



## July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration

On July 4th, 2008, the National Archives celebrated the 232nd anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Hosted by NBC4 anchor Jim Handly, the program featured an address by Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, a performance by the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps, and our annual dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence.

**JIM HANDLY:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen and welcome to the National Archives.

[Applause]

I'm Jim Handly, NBC News4 anchor and it is my honor to be with you today before this magnificent backdrop as we step back in time this morning. This building may be a familiar sight to many of you from the movie "National Treasure."

But the true treasures are inside the building as is the air conditioning and we hope you have a chance today to take advantage of all of that later on in the afternoon. I'd like to thank you all for joining us on this very special day and thanks for the cloud cover, too. We have cooked in years past, and this is quite comfortable. The National Archives is the permanent home, as you know of the Declaration of Independence. For more than 30 years it has hosted a patriotic ceremony on July 4 to celebrate our independence. This is the kickoff event for all of the patriotic activities in our nation's capital.

After our ceremony, stay right where you are and enjoy the National Independence Day Parade along Constitution Avenue. They're queuing up there on that corner shortly. This evening, of course that National Symphony will perform a Capital Fourth live concert from the U.S. Capitol and down on the Mall, the big finish the big bang fireworks So stay around, enjoy the entire day and celebrate our independence. Now I ask you all to please rise for the presentation of the colors by the Continental Color Guard from the United States 3rd Infantry, the Old Guard with Mr. Robert Cantrell singing The National Anthem.

[Drumming]



[Flutes playing]

**MAN:** Guard, halt! Present arms!

**ROBERT CANTRELL:** [SINGING]

O say can you see  
By the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed  
at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes  
and bright stars  
through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watched  
were so gallantly streaming  
And the rockets red glare  
The bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof through the night  
that our flag was still there  
O say does that  
star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free  
And the home of the brave?

[Applause and cheering]

**HANDLY:** Now to give us a taste of the atmosphere of colonial America, we have with us this morning the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps from the United States 3rd Infantry. Their uniforms are from the era of the Revolutionary War and so, too, is their music. I'm pleased to present Staff Sergeant John Wollaston to narrate their performance. Please join me in welcoming the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps.

[Applause]

**JOHN WOLLASTON:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. The United States Army Military District of Washington under the command of Major General Richard Rowe, Jr. is proud to present the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps. The 3rd United States Infantry Regiment, the Old Guard traces its lineage to George Washington's original Continental Army and today serves as the Army's official escort to the President of the United States. In 1960, the Fife & Drum Corps was organized to participate in official ceremonies and to revive our country's musical heritage. This elite 70-member active duty army unit performs for visiting



dignitaries and heads of state at the White House and throughout our nation's capital. In addition, the Corps travels extensively averaging nearly 500 performances annually while serving as goodwill ambassadors for the Army across the nation and abroad. Ladies and gentlemen, the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps.

[Applause]

From the days of the American Revolution through the 19th century, fifes, drums, and bugles were vital to military order and discipline. Because of the ability to be heard from great distances field musicians signaled changes in large troop movements during battle. In addition, they use their instruments to regulate the duty day signaling to the soldiers when to rise, when to eat when the duty day ends, and when to retire for the evening. This same tradition is heard in the daily bugle call sounded across military installations today. The soldiers of the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps wear uniforms patterned after the musicians of General George Washington's Continental Army. In order to be easily identified military musicians of the period wore the reverse colors of the regiment to which they were assigned. In 1781, infantry soldiers of the 3rd Regiment wore blue regimental coats with red facings. Thus the musicians of the time wore red regimental coats with blue facings.

Traditionally the most skilled drummer was given the title of Drum Major and chosen to lead the musicians. The Drum Major who stands before you this morning wears the customary marks of the Drum Major: the baldric holding 2 drumsticks. He also wears the light infantry cap the red waist sash and issues silent commands with the espontoon an 18th century weapon.

Listen now as the Corps features the fife, bugle, and drum bringing to life the sights and sounds of our country's musical heritage.

[Fife playing]

[Other fifes and drums join in]

**WOLLASTON:** Much like today field musicians in colonial times sounded Reveille at daybreak signaling the camp to rise for the day. During the 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Reveille was not just a single call but a series of tunes performed in a military manner. The Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps will now salute you with a medley of Reveille music concluding with their signature melody, "Yankee Doodle." Once again, ladies and gentlemen the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps. On behalf of the Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps it has been our pleasure performing for you this morning. Thank you and have a great Fourth of July.



[Applause]

**HANDLY:** Thank you for transporting us back to another time. I just saw General Washington head that way. Behind him, President Lincoln. It's amazing who you'll find in this crowd today. The National Archives works every day not only to preserve that actual Declaration of Independence but also the ideals that it defines. As the National Archives cares for the records of our democracy and makes them accessible to you the public. They also help ensure the rights of individuals and the accountability of government that is the hallmark of democracy. Now I'd like to introduce to you a very important person to whom our nation has entrusted the care of the Declaration of Independence. He is also responsible for 9 billion other records here along with his staff. He is the one who decides which of the millions and millions of documents that the federal government produces each year are saved and become part of the written record of our nation. As a noted scholar and author of many books he appreciates the importance of the written record. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to introduce now Professor Allen Weinstein the Archivist of the United States.

[Applause]

**WEINSTEIN:** Good morning. Can't hear you. Good morning.

[Crowd yells response]

Better. Welcome to the National Archives on this 232nd Fourth of July since American independence was launched in 1776. We've gathered here as in past years not simply to celebrate the holiday and to witness the ceremony followed by a terrific parade. Yes, we welcome the flag waving we welcome the patriotic costumes we especially welcome the revolutionary patriots back for another year. Will all of our revolutionary patriots please stand and let us welcome you properly.

[Applause]

Hello from all of us. But we come to stand together today as on every Fourth of July as Americans to renew our unbreakable solidarity as a nation. Central to our purpose this morning is following the National Archives' tradition of reading aloud in its entirety the Declaration of Independence as adopted by the Continental Congress on this date 232 years ago. Congress had voted for independence 2 days earlier, as you know, on July 2. The Fourth of July is a conflicted occasion for many Americans a holiday that the late historian the late Librarian of Congress, Daniel Boorstin called a festival of justification a day on which Americans display a candid mixture of national pride and periodic outrage in



appropriate proportion. We recognize on this day, in short not only the degree of our confidence in our patriotic self-assurance but also our collective national anxieties our unfulfilled hopes alongside our recognized achievements. Thus, before the Civil War put an end to slavery few African Americans could disagree with the words of anti-slavery and black leader Frederick Douglass in his 1852 Independence Day speech when Douglass said, "This Fourth of July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn..." anymore than most American women at the time with the Susan B. Anthony speech on the 100th anniversary of the Declaration in portraying that past century's history as "a series of assumptions and usurpations of power over women." Whenever the actual facts of oppression confronted at the time Historian Joseph Ellis is correct in his eloquent book "American Creation" describing the pivotal passage in the Declaration a mere 55 words as "the seminal statement of the American creed."

Please repeat them after me. I'm going to do them in sequence. "We hold these truths to be self-evident."

**CROWD:** "We hold these truths to be self-evident."

**WEINSTEIN:** "That they are endowed by their creator"

**CROWD:** "That they are endowed by their creator."

**WEINSTEIN:** "With certain unalienable rights."

**CROWD:** "With certain unalienable rights."

**WEINSTEIN:** "That among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

**CROWD:** "That among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

**WEINSTEIN:** "That to secure these rights"

**CROWD:** "That to secure these rights"

**WEINSTEIN:** "Governments are instituted among men"

**CROWD:** "Governments are instituted among men"

**WEINSTEIN:** "Deriving their just powers"

**CROWD:** "Deriving their just powers"



**WEINSTEIN:** "From the consent of the government."

**CROWD:** "From the consent of the government."

**WEINSTEIN:** 55 words. As Joe Ellis correctly observed, "With these words Thomas Jefferson planted the seeds that are growing into the expanding mandate for individual rights that eventually ended slavery made women's suffrage inevitable and sanctioned the civil rights of all minorities."

[Applause]

We forget sometimes that the key founders of our nation saw themselves operating on a global stage asserting values that were universal avowing lessons important not only for their own country but for all humanity while recognizing at the same time that the unresolved issue of slavery remained to be addressed.

This transatlantic perspective could be seen in a letter that Jefferson wrote to the committee organizing the Declaration of Independence's 50th anniversary celebration. Quoting Jefferson, "May the American Revolution be to the world what I believe it will be to some parts sooner, to others later but finally to all the signal for arousing men to burst the chains under which ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves and to assume the blessings and security of self-government.

"The mass of mankind," Jefferson pointed out "has not been born with saddles on their back nor a favored few booted and spurred ready to ride them legitimately by the grace of God."

[Applause]

A few questions now for our own time as well as that of the founders with an occasional conclusion. Are we still one nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all? Are we all patriotic Americans whether Democrats or Republicans or independents liberals, moderates, or conservatives? And will we unite as Americans regardless of party or creed after the election? What do you say?

**CROWD:** Yes!

**WEINSTEIN:** Can't hear you.

**CROWD:** Yes!



**WEINSTEIN:** Better. The answers are actually decidedly yes probably yes, and gad, we better.

[Crowd laughter]

After the election will we again become a welcoming country leading the world through generous example and not drift further into unwelcoming and self-defeating habits?

Answer?

**CROWD:** Yes!

**WEINSTEIN:** Hopefully. Although immigration remains an intractable problem akin to the earlier slavery issue. Will our National Archives be known in the future for maximal access and openness provided to citizens and scholars alike while recognizing genuine claims for national security secrecy? Will it?

**CROWD:** Yes.

**WEINSTEIN:** I can't hear you.

**CROWD:** Yes!

**WEINSTEIN:** Yes. I and the Archives staff fight for greatest possible access and transparency every working day. And we shall continue on the front lines of this complex struggle.

[Applause]

And finally, in our present situation have we learned to recognize and avoid the abuses of civil liberties and cynical attacks on political adversaries as unpatriotic

**CROWD:** Yes.

**WEINSTEIN:** Common to earlier wartimes? Have we learned how to avoid them?

[Crowd murmurs]

Oh, you don't sound very persuaded of that.

[Crowd laughs]



The answer is I sincerely hope so but we remain on the evidence to date poised between hope and despair. Lincoln said it best as with most issues, then and now. Abraham Lincoln said it best. In an 1861 speech in Philadelphia's Independence Hall made at the Union's moment of greatest jeopardy Lincoln reminded his fellow citizens of the essential quality that bound together past and future in our American republic. "I have often inquired of myself," Lincoln mused "what great principle or idea it was that kept the United States so long together." After he rejected the notion that the break with England alone, "separateness and the act of revolution was sufficient for this purpose" Lincoln concluded that it was "That sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty not alone to the people of this country but hope to all the world for all future time. It was that which gave promise that in due time the weights would be lifted from the shoulders of all men and women and that all would have an equal chance."

This is the sentiment embodied in the Declaration of Independence and as Lincoln concluded "I would rather be assassinated on this spot than surrender it." One can only hope that the United States will retain these values and produce the same strong principled loyalty of its citizens today as they did more than two centuries ago. "My country, right or wrong," the 19th century immigrant and political leader Carl Schurz observed quickly qualifying his point for greater clarity "My country, right or wrong. When she is right, support her; when she is wrong, correct her."

[Applause]

But for those of us seeking an immediate infusion of the spirit of the Declaration of Independence I conclude and commend to you a story that President Eisenhower told of a stranger to Washington who hired a taxi to see the city. When passing the National Archives Building--this very building -he saw the sign stating simply, "What Is Past Is Prologue. What is Past is Prologue." The tourist asked the cab driver that expression meant and the driver replied: "Oh, mister that's simply a polite way of saying you ain't seen nothin' yet."

[Crowd laughs]

Well, here we are again. I want to wish everyone a happy Independence Day, 2008 a happy Fourth of July a special happy and safe day to our veterans and our soldiers, sailors fighting for us.

[Applause]

I don't think they heard you. Let's hear it again!



[Crowd cheers]

Is this a great country or what?

**CROWD:** Yes!

**WEINSTEIN:** Happy Fourth of July. The work continues. Thank you very much.

**HANDLY:** Let us now listen to their words of liberty as we read aloud the Declaration of Independence and for that, I am very happy to introduce to you a distinguished group of people who will read the Declaration. First, we're very pleased to have with us this morning Mr. Riley Temple, well known for his community involvement and his dedication to improving the quality of theater in Washington. Temple has been a major contributor to the arts community here, serving on the board of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Community and Friends Board of the Kennedy Center. Since 2004, Riley Temple has been an active member of the board of directors of the Foundation for the National Archives.

Please welcome Mr. Riley Temple.

**RILEY TEMPLE:** In congress, July 4, 1776 the unanimous declaration of the thirteen United States of America. When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with one another and to assume among the powers of the Earth the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitled them. A decent to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impelled them to the separation. 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. That to secure these rights Governments are instituted among Men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it and to institute new Government laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light or transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism it is their right, it is their duty



to throw off such Government and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

[Applause]

**HANDLY:** Next to read the grievances against King George III we have three leaders of the Second Continental Congress. Mr. Thomas Jefferson, Mr. John Adams and Dr. Benjamin Franklin. These three gentlemen know the words of the Declaration better than anyone else because Mr. Jefferson wrote the first draft Mr. Adams and Dr. Franklin made changes to it. The editors. Finally, to read the names of the 56 signers of the Declaration we are happy to have in our midst Private Edward Ned Hector a free black colonial soldier, respected patriot and hero of the 3rd Pennsylvania Artillery Company. He was noted for his courage during the Revolutionary War when he refused to let his team, his wagon and dropped armaments fall into enemy hands. He's quoted as saying, "The enemy shall not have my team. I will save the horses or perish myself." Ladies and gentlemen, the Declaration of Independence.

[Applause]

**THOMAS JEFFERSON:** He has refused his Assent to Laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN:** He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

**JOHN ADAMS:** He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

**JEFFERSON:** He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.



**FRANKLIN:** He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

**ADAMS:** He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions to cause others to be elected whereby the Legislative Powers incapable of Annihilation have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without and convulsions within.

**JEFFERSON:** He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

**FRANKLIN:** He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

**ADAMS:** He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices and the amount and payment of their salaries.

**JEFFERSON:** He has erected a multitude of New Offices and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

**FRANKLIN:** He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

**ADAMS:** He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

**JEFFERSON:** He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent

[Audience member howls]

For depriving us in many cases

[Audience member howls]

Yes.



[Crowd laughs]

[Applause]

For depriving us in many cases of the benefit of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province establishing therein an Arbitrary government and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies; For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments: For suspending our own Legislatures and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

**FRANKLIN:** He has abdicated Government here by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

**ADAMS:** He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

**JEFFERSON:** He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

**FRANKLIN:** He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren or to fall themselves by their Hands.

**ADAMS:** He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages sexes and conditions.

[Applause]

**TEMPLE:** In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and



settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations which would inevitably interrupt connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our Separation and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore the Representatives of the United States of America in General Congress, Assembled appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies solemnly publish and declare that these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace contract Alliances, establish Commerce and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

**MAN:** Hear, hear.

[Applause]

**HANDLY:** Thank you, Mr. Riley Temple, Mr. Jefferson Mr. Adams, and Dr. Franklin. And you thought you were warm out there. Let's give them a hand just for keeping their cool today. How stirring it is to hear those words just as they were written 232 years ago. Now, Private Hector will read the names of the colonies and the signers of the Declaration.

[Applause]

**PRIVATE EDWARD "NED" HECTOR:** In colonial times it was customary to show one's approval by loudly shouting "huzzah" after--Oh, you getting it!

[Laughter]

We're representing a proud people. These are proud men representing proud people. So, after the names of the signers of each state are read, we must shout our approval. So when we get done I'll lead you in a huzzah after each state.

Let's try it.



Hip, hip, huzzah!

I think you'll get better.

[Laughter]

Now for the names. New Hampshire. Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple and Matthew Thornton. Huzzah!

Massachusetts!

**MAN:** Huzzah!

**HECTOR:** Don't get ahead of me. Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry. Huzzah!

Rhode Island. Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery. Huzzah!

Connecticut! Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington William Williams, and Oliver Wolcott. Huzzah!

Georgia! Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, and George Walton. Huzzah!

Maryland. [Crowd cheers] Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Huzzah!

Virginia. [Crowd cheers] George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson [Crowd cheers] Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton. Huzzah!

New York! [Crowd cheers] William Floyd, Philip Livingston Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris. Huzzah!

Pennsylvania! [Crowd cheers] Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin [Crowd cheers] John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith George Taylor, James Wilson, and George Ross. Huzzah!

Delaware! Caesar Rodney, George Read Thomas McKean. Huzzah!

North Carolina. [Crowd cheers] William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn. Huzzah!

North Carolina! South Carolina.



[Audience laughs]

North Carolina was so good, I thought I'd do it twice. South Carolina. Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr Thomas Lynch, Jr., and Arthur Middleton. Huzzah!

And New Jersey. [Crowd cheers] Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, and Abraham Clark. Huzzah!

**HANDLEY:** Good job. I want to take a moment right now and tell you about some of the activities going on inside the building today and through the weekend. You can also refer to the big screen and you can also refer to the back of your fans which we really haven't had to use too much today surprisingly. Before we conclude our program you may view the Declaration of Independence later today the United States Constitution, of course the Bill of Rights, all collectively known as the Charters of Freedom until 9:00 this evening along with the Magna Carta. Now we'd like to thank the people who helped make this Fourth of July celebration possible. The Foundation for the National Archives specifically Riley Temple, NBC4, the American Historical Theater and our founding fathers Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Ben Franklin.

[Crowd cheers]

And our representative of the Continental Army Private Hector. One last huzzah!

**CROWD:** Huzzah!

**HANDLEY:** Our vocalist, Robert Cantrell.

[Crowd cheers]

The Army 3rd Infantry Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps and the Continental Color Guard.

[Applause]

We'd also like to acknowledge Mr. Jim Gallagher and John Hancock Financial Services for their continued support of the National Archives' July 4 Festivities.

[Applause]

And of course we wouldn't have this celebration without the hard work of all the staff and volunteers of the National Archives. Let's give them a big hand.



We also want to think you all for joining us to commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. I wish you all a wonderful Fourth of July and hope you stick around and take part in the activities all over town this afternoon. And for those of you staying for the parade it's scheduled to start at 11:45 so about 45 minutes from now. So line the streets, cheer them on, and enjoy. Now to conclude today's program please welcome back Mr. Robert Cantrell to sing "America the Beautiful."

**CANTRELL:** [Singing]

O beautiful

For spacious skies

For amber waves of grain

For purple mountain majesty

Above the fruited plain

America, America

God shed His grace on thee

And crown thy good

with brotherhood

From sea to shining sea