

Marines, Associate Members and Friends,

Happy birthday USA! As North Carolinians, we should all take pride in the fact that we were actually the first state to move toward independence. Here is the way it all played out...

July 4, 1776 is the momentous American date when John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. This declaration of sovereignty was a result of many preceding incidences including the Boston Massacre, Townsend Acts, Boston Tea Party, and Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill between the British and the independent minded Americans. In the beginning of 1776, Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet entitled Common Sense encouraging the independence movement.

On April 12, North Carolina became the first state to instruct its delegates to move towards independence. Other colonies followed suit, helped by the strong encouragement of patriots like James Madison and Patrick Henry. In June, Richard Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to dissolve the political connection with Great Britain but it faced opposition still.

Nevertheless, the Continental Congress selected a committee to draft a declaration of independence to support Lee's resolution. The committee consisted of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and Roger Sherman. When the Continental Congress resumed sessions on July 1st, the Declaration of Independence was complete and a test vote was taken. Nine colonies were in favor of the resolution.

On July 2, the official Independence vote was taken and twelve colonies supported the notion with New York abstaining. The Declaration of Independence, as written by Jefferson, was approved by Congress on July 4th, 1776. On that same day, it was printed and signed by John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, and Charles Thomson, secretary. A few days later, New York cast its vote in favor of the resolution thus making the independence movement unanimous among the thirteen colonies. On August 2, Congress signed the Declaration of Independence with all but seven delegates signing the document. The remaining seven delegates did eventually sign the document too.

That's your history lesson for the month everyone! Not a lot new to report with the detachment; just remember to get your raffle tickets turned in at or before the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Angelo DeBenedictis will be cooking for us this month, so please RSVP to him by either phone or e-mail: 919-624-2258 / [anged@earthlink.net](mailto:anged@earthlink.net).

Semper Fi,

Mark Byrd  
Commandant