



Celebrate

AMERICA

**A PATRIOTIC LOOK AT
OUR NATION, STATE
AND COMMUNITY**

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE



JENNIFER MOATES

Fireworks, parades, and backyard barbecues are all a part of Fourth of July traditions we take part in each year to celebrate our independence. This year marks the 247th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. We as Americans should be proud of how far we have come in such a relatively short period of time. Many have sacrificed and given their lives to ensure the liberties and freedoms we hold dear.

A few years ago, I took a trip to Philadelphia and

spent some time going to all the places we read about in history books. My trip occurred in February, which is not the ideal time of year to go to Philadelphia because it was so cold, but it also meant no long lines to wait in.

I saw the Liberty Bell and toured The Museum of the American Revolution. I also toured the original home of Betsy Ross and Independence Hall. Independence Hall is the location of so many historical events, including the adoption of the American flag, the drafting and signing

of the U.S. Constitution and the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As I walked through Independence Hall, standing where our Founding Fathers stood, I was struck with admiration and gratefulness. Admiration for the men who debated, wrote and ultimately approved the framework for the newly formed government. Gratefulness to be born into this great country where freedom is bought and paid for with blood, sweat and tears. It is difficult to not feel patriotism when you see

those places and hear depictions of historical events from people dedicated to relaying them with enthusiasm and vigor. Could our Founding Fathers have known how colossally important their words and deeds would be and the impact they would have on all of history? Although we have written and oral accounts, it is difficult to know if they truly grasped the magnitude of their actions.

As Americans, we are afforded many freedoms and opportunities that others

around the world are not. Sure, we debate many issues and can be divided at times, but the collective love for our country should never be in debate.

So, as we share food and fun with family and friends this Independence Day, I invite you to join me as I take a moment to reflect on our heritage and all that it means to be an American. We can agree that although we have improvements to make we as Americans have and always will strive for a more perfect union.

Happy Fourth of July!

THE BILL OF RIGHTS: The First 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

Amendment I Freedoms, Petitions, Assembly

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II Right to bear arms

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III Quartering of soldiers

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV Search and arrest

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V Rights in criminal cases

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without

due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI Right to a fair trial

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed; which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII Rights in civil cases

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by

a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII Bail, fines, punishment

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX Rights retained by the People

The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X States' rights

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

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the Land of the Free and the
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**INTERLACHEN'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023
“FREEDOM BETWEEN THE LAKES”**

7:45am BIKE RACE
Lake Lagonda ages 4 - 12

**8:00am:
KID'S FISHING
TOURNAMENT**
youth ages –LAKE LAGONDA

**9:30am:
VETERAN'S CEREMONY**
American Legion post 293
Robert H Jenkins Memorial Park

10:00am: PARADE,
Atlantic & Commonwealth
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Costanzo - Judging result after
the Parade (Caboose)

**10:30am - 1:30pm:
GAMES, BOUNCE HOUSE,
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**10:45am to 2 pm
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11:00am: CAKE CONTEST
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- Larry Harvey, Event Coordinator

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FREEDOM RINGS



Palatka Daily News file

Women celebrate freedom during Interlachen's Independence Day parade in 2000.



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~Harry S. Truman



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*"For you have been called to live in freedom. Use your freedom
to serve one another in love."* - Galatians 5:13

**Wishing you and yours a safe
and Happy Independence Day!!**

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BECOMING GEORGE WASHINGTON

Palatka High alum educates with historical style

By SARAH CAVACINI
Palatka Daily News
scavacini@palatkadailynews.com

Dressed in navy and gold, “George Washington” stood on the front steps of First Presbyterian Church of Palatka, reading the U.S. Constitution to a crowd gathered last September.

Of course, this Washington wasn’t the famous first president of the United States, but Palatka High School alumnus Johnny Coe Counts likes to carry on Washington’s legacy. Counts frequently attends Putnam County and St. Augustine events as the 18th-century icon.

“I’ve been an advocate for trying to educate the populace ... on what liberty actually means,” Counts said recently.

The 1983 Palatka High graduate has recited the Constitution during Constitution Week in Palatka, which has been hosted by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution for several years. He has always loved history but started dressing as George Washington about eight years ago during Interlachen’s Fourth of July parade.

He bought a costume and handed out copies of the Constitution during the parade. Since then, Counts said, he’s received requests to attend more events as Washington.

Meri Rees, vice regent for the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, said the organization loves having Counts attend Constitution Week events.

“His presence makes history come alive,” she stated. “He often reads quotes made by President or General Washington. Those words coming out of a reenactor makes you feel like you are actually there, visiting with George.”

The Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890, Rees stated, to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Members try to foster that mission with Constitution Day, which is Sept. 17, and having Counts there as Washington “adds to the spirit of 1776,” she added.

This year, Rees said, the organization volunteered a few of its members to visit schools dressed as famous Americans throughout history to educate kids on the country’s past.

Education is a big reason why Counts dresses up as Washington. Not only has he attended Putnam festivities, but he recently attended a St. Augustine event as Washington. He said people wanted to stop and talk to him about American history, discussing topics such as the Second, Fourth and Fifth amendments.

“It makes people stop and think,” Counts said about the historical reenactment events.

He said he wants more education about the Constitution in high schools and for people to understand what constitutional officers’ responsibilities are and how to hold them accountable.

Counts said Independence Day has become commercialized and turned into one big party. Still, he hopes people, especially the younger genera-



Photos courtesy of Johnny Coe Counts

Johnny Coe Counts, as George Washington, is seen with his wife, Gina, as Martha Washington on Constitution Day inside First Presbyterian Church of Palatka, above, and outside, below.



Study up on U.S. history

- Bill of Rights.....Page 2
- U.S. Constitution.....Page 10
- Declaration of Independence.....Page 12

tion, take time to read the Constitution.

Counts quoted several Founding Fathers as he spoke about educating the next generation – one of his favorite being from John Jay, who was also the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

“Every member of the state, ought diligently to read and study the constitution of his country, and teach the rising generation to be free,” Jay said in 1777. “By knowing their rights, they will sooner perceive when they are violated, and be the better prepared to defend and assert them.”

Celebrating
AMERICA

On July Fourth, we celebrate the birthday of the United States of America, and all the great things our nation represents. We're proud of our country and the values it upholds, and we gratefully salute the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who fight to defend America and her ideals. God bless the U.S.A.
Wishing You and Yours a Safe and Happy Independence Day!

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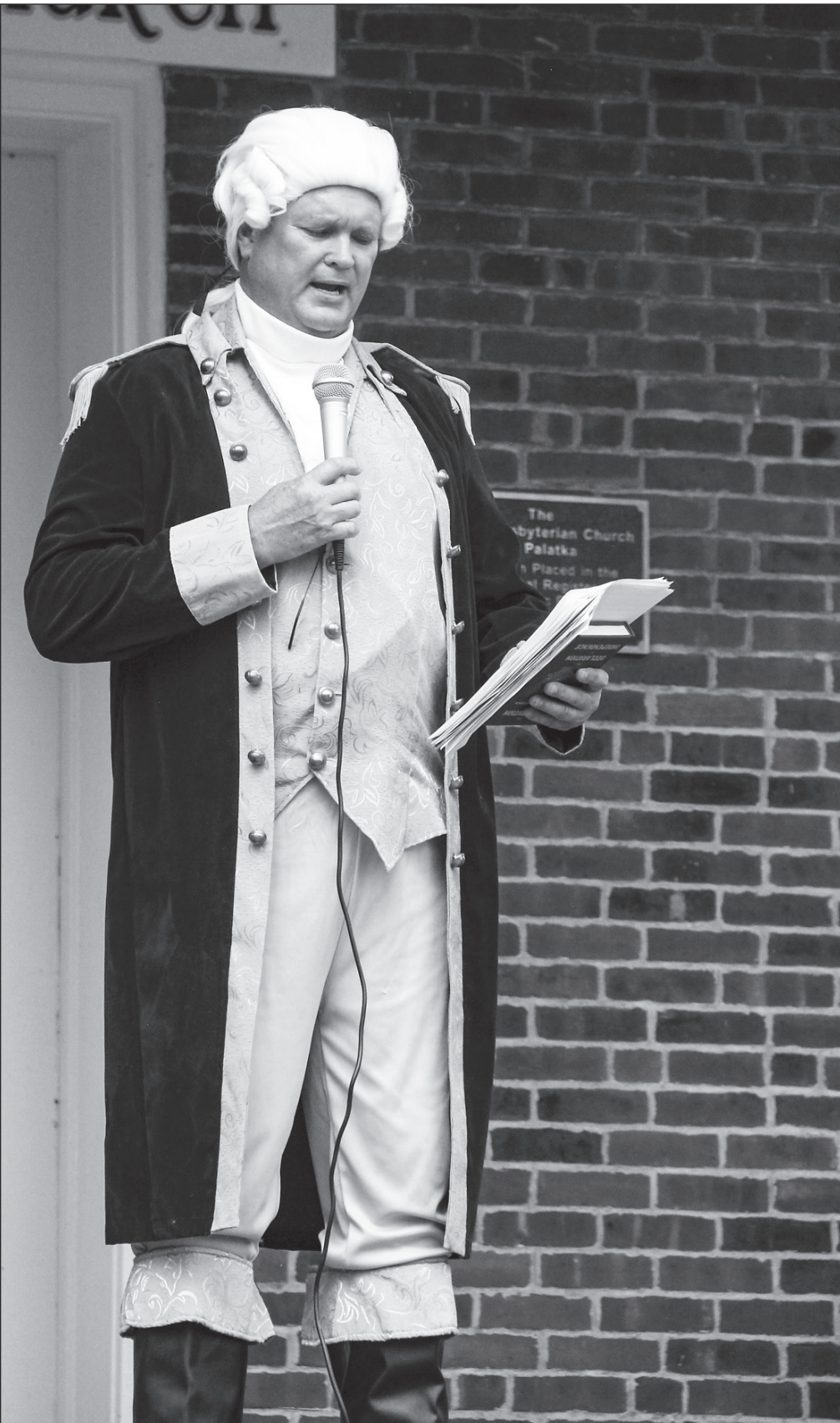
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Palatka Daily News file

Johnny Coe Counts as George Washington reads the U.S. Constitution to celebrate Constitution Week in 2021.

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Les & Gina Sims, Owners

Ice Cream boat venture a family affair

By TRISHA MURPHY
Palatka Daily News
tmurphy@palatkadailynews.com

On weekends and holidays you will most likely find Scoopy Dudes Ice Cream's Ice Cream Machines on the water – somewhere.

Owned by JD Ogle, 55, and his wife, Marlene, 50, of Palatka, the business' first official day of selling ice cream on the water was July 27, 2020.

The idea for the family business came about during a dinner conversation when JD Ogle presented to his family the question, "What could we do to make some extra money? And what is a unique business idea?"

From there, the wheels started turning.

"Everyone was chiming in ideas," Marlene Ogle said, but one particular idea sounded interesting to everyone. "That was selling ice cream on the river."

The idea of floating around on the water, eating ice cream, sounded like the perfect summertime activity to the family that includes Marlene and JD Ogle, Hannah Ogle, 27, Carsyn Drew, 25, Trace Ogle, 20, Carlie Drew, 19, and Caren Drew, 15.

So the crew set the plan in motion. Now, the family business is, literally, all hands on deck.

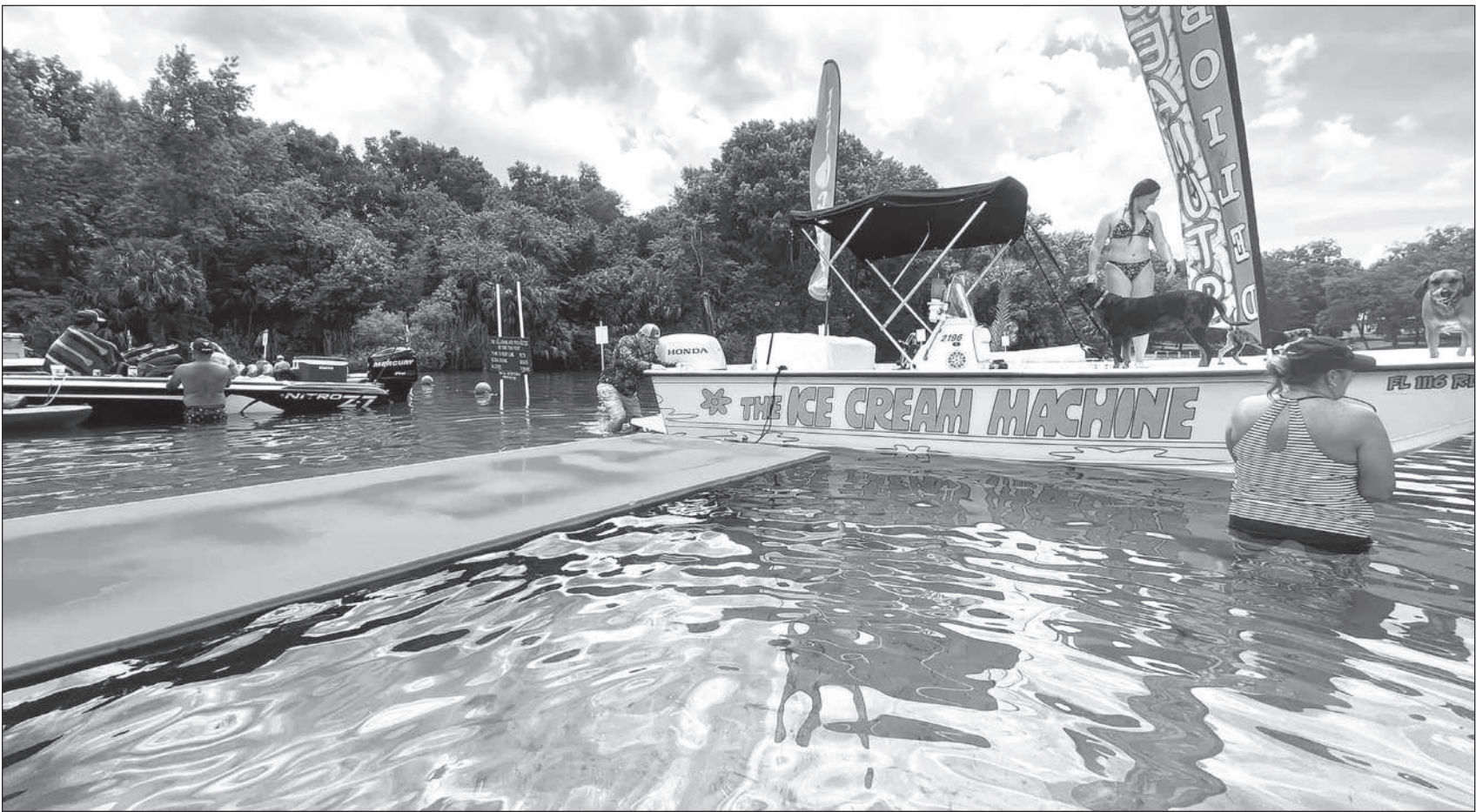
JD Ogle captains Ice Cream Machine I, helps set up for sales and does maintenance on the boats.

Aaron Samples, JD and Marlene's future son-in-law, usually captains Ice Cream Machine II.

"When he is unavailable, Hannah will captain," said JD Ogle.

Marlene Ogle said the success of the family's business warranted the family adding a second boat this summer called Ice Cream Machine II.

"We enjoy our time on the water," she said. "We get to see friends, meet new friends, spend time with our family while teaching our kids responsibility, work ethic and



Photos submitted by Marlene Ogle

JD and Marlene Ogle bought the long flotation mat, seen here, for their dog, Whittle, to use while the family sells ice cream at Salt Springs.

that hard work pays off."

Financially speaking, JD Ogle said business profits are covering their bills and then some. Though, it takes a ton of ice cream to make a big profit.

When not on the water, JD Ogle works as a power plant mechanic for Gainesville Regional Utilities, where he has been for 15 years. Marlene Ogle is a school counselor at Palatka Junior-Senior High School, where she has been for the last eight years. She has been an employee with the Putnam County School District for 28 years.

SUMMERTIME ROUTINE NOT SO ROUTINE

Before each day on the river, the Ogle family loads the pre-packaged DeConna ice cream in their boats. They estimate the group averages around 6-8 hours on the water, depending

on the weather.

"There really is no set time," Marlene Ogle said. "We are out there most weekends and holidays. Times vary depending on weather and location. We stay until the weather runs us off or the crowd leaves."

The ice cream, popsicles, cones and sandwiches come in a variety of flavors, including strawberry shortcake and cookies and cream.

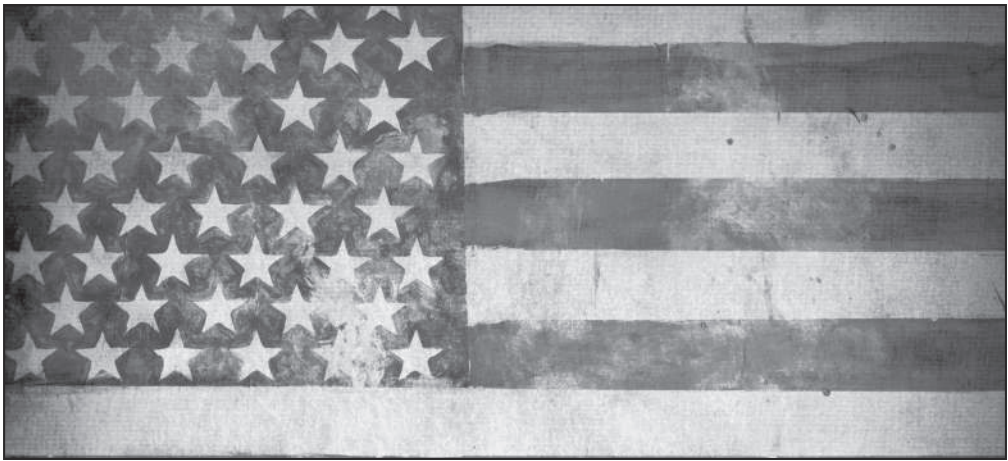
The younger crowd seems to like push pops, sour cyclones and the blue raspberry cup with bubblegum in the bottom, while adults can purchase vodka flavored ice cream and margarita popsicles. Also available are non-dairy and gluten-free choices, like the strawberry fruit bar or cotton candy bar.

The ice cream sells for \$3 or \$4 while the margarita pops are

See **BOAT**, Page 6



Palatka couple Marlene, right, and JD Ogle, started Scoopy Dudes Ice Cream in 2020. With the help of their family, Ice Cream Machine I and II remain busy selling frosted treats on the waterways.



THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

For more than 200 years, the American flag has been a symbol of unity and pride in the United States.

The red, white and blue flag has a storied history and has gone through various incarnations.

The following are some of the more interesting facts pertaining to the American flag.

■ Six different flag designs were flown before Betsy Ross announced that she had sewn the official American flag.

These designs included a series of alternating red and white stripes, the Liberty Tree, the Sons of Liberty, and the Forester flag designs. The Continental Army once used a flag featuring a snake with the mantra "Don't Tread on Me."

■ On June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress proposed and passed the Flag Act of 1777.

This resolution was designed to facilitate the creation of an official flag for a nation that was aiming to earn its independence from Great Britain.

The flag was to have thirteen stripes, alternating red and white, with thirteen white stars on a blue field. The thirteen stars signified the original members of the Union.

■ The American flag remained unchanged until 1795, when the stripes and stars were increased to 15 for the addition of Kentucky and Vermont to the Union.

■ After seeing the new 15-star and striped flag flying over Fort McHenry during the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem that would eventually become

the nation's national anthem.

■ A sea captain from Massachusetts named William Driver named a large, 10-foot-by-17-foot flag "Old Glory" after it survived multiple defacing attempts during the American Civil War. Driver's nickname of the flag inspired the name to be used for all American flags.

■ Although Flag Day was established as a formal national holiday in 1949, it was not made a federal holiday. Flag Day is

only an official holiday in the state of Pennsylvania. This may be fitting because legend holds that Betsy Ross sewed the first flag in Pennsylvania.

■ Today's flag features the original 13 alternating white and red stripes and 50 stars to represent the states of the Union.

The colors of the flag signify as follows: red for hardiness and valor, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance, perseverance and justice.



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Boat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

\$5, and the couple have also added T-shirts, boiled peanuts and koozies to their inventory.

The business is seasonal. They start in mid May and sell through Labor Day.

TRIAL AND ERROR

The Ogle family's new business has come with a lot of trial and error.

Now, the boats have freezers that run off a generator, but that wasn't the case at first.

"Our first weekend, we used a 210 Yeti cooler with dry ice," JD Ogle said. "We didn't carry the inventory we have now, but we sold out of ice cream in two hours."

They also said they experienced a theft while eating breakfast in St. Augustine the first year.

"We spent the day with no menu, no spoons and no flags," Marlene Ogle said. "Thankfully, I had not put our money box in it."

In addition to damage suffered due to the occasional weather or rough waters, the business owners find it frustrating to have to compete for sales on the river with those who have not attained a permit to do so.

The Ogles find their business takes them frequently on the St. Johns River just south of the Browns Landing boat ramp to a gathering spot called the sand-bar where people can stand, float and congregate in the middle of the river.

"Sometimes we see 50 boats in May and June," Marlene Ogle said. "The amount usually decreases when the scalloping season opens up on the West coast and then it will pick back up towards the end of summer."

The Ogle's Ice Cream Machines I and II draw lots of attention from the public.

"When we are trailering the boat, people will take pictures or honk their horns and give us the thumbs up," JD Ogle said. "When we have customers, we hear 'this is the best idea' or 'wish I had thought of this.' Others will say, 'love your boat' or 'what a cool theme.'"

"When we are unloading or loading the boat, someone



Photos submitted by Marlene Ogle

JD and Marlene Ogle and their combined family find themselves frequently selling ice cream and boiled peanuts at Salt Springs and the Sand Bar near Browns Landing boat ramp in Palatka.



Marlene Ogle and her daughters are pictured at the Palatka Riverfront on their boat, The Ice Cream Machine, before heading out on the St. Johns River. Pictured from left, are Caren Drew, Marlene Ogle with Whittle, their dog, Carlie Drew and Carsyn Drew.

always inquires about the name of the boat and if we really have ice cream," Marlene Ogle said. "It usually leads to a sale."

Those sales have also come at unexpected places, too.

"We have sold ice cream in the Ollies parking lot," Marlene Ogle said. "It wasn't intentional. JD needed something from the store and he ran in and I stayed in the truck. Someone pulled up and asked if we had ice cream and bought some from me."

The Ogles, although not near retirement, say their business is their retirement plan and a way to boost their income a little.

"At the time we started this adventure, we had two high school seniors and two in college," JD Ogle said. "At one point, we had four in college at the same time. If any of them needed something, we were able to help them and they helped us."

Families are the key to the Ogles' new business adventure.

"We are very family oriented and it feels good to serve families and make them smile," Marlene Ogle said, adding that the venture is anything but boring.

"The people keep it interesting," Marlene Ogle said. "If it ever comes close to boring, we can just sit back and watch people or get in the water and relax." JD Ogle agreed.

"That's what is nice about being in calm waters," he said. "We can float around too or get out and socialize if we are not busy or have the extra help," he said. "Sometimes that is worth more than making money. When it is no fun anymore, then it will be time to stop, but right now, it is the best summer gig around."

For the Ogles, they know where they will be on the Independence Day holiday.


"We will have both boats on the St. Johns River during the day and we will be out for the fireworks," Marlene Ogle said.




*Wishing you and
your family a very
Happy Independence
Day.*



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TRISHA MURPHY/Palatka Daily News

Jody Coulliette, left, and Jenny Shotwell created this white chocolate almond cake with raspberry filling as a practice run for the upcoming Fourth of July Cake Contest in Interlachen.

A TASTE OF PATRIOTISM

Mom, daughter-in-law share love of baking for cake contest

By TRISHA MURPHY
Palatka Daily News
tmurphy@palatkadailynews.com

There's nothing like a sweet treat to celebrate a holiday with family and friends and, with Independence Day right around the corner, two women from Interlachen know they will be ready.

"It is special for us to show our families some of our talents, but more fun to watch everyone eat it and enjoy our hard work," said Jenny Shotwell, 48, who has lived in Interlachen for a year.

Last year, Shotwell took first place in the cake decorating contest with her red, white and blue white chocolate almond cake with raspberry filling entry during the Fourth of July Cake Contest in Interlachen. It was her first time entering.

Jody Coulliette, Shotwell's mother-in-law, has her own accolades, receiving two first-place-awards during the 2018 event – one for decorating and the other for taste.

This year, Shotwell and Coulliette have been working side-by-side, coming up with designs for this year's contest, but say their individual entries will be a surprise.

"It's absolutely wonderful to have more inspiring ideas and the company to keep me laughing and having fun," Shotwell said of working with Coulliette.

Coulliette, who has been an Interlachen resident for 20 years, agreed.

"It is thrilling and wonderful to work together," Coulliette said. "It is really special to me."

As a practice run, Shotwell and Coulliette recently worked together in recreating the patriotic cake Shotwell entered last year in the competition.

"The Fourth of July is an extremely important day for both of us because both of our husbands retired from the U.S. Army," Shotwell said. "We have 11 other veterans in our immediate family, who have served in the military fighting for our freedom."

The holiday has special meaning to Coulliette, too.

"We are thankful for our freedom and the lives that we live," she said. "We have seen other countries that do not have the same freedoms that we do."

Shotwell admits she does make cakes for other occasions

besides Independence Day.

"I have a special needs daughter that always has a request for a different themed cake every year," she said, smiling. "Castles, princesses, Toy Story Bo Peep and a doll cake are some and, with this month being her birthday, she knows already what she wants – Scooby Doo."

Coulliette bakes a specialty cake from a recipe she found on the social media site Pinterest, but always adds her own special touches to it.

"I like adding other ingredients like strawberries," she said.

Shotwell has only taken a few cake decorating classes from Michael's, but knows the importance of having all the ingredients and supplies you might need before starting.

Some of those ingredients include marshmallows, powdered sugar for fondant, chocolate for making modeling chocolate, nuts, gum paste, gelatin and buttercream. They also make sure there is plenty of flour, sugar, eggs, baking powder, vanilla and other ingredients.

When asked the amount of time prepping takes place for the cakes she makes, Shotwell said it varies.



Photo courtesy of Jenny Shotwell

Shotwell is pictured with the confection that secured her a first-place ribbon at an Interlachen cake decorating contest.

"It depends on the cake and how complicated the design is," she said. "We start months ahead, planning and getting ideas. Then it takes weeks ahead to gather the ingredients and supplies and start working on some of the intricate pieces of the cake."

For Shotwell and Coulliette, it's nice winning the titles they have from the past cooking contests during Interlachen's Independence Day celebration. It's especially nice walking away

with a \$50 cash prize.

But that's not all.

"Knowing our family and friends will enjoy a special sweet treat means a lot and the compliments feel good, too," Shotwell said.

The contest will be held July 4 at Interlachen Town Hall, 311 Atlantic Ave., starting at 11 a.m. Cake entries must be delivered by 10:30 a.m. to the back room of the town office. For details, call 386-684-3811 or call Joni Conner at 954-812-8735.



TRISHA MURPHY/Palatka Daily News

These are two of the roses Shotwell created. It takes about four days for the roses to dry before they can be added to a cake.



TRISHA MURPHY/Palatka Daily News

Coulliette holds modeling chocolate, left, and fondant she and her daughter-in-law will use for their cake entries this year.

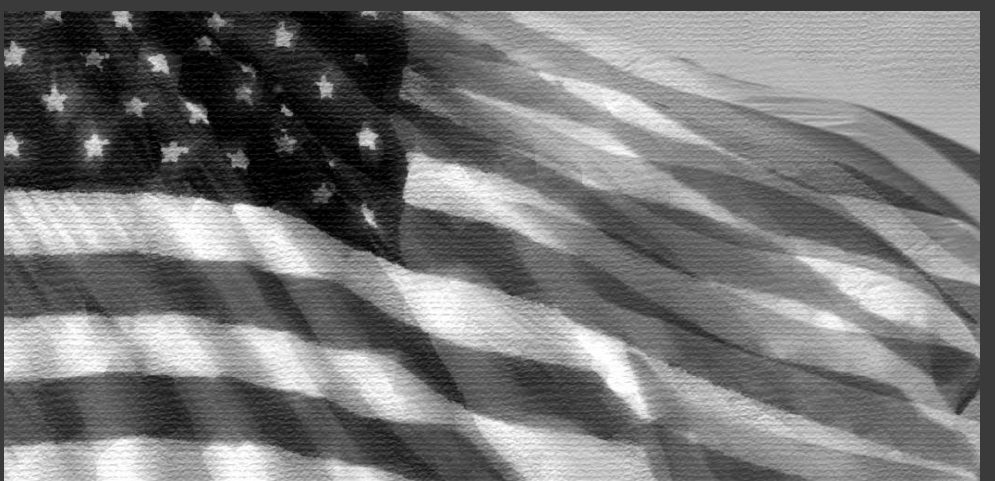
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- Francis Scott Key

As we celebrate Independence Day, we are once again reminded that freedom is not free. Just as America fought for independence in 1776, American troops continue to defend freedom around the world today. July Fourth is a day to honor the men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our liberty. It's a day to proudly celebrate our great country and the ideals it represents.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY TRADITIONS



“My Fourth of July tradition is a simple one. I start the day by reading the Declaration of Independence. Sometimes I read it silently and slowly, absorbing the meaning and feeling the power of those carefully crafted words. Sometimes I read it aloud to my wife, trying to give voice to some of that meaning and power. And then I think about what the declaration meant to the men who wrote it and signed it. I think about their courage and that of my own ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War. Before there was a flag, before there was a constitution, there was a vision of freedom worth risking everything for. It had been declared.”

-Michael Woodward
Interlachen



“As a kid and later a mother, I loved Fourth of July celebrations that included swimming, picnics and, of course, fireworks. As an older person, I find myself staying home after dark trying to calm a frightened and agitated dog. I can only imagine what a soldier with PTSD must go through.”

-Meri Rees
Palatka



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As we celebrate the Fourth of July with barbecues, fireworks and revelry, it's important to remember the true meaning of this important holiday. On the birthday of our nation, we celebrate freedom and democracy while saluting the heroic efforts of those who have fought for and defended our liberty since July 4, 1776. We're proud of our country, our people, our history and our standing as a symbol of hope, freedom and democracy to people around the world. Happy Birthday, America, and may you continue to prosper and stand strong through future challenges, as you have so many times in the past.



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Why Independence Day is celebrated on July Fourth

The Continental Congress declared its independence from Great Britain on July 2, 1776. If that date raises an eyebrow, it should. Independence Day in the United States has long been celebrated on July 4, which would seem to be two days late. But upon closer examination, it seems Americans are not really celebrating their independence two days later than they should be. According to the National Constitution Center, the Continental Congress approved a resolution declaring its independence from Great Britain on July 2. However, a document still needed to be drafted to explain the decision to the general public. Such a document was already in the works, but it took two days for the men of Congress to agree on a final version. The resulting document, known as the Declaration of Independence, was sent to John Dunlap, an Irish printer who served under George Washington during the American Revolutionary War, who subsequently printed roughly 200 broadsides. Still, the Declaration of Independence was not read to the public until July 8, 1776, when Col. John Nixon did so in Philadelphia on what is now known as Independence Square. It was nearly a month later, on Aug. 2, 1776, when most members of the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.

BOBBY
PAYNE
State Representative

District 20



“We must continue to fight for the foundational values of our Constitution. Among those, the independence and freedom that continues to make the U.S.A. the greatest country in the world! Happy 4th of July!”

State Representative Bobby Payne
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A GRAND ‘OL TIME



Palatka Daily News file photo

A singer celebrates Independence Day at Welaka’s jubilee in 1998.



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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

The following text is a transcription of the Constitution as it was inscribed by Jacob Shallus on parchment (document on display in Rotunda at the National Archives Museum.) The spelling and punctuation reflect the original.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

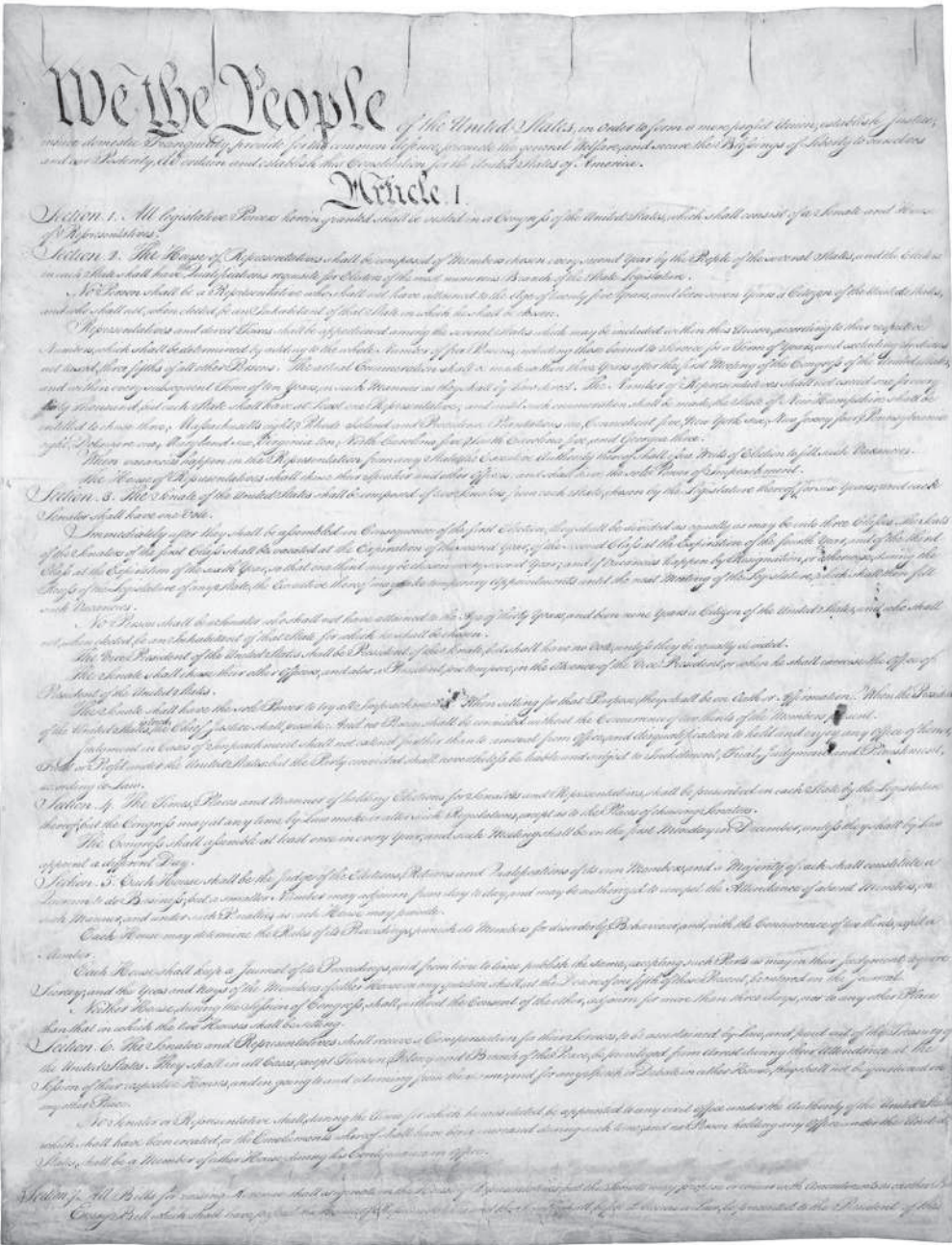
No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of



Transcription and image of Constitution courtesy of the National Archives (archives.gov)

Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States; but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section. 4.

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section. 5.

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any

other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section. 6.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section. 7.

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become

a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section. 8.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and

current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section. 9.

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And

no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section. 10.

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article. II.

Section. 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the

See CONSTITUTION, Page 11

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Constitution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be encreased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section. 2.
The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power



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to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section. 3.
He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section. 4.
The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article. III.
Section. 1.
The judicial Power of the United

States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section. 2.
The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;— between a State and Citizens of another State,—between Citizens of different States,— between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section. 3.
Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and

Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attained.

Article. IV.
Section. 1.
Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section. 2.
The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

Section. 3.
New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section. 4.
The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application

of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened) against domestic Violence.

Article. V.
The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Article. VI.
All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article. VII.
The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

The Word, "the," being interlined between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, The Word "Thirty" being partly written

on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page, The Words "is tried" being interlined between the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word "the" being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

Attest William Jackson Secretary
done in Convention by the
Unanimous Consent of the States
present the Seventeenth Day of
September in the Year of our Lord
one thousand seven hundred and
Eighty seven and of the
Independance of the United States
of America the Twelfth In witness
whereof We have hereunto sub-
scribed our Names,
G^o. Washington
Presidt and deputy from
Virginia
Delaware
Geo: Read
Gunning Bedford jun
John Dickinson
Richard Bassett
Jaco: Broom
Maryland
James McHenry
Dan of St Thos. Jenifer
Danl. Carroll
Virginia
John Blair
James Madison Jr.
North Carolina
Wm. Blount
Richd. Dobbs Spaight
Hu Williamson
South Carolina
J. Rutledge
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney
Pierce Butler
Georgia
William Few
Abr Baldwin
New Hampshire
John Langdon
Nicholas Gilman
Massachusetts
Nathaniel Gorham
Rufus King
Connecticut
Wm. Saml. Johnson
Roger Sherman
New York
Alexander Hamilton
New Jersey
Wil: Livingston
David Brearley
Wm. Paterson
Jona: Dayton
Pennsylvania
B Franklin
Thomas Mifflin
Robt. Morris
Geo. Clymer
Thos. FitzSimons
Jared Ingersoll
James Wilson
Gouv Morris

MAY THIS INDEPENDENCE DAY FILL THE LIVES OF AMERICANS WITH HAPPINESS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES.



Happy
4th of JULY
Independence Day



386.385.3265
105 N. 2ND STREET
OPEN MON. - SAT FOR LUNCH & DINNER

STEAK, SEAFOOD,
SHRIMP & GRITS,
GUMBO, BURGERS,
FRESH OYSTERS
& MORE Y'ALL

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bonds which have connected them with 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 entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel 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 to 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 and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown 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.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

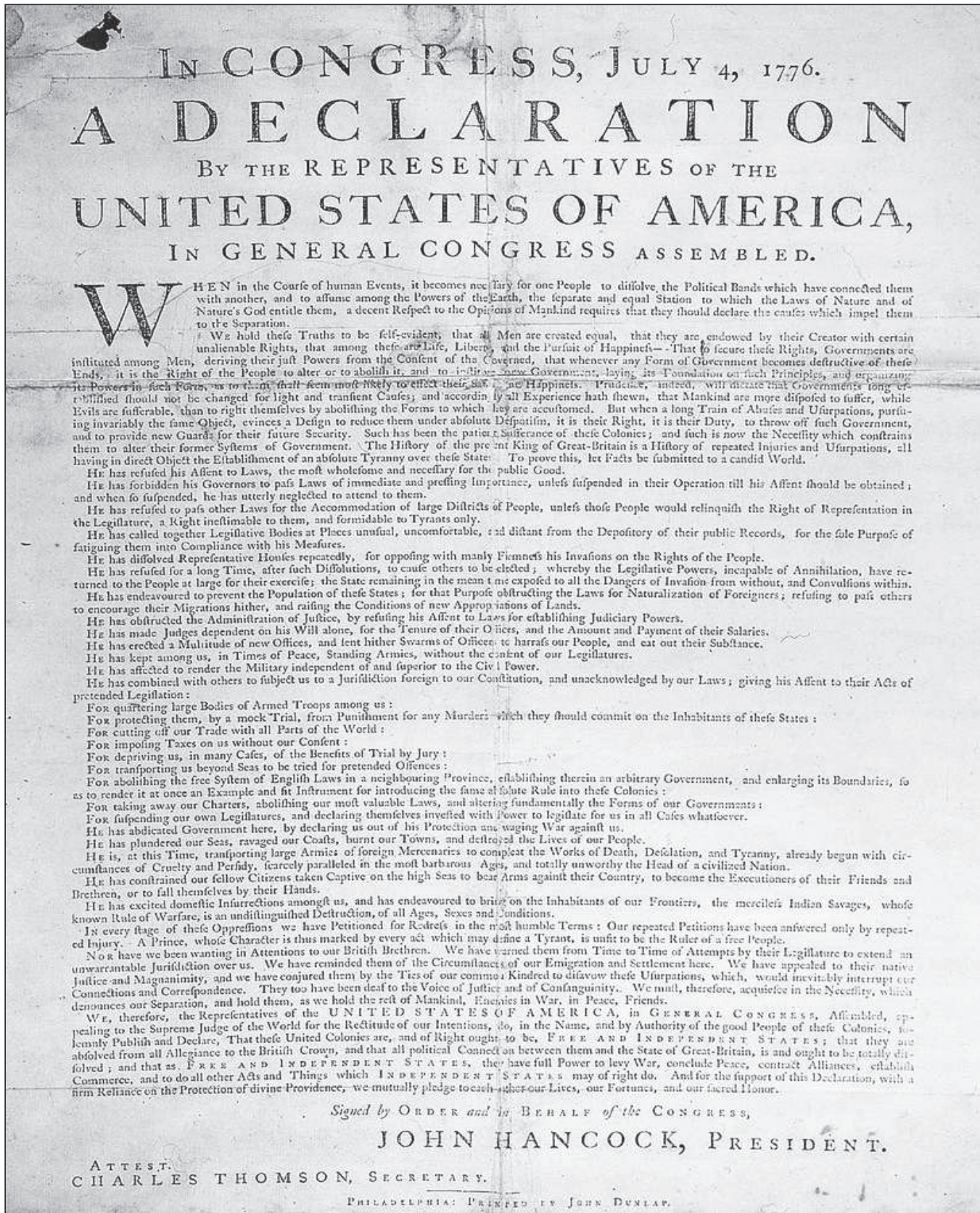
He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

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.

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.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

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 meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislature.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to civil power.

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 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:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring 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 in 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.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our

towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

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 and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

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.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare, is distinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

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 attention 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 our connections and correspondence. 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.

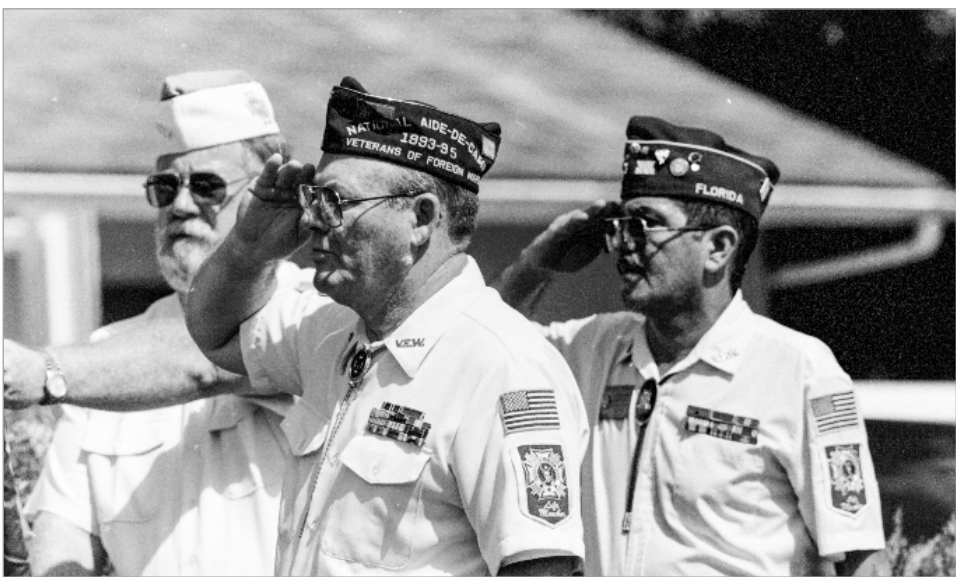
We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united 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.

JOHN HANCOCK, President
Attested, CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary

New Hampshire
JOSIAH BARTLETT
WILLIAM WHIPPLE
MATTHEW THORNTON
Massachusetts-Bay
SAMUEL ADAMS
JOHN ADAMS
ROBERT TREAT PAINE
ELBRIDGE GERRY
Rhode Island
STEPHEN HOPKINS
WILLIAM ELLERY
Connecticut
ROGER SHERMAN
SAMUEL HUNTINGTON
WILLIAM WILLIAMS
OLIVER WOLCOTT
Georgia
BUTTON GWINNETT
LYMAN HALL
GEO. WALTON
Maryland
SAMUEL CHASE
WILLIAM PACA
THOMAS STONE
CHARLES CARROLL OF CARROLLTON
Virginia
GEORGE WYTHE
RICHARD HENRY LEE
THOMAS JEFFERSON
BENJAMIN HARRISON
THOMAS NELSON, JR.
FRANCIS LIGHTFOOT LEE
CARTER BRAXTON.
New York
WILLIAM FLOYD
PHILIP LIVINGSTON
FRANCIS LEWIS
LEWIS MORRIS
Pennsylvania
ROBERT MORRIS
BENJAMIN RUSH
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
JOHN MORTON
GEORGE CLYMER
JAMES SMITH
GEORGE TAYLOR
JAMES WILSON
GEORGE ROSS
Delaware
CAESAR RODNEY
GEORGE READ
THOMAS M'KEAN
North Carolina
WILLIAM HOOPER
JOSEPH HEWES
JOHN PENN
South Carolina
EDWARD RUTLEDGE
THOMAS HEYWARD, JR.
THOMAS LYNCH, JR.
ARTHUR MIDDLETON
New Jersey
RICHARD STOCKTON
JOHN WITHERSPOON
FRANCIS HOPKINS
JOHN HART
ABRAHAM CLARK

SALUTE THE FALLEN



Members of a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Interlachen pay tribute to fallen veterans during the town's 1996 Fourth of July event.

Palatka Daily News file

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Happy Birthday America

***On the 247th Birthday of
America we ask ourselves,
“Would free speech be a
powerful right if we did not
also have a free press?”***

**Join us in support of the
five freedoms of the First
Amendment:**

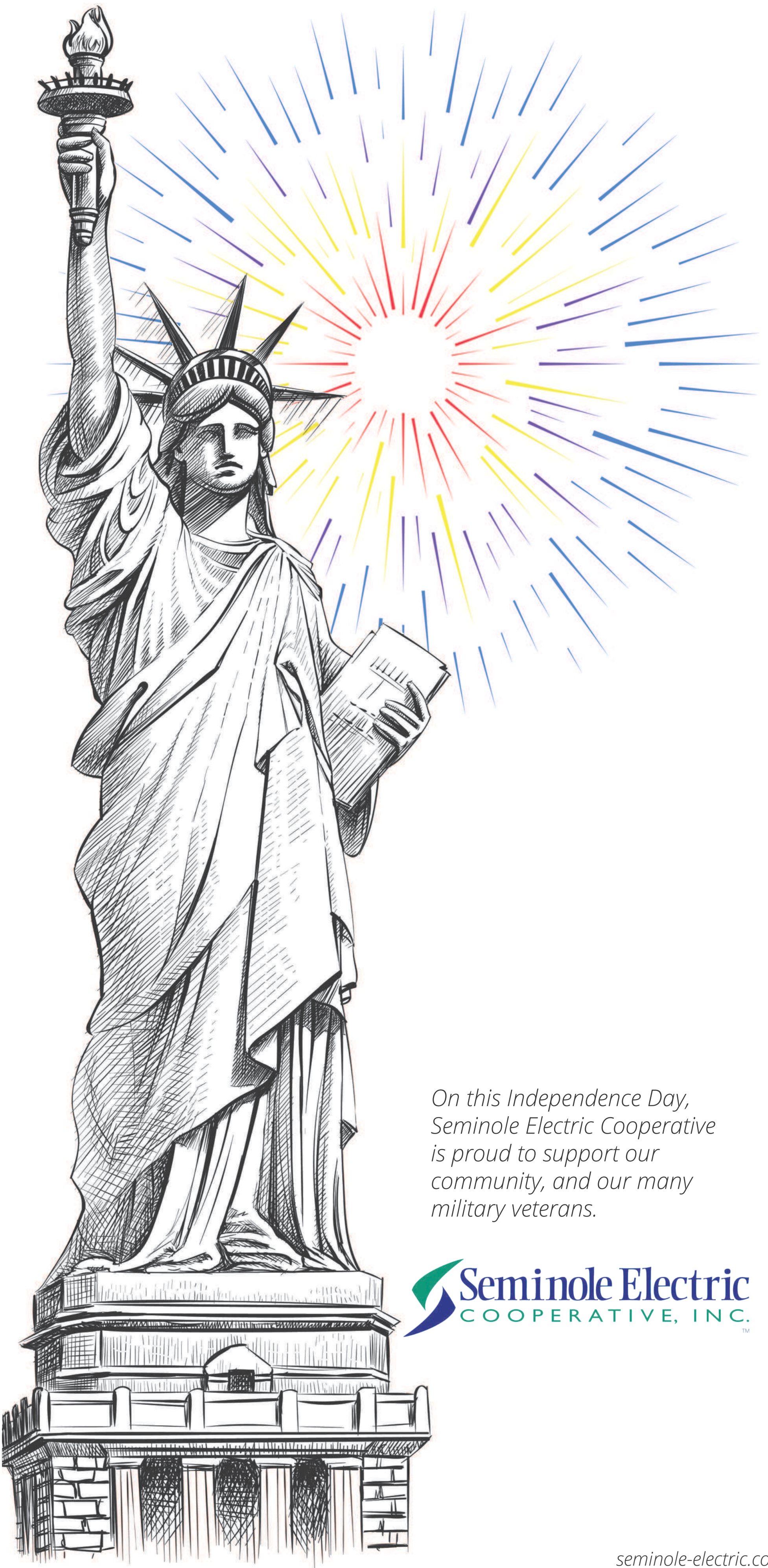
- Religion
- Speech
- Press
- Assembly
- Petition

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

***Congress shall make no law respecting
an establishment of religion, or
prohibiting the free exercise thereof;
or abridging the freedom of speech,
or of the press; or the right of the
people peaceably to assemble, and to
petition the Government for a redress
of grievances.***

PALATKA DAILY NEWS

The voice of our community for 138 years.



*On this Independence Day,
Seminole Electric Cooperative
is proud to support our
community, and our many
military veterans.*

