



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Fourth of July

JEFFERSON CITY – As we make plans to gather with family and friends this holiday weekend 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 and the American Revolution that followed.

However, this country did not achieve its independence with the signing of the Declaration. 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 America: “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.

Today our freedom is at the forefront of the War on Terror, and Americans are once again reminded of the value of such a privilege. As our country continues to trudge ahead in the fight against faceless enemies, let us remember this Fourth of July that the very freedom we are celebrating is not to be taken for granted.

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. July 4, 2006, the United States of America will celebrate its 230th birthday – 230 years of independence, liberty, freedom and the pursuit of happiness.

So while you celebrate this patriotic holiday filled with all-American food and traditions centering on spectacles of sight, sound and sentiment, remember that our freedom came with a price. As our brave soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere can attest, it's a price that will never be paid in full.

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.