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CELEBRATING U.S. INDEPENDENCE DAY: JULY 4th, 2010

ISSUE-IN-FOCUS: JULY 2, 2010

"Every year, Americans gather with friends and family on the Fourth of July to celebrate the values that inspired the founders of our nation more than two centuries ago, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Now these freedoms are not unique to Americans. They are embodied in constitutions of many nations, and observed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that we all recognize. So today is a celebration of our common humanity..."
-- [U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, June 25, 2010](#)

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

Happy Birthday, America!

REMARKS

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

ARTICLES

[U.S. Independence Day a Civic and Social Event](#) (June 22, 2010)

The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of patriotic celebrations and family events throughout the country. The Fourth of July holiday is a major civic occasion, with roots deep in the Anglo-American tradition of political freedom.

[Flag Day: The Birthday of the Stars and Stripes](#) (June 14, 2010)

Every year, the president proclaims June 14 as Flag Day and orders flags displayed on all federal buildings; many Americans fly the flag in front of homes and businesses. The week that includes June 14 is National Flag Week.



[Fourth of July Music Reflects U.S. History, Diversity](#) (June 30, 2008)

The patriotic songs that have become staples of U.S. Independence Day celebrations reflect the nation's history and the contributions of immigrants to the country's diverse culture. The article details the origins of these songs, with audio links to some of the most popular ones.

MULTIMEDIA



[The Fourth of July: Celebrating U.S. Independence Day:](#) (July 4, 2009)
A photo gallery

[4th of July at the White House](#)

A video clip of American service members and their families at the White House Independence Day celebration. July 4, 2009.

[July 4th: Firework and the Family](#)

America's spirit of democracy and opportunity is celebrated on July 4. One family exemplifies this spirit by crafting an essential part of America's birth celebrations: fireworks.

WEBSITES

[Declaration of Independence](#)

National Archives and Records Administration

The site offers a full transcript and high-resolution image of the Declaration of Independence with an option to download your own copy.

[Today in History: July 4th](#)

Library of Congress

This Library of Congress page features a photo and audio collection of old-time Independence Day celebrations.

[Fun Facts about July 4th](#)

U.S. Census Bureau

Here's a great place to find facts and figures about the Fourth of July and its celebrations.

[Patriotic Melodies](#)

Library of Congress

Patriotic Melodies tells the stories behind many of the songs that have now become part of the American national heritage. A combination of hymns, national songs, music of the theater, radio and television, military themes, and poetry, all of this music demonstrates that while over history many things have changed, this expression of pride and hope remain a constant part of the American experience.

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