



Happy Birthday America

Your 233rd Anniversary

We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among those rights 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 • The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.



We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America • Constitution Preamble, September 17, 1787.



On this anniversary of our independence and on every other, may we stand up and be counted for freedom!

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Happy 4th from ACK Computing!
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Northfield Pharmacy wishes you a safe and happy



We will be closed on the 4th of July.

Vermont's Major Role in Our Independence

By **BILL DOYLE**
Senator, R, Washington County

When we celebrate the Fourth of July this year, we should remember the contributions made by Vermonters in the fight for independence.

In his "History of Vermont," Walter Crockett made reference to Ethan Allen and the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in 1775. Crockett wrote, "The first surrender of a British fortress in the long struggle for American Independence was made to Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, and in the history of the military affairs of the United States the capture of Ticonderoga hedged the list as the first important aggressive movement in the Revolutionary War."

Charles Jellison, in "Ethan Allen: Frontier Rebel," wrote that Ticonderoga, "Must be considered a major military victory, for it drastically altered the power potential in the northern colonies and may very well have meant the difference between success and failure for the Revolutionary cause."

In the winter of 1775-76, George Washington, Commander in Chief of the Continental Army, found himself short of military equipment needed to drive the

British out of Boston. Henry Knox, colonel of the artillery, suggested to Washington that captured military supplies from Crown Point and Ticonderoga could be transported to Boston. Washington, in a letter to Knox, wrote the following: "You're to immediately examine into the state of the artillery of this army, and take an account of the cannon, mortars, shells, lead and ammunition that are wanting. The want to them is so great that no trouble or expense must be spared to obtain." In December of 1775, Knox removed heavy military equipment from Ticonderoga. He floated the supplies on Lake George, and then transported the equipment by land with 42 sleds and 81 yoke of oxen. When these supplies reached Boston in March 1776, the British decided to evacuate and Washington's military strategy prevailed.

The following excerpt was printed in Earle Newton's "The Vermont Story": "Fort Ticonderoga's immortal guns go to General George Washington ... in the winter of 1776 ... over hundreds of miles of roadless, trackless, snow-clad mountains and valleys, through thick forest, over ice-covered lakes and rivers ... on sledges pulled by oxen ... in the charge of General Knox and his artillery men in their red-trim regimentals, who deliver the guns at Dorchester Heights. There, roaring down at the enemy, they drive him out of Boston Town."

The next year, in 1777, Vermonters

fought with valor at the Battle of Bennington. Edward Conant said that the battle led to the British surrender of Saratoga, often referred to as one of the decisive battles in the history of the world. Washington was impressed by the fighting qualities of Vermonters, and was of great assistance to our joining the Union.

On January 15, 1777, Vermont declared its independence from Great Britain and New York. Vermont's Declaration, influenced by the American Declaration, stated that "we will, at all times, consider ourselves as a free and independent state and the people have an inherent right of ruling." The Vermont Declaration went on to support the War of Independence.

While Vermont fought to win American independence, she was not admitted into the Union until 1791, 14 years later, to become the 14th state. The American Declaration of Independence proved a great example for Vermont to follow.

When we celebrate the Fourth of July this year, we should remember the role of Vermonters in a revolution that changed the course of history.

Senator Bill Doyle is the Vice Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Vice Chair of the Senate Government Operations Committee and Senate Minority Leader. He teaches government history at Johnson State College.