

# F. Y. I.

Independence Day Edition

A Monthly Newsletter to Inform and Entertain Our Clients

**It's Our Independence Day  
Extravaganza Issue!**

**Inside:**

**Independence Day, the National  
Archives and Change**

**Do you Know These  
Independence Day Facts?**

**Word Fun  
A Gift For You**

## Thoughts on Independence Day and My “Little” Gift to You

Ah, the Fourth of July. Barbecues, parties with friends and family, splashing in the pool, summer fun, and my favorite...fireworks. Good times. But, it seems to me that the meaning of this holiday, like others, has become lost over time.

We often hear “happy Fourth of July”, “what are you doing for the Fourth of July”, “come to our Fourth of July sale”. But, how many remember that this great holiday is actually called “Independence Day”, not Fourth of July.

It’s the celebration of an event that changed the history of the world; the birth of a nation that, no matter what all too many unhappy, selfish, ungrateful dopes might tell you, has given rise to more freedom, liberty, prosperity, wealth and happiness, here and around the world, than any other country on this planet.

Indeed, it really troubles me that there are way too many people that don’t appreciate the blessings that we as a nation have been given, and in fact, would love to do away with many of our freedoms and make a “change”. Interestingly, Thomas Jefferson must have noticed the same thing in his day (see the quote on page 3). Hmm...the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Those of us who were always paying attention, and those now just waking up, understand what was meant by “change”. We see the change when the IRS uses its unbridled power to harass and intimidate everyday citizens who happen to not agree with a particular political agenda. We see it when personal financial information of political opponents is unlawfully “leaked” by that same IRS. We see it when the NSA goes well beyond its legal limits and collects phone and email data on every American citizen; not just those foreign terrorists. We see it when the justice department wiretaps journalists who don’t “drink the cool-aid” and dare look into things they shouldn’t. We see it when, by presidential directive, the EPA and other agencies do an end run around Congress and impose unlawful regulations to stifle businesses and individuals they don’t like. If you have been paying attention you’ll know even more examples of “change”.

A few weeks ago I was in Washington, DC visiting my son, Scott, who is working this summer for the Navy in a Physics internship program (actually a pretty cool story in itself). While in town, we saw the sites and paid a visit to the National Archives where, amongst other things, the *Declaration of Independence*, *Constitution* and *Bill of Rights* are housed.



As I stood there waiting to enter, it wasn’t lost on me the irony of the fact that directly across the street from the Archives is the Justice Department, and next to that, the IRS. In one building we have the documents that were created to protect our freedoms, and in the others we have individuals who seem to be doing there damndest to shred them.

I decided then and there that I wanted to send you a little gift to commemorate Independence Day. Thus, I’ve included your own copy of the *Constitution* and the *Declaration of Independence*. I’m sure most people have never read either and even fewer own their own copy. Now, if you haven’t already done so, you can do both and even carry them with you! I invite you to read them both from beginning to end; something that I had not done until just recently. I hope you appreciate and enjoy this little booklet as I do, share it with others and refer to it now and again as needed. Happy Independence Day!

## Independence Day Facts

- Betsy Ross is believed to have sewn the first American flag in May or June of 1776. She was commissioned to undertake the flag-sewing project by the Congressional Committee.
- The first draft of the Declaration of Independence was presented by drafting committee member, Thomas Jefferson, on June 28, 1776. Other members of the committee were John Adams, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin and Philip Livingston.
- On July 4 of that year, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress. However, the 56 signatories did not execute the landmark document at the same time, nor did they all sign the document on July 4. Instead, the most prolific signing date occurred the following month on August 2, when 50 men endorsed it.
- John Hancock was the first and only party to execute the Declaration on July 4, 1776, and he did so in his role as President of the Second Continental Congress. The final signer was Thomas McKean in January 1777.
- In 1941, Congress formally declared July 4 a federal holiday.

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Word Search

B D R I F Z O R J G G U Y Z S  
 L A V I N R A C A T D I C B U  
 E M V O W C A L L Z N Q A B A  
 U Y S O I T A R B E L E S R A M  
 Z N O I T A R B E L E C C R O  
 A W H S T F L P E B I S O B D  
 H C Y I E O E L A D K Z M E E  
 C P I I S N I L O R A H E C E  
 E C R R D T L R O O L R D U R  
 I I J E E L O W T C N M A E F  
 N N N K O M E R M A Q S C P P  
 I C R O R R A V Y F P U M G S  
 E I K Q I S T R E A M E R S B  
 P P U F E N G L A N D O H B H  
 U S S T I Q Y A D I L O H V H

America Balloons Barbecue

Baseball Carnival Celebration

Democracy England Fireworks Flag

Freedom History Holiday Independence

Parade Patriotism Picnic Streamers

## Monthly Quotes

*“My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy.”*  
**-Thomas Jefferson**

*“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.”*  
**Thomas Paine**

*“Loyalty to country, always. Loyalty to government, when it deserves it.”*  
**Mark Twain**

*“Republicans believe every day is the Fourth of July, but the democrats believe every day is April 15.”*  
**Ronald Reagan**



## MARK YOUR JULY CALENDAR ...

**July 4** Independence Day

**July 6** International Kissing Day

**July 13** National French Fry Day

**July 20** National Hot Dog Day

**July 21** National Ice Cream Day

**July 26** System Administrator Appreciation Day

Be Nice to New Jersey Week  
**- July 7 - 13**

Comic Con International –  
**July 18 - 21**

National Grilling Month

National Ice Cream Month

Family Golf Month

# *My Independence Day Gift to You*

**Your Own Copy of the Constitution & the Declaration of Independence**



*“A well-instructed people alone can be permanently a free people” – James Madison*

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