

IN CONGRESS. JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to this Separation.

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—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed,—that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its Foundation in such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such a Form, as to protect its ~~Subjects~~ ^{Children} and Subjects, and to secure their ~~Safety~~ ^{Safety} and Happiness. — That whenever any Form of Government becomes so ~~destructive~~ ^{dangerous} to ~~the Safety~~ ^{the Safety} of the People, and when of late ~~so~~ ^{so} ~~dangerous~~ ^{oppressive} ~~and~~ ^{uncontrollable} ~~Government~~ ^{Government} becomes unable to protect ~~them~~ ^{them} ~~in~~ ^{their} ~~rights~~ ^{rights}, and when ~~so~~ ^{so} ~~corrupt~~ ^{corrupt} ~~Government~~ ^{Government} ~~can~~ ^{can} ~~no longer~~ ^{no longer} ~~protect~~ ^{protect} ~~its~~ ^{its} ~~Subjects~~ ^{Subjects}, the ~~People~~ ^{People} have ~~an~~ ^a Right to Alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its Foundation in such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such a Form, as to protect its ~~Subjects~~ ^{Children} and Subjects, and to secure their ~~Safety~~ ^{Safety} and Happiness.

We the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Assembly, do ~~hereby~~ ^{do} ~~proclaim~~ ^{proclaim} that these United States are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States, — that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all Political Connection between them and the ~~King~~ ^{King} of Great Britain, and between the ~~States~~ ^{States} themselves, shall forever be dissolved; — and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other ~~things~~ ^{things} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~Independent~~ ^{Independent} ~~Governments~~ ^{Governments} may of Right do.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Assembly, do ~~hereby~~ ^{do} ~~proclaim~~ ^{proclaim} that ~~we~~ ^{we} are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; — that ~~we~~ ^{we} are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that ~~we~~ ^{we} are ~~no longer~~ ^{no longer} ~~subject~~ ^{subject} to ~~its~~ ^{its} ~~Power~~ ^{Power}; — and that ~~we~~ ^{we} have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other ~~things~~ ^{things} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~Independent~~ ^{Independent} ~~Governments~~ ^{Governments} may of Right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, we ~~do~~ ^{do} ~~humbly~~ ^{humbly} ~~pledge~~ ^{pledge} our Lives, our Fortunes, and our ~~Happiness~~ ^{Happiness}.

John Hancock
John Adams
J. A. Franklin

John Jay
John Dickinson
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas Jefferson
Richard Henry Lee
George Washington

Samuel Adams
John Adams
John Hancock
John Jay
Benjamin Franklin

Robert Morris
George Washington
John Jay
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