

Thank you to all, who have participated in the program, donated, and purchased items and who have attended to make this celebration of our Declaration of Independence special for everyone.

Paid for by the
Wapello County Republican Party
PO Box 851
Ottumwa, IA 52501
641-684-7585
www.WapelloCountyGOP.com
contact@WapelloCountyGOP.com

Central Committee meetings
First Monday of month at 7:00 PM
Republican Headquarters
112 S. Market
Ottumwa, Iowa

As Citizens of the United States of America:

1. Vote in every election.
2. Communicate with our elected officials.
3. Become involved.

Email: contact@WapelloCountyGOP.com

Or call Trudy at 641-684-7585

DECLARATION CELEBRATION

Hosted by Wapello County Republicans

June 30, 2008

Welcome

Trudy Caviness, Chair Wapello County Republicans

Invocation, Christopher Reed

Flag Ceremony

Boy Scout Troop, Ottumwa, Ed Miller Scoutmaster

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem, Marlin Woollums

Guest Speakers

Christopher Reed

Leon Mosley

Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Trudy Caviness

Richard Gaumer

Randy Bradley

Joe Helfenberger

Jesse Helgerson

Debbie Nitzsche

Tom Shafer

Dianne Haas

Chuck Bates

Dan Simonson

Ron Brickey

Nick Uehling

Keith Caviness

Marlin Woollums

Closing

Signing of Declaration of Independence

Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence, a document in American history used by the 13 British North American colonies to proclaim their independence from Great Britain.

On June 7, 1776 a resolution was proposed in the Continental Congress “that these united colonies ought to be free and independent states.” The committee to draft a formal statement of independence included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and Robert R. Livingston. Because of his powerful writing style Thomas Jefferson drafted the document, with adjustments by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams.

On July 2, 1776 the Continental Congress passed the resolution to draft a formal statement of independence.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted in the final form on July 4, 1776. Most of the delegates signed the official copy on August 2, 1776.

It can be divided into three parts:

- A statement of principle concerning the rights of man and the legitimacy of revolution
- A list of specific grievances against England’s King George III
- A formal claim of independence.

The document transformed the colonists’ struggle with Great Britain from a defense of their rights as Englishmen to a revolution aimed at overthrowing the existing form of government

It did not establish a structure of government and should not be confused with either the Articles of Confederation or the Constitution of the United States.

For the American colonists, the declaration was an announcement to the rest of the world that the colonies were independent from Great Britain; it also provided a rationale for this action.

The 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence

- 5 signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died.
- 12 had their homes ransacked and burned.
- 2 lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; and another 2 had their sons captured.
- 9 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

WHAT KIND OF MEN WERE THEY????

26 were lawyers and jurist

11 were merchants

9 were farmers or large plantation owners

Men of means, well educated

They signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more.

Standing tall and straight and unwavering they pledged: “For the support of the declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

The people who are reading the Declaration of Independence today reflect many of the same occupations of the original signers.