

INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE
OF AMBASSADOR MONDALE

On behalf of President Clinton, I wish to offer greetings to my fellow Americans in Japan on our 219th Independence Day. On this national holiday, we celebrate the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776.

Over two centuries have passed since our ancestors risked their lives for America's independence, emboldened by a deep love of liberty and a hatred of injustice. With the signing of the Declaration of Independence, these noble American ideals were forever etched into our nation's history. That document speaks to us as clearly today as it did then: "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 power from the consent of the governed."

We as Americans must never lose our capacity to act bravely and to speak out on behalf of our ideals, whether at home or abroad. We are proud that the words of the Declaration of Independence and the independent spirit of the American people are an inspiration to many around the world in their struggles for freedom and justice.

The U.S. and Japan share an abiding faith in democracy. For fifty years, we have worked in close partnership to expand democracy in Asia and elsewhere. We share a commitment to the stability and prosperity of this region. We share a desire for world growth and lasting peace. Together, we are confident that we can create a better world for our generation and those to come.

As we enjoy this special day with family and friends, let us also look to the future. Let us be faithful, as individuals and as a nation, to the ideals that have made our nation so great.

Happy birthday, America.

Ambassador Walter F. Mondale



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Copyright in the Walter F. Mondale Papers belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



www.mnhs.org