

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026

250<sup>th</sup>

AMERICA

*Anniversary*

A SUPPLEMENT OF THE ALBANY HERALD



# NOTABLE QUOTES FROM AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans will celebrate the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the United States throughout 2026. Many a notable leader has influenced the country in its 250-year history, and the following are some notable quotes from American presidents over the course of the nation's history.

• "If we can but prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them, they must become happy." Thomas Jefferson, 1802

• "Peace is the best time for improvement and preparation of every kind; it is in peace that our commerce flourishes most, that taxes are most easily paid, and that the revenue is most productive." - James Monroe, 1817

• "Officeholders are the agents of the people, not their masters." - Grover Cleveland, 1886

• "In the history of mankind, many republics have risen, have flourished for a less or greater time, and then have fallen because their citizens lost the power of governing themselves and thereby governing their state; and in no way has this loss of power

been so often and so clearly shown as in the tendency to turn the government into a government primarily for the benefit of one class instead of a government for the benefit of the people as a whole." - Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

• "Governments do not make ideals, but ideals make governments." - Calvin Coolidge, 1926

• "No government is perfect. One of the chief virtues of democracy, however, is that its defects are always visible and under democratic processes can be pointed out and corrected." - Harry S. Truman, 1947

• "Mankind must put an

end to war — or war will put an end to mankind." - John F. Kennedy, 1961

• "A president's hardest task is not to do what is right, but to know what is right." - Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965

• "American has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests and teach us what it means to be citizens." - George W. Bush, 2001

• "Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

## Interesting facts related to Independence Day

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans celebrate Independence Day every July 4. The holiday has become synonymous with summer fun, as grand fireworks displays and backyard barbecues are integral components of many people's July 4 celebrations.

As Americans and residents of the United States prepare for some festive Fourth of July celebrations, they can keep these interesting facts related to Independence Day in mind.

• There have been many iterations of the American flag. The American flag has become an iconic symbol of freedom recognized across the globe since the United States declared their independence from Great

Britain in 1776. But few July 4 celebrants may know that the current version is the 27th iteration of the American flag. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the current version of the flag officially became the flag on July 4, 1960.

• More than half of all Americans own an American flag. A 2023 poll from WalletHub found that 57 percent of Americans own an American flag. And that's not the only way Americans show their national pride, as the same poll found that roughly one in three Americans intended to purchase patriotic merchandise for July 4.

• The United States is not the only place to celebrate American independence. Such celebrations occur in various countries, including Australia, Denmark,

Ireland, and Norway. The festivities in Rebild National Park in Denmark is believed to be the largest celebration of American independence outside the United States.

• The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council estimates that 150 million hot dogs are consumed on July 4. Though there's no corresponding estimate related to how many hamburgers Americans eat on July 4, various reports suggest Americans eat roughly 50 billion burgers annually, so it's fair to conclude many a burger will be consumed this Independence Day.

• July is a popular month for nations to celebrate their independence. In addition to the United States, various countries, including Algeria (July 5), Argentina (July 9), The Ba-

hamas (July 10), Belarus (July 3), Burundi (July 1), Canada (July 1), Cape Verde (July 1), Colombia (July 20), Kiribati (July 12), and Liberia (July 26), celebrate their Independence Day in July.

• John Adams, a Founding Father of the United States and the second president in the country's history, felt Americans should celebrate their independence from Great Britain on July 2. That's because the Continental Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776. However, the Declaration of Independence was not approved for two more days, thus making July 4 the day to celebrate America's independence from Great Britain.



# Did You KNOW?

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Names like John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and, of course, John Hancock might instantly come to mind when pondering the men who signed the Declaration of Independence

in 1776. But what about the remaining signatories to the founding document of the United States? According to the National Archives, 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence, and even historians and armchair history buffs might be

hard pressed to name all 56 signers of the pivotal document. Some might even be surprised to learn that various notable figures from the era were not among the 56 signers on the Declaration of Independence, a list that includes Alexander Hamil-

ton, John Jay and George Washington. George Mason, another influential figure of the era, also decided against signing the Declaration of Independence, citing its lack of a "Bill of Rights" as motivation for keeping his pen to himself.



SPECIAL PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

According to the National Archives, 56 men signed the Declaration of Independence.

## Impactful events in U.S. history

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

As the United States celebrates its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, millions of Americans will reflect on the nation's history. American history includes a great many impactful events that changed the country forever. The following are some events of note as the United States of America celebrates 250 years of nationhood.

- **The Louisiana Purchase (1803):** Soaring prices have been the norm in the real estate market in recent years, but it was once possible to procure 530 million acres of North American territory for \$15 million. That's precisely what happened in 1803 when the U.S. and France completed the Louisiana Purchase. According to the Office of the Historian of the U.S. Department of State, President Thomas Jefferson sent James Monroe to France to work alongside U.S. Minister to France Robert Livingston in an effort to purchase New Orleans and West Florida for \$10 million. But the emissaries were surprised when Napoleon Bonaparte offered the whole territory of Louisiana to the U.S. for \$15 million. Native Americans still inhabited much of the area that was part of the sale, but the transaction included the entirety of what is now Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, as well as portions of present-day Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Minnesota.

- **President James Monroe addresses Congress (December 1823):** During his annual message to Congress in late 1823, President James Monroe included a warning to European powers that they should not interfere in affairs in the Americas. According to The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the powers that be in the United States were wary of European intervention in Florida, the Pacific Northwest and Latin America. The result was a statement from President Monroe, later referred to as the Monroe Doctrine, announcing that the west-

ern hemisphere was closed to further colonization by European nations. President Monroe also noted that the U.S. would not interfere in the internal affairs of nations in Europe.

- **Sinking of the Lusitania (1915):** Though the Lusitania was a British-owned ship, the U.S. Library of Congress notes its passengers included more than 120 Americans on May 7, 1915, the day the luxury ocean liner was torpedoed by a German U-boat. History.com notes the Imperial German Embassy in Washington, D.C., placed ads in American newspapers reminding Americans that Germany and Britain were at war and that ships flying the flag of Great Britain were vulnerable to attack. Despite the warnings, Americans still boarded the Lusitania, and the sinking of the ship strained relations between the neutral United States and Germany. Anti-German sentiments began to rise in the U.S. after the sinking of the ship, and such sentiments remained even as the U.S. maintained its neutral status into 1917. The final straw, and one that called to mind the sinking of the Lusitania nearly two years prior, was the interception of the Zimmerman telegram, which revealed German intentions to return to submarine warfare and target all ships, including those carrying American passengers.

- **Wall Street crashes on Black Monday (1929):** The stock market crash that began in October 1929 marked an end to the financial boom of the 1920s that the Federal Reserve notes had begun in August 1921 and lasted until September 1929. On what's become known to historians as Black Monday (October 28, 1929), the Dow Jones Industrial Average declined by nearly 13 percent, a fall that preceded an almost 12 percent decline on the following day. By the summer of 1932, the Dow had fallen to its lowest value of the twentieth century and 89 percent below its peak. Black Monday marked the beginning of the Great Depression, and the Federal Reserve notes the Dow did not return to its pre-crash heights until 1954.



### Why isn't July 2 the day to celebrate American independence?

The Declaration of Independence and July Fourth are indelibly linked. But you may need to be an American history buff to know that the link is less direct than it may seem. The Continental Congress declared American independence on July 2, even though the final wording of the Declaration of Independence had yet to be approved.

That approval came two days later, which is why American independence is celebrated on July

4. Furthermore, the Declaration of Independence now on display at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., was not signed on July 4.

The signatures on that document, which have been a source of pride for descendants of the signers for centuries, were written on August 2, a full month after the Congress declared its independence from Great Britain. And in a reflection of life in the 18th century, Great Britain did not even receive the declaration until November of 1776.

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

**RE/MAX**  
Of Albany

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA**

**250 Years**

**Vickie Giles-Griffin**  
REALTOR / ASSOCIATE BROKER

(229) 894-2424 (229) 317-4134  
RE/MAX of Albany  
1819 Dawson Road  
Albany, GA 31707  
www.vgriffin.com

**"One Nation, 250 Years Strong"**

**Debbie Fulford**  
Associate Broker, CRS, ABR

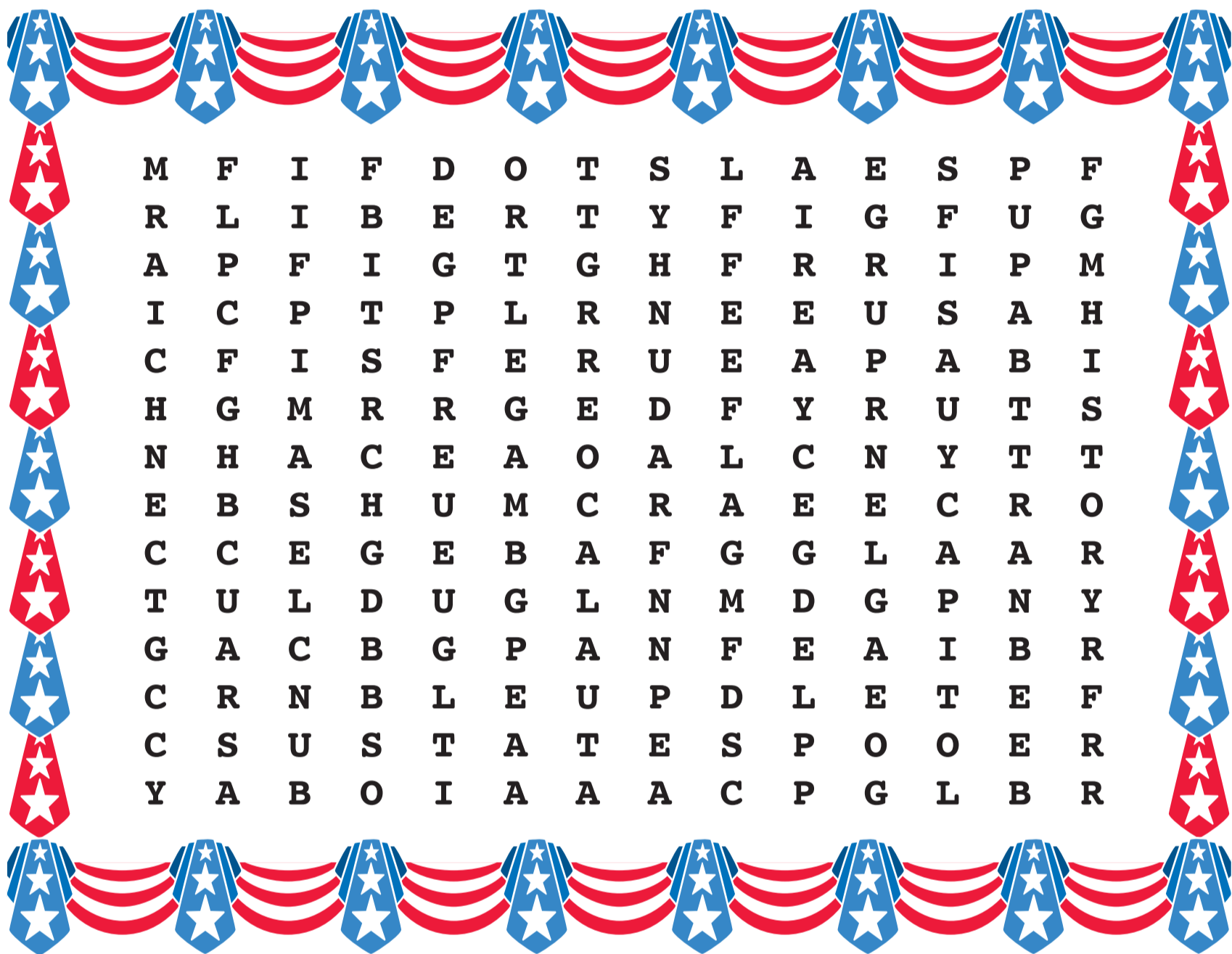
**RE/MAX of Albany**  
1819 Dawson Road  
Albany, GA 31707

229.434.1600 - Office  
229.343.4200 - Mobile  
debfulford@gmail.com  
www.remaxofalbany.com



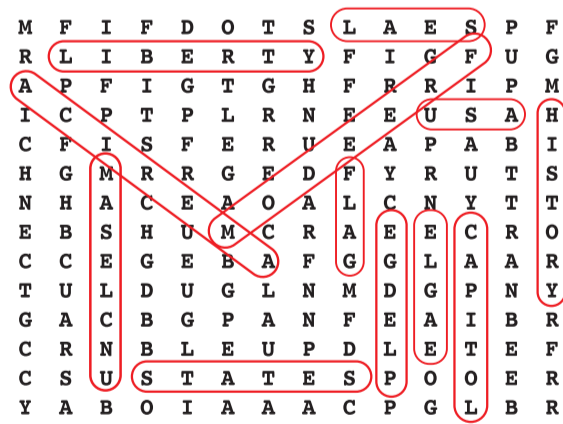
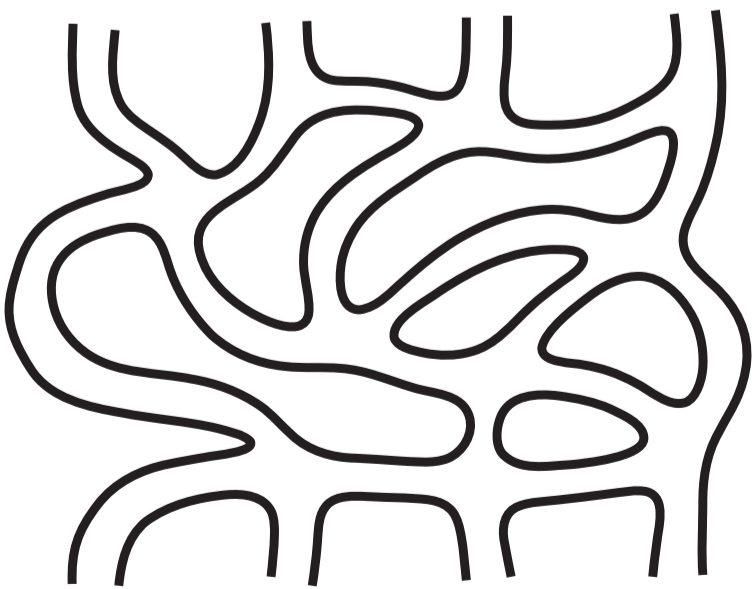
# FUN ZONE

## USA WORD SEARCH



- AMERICA
- EAGLE
- FREEDOM
- LIBERTY
- SEAL
- UNCLE SAM
- CAPITOL
- FLAG
- HISTORY
- PLEDGE
- STATES
- USA

### American Maze Match



### GO, USA!

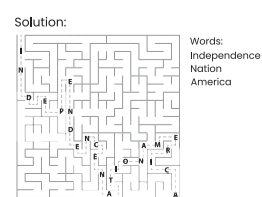
While making your way through the maze, write down each letter you encounter along the correct path. These letters will spell out three words that pertain to the United States of America.

WORDS:

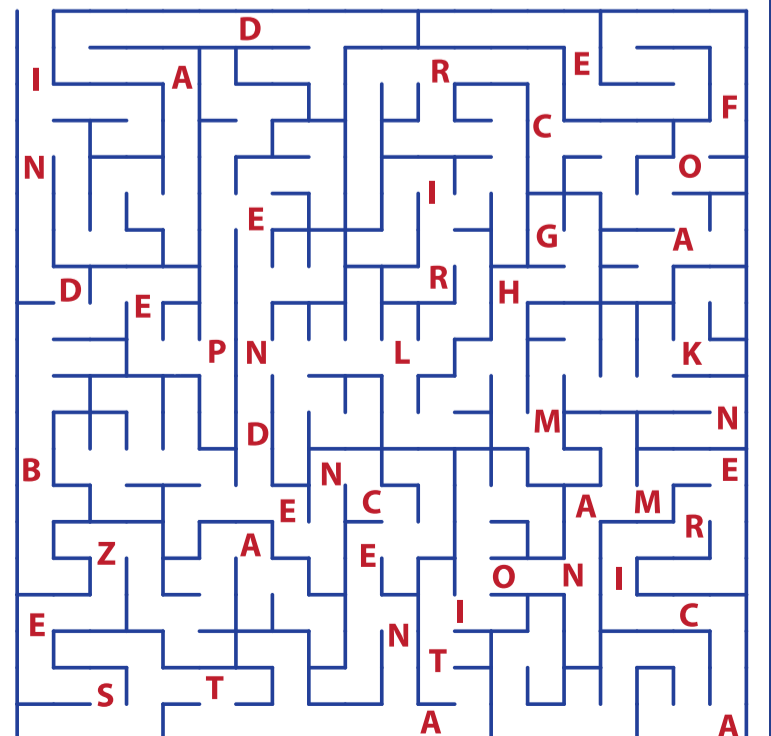
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Start



Finish

# DECORATING FOR AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Each year on July 4, many Americans are in a celebratory mood as they prepare for all the fanfare involved with Independence Day festivities. But Independence Day 2026 stands to be extra special since it marks America's 250th birthday. Towns, cities and the entire country will be planning much more extravagant July 4 celebrations in 2026.

People who want to get in on the America 250 action may want to begin thinking about how they are going to make their homes and businesses more festive.

**• Bunting and banners:** Bunting and banners are traditional patriotic decorations. They traditionally are red, white and blue and can be hung from porches, fences and railings.

**• American flags:** Many homes and businesses already display the flag, but this is the perfect opportunity to do so for

those who want to exhibit their pride in America. Be sure to treat the flag with respect and review the official United States Flag Code, which mandates that the flag never touches the ground and is illuminated if flown at night. When hanging against a wall or window, the blue union must be at the top left.

**• Specialty signs:** Many municipalities are getting in on the America 250 action and will organize specialty parades and parties. People can check with local government offices to see if lawn signs will be available. If so, they can be displayed in front of homes or retail stores.

**• Tablescapes:** Themed America 250 tablecloths can be used for backyard parties and picnics. Centerpieces of mason jars filled with mini flags and birthday number candles spelling out 250 are another fun idea.

**• Cozy accents:** Both homeowners and store owners can incorporate cozy accents like



wooden blocks or patriotic table runners that display the 1776-2026 theme. Throw pillows and blankets featuring stars and stripes tossed over an antique rocking chair on a porch or near an entryway is a great way to offer a touch of Americana.

**• Lights:** Twinkling holiday lights in red, white and blue can be hung around windows and doors, or wrapped around trees in the yard for festive appeal.

Communities may identify specific decorating goals, like entire streets featuring paper lanterns, or America 250 flags on telephone poles. Residents can participate in such plans where possible.

America's 250th birthday certainly is worthy of celebration and lots of patriotic decor can commemorate this special event.



**SPECIAL PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION**  
Each state in the United States has at least one nickname, and those monikers can be a fun way to spark discussions and learn more about each of the 50 states that make up the country.

## The nicknames of all 50 states

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The United States is the fourth largest country in the world in terms of total area. According to The World Factbook, the U.S. features more than 9.8 million square kilometers (roughly 3.8 million square miles), and the country's terrain is as diverse as the people who call the nation home. There may be no better way to gain a feel for America and its inhabitants than getting behind the wheel and taking a road trip, but there's many other ways to gain insight into what makes each state unique. Each state in the United States has at least one nickname, and those monikers can be a fun way to spark discussions and learn more about each of the 50 states that make up the country.

- **Alabama:** Cotton State, Yellowhammer State
- **Alaska:** The Last Frontier
- **Arizona:** Grand Canyon State
- **Arkansas:** Natural State
- **California:** Golden State
- **Colorado:** Centennial State
- **Connecticut:** Nutmeg State, Constitution State
- **Delaware:** The First State, Diamond State
- **Florida:** Sunshine State
- **Georgia:** Peach State, Empire State of the South
- **Hawaii:** Aloha State
- **Idaho:** Gem State
- **Illinois:** Prairie State, Land of Lincoln
- **Indiana:** Hoosier State
- **Iowa:** Hawkeye State, Corn State
- **Kansas:** Sunflower State
- **Kentucky:** Bluegrass State
- **Louisiana:** Pelican State, Creole State, Sugar State
- **Maine:** Pine Tree State

- **Maryland:** Free State, Old Line State
- **Massachusetts:** Bay State, Old Colony State
- **Michigan:** Wolverine State, Great Lake State
- **Minnesota:** North Star State, Gopher State, Land of 10,000 Lakes, Land of Sky-Blue Waters
- **Mississippi:** Magnolia State
- **Missouri:** Show Me State
- **Montana:** Treasure State, Big Sky Country
- **Nebraska:** Cornhusker State, Beef State
- **Nevada:** Silver State, Sagebrush State, Battle Born State
- **New Hampshire:** Granite State
- **New Jersey:** Garden State
- **New Mexico:** Land of Enchantment
- **New York:** Empire State
- **North Carolina:** Tar Heel State, Old North State
- **North Dakota:** Flickertail State, Sioux State, Peace Garden State
- **Ohio:** Buckeye State
- **Oklahoma:** Sooner State
- **Oregon:** Beaver State
- **Pennsylvania:** Keystone State
- **Rhode Island:** Ocean State, Little Rhody
- **South Carolina:** Palmetto State
- **South Dakota:** The Mount Rushmore State
- **Tennessee:** Volunteer State
- **Texas:** Lone Star State
- **Utah:** Beehive State
- **Vermont:** Green Mountain State
- **Virginia:** The Old Dominion, Mother of Presidents
- **Washington:** Evergreen State, Chinook State
- **West Virginia:** Mountain State
- **Wisconsin:** Badger State, America's Dairyland
- **Wyoming:** Equality State



SPECIAL PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

People who want to get in on the America 250 action may want to begin thinking about how they are going to make their homes and businesses more festive.



*Proud To Be An American Business!*

**Brad Lanier Oil Co., Inc.**

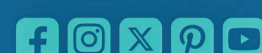


*Visit Albany Celebrates*  
**USA 250!**

Join us at The Exchange Club Fairgrounds for a day of patriotic fun! Enjoy tasty food vendors, live entertainment, a dazzling fireworks display and more at this community event.



VisitAlbanyGA.com



# 9 facts about the Declaration of Independence

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

The Declaration of Independence is a document that indicates the founding principles of the United States of America. The declaration was issued by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and announced the separation of the 13 British colonies in North America from the United Kingdom.

That significance means the public may want to learn more about the Declaration of Independence. Here are some key facts.

1. While Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it was carefully reviewed and modified by other members of the Continental Congress, notably John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

2. The Continental Congress actually voted for independence on July 2, 1776. The written Declaration was dated July 4, 1776, but it wasn't actually signed until August 2nd of that year. John Adams thought July 2nd would be marked as the national holiday.

3. Fifty-six delegates signed the Declaration of Independence, but not all were present on that day in August.

4. While many know that John Hancock signed first, with his prominent signature readily visible, it is believed that Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person to sign.

5. Others signed according to state delegation and in columns, starting with the north-

ernmost state (New Hampshire) to the southernmost (Georgia).

6. About 200 copies of the Dunlap Broadside were printed. Today, 26 copies remain.

7. The original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence has been lost.

8. The Declaration of Independence was not universally accepted, and many people in the colonies remained loyal to the British monarchy and opposed American independence.

9. The Declaration of Independence has a message written on the back of it. It reads, "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776."

# NOTABLE EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON JULY FOURTH

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Residents of the United States spend July 4th celebrating the country's independence. Though July 4 has served as America's Independence Day for centuries, many other significant and memorable events have taken place on the fourth day of July.

**1744:** The Treaty of Lancaster is signed in Pennsylvania. The treaty dictates that the Iroquois will cede land between the Allegheny Mountains and the Ohio River to the British colonies.

**1776:** The United States Declaration of Independence is adopted by the Second Continental Congress. July 4 actually marks the day the final wording of the declaration, which had been submitted on July 2, was approved.

**1802:** The United States Military Academy officially commences operations. Located in West Point, New

York, the USMA is the oldest of the five American service academies.

**1826:** On the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of the Independence, the second and third presidents of the United States, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, respectively, pass away. Both men were instrumental to American success during the American Revolution.

**1831:** Samuel Francis Smith's "America (My Country, 'Tis of Thee)" is performed in public for the first time. The performance took place during a children's Independence Day celebration in Boston.

**1845:** Naturalist and essayist Henry David Thoreau moves into a cabin on Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts. His experiences there would later be detailed in "Walden Pond."

**1913:** President Woodrow Wilson addresses veterans of the American Civil War at a reunion marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. More than 50,000 veterans of the war, including roughly 9,000 Confederate veterans, attend the reunion.

**1939:** New York Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig announces his retirement to a crowd at Yankee Stadium, informing them he feels he is "the luckiest man on the face of the earth." Gehrig had recently been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease that would later be widely referred to as "Lou Gehrig's disease."

**1983:** Twenty-four-year old New York Yankees left-hander Dave Righetti throws a no-hitter against the rival Boston Red Sox at Yankee Stadium. Righetti struck seven of the first nine batters he faced and even overcame a delay in the eighth inning when umpire Steve Palermo suffered a knee injury. Outspoken Yankees owner George Steinbrenner did not attend the game, as he was in Florida celebrating his 53rd birthday with family.

**2004:** The cornerstone of the Freedom Tower is laid on the World Trade Center site in New York City. Now known as One World Trade Center, the building formally opened in November 2014.



## DAILY HOLIDAYS THAT FALL ON JULY 4

Alice in Wonderland Day  
 Boom Box Parade Day  
 Hop a Park Day  
 Independence Day  
 Independence From Meat Day  
 Indivisible Day  
 International Cherry Pit Spitting Day  
 International Day of Cooperatives

Invisible Day  
 Jackfruit Day  
 National Barbecued Spareribs Day  
 National Barbeque Day  
 National Caesar Salad Day  
 National Country Music Day  
 National Play Outside Day  
 Sidewalk Egg Frying Day

## Famous Birthdays on July 4

**1804** - Nathaniel Hawthorne, American author (d. 1864)

**1816** - Hiram Walker, American businessman who founded Canadian club whiskey (d. 1899)

**1847** - James Anthony Bailey, American circus ringmaster who co-founded Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus (d. 1906)

**1872** - Calvin Coolidge, American lawyer and politician who was the 30th President of the United States (d. 1933)

**1881** - Ulysses S. Grant III, American General (d. 1968)

**1910** - Gloria Stuart, American actress (Titanic) (d. 2010)

**1937** - Queen Sonja of Norway

**1971** - Koko, American gorilla



SPECIAL PHOTO: METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States in July 2026, and the word "semiquincentennial" may come up in conversation during those celebrations.

## Did You KNOW?

METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Americans will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States in July 2026, and the word "semiquincentennial" may come up in conversation during those celebra-

tions. Some people may not be familiar with the term and what it means. A semiquincentennial is the 250th anniversary of something. It breaks down to "half" of a "quincentennial," which is 500 years. Synonyms may include sestercentennial,

bisequentennial or quartermillennial. Each term refers to a period of 250 years. It's a rather large word for a simple meaning, but people are bound to hear more of it as 2026 goes on and Independence Day is celebrated on July 4.

*Celebrating America's 250th Birthday*

**INVISION TECHNOLOGIES**  
 IT NETWORKING • SECURITY • TELEPHONE • FIRE

[WWW.INVTECH.COM](http://WWW.INVTECH.COM) 229-446-2004

# 250 Years of Liberty and Justice



**COLDWELL BANKER**

WALDEN AND KIRKLAND, INC., REALTORS®



# CITY OF ALBANY, ★ GEORGIA ★

CELEBRATES

# 2500

★ YEARS ★

# OF INDEPENDENCE



JOIN US FOR AN

## UNFORGETTABLE JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> ★ CELEBRATION!

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with an evening of patriotism, family fun, entertainment, and community pride.



**JULY 4, 2026**



**ALBANY FAIRGROUNDS**



**GATES OPEN AT 3:00 PM**

### — ★ EVENT ★ — HIGHLIGHTS



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



FAMILY ACTIVITIES



FOOD VENDORS



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



PATRIOTIC TRIBUTE



SPECTACULAR  
FIREWORKS DISPLAY



**CELEBRATING THE PAST.  
HONORING THE PRESENT.  
INSPIRING THE FUTURE.**



For 250 years, Americans have demonstrated resilience, courage, and unity. Join the City of Albany as we commemorate this historic milestone with an evening of celebration for all ages.



**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**



— COME CELEBRATE 250 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE! —