

Letter of future U.S. President John Adams on Independence Day

From Philadelphia in 1776, future president of the United States, John Adams wrote a letter to his wife Abigail, reflecting on all 13 colonies having joined in the Declaration of Independence. Having exhausted their remedies and taken time to struggle, debate, consider and resolve themselves to the cause of freedom he stated in part:

You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. -- I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. -- Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. ...

I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. ...

About the day on which independence was declared, Adams casts his gaze forward to us today saying:

... [T]he Day ... will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America.

I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty.

It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

Happy Independence Day !!!

*Cite web page as: Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, 3 July 1776, "Had a Declaration..." [electronic edition]. Adams Family Papers: An Electronic Archive. Massachusetts Historical Society.
<http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/>*