

**EDITORIALS**

**Our nation's Declaration of Independence**

*Editor's Note: the entire text of the Declaration of Independence to mark the occasion of our nation's 239th birthday follows....*

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776  
When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to

throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies in places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and con-

usions within.

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislature.

He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states:

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:

For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses:

For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarg-

ing its boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule in these colonies:

For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments:

For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare, is undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the

ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Dallas High should change mascot**

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley made the correct call in demanding the removal of the confederate battle flag from the capital grounds. In my observation, that flag has always represented hatred toward African Americans. Speaking of racist symbols, perhaps Dallas High School should consider changing their mascot dragon to something more acceptable. Hood River Valley recently changed dragons to eagles. Being a lifetime resident of Polk County, we all know what the dragon represents and it is not Chinese food! Dallas School Board should take immediate action on this matter.

James Allgood  
Independence

**Profits from berries benefit CHS seniors**

Strawberry jam, strawberry shortcake, strawberries and ice cream. Many area families will be enjoying such flavorful treats from the strawberries they recently purchased during the annual Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club Strawberry Sale.

The Rotary Club reported its most successful sale ever when 720 buckets of freshly picked, stemmed and

cleaned berries were delivered on June 4.

Profits from the sale will be used for next year's \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating senior at Central High School and for the student exchange program that enables a local high school student to study in a foreign country for one year. The Rotary Club also uses profits from its strawberry sale to purchase dictionaries, which are given free to every fourth grader in the Central School District. Also, the annual awards dessert for freshmen, sophomore and junior high students at Central High School is funded by the strawberry sale project. Hundreds of students have been recognized at these awards desserts over the past 35 years.

Paul Doellinger  
Monmouth

**Leaders don't serve the people**

I am an American. I believe in the policies and ideals behind the founding fathers of this country — never in history has there been such an instance where the citizens of a nation would determine the laws that they were to live under. And as an American, I am different from everyone else in the world. No one cares about where my parents came from, or what their background was. It

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doesn't matter to an American. What does matter are the freedoms that I have as an American, as stated in our Constitution, the governing law of our country. And the country is at a crossroad. We are having our personal freedoms legislated away.

We have elected individuals to represent us and enact laws to govern our activities, and they have forgotten their oath of office. For some reason, they now represent a political party agenda, instead of representing us, the people. They vote on governing laws that they do not have any idea of what the actual laws are, and they refuse to discuss the details of the laws that they vote on with the people who elected them. When questioned about their activities, they have responded by lying repeatedly.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing multiple times, expecting

that there will be different results each time.

Our elected politicians have assured us that they can represent us in the future far better than they have in the past. They have become professionals at their job. Their continued existence means that we are living in a time of insanity.

Richard C. Evans  
Monmouth

**Does council want new businesses?**

I still don't get it! Why is it we can't accommodate new businesses wanting to locate in Dallas? I have two perfect examples I would like to cite.

There is a piece of property on Ellendale that Jiffy Lube was interested in purchasing and building on. Jiffy Lube was told, by the city, it would never work due to the fact that there is no access off of Ellendale, nor would they get access.

Long story short, there was already deeded access (the City never checked) and ODOT stated they would allow right in and a right out. The city contacted Jiffy Lube to let them know the property would work for them however, they moved on to another site.

The second example is property on east Ellendale that is zoned residential but lies between Grace Community Church and Village Mission. A local, successful business man wanted to purchase the property, tear down the old building and build a new office. He would also bring in additional employees. After many weeks of frustration with the City, he has moved on.

This "no help" attitude is exactly why we can't get businesses to locate in Dallas. A series of road blocks and excessive fees frustrate new, potential businesses.

On Dec. 2014, Mayor Brian Dalton wrote an article in the Dallas News Letter, stating that Dallas "was a shopping mecca for a large territory. We offer upscale restaurants, fine art and boutique shops. We are a regional center of culture, commerce, industry, education and government." Mayor Dalton, when was the last time you walked downtown Dallas?

It would behoove our city council to step out of their

box and get more involved, get a better understanding of what potential businesses have to do to appease the City Fathers.

Nancie Rogers  
Dallas

**Father's Day event was a success**

The men and women of the Dallas Fire Department would like to thank the more than 500 people who attended our annual Father's Day Breakfast on June 21.

Proceeds from this event will be used to help support two major community events we are actively involved in, the Harpy Bovard Scholarship Fund which provides college tuition assistance to a Dallas area student and the Dallas Fire & EMS Relay for Life team.

Special thanks to the various local businesses that helped support this event and the Dallas Starbucks for their generous donation of coffee.

We appreciate the ongoing community support and assistance and look forward to seeing you all at Dallas Summerfest when we host hydro cart races and the Oregon Vehicle Rescue Competition.

Thank you, Dallas!

Andrew Woolsey  
President  
Dallas Volunteer Firefighters

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