



Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Fourth of July!

Greetings on this day when all Americans celebrate our Independence as a nation. It was a nation founded on the highest ideals that every man, woman and child had the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Let us not make light of these ideals-while we might not always be able to live to their highest purpose-we must always strive to attain them. As Union Brothers and Sisters, you know the price we must pay to remain united and free. Enjoy with your friends and family celebrating our Nation's birthday and its golden ideals.

Here's a glimpse of how our third President, John Adams, viewed our Liberty one day after the Continental Congress voted to declare independence on July 2, 1776:

Writing home to his beloved wife Abigail on July 3rd, Adams predicted that from then on-*"the Second of July, 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival."* He was right, except that we adopted July 4th instead because that was the date on Thomas Jefferson's copy of his Declaration of Independence.