



4TH OF JULY



235th Independence Day of the United States of America



Barack Obama
President of the United States of America

Fourth of July facts

ON this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues across the country.

2.5 million: In July 1776, the estimated number of people living in the newly independent nation.

311.7 million: The estimated population of the U.S. on this July Fourth.

Flags

\$3.2 million: In 2010, the dollar value of U.S. imports of American flags. The vast majority of this amount (\$2.8 million) was for U.S. flags made in

China.

\$486,026: Dollar value of U.S. flags exported in 2010. Mexico was the leading customer, purchasing \$256,407 worth.

\$302.7 million: Annual dollar value of shipments of fabricated flags, banners and similar emblems by the nation's manufacturers, according to the latest published economic census data.

Fireworks

\$190.7 million: The value of fireworks imported from China in 2010, representing the bulk of all U.S. fireworks imported (\$197.3 million). U.S. exports of fireworks, by comparison, came to just \$37.0 million in 2010, with Japan purchasing more than any other country (**\$6.3 million**): Patriotic-Sounding Place Names

Thirty-one places have "liberty" in their names. The most populous one as of April 1, 2010, is Liberty, Missouri (29,149). Iowa, with four, has more of these places than any other state: Libertyville, New Liberty, North Liberty and West Liberty. Thirty-five places have "eagle" in their names.

Eleven places have "independence" in their names. Nine places have "freedom" in their names.

One place has "patriot" in its name: Patriot, Indiana. Five places have "America" in their names.

The British are coming!

\$98.3 billion: Dollar value of trade last year between the United States and the United Kingdom, making the British,

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MESSAGE FROM CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

JULY 4, 2011, marks the 235th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. Each year on this day, Americans honor and celebrate the courageous action that our nation's Founders took so long ago--publicly declaring our independence as a free nation. With that brave and profound decision, the Founders demonstrated their love for liberty and proved that they were willing to fight and die for freedom.

Throughout our nation's history, Americans have been committed in their efforts to build a country of liberty, peace and opportunity for all. The United States is dedicated to the belief that all men and women are created equal and that we are endowed with certain rights, including the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. July 4 -- Independence Day -- is a time for people around the world, not just Americans, to reflect on the value of freedom.

As we celebrate this day, we reach out to the countries to which we are connected by both heritage and friendship. Bangladesh is one of these countries. Our relationship

has grown and deepened over the years from one based on development assistance to a richer partnership that includes significant bilateral trade and investment and cooperation in promoting global peace and security. The growing community of Americans of Bangladeshi origin enriches our heritage and deepens our friendship with Bangladesh.

Today is a day for celebration and pride in the United States. We hope that Bangladeshis here and around the world will join Americans this July 4 in celebrating our friendship, our achievements and our common ideals of democracy.



Nicholas Dean
Charge D' Affaires
Embassy of the United States of America in Dhaka

American identity: Ideas, not ethnicity

MICHAEL JAY FRIEDMAN

In 2000, 28.2% of people living in the New York metropolitan area were foreign born. -- U.S. Census Bureau

IN 1782, barely six years after the United States of America declared its nationhood, Benjamin Franklin offered certain "Information to Those Who Would Remove to America." Among the constellation of outsized historical actors Americans came to know as their

Since the United States was founded in the 18th century, Americans have defined themselves not by their racial, religious, and ethnic identity, but by their common values and belief in individual freedom.

"founding fathers," Franklin was in many ways the most typically American: If George Washington was inapproachably august, Thomas Jefferson bookish, and John Adams

dour, it was Franklin -- that practical inventor, resourceful businessman, and ever-busy civic catalyst -- who best understood that his countrymen were, as the historian Walter

McDougall would later call them, a nation of hustlers. In such a land, Franklin instructed the would-be immigrant:

People do not inquire concerning a Stranger, What is he? but, What can he do? If he has any useful Art, he is welcome; and if he exercises it, and behaves well, he will be respected by all that know him.

Franklin's remark was grounded in first-hand observation: As early as 1750, German immigrants outnumbered

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Our Heartiest FELICITATION on the US Independence Day 2011

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