independence with the signing of that bold statement of freedom. The blood, sweat and tears of our forefathers went into writing and then defending the Declaration. These men sacrificed everything they had, including their lives. The British charged some with treason, while others fought and died in the Revolutionary War. Many witnessed their homes and livelihoods taken from them and destroyed. Yet all stood proud and pledged their devotion to the cause of this new nation.

“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, the emblem of democracy and freedom across the globe.

Our forefathers gave us a nation that believes in its people – a government of the people and by the people – whose freedom will be defended against all enemies.

So while you celebrate this patriotic holiday filled with all-American food and traditions centering on spectacles of sight, sound and sentiment, take a moment to remember that our freedom came with a price.

Happy Birthday, America.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.