

ACCESS AMERICA



U.S. Independence Day: A Civic & Social Event

Americans celebrate the July 4, 1776 adoption of Declaration of Independence

The United States celebrates its Independence Day on July 4, a day of patriotic celebration and family events throughout the country. In the words of Founding Father John Adams,

the holiday would be “the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.” The holiday remains a major civic occasion, with roots deep in the Anglo-American tradition of political

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From the Ambassador

The fourth day of July is a symbol of freedom to Americans. 231 years ago on a warm and cloudy Fourth of July in Philadelphia, 56 brave men signed their names to a Declaration of Independence that set the course for our country. Today, Americans come from many nations, speak many languages and worship in many ways. But we all cherish the Declaration of Independence and the freedom it proclaims. And we still honor the courage of those 56 men.

Two centuries later, freedom remains the very foundation of our nation. It shapes our view of the world. As our Declaration affirms: we believe all men are endowed by God with certain rights, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We believe, too, that government must serve the people, and draws its power only from their consent.

The American Declaration of Independence is now well known. But for all its beauty, it remains words. It is given meaning only through action; for liberty cannot be taken for granted. To keep it, we must accept responsibility for it. We must dedicate ourselves to the cause of freedom so that, as President Abraham Lincoln said in his great address at Gettysburg during our own Civil War, “... government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

On this Independence Day, I am honored to be here with you in Tunisia. For Tunisians, as much as Americans, cherish liberty. In valuing freedom, we together find common ground, reason for hope and cause for celebration. The shared promise of freedom, and our commitment to it, binds our peoples together and strengthens us both. Together, we can meet the great challenges of today. Together, we can advance liberty. Together, we can improve the lives of both Tunisians and Americans.

IRC Tips

In light of this month's topic, here are some selected internet resources from the Information Resource Center:

- U.S. Holidays

<http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2005/Dec/08-595872.html>

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays.html

http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Independence_Day.shtml

- Celebrating Independence Day in the U. S.

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays/july_4.html

<http://www.july4thparade.com/>

<http://www.pbs.org/capitolfourth/>

<http://www.american.edu/heintze/fourth.htm>

freedom.

SUMMER HOLIDAY

Community fireworks displays are common. In New York City, Macy's department store for 30 years has sponsored a July 4 fireworks display. The Associated Press estimated that more than 3 million watched in person. "The Fourth" is a family

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celebration. Picnics and barbecues are common. July is summer in the United States, and millions of Americans escape the heat at beaches and other vacation spots. Construction of important public works sometimes begins on July 4. The Erie Canal, Washington Monument and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (the nation's first) all broke ground on Independence Day. The date reflects a desire symbolically to stamp these projects as true civic improvements.

CIVIC OCCASION

Independence Day has provided some of this nation's most stirring words of freedom. In 1788, Founding Father James Wilson

addressed a Philadelphia gathering that was possibly the largest July 4 celebration in the young nation's history. He exhorted his fellow citizens to ratify the proposed Constitution. "What is the object exhibited to our contemplation?" he asked. "A whole people exercising its first and greatest power -- performing an act of sovereignty, original and unlimited...."

Ninety years later, near the darkest moments of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt reminded the nation that July 4 symbolized "the democratic freedom which our

citizens claim as their precious birthright." For the "weary, hungry, unequipped Army of the American Revolution," he continued: the Fourth of July was a tonic of hope and inspiration. So is it now.... The tough, grim men who fight for freedom in this dark hour take heart in its message -- the assurance of the right to liberty under God -- for all peoples and races and groups and nations, everywhere in the world.

On July 4, 2001, President George W. Bush spoke outside Independence Hall, Philadelphia, birthplace of the Declaration of Independence. That document, he said, continues to represent "the standard to which we hold

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others, and the standard by which we measure

ourselves. Our greatest achievements have come when we have lived up to these ideals. Our greatest tragedies have come when we have failed to uphold them." Across the nation, civic leaders of even the most humble station echo these words, and their audiences give thanks for the freedom and liberties that the founding generation won for all Americans.

Excerpted from an article by Michael Jay Friedman, Washington File Staff Writer
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Alumni Spotlight

Name: Nader Ayadi

Program: MEPI Program

Program dates: July/ August 2005

Home in Tunisia: Jendouba

Home in the U.S.: Bozeman, Montana

Fondest memory of being in the U.S.: Spending a weekend in Yellowstone Park

Most important things learned from the experience:
Self-reliance, dancing to swing music

Advice for someone thinking about going on the program:

Not to hesitate to go for such an experience that would have a strong impact on his/her life.

Something missed about the U.S.: The American West, Yellowstone Park, Washington D.C at night, the close relationships that joined us Arabs with our American mentors and assistants.

The experience: When I was in the U.S for the MEPI Program, I joined Montana State University. We stayed at the dorms of the same university with our colleagues who were students selected from the bulk of Arab countries. The campus was very big and there were lots of activities to do. In fact, we used to have different lectures in the morning. In the evening, we used to go downtown or to the in-campus pool. We were usually invited to visit other cities in the same state during the weekend. After three weeks of courses, we set out for a bus trip towards the South. We passed by Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico before we reached Texas. Our trip was at the same time entertaining and instructional. We had lectures in different towns in the mentioned States. Once in Texas, we took the plane to get back to Washington D.C where we met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice before we got back home.

U.S.-Tunisian Business Relationships

The business partnership between Gordon Blocker, Executive Director of GCP, and Lamia Temimi, Managing Director of SAWA, developed from a consulting-client relationship to much more.

“Connecting Local Firms with Global Resources” and “Together We Can,” the slogans of Global Consulting Partners (GCP) and SAWA Public Relations and Communications Agency respectively, illustrate the potential for forging mutually beneficial relationships between U.S. and Tunisian businesses. The business relationship between Gordon Blocker, Executive Director of GCP, and Lamia Temimi, Managing Director of SAWA, developed from a consulting-client relationship to a business partnership.

Blocker and Temimi met while working at the same virtual office building in Tunis. Blocker and GCP produced the website for SAWA and helped with communication design. While working together, Blocker began to rethink all stereotypes. One of the differences between how American and Tunisian businesses operate is how they value time. But working with Temimi, often times she would set the pace. Temimi said she and Blocker are “working together to reinforce business between American and



local companies, trying to loosen up the cultural differences and the language barrier.” Learning from each other, they discovered how much they could push prospective clients in order to attain their business objectives, while still being respectful of cultural differences.

Blocker and Temimi have assisted each other and have also worked together on several projects. They helped the American Cooperative School of Tunis with a conference it held in early May. They also helped SAS develop its corporate identity.

Blocker and Temimi both advise Americans looking to invest in Tunisia to have a local contact in Tunis. This makes navigating the market less daunting and facilitates a deeper understanding of the local culture and rich history, an appreciation and understanding of which will make American businesses more attractive to Tunisians. For all parties involved, Blocker emphasizes the importance of being a “student of other people’s experiences.”

After reaching the one-year anniversary of GCP in Tunis, Blocker held an appreciation dinner in late May to thank those who made it possible. With regard to Temimi, he said, “I truly hope our collaboration together is an example for all who desire to see Tunisians and Americans working together for progress in the global society.”

Article by Christine Hannon, Summer Intern, U.S. Embassy Tunis

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program Competition (2008-2009)

This opportunity for mid-career professionals (minimum 5 years experience) provides 10 months of study at a U.S. university and a professional internship. An excellent knowledge of English is required. **DEADLINE EXTENSION:** The deadline is now July 31
Contact Faouzia Ben Kheder at 71-107-438 or benkhederf@state.gov for more information

July 4th Quiz

1. The National Anthem of the United States is
 - A. “Stars and Stripes Forever”
 - B. “Yankee Doodle Dandy”
 - C. “The Star-Spangled Banner”
2. What are the national colors of the United States?
 - A. Blue and white
 - B. Red and white
 - C. Red, white, and blue
3. Who was the first president of the United States?
 - A. Thomas Jefferson
 - B. Benjamin Franklin
 - C. George Washington
4. Americans celebrate July 4 as
 - A. Independence Day
 - B. Constitution Day
 - C. Flag Day
5. Americans celebrate July 4 with
 - A. Parades
 - B. Fireworks
 - C. A and B

ANSWER KEY
1. C 2. C 3. C 4. A 5. C



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