

## U.S. Ambassador's

### Independence Day Message

On Independence Day, Americans celebrate the anniversary of one of the most profound and forward-looking decisions in human history -- the decision of the Continental Congress to formally adopt a Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. The world has since looked to America for leadership, and Americans have looked with pride to that historic beginning of our nation.

We are a nation of individuals, and while we share a common identity as Americans, the world's rich and diverse heritage is well represented in the American family. Our nation has attracted generations of hard-working people from various backgrounds who are committed to a great human experiment in democracy. Rich in our diversity, the collective purpose embodied in our nation's guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness binds us close together.

The vibrant society that has grown from this people-driven enterprise has had a profound effect on the world. The principles articulated in our Constitution are increasingly reflected in the policies of other nations which share democratic ideals, show respect for human rights, and value individual freedoms. The history of the United States is therefore much more than a narrow American experience; it is a phenomenon which has had a tremendous impact throughout the world.

Americans around the globe work hard to uphold the ideals of our nation. That involves extensive cooperation with other countries. Here in Japan, I have seen the strong support that the American community and our Japanese friends lend to this historic bilateral partnership. As Ambassador I have been delighted with the scope of this cooperative relationship, and I commend all involved for their commitment to the common goals by which we all become stronger.

It is therefore in a spirit of celebration and renewed commitment that I send my greetings on the 220th commemoration of America's birth. Happy Independence Day.

Ambassador Walter F. Mondale



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