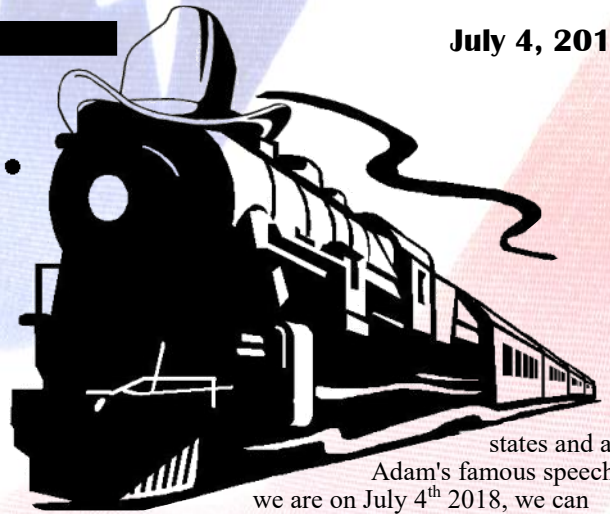


July 4, 2018

WHITE HAT ALERT...

Corvallis, Montana

The 4th of July, 2018 “An American Pep Talk”



Wouldn't it be great if we could travel to Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia to celebrate our nation's birthday? We could start the 4th with a salute to the reading of the Declaration of Independence. Perhaps a re-enactment of John to the Second Continental Congress would be motivating. But no matter where still appreciate our nation's beginning and thank God that our founding fathers had the courage and faith to establish a nation unlike any before or since.

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John Adams said the following in his opening statement before the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776: "Sink or Swim, Live or Die, Survive or Perish, I give my heart and my hand to this vote. It is true indeed that in the beginning we did not aim for Independence, but there is a Divinity that shapes our ends.....We may not live to see the time when this declaration shall be made good. We may die; Colonists or die Slaves. Be it so, be it so. If it be the pleasure of Heaven that my country shall require the poor offering of my life, the victim shall be ready. But while I do live, let me have a country, or at least the hope of a country, and that a free country."

As fellow Americans, we inherited the legacy of 1776. We owe what we enjoy today to those first citizens who founded a new free and independent nation established upon liberty, freedom, faith and complete independence...a country by the people and for the people. It was God inspired and a miracle not only to establish our freedom but to become an example for people throughout the world.

John Adams concluded his July 4th, 1776 speech with these words: "But whatever be our fate, be assured that this Declaration will stand. It may cost treasure and it may cost blood, but it will stand and richly compensate for both. Through the gloom of the present, I see the brightness of the future, like the sun in heaven. We shall make this a glorious and immortal day. When we are in our graves our children will honor it. They will celebrate it with thanksgiving and festivities, with bonfires and illuminations.

Before God, I believe that the hour has come. My judgement approves this measure (The Declaration) and my whole heart is in it. All that I have, and all that I am, and all that I hope in life, I am now ready to stake on it and leave off as I began. Live or die, survive or perish, I am for this Declaration. It is my living sentiment and by the blessing of God it will be my dying sentiment. Independence now, Independence forever." (Reference September 1, 2012 by Norbert Haupt)

Sadly however, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and our first Commander-in-Chief, George Washington, would be shocked to see what we have allowed America to become under our watch. Self-centeredness and apathy have allowed our nation to be invaded, not by military force, but because of our moral decline and the hateful attitudes that too often dominate the political discourse.

So today, let us humble ourselves before God and make this Fourth of July our commitment to rededicate ourselves to the Spirit of 1776. The majority of Americans still believe in Faith, Family and Freedom because our roots go deep and they are strong. Our patriotic spirit may be sleeping but it is not dead. Let us apply the words of John Adams and "see the brightness of the future beyond the gloom of the present, like the sun in heaven." God, who inspired the words of the Declaration and the United States Constitution, is still in control.

Thank you, John Adams, and your fellow "Colonials." Let us also thank those who have gone before us enduring wars and tough times in preserving our wonderful country. To you, America, Happy Birthday! May God continue to bless you!

Gary and Joan



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