

**It has been 249 years since the Continental Congress voted for independence from the King of Great Britain and adopted the Declaration of Independence. We are thankful for the freedoms guaranteed and upheld by the Constitution of these United States, which was ratified more than 10 years later. We are thankful for the freedom to assemble and worship the Almighty Creator. To all who enjoy these freedoms with us, we say Happy Independence Day!**

**From the final paragraph of the Declaration of Independence:**

**"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...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."**