



## JULY 4 - Happy Birthday, America!

July 4th has been recognized as Independence Day in the United States ever since the country's Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring the 13 American colonial states "free and independent" from the Kingdom of Great Britain. To mark the occasion, Americans celebrate with parades, fireworks, concerts and other festive activities.



*"Every year, Americans gather with friends and family on the Fourth of July to celebrate the values that inspired the founders of our nation more than two centuries ago, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Now these freedoms are not unique to Americans. They are embodied in constitutions of many nations, and observed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that we all recognize. So today is a celebration of our common humanity..."*

**-- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, June 25, 2010**

**Secretary Clinton's Independence Day Message** (June 25, 2010), Washington D.C. "(L)et's use this celebration as a chance to form new connections, exchange ideas, and find fresh solutions to our shared challenges. And reaffirm our commitment to advancing universal human rights. ... And I hope that together we can leave a legacy of freedom and opportunity to generations to come." ([Read Full Remarks](#) || [View Video](#))

**[July 4 at the White House, 2010 / Obama Celebrates with Barbeque, July 4, 2010.](#)**

**[Ambassador David Huebner's Remarks at July 4 Celebrations](#)** – Auckland and Wellington, July 2010.

### ARTICLES

**[U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event](#)** (June 22, 2010) - The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of patriotic celebrations and family events throughout the country. The Fourth of July holiday is a major civic occasion, with roots deep in the Anglo-American tradition of political freedom.

**[Flag Day: The Birthday of the Stars and Stripes](#)** (June 14, 2010) - Every year, the president proclaims June 14 as Flag Day and orders flags displayed on all federal buildings; many Americans fly the flag in front of homes and businesses. The week that includes June 14 is National Flag Week.



## LINKS

- [The U.S. Constitution](#)
- [The Declaration of Independence](#)
- [The U.S. Government – A Resilient Balance of Institutions](#)
- [U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event](#)
- [4th of July Videos](#) (download individually)
- [ePublication: Historians on America](#)
- [ePublication: U.S. History in Brief](#)
- [ePublication: U.S. Maps with Facts in Brief](#)
- [ePublication: Outline of U.S. Legal System](#)
- [ePublication: Outline of U.S. History](#)
- [eJournal: Snapshot USA](#)
- [Poster Show: USA Landscapes - From Sea to Shining Sea](#)
- [PowerPoint: A 4th of July Tribute](#)
- [PowerPoint: A 4<sup>th</sup> of July Quiz](#)
- [Fourth of July Quiz: Answer Key](#)

## MUSIC

- [America.gov: Fourth of July Music Reflects U.S. History, Diversity](#)
- [Library of Congress: Patriotic Melodies \(with sheet music\)](#)
- [U.S. Army Band Patriotic Music](#)
- [U.S. Air Force Band Patriotic Music](#)
- [U.S. Navy Band Patriotic Music](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard Band Patriotic Music](#)
- [Slideshow](#): Folder includes slideshow and downloadable mp3 files. Intended to serve as a back-drop for posts' July 4 events.

## SEE ALSO

- [U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event 22 June, 2010.](#)
- [July 4, 2010 Marks 50th Anniversary of 50-Star U.S. Flag](#)
- [Photo Gallery: Celebrating U.S. Independence Day](#)
- [An Overview of U.S. Holidays](#)
- [Today in History: July 4th](#): Library of Congress page features a photo and audio collection of old-time Independence Day celebrations.
- [Fun Facts about July 4th](#): U.S. Census Bureau
- [Patriotic Melodies](#): Library of Congress - tells the stories behind many of the songs that have now become part of the American national heritage. A combination of hymns, national songs, music of the theater, radio and television, military themes, and poetry, all of this music demonstrates that while over history many things have changed, this expression of pride and hope remain a constant part of the American experience.

- [Fireworks and Family](#)
- [Historical Documents](#)
- [Recipes from and for Americans](#)
- [Celebrating Independence Day in the United States](#)
- [America.gov - Videos](#)
- [USA.gov: Fourth of July is Independence Day: more resources](#)
- [National Archives: The Declaration of Independence](#)
- [Library of Congress: The Declaration of Independence](#)
- [World Digital Library: The Declaration of Independence](#)
- [White House: Our Government](#)
- [YouTube USG Channel](#)

The U.S. Department of State assumes no responsibility for the content and availability of the resources listed above, and no recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government websites listed.



All Internet links were active at **July 6, 2010**

We welcome your feedback! Email us: [wellington.arc@state.gov](mailto:wellington.arc@state.gov)

If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, [download it here](#)

