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Fourth of July Statement 7/4/89 [OA 6266]

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Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1959

¶ 151

through you to the people of Alaska the first flag of new design in forty-seven years.

With sincere best wishes,

Sincerely,

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

The Honorable William A. Egan
Governor of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

151 ¶ Remarks at the Cornerstone-Laying
Ceremony for the Extension of the United States
Capitol. July 4, 1959

*Mr. Speaker, Mr. Stewart, Members of the Commission, Distinguished
Guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen:*

We are here today for the ceremonial laying of a cornerstone—a ceremony that has twice before marked the history of this building, the Capitol of the United States of America.

By this symbolic gesture we do more than to recognize and provide for the expanding needs of the Congress, resulting from national growth. We rededicate ourselves to the principle of representative government. We reaffirm our devotion to the values upon which this Republic rests.

These values, unequivocally stated in the Declaration of Independence, in our Bill of Rights, and in other parts of that remarkable document, the American Constitution—are both the hallmarks and the hand tools of freedom. In a free society they must be prized and they must be used, lest freedom wither.

In the collision of ideas between freedom and despotism, freedom is neither won nor held in a climate of spiritual stalemate. Its preservation is a many-sided and never-ending task.

Complacency today speeds the erosion of liberty tomorrow. Inertia will destroy it; dynamic dedication assures its lasting vitality.

On this Fourth of July, 183 years since our Nation embarked on its course of independence, we are reminded that our Declaration of Independence did more than galvanize the idea of freedom for our own people.

"The generation that produced our Declaration of Independence," said Lincoln, "meant to set up a standard maxim for free society which should be constantly looked to, constantly proximated, and thereby constantly spreading and deepening its influence and augmenting the happiness and value of life to all people of all colors everywhere."

Now each of these three cornerstone ceremonies has marked stages of America's evolution.

In 1793, when President Washington laid the cornerstone of the original Capitol building, a young but vigorous nation was struggling into political existence.

Fifty-eight years later, when President Fillmore laid the cornerstone of the House and Senate wings, the Nation was no longer in its infancy.

On that day a proud Daniel Webster extolled the progress of the United States since 1793—from 15 States to 31; from 209 Post Offices to 21,000; from 35 colleges to 694—and why it had become necessary to enlarge the Capitol building.

Again this ceremony represents growth. America has come a long way since the laying of the 1851 cornerstone.

Yet it is somehow unnecessary to commemorate this occasion by reminding ourselves of the bare statistics of cultural and material growth.

Rather, we come here today to remind ourselves of our responsibilities—to the world and to ourselves.

We come here to rekindle our faith that this building, the central home of America's representative government, will house wisdom, understanding, and compassion for all people.

Finally, we gather on this Fourth of July—as our forefathers did at Independence Hall—more than 9 score years ago—to emulate them as they pledge their common adherence to basic principles, and their common obligation to uphold these principles regardless of differences of opinion, even of policy.

Today, so long as we never waver in our devotion to the values on which these men began the building of this new nation, no differences of political policy or partisan feeling can cause America to falter on her upward course.

As we now lay this new cornerstone in the United States Capitol, we are grateful for the courageous beginnings of a new nation, represented by the first stone; for the pioneering effort and the bountiful growth

represented by the second; and for the confidence that we, if we make ourselves worthy, that this third stone will forever symbolize America's unending purpose, under God, to lead along the path toward peace, with justice for all peoples.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 noon from a stand erected on the plaza at the east front of the Capitol. His opening words referred to Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and J. George Stewart, Architect of the Capitol, both of whom were members of the Com-

mission for the Extension of the United States Capitol. The other members were Vice President Nixon, Senator Dirksen, Minority Leader of the Senate, and Representative Halleck, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

152 ¶ Message Recorded for Broadcast to Americans Overseas. July 4, 1959

My Fellow Americans:

One hundred eighty-three years ago a dramatic event took place in our country—the proclamation of our independence and the establishment of our Nation.

Today I speak to each of you—American citizens abroad—first, to convey the greetings of all of us at home on this special occasion; and second, to acknowledge a keen appreciation of your important role as our representatives to the rest of the world.

Approximately two and a half million of you are outside the United States today, all guests in foreign lands. Whether you are overseas in an official capacity, serving at one of our diplomatic missions or consular posts; or in uniform, helping to secure the common defense of freedom; or studying or teaching at a foreign school; or contributing knowledge to help improve the health or productivity of one of the world's newly developing lands; or working as a correspondent of our free press; or engaged in commerce; or traveling as a visitor to enhance your understanding of our neighbors on earth—you are, in foreign eyes, guests of those nations in which you reside. I trust that your hosts may ever consider you welcome representatives of the United States and of everything we cherish.

On this national holiday, I take this opportunity to talk to you directly about what you represent.

First of all, the significance of July fourth. This date annually commemorates and renews our dedication to the principles of freedom, of government elected by the people, of equal opportunity for all.

These are not static principles. What began in 1776 was a continuing, dynamic experiment. Let us look at the United States today, to see what we have accomplished, since 1776, in carrying out the American experiment. In these 183 years we have developed an industrialized society while maintaining our personal freedoms. Despite the predictions of Karl Marx, our economy has developed swiftly through unprecedented teamwork on the part of those who toil and those who invest and manage. During this development, the working man has obtained an increasingly larger share of the fruits of his labors. We live under the rule of law, which jealously guards our freedom from illegal restraint. It guarantees our freedom of information, our freedom of movement. I do not suggest that all of these achievements exist constantly or uniformly throughout our land. The goals for which America strives are not always easy of attainment.

But we have an abiding determination to reach those goals without sacrifice of principle, and to further the cause of freedom at home and abroad.

We have grown in the realization of interdependence among nations as well as among individuals.

We helped establish and steadfastly support the United Nations in applying the concept of collective security to preserve freedom and integrity.

We felt it our duty to extend help to those who need and desire it. In the forms of economic, scientific, technological, and defense assistance, we try to help other peoples realize their legitimate aspirations.

Our major goal is the achievement of a lasting peace with justice.

This, then, is what you represent abroad. You can be proud of the American experiment, dynamic, vital, constructive, hopeful. I ask you to tell that story. But let the facts speak for themselves. It is traditional with us not to impose ideas on other peoples. And in those countries engaged in social experiments of their own, let them know that we wish them well in their efforts toward the peaceful enhancement of the individual. Give our encouragement to all nations to solve their problems in their own way, in accordance with their own traditions—as we do ourselves. If my message to you on this Fourth of July could be put into one sentence, it would be this:

of political courage just recently when a majority, made up of both Republicans and Democrats in the Congress, set aside narrow political considerations and embraced a bipartisan program for enhancing America's security and stability through meaningful arms reductions and modernization of our defenses.

It was not easy for many of these men and women to vote for the MX missile. Some have been harshly criticized by other Members in their own party. Indeed, they faced considerable pressure and corresponding political risks. While accepting such risks, the only benefit they've received is the knowledge that they placed foremost their hopes for successful arms reductions and greater security of their nation.

Together with the Congress, we're doing everything possible to achieve genuine arms reductions. Our negotiators have been given instructions that provide greater flexibility in our negotiations with the Soviet Union. The proposals are fair, realistic, and would bring a much greater degree of sta-

bility for all the peoples of the world. There's absolutely no doubt that the prospects for success in our negotiations have been significantly improved because of the political courage shown by the Congress.

The task now is to be patient and to sustain our resolve. On this Fourth of July weekend, I salute those Members of the Congress who are putting the interests of America first. They're part of a long American tradition of proving democracy's critics wrong—of showing that we have the courage to stand up for what is right and what is necessary.

Our democratic experiment is alive and well at year 207. And with the help of the kind of political leadership and vision that we've seen in recent weeks, we can count on many happy returns.

Until next week, God bless you, and God bless America.

Note: The President spoke at 9:06 a.m. from Rancho del Cielo, his ranch near Santa Barbara, Calif.

Message to the Nation on the Observance of Independence Day July 3, 1983

My fellow Americans:

Today we join together to celebrate freedom's birthday. America is 207 years old. That makes us the oldest living democracy on Earth. I think there's a good reason for that.

It's always been my belief that by a Divine plan this nation was placed between the two oceans to be sought out and found by those with a special brand of courage and love of freedom. Can we imagine the courage it took back in 1620 to pick up family, bid goodbye to friends, board those small ships, and set sail across a mighty ocean toward a new future in an unknown world?

Can we appreciate what the patriots endured in that bone-cold snow at Valley Forge when they spent a winter without enough food or medicine or even boots to cover their feet? Maybe we can't. Maybe

we look around our more comfortable world of 1983 and say, "That's more than we've known or could endure."

But look closer. Look in our own neighborhoods and families, and you will see America is still a land of heroes with all the courage and love of freedom that ever was before. And that's our best hope for the future.

We've seen our heroes at Normandy, Bastogne, Guadalcanal, and Pork Chop Hill. We saw the agony of our POW's inside prison camps in North Vietnam. We held our breath, then rejoiced and cried when they finally came home, kissed the ground, and thanked God they were free.

We're a melting pot. And our body and spirit have never been stronger or richer, thanks to hundreds of thousands of new heroes—the brave men, women, and children who risked death to escape their com-

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munist prisons in Asia and Cuba. They ar-
rived less than 10 years ago. Most were not
able to speak a word of English. But with
their courage and faith, they brought un-
bounded determination to work, produce,
succeed, and excel. Now, more and more of
them are becoming leaders in their commu-
nities—small businessowners, hard-working
taxpayers, even valedictorians in their high
school graduating class. We can be proud
and thankful that they're joining us today in
parades and ballgames and backyard barbe-
cues as young members of an old family.

We can salute the heroes of our techno-
logical age, like the four-man, one-woman
crew of the Challenger. They dazzled
America and the world with another per-
fect mission into the new frontier of space.

And how can we ignore the countless
other examples of courage and love of
neighbor from everyday Americans—people
like that grandmother in New York who
collared a robber and gave him the back of
her hand until the police arrived; people all
across the country who've been battling
angry spring floods and rising rivers so they
could save the property and maybe the
lives of their families and friends.

Don't let anyone tell us that America's
best days are behind her, that the American
spirit has been lost. I've never felt stronger
than I do now that our people are coming
together and that America is moving for-
ward again. I've never been more con-
vinced that fundamental problems of the
economy, education, and national defense—
neglected for too many years—are now
being addressed and can be solved.

They will be solved if we believe in each
other and in those values that make us a
great and loving people. Think about it. We
work and educate for freedom, for service
of the ideal of liberty, not for subservience
to the state.

Our notion of education is the most revo-
lutionary idea conceived by mankind. When
our scholars and teachers learn something

new, they can't wait to teach it to our chil-
dren. But in a totalitarian country, you're
not allowed to read books or discuss ideas
that aren't approved by censors. You're not
allowed to have a computer in your home,
because you might obtain information or
knowledge that would make you a threat to
the state.

Let us remember this July 4th that Amer-
ica's Revolution remains unique because it's
changed the very concept of government.
We are the Nation which proudly an-
nounced to the world: We are conceived in
liberty. Each of us is created equal, with
God-given rights, and power ultimately re-
sides in "We the people."

We, the people, have only begun to write
a great story that will be passed down
through time—the story of America. I'm re-
minded of a verse I once read about Old
Glory. The Red, White, and Blue is a testa-
ment to the unity and patriotism of our
people and to the deep love and commit-
ment we have for our country, our free-
dom, and our way of life. The verse was
written as if the flag was speaking to us,
now and for generations to come.

It said:

- I am whatever you make me, nothing
more.
I am your belief in yourself, your
dream of what a people may become.
I am a day's work of the weakest man
and the largest dream of the most
daring.
I am the clutch of an idea and the rea-
soned purpose of resolution.
I am no more than you believe me to
be and I am all that you believe I can
be.
I am whatever you make me, nothing
more.

Happy Fourth of July, and may God bless
America.

Note: The President's remarks were taped on
June 27 at the White House.

The President. Well, I'm looking forward to it.

Note: The interviewers spoke by telephone with the President, who was in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House.

The interviews were released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 4, the date of their broadcast in Orlando.

with the growth rate in productivity and in the economy. Now, that's all we ask for—is that the money supply be increased so as to keep pace with the growth in the economy and not at a rate that would bring back inflation.

Mr. Rinker. Mr. President, thank you very much. We're looking forward to seeing you in Daytona on Wednesday.

Address to the Nation on the Observance of Independence Day

July 4, 1984

My fellow Americans:

Happy Fourth of July! I've been thinking about the Fourth of July, 1976—8 years ago. Do you remember that great Bicentennial Day?

In New York, the tall ships came sailing up the Hudson, and in Boston, the rousing music of Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops had all of that city standing and cheering. In Baltimore, they had great parades, and in Philadelphia, they brought out the Liberty Bell and had a group of schoolchildren pat it with their hands so that it would make a sound without upsetting the crack in the bell.

A person who was there tells me that thousands of people surrounded the Liberty Bell, quietly and with respect. And then, a young fellow started to sing "God Bless America." And it spread through the crowd. And people were left quite hushed with happiness when it was over.

It was a wonderful day, and ever since, the Fourth of July has been as special as it was back in older times when it ranked with Christmas as an important day, a time for families to come together and for neighborhoods to explode with bright lights.

America still has so much to celebrate on this day—unity and affection, prosperity and freedom. Today, on July 4, 1984, there will be fireworks to commemorate that moment when Francis Scott Key saw through the glare of the rockets that our flag was still there. Somewhere a chorus will sing the old songs of love and affection for our country. Somewhere a family will

gather and salute the flag. Somewhere a veteran will be told, "Thanks for what you did." And in a courthouse somewhere, some of the newest Americans, the most recent immigrants to our country, will take the oath of citizenship.

Maybe today, someone will put his hand on the shoulder of one of those new citizens and say, "Welcome," and not just as a courtesy, but to say welcome to a great land, a place of unlimited possibilities. Welcome to the American family.

There are all kinds of people in that family, and they live in all kinds of conditions and circumstances. Perhaps you know an older person, a senior citizen who feels a little left out by all the younger people around him. Maybe you could take that person aside and ask, "What was the Fourth of July like in your earliest memories?" You might hear some pretty interesting stories. Perhaps there's someone who's lonely in your neighborhood, someone whose friends all left for the holidays, or a girl or boy who are pretty much on their own. Maybe today someone will invite one of them over to the barbecue.

Somewhere today I hope we will all pause for a brief moment and think of all we have to be thankful for and of the great future that lies before us.

The spirit of our nation is strong. The freedoms our forefathers won for us endure. We still stand for freedom throughout the world, which is why immigrants still come to us. No one emigrates to Cuba or jumps over the wall into East Berlin or seeks

refuge in the Soviet Union. Those who look for freedom seek sanctuary here.

The United States is a leader in a world turning, day by day, toward freedom. In Central America and Africa and elsewhere, the tide of the future is a freedom tide. The impulse to create democratic government not only endures; it grows, and that, in spite of real resistance from those who believe in freedom not a bit.

Other countries see our entrepreneurial spirit and seek to emulate it. They see how a vigorous, free society allows man to move on and grow. They see how we're trying to make life better for man through scientific inquiry. They see us pushing into space. Other systems are locked on to the land, prisoners of a gravity of their own devising. America is a rocket, pushing upward and outward into space, into human history.

We have 208 years of history behind us. But somehow, these days, we know the whole world is before us. And we can feel

as Teddy Roosevelt did when he surveyed the world at the turn of the century. He said, "We Americans see across the dangers the great future that lies beyond, and we rejoice as a giant refreshed, as a strong man ready for the race. The great victories are yet to be won; the greatest deeds yet to be done. There are yet in store for our people and for the causes we uphold, grander triumphs than have ever yet been scored."

Well, so it is, and it will be. Despite our differences and disagreements, this is a happy, decent, united country. The bells still ring for America. A philosopher said recently, "And for that, we must be truly grateful."

Happy Fourth of July! May God bless you, and may He continue to bless the Nation. He showered with His love for more than two centuries.

Note: The President recorded the address on June 28 at the White House.

Remarks of the President and Ned Jarrett of the Motor Racing Network During a Radio Broadcast of the Pepsi Firecracker 400 in Daytona Beach, Florida

July 4, 1984

Mr. Jarrett. It's now a great pleasure and an honor to welcome President Ronald Reagan, who, as you know, was an athlete himself in college and has a keen interest in sports. So, on behalf of the people on Motor Racing Network, Daytona International Speedway, President Reagan, we welcome you.

The President. Well, Ned, I'm pleased to be here. This is a real kick for me. At the same time, however, having been a sports announcer myself, I'm kind of glad that I didn't have to broadcast this, because I'm having so much trouble trying to sort out who's on first.

Mr. Jarrett. Well, about the time the Air Force One was landing just behind the speedway here, we had a seven car draft for the lead that just made pitstops—what should be their last pitstops. That sometimes tends to break them up a little bit.

But Richard Petty, who is trying to win his 200th NASCAR Winston Cup victory here today, which would set an all-time record, is out front now in car number 43—and I believe you have some special ties to the owner of that car.

The President. Yes, and he's sitting right up here—Mike Curb, who is out there and—shouldn't mention this on a holiday like this, a partisanship—but we were kind of tied up in politics back in California. I won't mention which party. [Laughter]

Mr. Jarrett. Okay, we'll let that go by the wayside. I'm sure that you're amazed by the speeds that you're seeing these cars run here today and the control the drivers have over them.

The President. Yes, I am. And I've noticed one thing already. I've been here only a short time, but I've noticed that if you're

July 3 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1985

programs from the standpoint of their impact on soil and water resources.

This accompanying report covers Fiscal Year 1984. It displays soil and water conservation program accomplishments through a number of tables and appendices. The accomplishments are consistent with those reported through the 1986 budget request and the explanatory notes that provide program descriptions and details to support the

budget request.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Note: Identical letters were sent to Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, and George Bush, President of the Senate. The report was entitled "Annual RCA Progress Report, National Program for Soil and Water Conservation, Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1984" (United States Department of Agriculture).

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 1985
July 3, 1985

The signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 marked both the beginning of a new nation and the start of a great epoch in the history of political affairs. That day in Philadelphia, a Republic was born based on the idea of liberty for all. The Fourth of July is America's birthday celebration, but it is also a day of importance for anyone who believes in freedom.

The Declaration of Independence opened government to the people as never before. Each individual was acknowledged as possessing certain inalienable rights. And these rights in turn enabled our people to take part in their political system. Here was a true revolution, embodying the idea that government required the consent of those it governed. Overnight, Americans were acknowledged as citizens of a free land where they had once been only colonial subjects of a distant monarch.

To this day, this eloquent document detailing the rights of man and the concept of individual liberty is as moving as it is timely. It continues to hold profound meaning for us. We should remember the words of John Adams when he wrote of its signing to his wife Abigail as, "the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty."

This Independence Day, 1985, let us be guided by the wisdom of that great American statesman and of all our Founding Fathers. As we commemorate 209 years of liberty today, let us pray for God's blessing and His help in safeguarding the precious legacy of the Declaration of Independence.

RONALD REAGAN

Appointment of Roger Stanley Johnson as a Member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation

July 3, 1985

The President today announced his intention to appoint Roger Stanley Johnson to be a member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation for a term expiring May 11, 1988. He will succeed James L. Kuebel-

beck.

Dr. Johnson has been practicing medicine since 1950. He has been a surgeon since 1963. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, a member of the Ameri-

Fourth of July

Fourth of July

The patriotic American holiday, commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, 1776, by delegates of the Thirteen Colonies. Also known as **Independence Day**. Alfred Lord Tennyson once made the best of it from an English point of view:

What wonder if in noble heat
Those men thine arms withstood,
Retought the lesson thou had'st taught,
And in thy spirit with thee fought, -
Who sprang from English blood.

Margaret Walker's novel *Jubilee* contains a chapter called 'Fourth of July Celebration'. It opens: 'Lee County was planning a hanging on the Fourth of July.' There is a full description of 'barbecue day' and the festive celebrations which accompany the hanging of two black slave women. Mark Twain has a rather less horrific comment on the day:

July 4. Statistics show that we lose more fools on this day than in all the other days of the year put together. This proves, by the number left in stock, that one Fourth of July per year is now inadequate, the country has grown so.

(*Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar*)

Fourth of June

The date of George III's birth in 1738. Mrs Gaskell refers to it in *My Lady Ludlow*: 'They are as loyally disposed as any children can be. They come up here every fourth of June, and drink his Majesty's health'. In 1762 George III visited Eton College and the day has been commemorated ever since by a major celebration on or near June 4th. It is fully described in the novel *The Fourth of June* by David Benedictus.

frabjous day

A wonderful day, an outrageously fabulous day. The word is one of Lewis Carroll's distinctive inventions in *Through the Looking Glass*:

'And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?

Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!
He chortled in his joy.'

John Steinbeck used 'O frabjous day!' as a chapter title in *Sweet Thursday*.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Day

January 30th. An optional bank holiday in Kentucky. Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945) was President of the United States during four administrations. He was stricken with polio in 1921 but recovered partial use of his legs. He aligned the US with Britain during World War II. He afterwards did much work in the cause of international peace through the United Nations.

Franklin's Birthday

January 17th. Benjamin Franklin was born on this day in 1706. It is celebrated each year by different societies and institutions, such as the Poor Richard Club, the Franklin Society, the Printers and Publishers Association, etc. Franklin is remembered as a writer, printer, scientist and statesman, a man of great common sense and wit. He helped to draft, and signed, the Declaration of Independence. He also helped to establish the University of Pennsylvania, where his birthday is also commemorated each year.

Fraternal Day

The second Tuesday in October. It was established as a legal holiday in Alabama in 1915 as a day when 'all religions, creeds and beliefs unite in good will'. Later the holiday was linked with COLUMBUS DAY.

Friday

The sixth day of the week. The name associates the day with the goddess Frigg, or Freya, the Northern European equivalent of Venus, to whom the Romans dedicated this day. For Muslims it is the Sabbath day, for Christians it was for a long time the day on which fish was eaten instead of meat. The street in London where the fishmongers had their market is still known as Friday Street.

July 4th

- Tom Sawyer Day in Hannibal, Missouri
All States Picnic in Ontario, California,
featuring a table 2 miles long
- 740 AD Feast of St. Martin of Tours (Episcopal)
959 St. Andrew of Crete died (Feast Day)
973 St. Odo the Good died (Feast Day)
1187 St. Ulric of Augsburg died (Feast Day)
Saracens defeated Crusaders at Hittin and
captured King Guy of Jerusalem
- 1567 Mary, Queen of Scots, abdicated
1687 First European description of a typhoon written
1754 Washington surrendered Ft. Necessity to French
and Indians
- 1776 Declaration of Independence signed (U.S.
Independence Day)
- 1802 U.S. Military Academy at West Point opened
1804 Nathaniel Hawthorne, author, born
1817 Construction of the Erie Canal begun (New York)
1821 Slavery abolished in New York State
1826 Stephen Foster, composer, born
John Adams, 2nd U.S. President, died
1828 Thomas Jefferson, 3rd U.S. President, died
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal begun
Baltimore and Ohio Railroad construction
begun
- 1829 "Bus" service begun in London, England
Cornerstone of the statehouse laid at Augusta,
Maine
- 1831 James Monroe, 5th U.S. President, died
1836 U.S. Patent Office established
1840 First Cunard steamship, Britannia, sailed from
Liverpool, England
Dr. Karl von Grafe, father of plastic surgery,
died
- 1845 Texans voted for annexation to the United
States
- 1848 Cornerstone of the Washington Monument laid
Chateaubriand, French author, died
- 1851 Cornerstones of new U.S. Capitol wings laid
First railroad construction west of the
Mississippi begun
- 1863 Fort Boise established in Idaho
Vicksburg, Mississippi, surrendered to the U.S.
Army
- Vanity Fair, New York City comic weekly, ceased
publication
- 1866 Half of Portland, Maine, destroyed by a fire
1869 First skirmish between U.S. Cavalry and Cochise's
Apache Indians in the Burro
Mountains
- 1870 Robert E. Lee steamboat beat the Natchez into
St. Louis from New Orleans

Hannibal, Missouri
 in Ontario, California,
 uring a table 2 miles long
 tin of Tours (Episcopal)
 ete died (Feast Day)
 died (Feast Day)
 sburg died (Feast Day)
 l Crusaders at Hittin and
 ured King Guy of Jerusalem
 cots, abdicated
 escription of a typhoon written
 ndered Ft. Necessity to French
 Indians
 ndependence signed (U.S.
 pendence Day)
 ademy at West Point opened
 ne, author, born
 he Erie Canal begun (New York)
 i in New York State
 omposer, born
 J.S. President, died
 , 3rd U.S. President, died
 Ohio Canal begun
 o Railroad construction
 un in London, England
 e statehouse laid at Augusta,
 e
 i U.S. President, died
 e established
 mship, Britannia, sailed from
 pool, England
 e, father of plastic surgery,
 annexion to the United
 s
 e Washington Monument laid
 ench author, died
 ew U.S. Capitol wings laid
 nstruction west of the
 sissippi begun
 ished in Idaho
 sippi, surrendered to the U.S.
 York City comic weekly, ceased
 cation
 Maine, destroyed by a fire
 tween U.S. Cavalry and Cochise's
 e Indians in the Burro
 ains
 amboat beat the Natchez into
 ouis from New Orleans

1872 Calvin Coolidge, U.S. President, born
 1873 Cornerstone of new state capitol laid at
 Springfield, Illinois
 1876 Flagstaff, Arizona settlement named for a
 lumberjack stunt
 M. S. Harsha patented his barbed wire
 1878 George M. Cohan, composer, born
 1879 British defeated the Zulus at Ulunidi, South
 Africa
 1883 First silver train left Helena, Montana,
 carrying 500 tons
 Rube Goldberg, cartoonist, born
 First public rodeo for prizes held (Pecos,
 Texas)
 1884 Statue of Liberty presented to the U.S. by
 France
 1888 First public rodeo at which admission was
 charged (Prescott, Arizona)
 1891 A gold vein, named Independence, discovered at
 Cripple Creek, Colorado
 Hannibal Hamlin, U.S. Vice-President, died
 1898 French La Bourgoyne collided with British
Cromartyshire
 Spanish ship Reina Mercedes scuttled at Santiago,
 Cuba
 1900 Louis Armstrong, trumpeter, born
 1903 "Big Brother" organization begun
 1904 George Murphy, actor-senator, born
 1907 Howard Taubman, drama critic, born
 1911 Mitch Miller, bandleader, born
 1912 East Corning, New York, train wreck
 1916 Alan Seeger, poet, died
 1917 "Lafayette, we are here" (General Pershing on
 the arrival of American forces
 in Paris)
 1918 Abigail Van Buren, "Dear Abby" columnist, born
 Thirteen stripes became official on the U.S.
 flag
 1919 Jack Dempsey knocked out Jess Willard for the
 heavyweight title
 1925 Pickwick Club in Boston collapsed
 1934 Marie Curie, scientist, died
 1937 Comet Finsler discovered
 1946 Philippines granted their independence from
 the U.S.
 1953 Mt. Nanga Parbat in Kashmir climbed by an
 Austrian team
 1956 Independence Hall, Philadelphia, became
 Independence National Historic
 Park
 1968 Radio Astronomy Explorer, an X-shaped satellite,
 launched
 1970 Fighters' Day celebrations held in Yugoslavia

4

JULY

Births

Calvin Coolidge (13th U.S. president) 1872; Louis Armstrong (musician) 1900; Meyer Lansky (mobster) 1902; Abigail Van Buren (columnist) 1918.

Deaths

John Adams (2nd U.S. president) 1826; Thomas Jefferson (3rd U.S. president) 1826; James Monroe (5th U.S. president) 1831.

The Declaration of Independence, 1776

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalterable 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."

From the document signed at the Continental Congress, Philadelphia, 1776, which asserted the independence of the thirteen American colonies, separated them from England, and made them the United States

Independence Day, USA, 1826

July 4, 1826, had a touch of solemnity to it. It was the semicentennial of the Declaration of Independence, but the festivities were marred by the deaths on that day of both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. Jefferson was the third U.S. president, and the chief author of the declaration; Adams was the second president, and its chief advocate.

America in a Half Hour, 1832

On July 4, 1832 the song "America," written on a scrap of paper in half an hour by Dr Samuel Francis Smith, was first performed by Boston school children in the Park Street Church. This original manuscript is now in the Harvard Library.

U.S. and U.K. Together, 1918

Today in 1918, British and American troops went into action together, fighting side by side against the Germans in World War I.

Knockout at Toledo, 1919

On July 4, 1919, Jack Dempsey won the heavyweight championship of the world by a knockout in his bout with Jess Willard at Toledo, Ohio.

Washington Monument, 1848

On July 4, 1848 President Polk laid the cornerstone of the Washington Monument.

Hawaii Joins Up, 1960

Hawaii, today in 1960, was admitted to the United States, thus becoming the fiftieth star on the flag.



New York Celebrates, 1876

Today in 1876 the centenary of the Declaration of American Independence was observed as a day of thanksgiving throughout the U.S. New York was magnificently decorated; there was a torch-light procession in which upwards of 10,000 people participated; and at midnight a monster concert took place in Union Square, with some hundred thousand spectators present.

The Statue of Liberty, 1884

On July 4, 1884 the Statue of Liberty was presented by France to the United States to commemorate the French and American revolutions. The statue was designed by F.A. Bartholdi in the form of a woman with uplifted arm holding a torch. The colossal lady, 152 feet high, was placed at the entrance to New York City harbour.

