

ASAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Monday, June 14, 2021

Good morning! It is the week of June 14, 2021.

Over the next few weeks, I will retell the story of U.S. Independence. I believe it is good to remember and revisit our history as a nation because it tells not only the story of America but of you and me.

As Americans we observe days of the year that remind us of our story. Our story is taught and written about in books that collectively are called, U. S. History. In just a few weeks we will observe July 4, Independence Day. While Independence Day was a new beginning for the United States, it was not the beginning of the road to freedom. We observe a day each year, July 4th, but the story behind the day gives meaning and significance to Independence Day. The story began in June 1776.

The original 13 colonies were already at war over the issue of taxation without representation, the conflict had quickly escalated into more of an issue than just taxation and many of the colonies believed they were capable of governing themselves. As a result, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia in June 1776, and on 11th appointed the Committee of Five: Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Robert Livingston to draft a declaration.

Thomas Jefferson, 33 years old was tasked with writing the Declaration of Independence, he was the 2nd choice of Congress but due to circumstances he was handed the task. Most do not realize that Jefferson had no interest in penning the Declaration and thought John Adams a better choice. Adam's wrote to a colleague, *"Jefferson proposed to me to make the draft. I said, 'I will not,' 'You should do it.' 'Oh! no.' 'Why will you not? You ought to do it.' 'I will not.' 'Why?' 'Reasons enough.' 'What can be your reasons?' 'Reason first, you are a Virginian, and a Virginian ought to appear at the head of this business. Reason second, I am obnoxious, suspected, and unpopular. You are very much otherwise. Reason third, you can write ten times better than I can.' 'Well,' said Jefferson, 'if you are decided, I will do as well as I can.' 'Very well. When you have drawn it up, we will have a meeting.'* It was settled and over the course of 17 days Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence under the advisement of the Committee.

More to come as we revisit the journey of U.S. Independence.

Current events are very much a topic of the week. ASAC will recognize finalists and award winners at the 35th Annual Awards in the Park this coming Saturday, June 19. We will be celebrating the winners in 21 categories that include the women of construction, individuals, general contractor and subcontractor companies at Grant's Amphitheater, Clement Park.

Registration will be open through Wednesday, June 16. If you plan to attend, today is the day to get you and your team registered.

Make it a good week and I look forward to seeing you at the Awards in the Park.