

Mount Vernon Hash House Harriers

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Since December 1985



DC Red Dress Registration is OPEN!

For Saturday, June 25

Volume 8 - Trail #893

First:
The Fourth of July Presidential Address:

"On July 4, 1776, we claimed our independence from England and Democracy was born. Every day thousands leave their homeland to come to the "land of the free and the home of the brave" so they can begin their American Dream.

The United States is truly a diverse nation made up of dynamic people. Each year on July 4, Americans celebrate that freedom and independence with barbecues, picnics, and family gatherings. Through the Internet we are learning about and communicating with people of different nations, with different languages and different races throughout the world. Bringing the world closer with understanding and knowledge can only benefit all nations. We invite all nations to celebrate with Americans online this Fourth of July.

Happy Birthday, America!" ~George W. Bush

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The Fourth of July as an "Official" Holiday

The United States actually observes no national holidays, that is, holidays **mandated** across all 50 states by the Federal government. The United States Congress and/or President can only legally establish an "official" holiday for its "federal" employees and the District of Columbia. States and municipalities are free to adopt holidays enjoyed by the federal government or to create their own. The first "official" state celebration of the Fourth occurred in Massachusetts in 1781. In 1783, the governor of North Carolina was the first governor to issue a state order for celebrating the independence of the country on the Fourth of July. In 1870 the first federal legislation was passed giving federal employees a "day off" from work, but without pay.

The First Celebrations

The Declaration of Independence, unanimously declared by the thirteen United States of America, was adopted by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. The task of getting the document signed began on August 2, 1776. Congress made sure that all states would have access to an authenticated copy of the Declaration by ordering a special printing of multiple copies on January 18, 1777. The first celebrations occurred shortly after the declaration in various locales along the Eastern Seaboard. Much

ANNOUNCEMENT

There is no Trash for last week's trail. Please enjoy reading about some of the significant historical events that were taking place throughout U.S.A. history on or near the 4th of July

of the tradition inherent in the way we celebrate today was evident almost from the beginning. Sound, spectacle, and sentiment played an important role in that tradition.

One of the most elaborate celebrations and the first organized celebration of it's kind occurred in 1777 in Philadelphia. This event had all of the elements of typical future celebrations--the discharge of cannon, one round for each state in the union, the ringing of bells, a dinner, the use of music, the drinking of toasts (it would subsequently be traditional to have one toast for each state in the union), "loud huzzas," a parade, fireworks, and the use of the nation's colors, in this case the dressing up of "armed ships and galleys" in the harbor.

Notable 4th of July Celebrations and Significant Events

1776- The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* is the first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence; the *Pennsylvania Gazette* follows, as does the *Maryland Gazette*. The first public readings include one given by John Nixon in Philadelphia, another Trenton, New York, Boston, Portsmouth, NH, Williamsburg, VA; Baltimore and Annapolis.



1777- Quakers refuse to close their businesses on the holiday because it celebrates American military victories; the first religious sermon about Independence Day is given in Boston

1778- General George Washington issues his army men a double allowance of rum, and orders a Fourth of July artillery salute. In Princeton, NJ, an artillery salute is fired from a cannon. In Philadelphia, guns and "sky rockets" are fired, but candles are not used for illuminations due to their scarcity. In France, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin host a dinner for "the American Gentlemen and ladies, in and about Paris"; the first Independence Day oration is given in Charleston. In IL, a liberty bell is rung. Near Plymouth, England, captured American prisoners of war celebrate the Fourth of July by attaching home-made American flags to their hats which they wear the entire day

1779- Fourth falls for the first time on a Sunday and celebrations take place on the following day, initiating that tradition. In Philadelphia, despite 14 members of the Continental Congress objecting to a celebration there is an elegant dinner at the City Tavern, followed by a display of fireworks

1781- The first official state celebration occurs in Massachusetts.

1783- North Carolina is the first to have a state order for celebrating the Fourth. At an SC a dinner 13 toasts are drank, the last one accompanied by artillery guns firing 13 times and the band playing a dirge lasting 13 minutes

1786- In NC, the Court House burns down, the result of an errant artillery shell during a celebration there

1788- Fourth celebrations first become political as factions fight over the adoption of the Federal Constitution. An unsuccessful attempt is made to prevent the celebration of the proposed ratification of the Constitution. In Philadelphia, the largest parade in the U.S. to date, occurs

1791- The only Fourth of July address ever made by George Washington occurs at Lancaster, Pa.

1792- In Washington, a cornerstone for the "Federal Bridge" is laid by the Commissioners of the Federal Buildings

1798- Washington attends the celebration in Alexandria, Va, and dines with citizens and military officers of Fairfax County

1800- In New York, the first local advertisements for fireworks appear.

1801- First public Fourth of July reception at the White House.

1802- U.S. Military Academy at West opened

1804- First Fourth of July celebration west of the Mississippi is celebrated by Lewis and Clark

1807 - The eagle which crowns the gate of the Navy Yard in Washington City is unveiled to the sound of a federal salute and music.

1808- Citizens of Richmond, Va., resolve that only liquor produced in this country will be drunk on the Fourth of July

1814- The celebration in Honolulu, Hawaii includes a dinner, and artillery salutes fired from ships in the harbor.

1816- Publishing of the Declaration of Independence is proposed at \$13 a copy

1817- Near Rome, New York, the ground-breaking ceremony occurs for the construction of the Erie Canal

1818- Published version (price \$5) of the Declaration of Independence is issued. At Fell's Point in Baltimore, the steamboat *United States* is launched.

1820- The *USS Constellation* is decorated with numerous national and foreign flags in New York harbor. The Georgetown *Metropolitan* issues an editorial criticizing President Monroe for closing the Executive Mansion on Independence Day

1822- It is announced at Mount Vernon that "Steamboat parties" and "eating, drinking, and dancing parties" on the grounds are no longer allowed.

1825- President John Q. Adams marches to the Capitol from the White House in a parade

1826- 50th anniversary (referred to as the "Jubilee of Freedom" event) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and two signers of the document, Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, die.

1827- The State of New York emancipates its slaves

1828- Charles Carroll, last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, participates in a Baltimore celebration and assists in the laying of the "first stone" of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The ground-breaking ceremony of the C & O Canal, north of Georgetown, takes place.

1829- The cornerstone of one of the Eastern locks of the C & O Canal (near Georgetown) scheduled to take place is cancelled due to rain. The embankments at the summit of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal are opened and water fills the canal, with large crowds in attendance.

1830- Columbia, S.C. celebrates the Fourth (occurring on the sabbath) on 3 July.

1831- Former President James Monroe dies on 4 July. In Alexandria, Va., a ground breaking ceremony for the Alexandria branch of the C&O Canal occurs. In Georgetown, a " beautiful new packet boat, called the George Washington," commences her first run on the C&O Canal. A tribe of Pequod indians celebrate the Fourth of July with a wardance at their wigwam, south of Alexandria, Va.

1832- New York has a subdued Fourth of July celebration due to a cholera epidemic occurring there.

1837- Oberlin College students celebrate by holding anti-slavery meetings

1838- The White House is closed to the public due to the death of a relative of the President.

1848- In Washington, the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument takes place.

1851- In Washington, President Fillmore assists in the laying of the cornerstone of the new Capitol.

1854- Henry David Thoreau gives a "Slavery in Massachusetts". Abolitionists meet and watch the burning of printings of the Constitution of the U.S. and Fugitive Slave Law.

1855- Worcester, Mass. citizens demonstrate against the city officials who refuse to fund their Fourth of July celebration.

1858- At Niagara Falls, at the celebration of the opening of the hydraulic canal, the dam gives way, but no one is injured.

1862 - In Newport, Rhode Island, the Fourth of July celebration is repeated on Tuesday, July 7, due to the news regarding the Union victory at Vicksburg; Gov. Zebulon B. Vance of North Carolina gives a speech in Granville county, urging "the people to continue their assistance in prosecuting the war until the independence of the Confederate States was established"

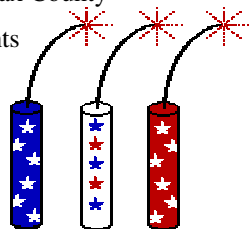
1865- First national celebration by African-Americans

1872- Richmond, Va., publicly celebrates the Fourth for the first time in 12 years



1876- Centennial celebrations (many are three-day celebrations, 3-5 July) occur throughout the United States and abroad; in Washington, 11 couples celebrate the Fourth by getting married.

1881- In Washington, D.C., the Chief of Police issues an order banning all fireworks in respect to the shooting of President Garfield while, at the same time, prayer meetings for the President's recovery are held in lieu of



Fourth celebrations throughout the country

1884- Formal presentation of Statue of Liberty in Paris

1887- First Fourth of July celebration in Yellowstone National Park

1889- President Harrison gives a speech in Woodstock, Conn. and is the third President to be in Woodstock on July 4th

1892- In New York, the City Hall and Federal Building inadvertently fly American flags of 42 stars and 35 stars, respectively, not the new flags of 44 stars representing the full number of states

1893- The World's Fair continues in Chicago as a new liberty bell is rung there

1900- Hoboken, N.J., does not celebrate the Fourth in respect for the loss of life in a massive fire a few days previous

1902- 200,000 persons see President Roosevelt give speech in Schenley Park, Pittsburgh

1906- Believing that Oklahoma is now a state, many towns in the U.S. fire 46-gun salutes

1909- Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Cleveland have their first "Safe and Sane" (that is, celebration free of injuries due to fireworks and other explosives) celebrations

1912- New national flag with 48 stars

1916- In Washington, D.C., President Wilson gives a speech at the dedication of the new American Federation of Labor building.

1919- Panama celebrates its first official Fourth of July

1925- As part of national Defense Day exercises, 50 U.S. military planes fly over New York City as the Declaration of Independence is read from one of the planes, transmitted by radio and broadcasted over radio station WOR; Chili declares this year's July 4 as a national holiday as a tribute to the U.S.; the Women's Peace Union presents their "Declaration of Independence from War" speech at Battery Park, in New York

1927- In Washington, D.C., the first official fourth of July ceremony at the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument Grounds takes place.

1930- The 60-foot face of George Washington carved on Mount Rushmore's granite cliff in South Dakota is unveiled.

1933- 150 United States warships decorated in multicolor signal bunting give a simultaneous 21-gun salute at 30 ports along the Pacific coast

1934- At Arlington Cemetery, a plaque in memory of the Unknown Soldier is added to the permanent collection of memorial trophies there. The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is rung by a hammer "guided by an electrical impulse transmitted from Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd's base in Antarctica"

1941- Chief Justice Harland Fiske Stone leads the nation in a live radio broadcast of the "Pledge of Allegiance"

1942- Fireworks in most cities are canceled due to war blackouts in place and many persons go to work to do their part with the war effort

1945- In Berlin, the Stars and Stripes are hoisted over the Adolf Hitler Barracks in a formal ceremony there, and to the sound of a 48-gun salute.

1946- Americans observe the first peacetime Fourth in five years, as occupation troops celebrate with parades and artillery salutes in Germany and Japan.

1947- In Washington, D.C., the Fourth ceremony at the Monument Grounds is televised for the first time

1949- In Washington, D.C., a scene, "The Drafting of the Declaration of Independence," from Paul Green's *The Common Glory* is presented on the Monument grounds.

1959- President Eisenhower gives a speech and lays the third cornerstone in the 166-year history of the U.S. Capitol; the 49th-star American flag waves for the first time as Alaska achieves statehood

1960- The 50th-star American flag waves for the first time as Hawaii is given statehood

1964- A reading of the Declaration of Independence by John F. Kennedy is broadcast over radio airwaves

1966- The Freedom of Information Act is signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson.

1976- The nation's Bicentennial occurs. At 2 p.m., the time the Declaration of Independence was originally approved, churches and people throughout the nation ring bells to mark the occasion; the largest number of American flags (10,471) ever flown over the U.S. Capitol in one day, for the purposes of sales and gifts occurs; the Miami Beach Convention Center is converted into a Federal court room in order to naturalize 7,241 persons, the largest group to be naturalized at one time in the history of the country.

1978- *USS Constitution*, the Navy's oldest commissioned ship, gives a 21-gun salute at Charlestown, Mass.

1979- In Toledo, Ohio, parades and other celebrations are postponed to Labor Day due to the unsettled labor situation with police and fire fighters there

1980- Throughout the country, the Fourth is "observed amid somber reminders" of the 53 American citizens held hostage in Iran.

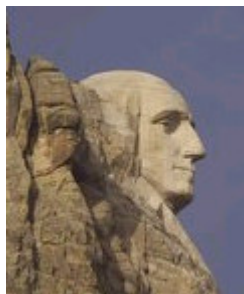
1981- President Reagan continues to recover from an assassin's bullet

1982- President Reagan gives welcome speech for astronauts Thomas K. Mattingly and Henry W. Hartsfield as they land the space shuttle *Columbia* at Edwards Air Force Base in California
1983- The 185-year-old ship *Constitution* fires a 21-gun salute in Boston Harbor

1984 - The Statue of Liberty torch is removed to make way for a new replacement, as a crowd of 4000 persons watch

1988- The rebuilt shuttle *Discovery* is taken to its launch pad in a ceremony attended by 2,000 Kennedy Space Center workers

1989- American flag burnings and pro-American flag rallies occur in many places throughout the U.S. July 4, 1989 is designated Lou Gehrig Appreciation Day in honor of the 50th anniversary of Gehrig's farewell from baseball address on July 4, 1939; 7 Chinese students ask for political asylum in the U.S.



1991- National Civil Rights Museum is dedicated in Memphis

1992- The seven astronauts in the shuttle *Columbia* unfurl the US Flag and chant "Happy Birthday, America" from space

1993- Johnny Cash recites his patriotic poem, "Rugged Old Flag," in Washington, D.C. while citizens there wave flags in honor of prisoners of war and servicemen missing in action from the Vietnam War



1995- The final Independence Day flag raising at Fort Benjamin Harrison, due to its closing in the Army's downsizing; the first July 4th celebration occurs in Hanoi, Vietnam by 500 Americans since the end of the War

1996- Fourth of July greetings are sent by astronauts on the shuttle *Columbia* in space; near the Patauxent River, in Maryland, President Clinton watches as an eagle called "Freedom" is released; Secretary of Defense William Perry visits 18,000 troops in Bosnia

1997- The U.S. Pathfinder spacecraft lands on Mars and President Clinton states, "On this important day, the American people celebrate another exciting milestone in our nation's long heritage of progress, discovery, and exploration"

1998- Many towns across Florida and Disney World as well cancel firework celebrations due to risk of setting additional forest fires in that states's worst fire disaster in fifty years; Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) schedules oath-taking for 18,500 immigrants in 27 ceremonies, with the largest occurring in Los Angeles;

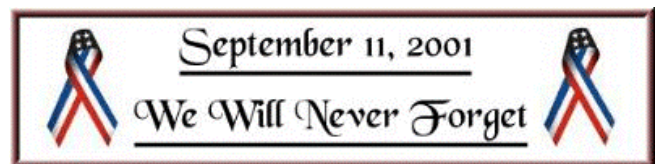
1999- In Philadelphia, 112 people all born on the Fourth of July since 1900 gather in front of Independence Hall for a "Photo of the Century" (co-sponsored by Kodak)

2000- In New York, the largest assemblage of ships ever at one event takes place as "Operation Sail 2000" and includes some 150 tall sailing ships from more than 20 nations and an 11-mile line of warships with more than two dozen naval ships from around the world as the sixth "International Naval Review"; in Washington, there is a "National Independence Day Parade," an annual "Capitol Fourth" concert at the Capitol, and the Declaration of Independence is read in front of the steps of the National Archives and a Revolutionary War battle re-enactment takes place there; in Orlando at Disney World, a giant 1 and a half-ton, 24 by 13 foot cherry cobbler that looks like the Star-Spangled Banner is dished out to all; at Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright presents a speech at the 38th annual Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony as more than 80 persons representing 27 countries take the oath for U.S. citizenship; in Freedom Park in Arlington, Va., immigrants take the oath of allegiance and naturalization ceremonies also take place in Miami and Seattle; in Atlanta and Stone Mountain, Georgia, the "Salute 2 America Parade" and the "Famous Americans: Past, Present and Future" parade, respectively, take place, as well as military drills and demonstrations at Fort Morris Historic Site; 2 overseas celebrations, one at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan and the other at a street fair in Brussels, Belgium, are cancelled due to a threat of terrorism; in Yorba Linda, California, at the Richard Nixon Library, a replica of the "Betsy

Ross" flag is raised and a re-enactment of the Battle of Lexington and Concord occurs

2001- Public readings of the Declaration of Independence take place throughout the country; in Washington, D.C., the Charters of Freedom (Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights) are removed (the first such removal in nearly 50 years) from the Rotunda for preservation improvements and will not be displayed again until 2003, 19 immigrants are naturalized aboard the *Constitution*, the oldest commissioned vessel in the Navy; from the International Space Station, astronauts proclaim "We give thanks to our ancestors . . . to all Americans, Happy Independence Day"

2002- The most intense security precautions in the history of the Fourth of July take place across the country as a guard against the threat of possible terrorist attacks, but the American people celebrate anyway, voicing their jubilation about freedoms enjoyed in this country; celebrations and ceremonies across the country in both large and small cities include tributes to all those who lost their lives on September 11 for example: in Alaska, the Filipino community enters a float in the local parade which is designed to resemble images of the rubble of the World Trade Center; In California, a parade features girders and a fire truck from the World Trade Center wreckage, in New York City; 11 chimes are sounded at the Macy's fireworks display in memory of 9/11; In Wisconsin, 3 firefighters reenact the raising of the American flag in the World Trade Center amidst tears on a float in the parade there; In New Jersey, two members of the community who lost their lives on 9/11 are honored with a float depicting a jet fighter At Monticello, 70 immigrants are naturalized; fireworks are canceled in a number of states in the West due to severe drought



conditions; in Havana, Cuba's communist government holds a Fourth of July celebration, with Fidel Castro in attendance; in Arizona, families wearing red, white and blue hold a parade and cheer firefighters who helped save the area from the largest wildfire in Arizona state history; U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell is awarded the 2002 Philadelphia Liberty Medal for his leadership in the war on terrorism and his efforts in the Middle East; Shanksville, Pa., holds its first Fourth of July parade ever in the history of the town to honor the 9/11 crash victims of United Airlines Flight 93; in San Diego, the Declaration of Independence is publicly read in Spanish; in Disney World in Orlando, 500 immigrants from 89 countries are sworn in as citizens; President Bush issues an executive order allowing 15,000 immigrants serving active duty in the U.S. military to receive immediate eligibility for citizenship

2003- At Forbes Field in Topeka, Kansas, as well as other towns and cities across the nation, Americans honor the U.S. servicemen who fought in the Iraq War; in Tikrit, Iraq, U.S. soldiers celebrate the Fourth with a cookout at Saddam Hussein's hometown palace; in Georgetown, a barge trip up the C & O Canal is held as a historic reenactment commemorating the 175th anniversary of President John Quincy Adams breaking ground for that canal in 1828; Philadelphia's new National Constitution Center opens, but a heavy piece of stage scenery topples and slightly injures the center's president Joseph M. Torsella and Mayor Street; also in Philadelphia, Supreme Court justice Sandra Day O'Connor is