



SOUTH CAROLINA SUPPLEMENT
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Greeting Sir Knights!

As always, I continue in hope that all of you have remained healthy and financially sound during these times. My thoughts and prayers stay with you and your families.

July 4th is upon us. What a history changing event for governance of people.

The Declaration of Independence was/is an amazing document.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another ...

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...

Men, deriving their Powers from the consent of the Governed.

Powerful words and world changing ideas are contained in this document.

July 2-4, 1776 the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration and declared American independence.

56 brave men signed this paper, supporting the declaration, relying on the protection of divine providence, pledging to each other their lives, fortunes, dared treason to England.

These were men of means, educated, and well respected. Of the 56, 14 died in the war. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Eight more had their homes and

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British, that he was forced to move his family constantly. His home and possessions were taken from him, and he died in poverty. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, had his fleet of ships sunk by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in poverty.

Some gave all that they had as personal possessions or wealth. Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged the American generals to have artillery open fire on the house. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Some had wives die from the fighting. Francis Lewis went into hiding. He had his home and properties destroyed. They jailed his wife as the wife of a traitor, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven by the English army from his wife's bedside as she was dying. He and his 13 children fled the house for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were burned. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

Freedom is never free! Patriotism is NOT a sin. The Fourth of July is not only a day to have a picnic; it is the occasion for us to remember what happened on July 4th, 1776!

Men and their families fought and died in a war built on the ideals of what was to become a new nation, conceived in liberty and brought forth for others, including us.

Fraternally,
Mike Kirk
Grand Commander