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ENERGY SERVICES MEDICAL SERVICES SAFETY SERVICES

Monthly Employee News

July 2018

Fireworks Safety By: Steve Ham, Lofton Safety Services

Fireworks are synonymous with our celebration of Independence Day. Yet, fireworks injure over 9,000 people each year. Fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries. You can help prevent fireworks-related injuries and deaths. Here are some fireworks tips to help you celebrate this Fourth of July safely:

- Don't buy or use illegal fireworks.
- Buy fireworks from reliable sellers.
- Use fireworks outdoors only.
- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Always have adult supervision. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees, hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse.
- Never make your own fireworks.



- Never try to re-light or pick up a "dud" firework.
- Never point or throw fireworks at other people.
- Don't use metal or glass containers to shoot fireworks.
- Keep a bucket of water handy at all times.
- Avoid shooting fireworks over houses, yards, or in areas where there is a fire/people hazard.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while using fireworks.
- Light only one firework at a time on smooth, flat surfaces, then move away quickly.
- Soak fireworks in water before disposing of them.
- Don't carry fireworks in your pocket.
- The shooter should wear eye, hand and ear protection.
- Keep pets indoors during fireworks. More pets are lost on Independence Day than any other day of the year.
- Be sure to clean up and dispose of any debris left on the ground.

**What's
Happening This
Month**

July 4
Independence Day



Lofton offices will be closed on **Wednesday, July 4th** in observance of Independence Day.



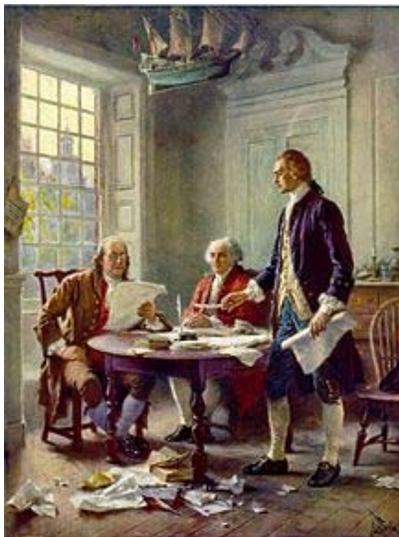
The Declaration of Independence By: Julie East, Corp. Marketing

As many of you may know, I am an avid fan of history. When the opportunity comes available to enlighten my readers with a little history, I am quick to oblige.

The 2nd Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain - the Declaration of Independence.

The committee members consisted of Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York.

Thomas Jefferson alone penned the Declaration, but requested corrections specifically from Dr. Franklin and Mr. Adams before submitting to the committee. The revisions by congress deleted and revised one-fifth of the original text.



Benjamin Franklin, John Adams & Thomas Jefferson.

The Fourth of July commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. It was initially approved by Congress on July 2, 1776, but revised and the final version was adopted two days later.

The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men representing the 13 colonies. The moment marked the beginning of all-out war against the British.

As the first formal statement by a nation's people asserting their right to choose their own government, the Declaration of Independence became a significant landmark in the history of democracy.

The original Declaration of Independence is on display at the National Archives in Washington D.C.



The Spirit of '76

Written by a Sixth Grader & Glenda Lofton, Ph.D.

The Spirit of '76 has different meanings to different people. To the early settler or pioneer, it meant adventure, free land if you were willing to work for it, and carving a new home in the wilderness. For the paupers or poor people, it was a new beginning in life and even wealth if you tried hard enough. For people like the Pilgrims and the Quakers, it was freedom of religion, freedom to worship God as they pleased, in their own way. To some men, like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, it was freedom to govern themselves as they wanted. For others, like Francis Scott Key, it was visions of a future, a land where the flag of freedom is still flying.

I decided to ask some people what they thought the Spirit of '76 was. My mother said, *"The Spirit of '76 is a faith in the common man and his ability to work with others for a better way of life; it's faith in God, the author of all liberty; it's faith in one's self to choose the right with God's help."* Then I asked my dad, and he said, *"The Spirit of '76 is that force that has welded the American people together in the past, and will continue to do so in the future to accomplish their common goal of liberty."* Then I asked my dad's boss, Mr. Safford, and he said, *"The Spirit of '76 was freedom from religious oppression and freedom to select our representatives in government."* But, I feel it means hav-

ing the courage to stand up for what you believe in.

The Spirit of '76 has kept us and America going for 200 years. Daniel Webster once said, *"God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it."* Many men have worked to guard and defend our country. Some have even given their lives, in war and government, serving our country the best they could. Others have lived by doing their best in government, voting, passing good laws, protecting the rights of others, studying our history in schools, and going to church.



Now and in the future we can preserve the Spirit of '76 by studying about the Revolutionary War, doing patriotic shows, and passing your history down from generation to generation. When we say the "Pledge of Allegiance" we can remember and be grateful. We can tour our country and learn to appreciate the great resources we have inherited. We can display our flag proudly.

In a democracy each person can contribute to society. I will contribute by doing my best to learn in school, by being a good citizen, and by having faith in God to lead our great country. For God has truly blessed us as He has no other nation in this world. If we love God and one another, the Spirit of '76 will live forever. The End

- Bret Lofton, Sixth Grader

And now for the rest of the story...Like Mother, like sons. When I married and left home, I left all my childhood treasures, until one day my dad demanded I come get them or he was going to throw them in the trash. About four years ago, Tommy Lofton made the same decision about Bret and Bart's possessions from childhood through college that were still in their rooms. My longtime friend and housekeeper, Johnnie Rallinson, and I hurriedly packed them up and put them in the garage, and like me, Bret and Bart have waited. Recently Tommy made the same threat my dad had made. But, before he called them, I asked permission to neatly organize everything in plastic boxes and make scrapbooks with highlights of those years. Several months later, I am almost done, and I've loved reliving every year. "The Spirit of '76" was written by Bret Lofton as a sixth grader back in 1975 when we were living in Louisville, KY. On the paper the teacher, Mrs. Blount, wrote, *"I am most impressed! You take your assignments seriously—a terrific trait!"* And of course Mom agreed! Happy Reading, Happy 4th of July, and 33 years later, May God continue to bless America!

Keeping Yourself Active with Lofton

Lofton is dedicated to finding you the perfect assignment. To stay active in our system, be sure to call in "Available" at least once a week. You can call the office or log into your file on-line to mark yourself "Available" for the week. Simply log into your file and click the Availability calendar icon. You can also sign up for email and text alerts. After six months of inactivity (no call-ins), your file will be deactivated with Lofton, so it's important to keep up with your availability. If you have found permanent employment elsewhere, please let us know! If at any time you need us again...give us a call! We will be happy to assist you in finding your next career.

The American Freedom Train: 1976 Bicentennial

The American Freedom Train was the only nationwide celebration of the 1976 Bicentennial. The American Freedom Train featured 12 display cars, 10 that visitors could go aboard and pass through and 2 held large objects that would be viewed from the ground through huge "showcase" windows. The display cars were filled with over 500 precious treasures of American history. Included in these were George Washington's copy of the Constitution, the original Louisiana Purchase, Judy Garland's dress from The Wizard of Oz, Joe Frazier's boxing trunks, Martin Luther King's pulpit and robes, and a rock from the moon.



The American Freedom Train (AFT) was pulled by one of three enormous steam engines restored just for the occasion. Over a 21 month period from April 1, 1975 to December 31, 1976 more than 7 million Americans visited the train during its tour of all 48 contiguous states. Tens of millions more stood trackside to see it go by. It was by far the greatest event on rails that brought America's Bicentennial celebration to the people.