

Declaration of Dependence



**by Dawn Reed
E. Ky. Columnist**

When someone says "Independence Day" I automatically think of Will Smith and Bill Pullman in the movie. I don't often think of Thomas

Jefferson, John Adams or John Hancock-though I should.

Way back in 1776 at the end of the Revolutionary War, gutsy men and women stood for freedom against Great Britain. They put their lives on the line for a free New World. Can you remember pictures in school of Betsy Ross sewing the flag or George Washington standing up in that boat? Their bravery and sacrifices deserve to be remembered at least one day a year!

July 4th is one of my husband's very favorite holidays. He loves the colors red, white, and blue and loves to fly the flag. In fact, we have little American flags in all of our flowerpots on our porch. He is very patriotic

and motivates me to be.

Many people overlook July 4th, but, Holy Smokes, it's our country's birthday! If we celebrate our own birthdays, then by all means we should take a moment to remember America's! And it's easy...in the middle of summer, and filled with fireworks, sparklers and cook-outs!

Sometimes in America we just plain forget how blessed we are. Oh, we have the traditional "moment" on Thanksgiving where we give thanks to the One who has given us our food, but how much do we really think about our blessings outside of November? It seems like we look at the things we don't have or don't like and forget all the good. What if we started a list of "50 things I love about America"? Could you do it? How long do you think your

list would go?

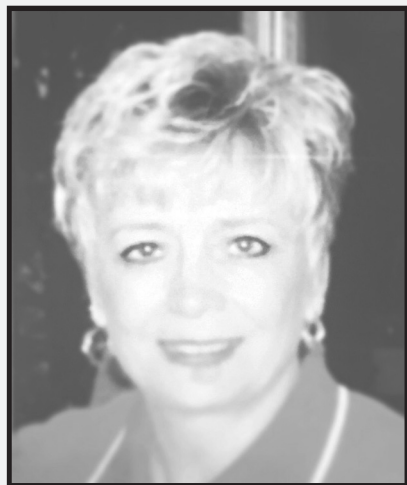
In our Sunday School class a while back, we studied the book of Jonah. He left town quick as a wink when God called him to go out of his comfort zone. Jonah is a lot like us...or we are a lot like Jonah. We want to be our own boss. We don't want anybody telling us what to do. We live in America, for Pete's sake! We want to have independence and the freedom to make our own choices and that trickles over into our relationship with God. We are willing to serve Him-as long as it's convenient, change the world-as long as it's not hard, and follow where He leads-as long as it's where we had already planned to go.

But...we when accept Christ as our Savior, we are giving up our right to be our own boss. We are actually declaring our

dependence on God! That's a good thing. He knows our future and He has plans for it. He created each of us and it wasn't just for fun. It was for good works (Ephesians 2:10). Plus, He's really, really smart!

So we have a choice to make...and July 4th is a perfect day to do it. Do we want to declare our independence from God (because we are Americans and don't want anyone telling us what to do) or declare our dependence on God (because we're getting smarter all the time and frankly it's hard to do everything on our own)?

If you are a believer and follower of Christ, the day you made that decision is your "Dependence Day". If you don't know Christ, today would be a great day to declare your dependence on Him!



**Times Remembered
Betty A. Young**

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Independence Day is a perfect time to get in the spirit of things with an Independence Day party with festive foods of red, white and blue right down to the menu.

Most of the preparation work can be done in advance such as Patriotic Pasta, Stars and Stripes Torte and Liberty Sauerkraut Salad. These foods ease the rush of preparation of other foods such as grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs.

A touch of Italian flavor perks up the Patriotic Pasta, which has red cherry tomatoes, white pasta and cauliflower, plus dressing made with blue cheese. Practically a meal in itself, the salad is a delicious mix of vegetables, cheese and

noodles.

Liberty Sauerkraut Salad is an old recipe that my aunt used to make. Sharing this tangy, refreshing recipe brings back happy memories.

Flavors of blueberry, raspberry, almond and white chocolate come together in the luscious Stars and Stripes Torte, the impressive finale to any meal. It is definitely a winner.

A simple but appropriate centerpiece for the July 4th table is to use small American flags and curls of red and blue ribbons scattered on the table which makes festive accents.

I hope this theme might encourage you to celebrate Independence Day with holiday foods for your family to enjoy.

Patriotic Pasta

DRESSING:

- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 crumbled blue cheese
- 1-1/2 teaspoons milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon white vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon honey mustard
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper

SALAD:

- 2 1/2 cups uncooked penne pasta

Festive Foods for the 4th

- 1 garlic minced
- 3/4 teaspoon minced fresh basil or 1/4 teaspoon dried basil
- 2 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups of cauliflowerets
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped sweet red pepper
- 4 ounces mozzarella cheese
- 2 tablespoons Parmesan cheese

Combine all dressing ingredients; set aside, Cook pasta, rinse in cold water and drain. Place in large bowl. In a skillet, sauté garlic and basil in oil until tender; if you are using fresh herbs; otherwise you may use the dry herbs. Pour over pasta and add the other vegetables and cheese, Stir and refrigerate overnight Serves 12-14.

Stars and Stripes Torte

- 1 pkg white cake mix
- 1 1/2 cups of cold milk
- 1 pkg. 3.3 ounces of white chocolate pudding mix
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup whipping cream, whipped
- 1-2/3 cups of raspberry pie filling, you could use cherry or strawberry
- 2-2/3 cups of blueberry pie filling

Fresh blue berries and strawberries are optional.

Bake the cake according to the direc-

tions using two greased round cake pans. And pudding mix. In a small mixing bowl beat milk on low speed for 2 minutes. Beat in extract. Cover and refrigerate for 10 minutes. Fold in whipped cream.

Split each cake into horizontal layers. Place bottom layer on cake plate; spread with raspberry pie filling, then top with second layer with pudding mixture, next spread the pudding mixture. Top with third cake layer; spread with blueberry filling. Top with remaining cake layer and pudding mixture. Yield 12-14 servings. If desired you may place blue berries around top edge of cake and form a star with blue berries and raspberries or strawberries.

Liberty Sauerkraut Salad

- 1 can (14 ounce) sauerkraut rinsed and drained
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 medium green pepper, diced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 3/4 to 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup cider vinegar
- 1 jar (2 ounces) diced pimientos, drained

Combine all ingredients in a 1 quart serving bowl. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Yield 8 servings.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!

Library Happenings

Estill Public Library

by Shannon Horn

Hello readers! It has been another wonderful week here at the library and I am so excited about sharing some of our news with you. And just to let everyone know we will not be open on July 4th, so there will be no special programming that day.

Kentucky Reptile Zoo

The Reptile Zoo was a hit again this summer. We provided two shows to the community and 158 people attended. It was so much fun watching the children when each animal was brought out. When the presenter brought out the boa constrictor all the children gasped. It was so precious. The first group got to witness the baby alligator trying to get out of his container. The squeals from the kids were so funny and the presenter got a good laugh out of it as well. I want to say thank you to West Irvine Intermediate and their partnership with us on this project. I'm

so excited about the relationships that we are building with our local schools.

Teen Time

This week's Teen Time will be focused on art and space. We will be creating our own Starry Night painting. We've been having a lot of fun the last couple of weeks, creating art and hanging out with each other. Teen Time meets every Friday at 3:30 and is for teens ages 13 and up.

Summer Feeding Program

Our Summer Feeding Program has been doing really well. It has been a lot of fun serving lunches to the kids that come through the library. I just wanted to let everyone know that because of the 4th of July holiday the school district will close down for the 4th and 5th, which means we will not be providing lunches on Friday the 5th.

Pickin' in the Park

Summer feels like it has flown by and it feels almost like it is coming to a close, but we still have five more Pickin' in the Park concerts, so that must mean that there is still some summer left! Troy Estes will be performing here on the 9th and the following week Grayson Jenkins will take the stage. I'm hop-

ing the rain holds off a bit so that we can keep the concerts up at the park. It is so much more fun to be outside! The concert will start at 6:30. Hope you can make it!

Crafternoon

We have two awesome Crafternoon programs coming up in the month of July that I think everyone should check out. Sandy Savage will be here again on the 10th at 1:30 to do another art class with us. And then on the 24th Diane Johnson will be back to do another demonstration, this time it will be how to make goat milk lotion. Her goat soap demo was well attended, so I'm sure there will be a good group for this second demonstration.

Even though there isn't a program this Thursday, I will go ahead and remind everyone about the program on the 11th. We will be hosting Princess Belle for a fun Storytime party. I can't wait to see her. She will be telling a story, singing some songs and interacting with the kids. This will be super fun for the kids (and for the adults too). We have two shows that day. The first will be at 1:00 and the other at 2:00. Readers, I hope you have a good week. Until next time!

Banker: 'If I wouldn't help my sick mother, why would I help you?'



America's Heartland
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You may have heard about the pastor who approached a wealthy banker requesting a financial contribution for the local soup kitchen.

"We've heard that you make \$500,000 a year, yet you haven't given a penny to help us feed the hungry," the pastor said. "Wouldn't you like to contribute to our fundraising drive?"

The banker asked, "Did you also hear that my mother is ill, and that she has huge medical bills, or that my father is blind and unemployed, or that my daughter's husband died, leaving her broke with four little children?"

The pastor acknowledged he had not heard about any of those hardships.

"So," the banker said, "if I don't give them any money, why would I give any to you?"

The Bible lets us know that the Lord would not be pleased with such a person as that.

"Whosoever hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (1 John 3:17-18).

Clearly, the Lord wants us to be generous toward those around us. When we see a need, He wants us to meet it, if we are capable.

Long years ago, I finished a late night shift in a rather large city where I was working as a journalist. I walked out of the building around midnight, and was walking down the sidewalk toward my car when a man, obviously down on his luck, approached me and asked for money.

I told him I had very little, but that he was

welcome to it. I reached into my pocket and pulled out every cent I had.

"Man, you're worse off than I am," he told me. "Just keep your money."

I've told that story a time or two over the years, and people typically laugh. But I, like most of you, have been through some tough times in my life. Even in those times, I, like most of you, still was on the lookout for people I might be able to help, even if it meant giving out of my poverty.

Jesus watched one day as people gave their financial contributions in the temple. He saw the rich putting seemingly large sums into the offering. But the one who captured his attention was a poor widow who gave two small coins. Jesus said the rich had given money from their surplus, but the poor widow "put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

I hope we'll always find ourselves to be more like that poor widow that the miserly banker who would give nothing to his relatives in need and certainly would give nothing to the soup kitchen.