

# July 4: A celebration of our principles



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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..

There you have it. In this fragment of a sentence from the Declaration of Independence, written 230 years ago, is everything we, as a nation, believe in. It is the chain that binds tonight's flashy festivities to our history. It is the reason we celebrate “ the reason that we can celebrate and the reason that we must celebrate.

It was a remarkable passage to be committed to paper by a group of men who unquestionably knew they were signing their own death warrants on July 4, 1776, as surely as they were planting the seeds of a new nation.

**Read the whole story**