

The Most Illustrious Grand Council of Royal & Select Masters of Florida

M.: I.: Comp. Thomas A. Olsen
Grand Master

4115 Spring Creek Lane

Middleburg, Fl. 32068

Cell: (904) 424-1566

E-mail: tomolsen@bellsouth.net



MIPM Comp. Carl E. Gilmore

Grand Recorder

PO Box 13496

Tampa, Fla 33681-3496

(813) 837-8400

grandsecrec@flgyr.org

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To all Companions,

We are approaching another 4th of July. Let's not make this just another 4th of July. This date represents more than just hot dogs, a day at the beach, and fireworks. This date deserves better than that because of the many people suffered and died to give us these freedoms that we enjoy today. Our Founding Fathers, many who were Master Masons spent many days and nights alone, cold, hurt, and even dying to give us a 4th of July. Out of respect to them let's take some time to honor their memory and their deeds.

It really started on July 2nd, 1776, when the Continental Congress declared its independence from England. We celebrate it on the 4th because that was that date the Declaration was completed and unanimously ratified. However, it was signed on that date but sometime after.

We did not start celebrating the 4th of July until after 1812. Since then, we have had ice cream, hot dogs, and fireworks. This year let's have prayers and moments of reflection on this great country of ours. Let's go forward with an attitude of honor and pride and devoted to do everything in our power to make their sacrifices not be in vain.

I want to wish everyone a safe and joyous 4th and "God Bless America."

Fraternally,

Tom Olsen