



JIM C'S QUIZ OF THE WEEK

INDEPENDENCE DAY – JULY 4TH

HOW DID THE “*FOURTH OF JULY*” ORIGINATE?

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence was more than just a piece of paper; it was a symbol of our country's independence and commitment to unique ideals:

"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."

1777 – Philadelphians spontaneously celebrated the first anniversary

1781 – Massachusetts Legislature recognized the *Fourth of July*.

After the War of 1812, many special events like ground-breaking ceremonies for the Erie Canal (1825) and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (1827) were scheduled to coincide with the *Fourth of July*.

1870 – U.S. Congress made the *Fourth of July* a holiday (without pay) for federal employees, and it became the most important secular holiday on the calendar – even for western frontier communities.

1938 – July 4th became a holiday with pay for federal employees

Conventional Wisdom: Fourth of July = The Birthday of the USA

Moment of Zen: "Thus may the 4th of July, that glorious and ever memorable day, be celebrated through America, by the sons of freedom, from age to age till time shall be no more. Amen, Amen."

[Source: Virginia Gazette on July 18, 1777]