

Message from the President General
Independence Day
Warren Alter, President General 2018-2019

Compatriots and Friends of the Sons of the American Revolution,

This Thursday, July 4, 2019 will be the 243rd Celebration of America's Birthday. Those familiar with the Declaration of Independence, and our American history recognize the significance of what Independence Day means to this country. Some may think it is time for hot dogs and fireworks. Others, a day off from work. But it means so much more. Our forefathers declared their independence from the greatest military country in the world. This was a new beginning for our country and eventually changed the destiny of the world. This independence did not come easily, and many thought there was no way the Patriots would succeed. It took many years to prove we were independent and win our freedom from England, but we did.

Many of our Chapters and States will be participating in 4th of July Celebrations. Some with just SAR, others with DAR and C.A.R., and others with local and state entities. Some will have a few dozen people, others in our nation's largest cities and venues will have thousands. For some it will just be a quiet evening in the backyard with family. For others, like the American Village in Montevallo, AL it will be their annual largest event of the year with thousands coming to their 180-acre facilities.

Others, like many of our active duty military will do so in foreign lands away from their families and homes. Remember they are serving to keep our country free. Remember their sacrifices and help the families who are home celebrate this Independence day.

For Public Service workers it is often one of their busiest days, keeping crowds under control, unthinking adults and innocent bystanders safe from gunshots fired in the air. Please remember, what goes up, must come down. Each year innocent people are injured or killed by unthinking or careless people. Or even with our own color guard and their muskets; there may be no musket balls in those muskets, but there is black powder and safety must be our priority. We don't want any injuries at any of our events. Fire Department personnel responding to fires and damage caused by improper fireworks. Paramedics and other medical personnel treating those injured from auto accidents, firework mishaps, and unruly crowds associated with Independence Day celebrations and travel. Often, Public Service Workers don't look on this day as a celebration, but an event to get through safely. Let's make not make it harder on those military and public service workers who strive to

keep us safe. Take time to say thank you to our military and public safety employees. They all need and appreciate our support.

Whatever manner you choose to celebrate Independence Day, don't ever forget it means many things to many people and please let us make it enjoyable for everyone. Take the time, this day and every day to remind the public and young people what this day is and why we celebrate it. Remind them that living in the United States we shouldn't take for granted the freedoms that we enjoy, for many around the world have never even been exposed to freedom. Make part of your celebration a history lesson.

Finally, I would like to share Concurrent Resolution Number 25, agreed to by House and Senate June 26, 1963 that I will have the honor to be reading at a 4th of July Event in Cerritos, CA this year. Perhaps others can incorporate it into their events and celebrations.

Concurrent Resolution Number 25
United States Senate and The House of Representatives

"Whereas the tolling of the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th day of July, 1776, proclaimed the signing of the Declaration of Independence; and

Whereas the adoption of this historic document marked the birth of our country as a free and independent nation; and

Whereas it is fitting that the anniversary of this great event should be appropriately observed in each year at the same moment throughout the United States;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, that the Congress hereby (1) declares that the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence should be observed each year by the ringing of bells throughout the United States at the hour of 2 o'clock, eastern daylight time, in the afternoon of the 4th day of July, or at such other time on that day as may be determined by local authority, and (2) call upon civic and other community leaders to take appropriate steps to encourage public participation in such observance."

Adopted 26 June 1963

I wish you, our families and friends a joyous Independence Day this July 4. Be safe and remember what we are celebrating thanks to our Patriots.



Warren M. Alter
President General 2018-2019