



A Publication of the American Association of Christian Schools

The Washington Flyer
July 3, 2026

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

As our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, we dedicate this edition of the *Washington Flyer* to the reflections of some of our Founding Fathers on the enduring importance of independence and freedom.

On July 3, 1776, **John Adams** penned a [letter](#) to his wife, describing the great significance of the unanimous vote on July 2 by the Second Continental Congress to approve a resolution “that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States.”

“The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epocha 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. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, forevermore.

You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil, and blood, and treasure, that it will cost us to maintain this declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means, and that posterity will triumph in that day’s transaction, even although we should rue it, which I trust in God we shall not.”

Two days later, on July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress officially approved and adopted the Declaration of Independence. **Benjamin Rush**, a signer of the Declaration, later recalled the gravity of the moment with some seeming dark humor in a [letter](#) to John Adams dated 1811:

“The pensive and awful silence which pervaded the house when we were called up, one after another, to the table of the President of Congress, to subscribe what was believed by many at that time to be our own death warrants. The silence and the gloom of the morning was interrupted I well recollect only for a moment by Colonel Benjamin Harrison of Virginia, who said to Elbridge Gerry at the table ‘I shall have a great advantage over you Mr. Gerry when we are all hung for what we are now doing. From the size and weight of my body I shall die in a few minutes, but from the lightness of your body you will dance in the air an hour or two before you are dead.’”

General George Washington was with the Continental Army in New York City on July 4 and received word from John Hancock of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. He gave the [order](#) on July 9, 1776, that it should be read aloud to the troops:

“The several brigades are to be drawn up this evening on their respective Parades, at six O’clock, when the declaration of Congress, . . . is to be read with an audible voice. The General hopes this important Event will serve as a fresh incentive to every officer, and soldier, to act with Fidelity and Courage, as knowing that now the peace and safety of his Country depends (under God) solely on the success of our arms: And that he is now in the service of a State, possessed of sufficient power to reward his merit, and advance him to the highest Honors of a free Country.”

As America approached her 50th birthday, **Thomas Jefferson** reflected on the significance of July 4th in a [letter](#), responding to an invitation from the Mayor of Washington:

“The kind invitation I received from you on the part of the citizens of the city of Washington, to be present with them at their celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of American Independence, as one of the surviving signers of an instrument pregnant with our own, and the fate of the world, is most flattering to myself May it be to the world, what I believe it will be, (to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all,) the signal of arousing men to burst the chains under which monkish ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves, and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. The form which we have substituted restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason, and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened or opening to the rights of man. The general spread of the lights of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs, nor a favored few booted and spurred, ready to ride them legitimately, by the grace of God. These are grounds of hope for others—for ourselves let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them.”

As we reflect on our nation’s founding, we are reminded that many of our Founding Fathers were [people of faith](#), recognizing God’s providence and guidance in the journey for independence. As we celebrate this significant 250th anniversary, we wish all our readers a Happy Independence Day enjoying our abundant material blessings and grateful for the inestimable blessings of liberty and safety given by our God, the true source of all freedom.

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACCS Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Register Now for the AACCS National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.—September 14–16, 2026](#)

**Next week there will be no Washington Flyer as our AACCS Washington staff will be involved with our AACCS Youth Legislative Development Conference in Washington, D.C. Please pray with us for a blessed week as we seek to provide training for the next generation of leaders. We invite you to follow the week’s events on our social media pages [here](#) and [here](#). We will resume the Washington Flyer the following week.*