



## FROM THE INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

I love the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and thought this excerpt from "Popp Talk" was perfect for an article for NCOA:

### *Did You Know?*

*Here are a few lesser-known facts about the fourth of July that may surprise you and maybe put a smile on your face.*

1. **ONLY TWO FOUNDERS SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 4TH.** John Hancock and Charles Thompson, Secretary of Congress.
2. **NOT EVERYONE WAS ON BOARD WITH CELEBRATING ON JULY 4TH.** It may have been the day Congress approved the Declaration, but John Adams, who became our second President, wanted to celebrate on July 2<sup>nd</sup> the day Congress voted for independence. He even refused to attend festivities on July 4th.
3. **GEORGE WASINGTHON DID SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR HIS SOLDIERS.** He ordered a double ration of rum to celebrate the holiday.
4. **WHAT ABOUT FIREWORKS?** Fireworks have been a major part of Fourth of July since earliest celebrations. In 1884 miners blew up the post office in Swan, Colorado because it wasn't supplied with fireworks.
5. **WHAT'S A FAVORITE FOURTH FOOD?** Americans consume around 150 million hot dogs on July 4th.
6. **AND TO WASH IT DOWN?** We spend more on beer on the fourth than any other national holiday.
7. **WHEN WAS IT OFFICIAL?** The first commemoration of July 4 was in 1777 in Philadelphia.
8. **WHEN WAS THE CELEBRATION AT THE WHITE HOUSE?** Thomas Jefferson was the first President to celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> at the White House in 1801, featuring horse races, parades, food, and don't forget the drinks.

*It's fun to look at the lighter side of the Fourth of July, but we need to remember it was a serious business after the hard fought revolution with many lives lost. The main purpose of this holiday is to honor all those who fought to make this new land America, the land of the free. Please don't forget how it all started.*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!**

*Author: May Jane Popp*

Strength in Unity!

Tammy Sullivan  
International Auxiliary President