

ASAC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Monday, June 21, 2021

Good morning! The beginning of a new work week, Monday, June 21.

ASAC celebrated Awards in the Park this past Saturday evening and what a perfect Colorado evening at Grant's Amphitheater, Clement Park. If you were in attendance, it was good to see you and if you were unable to make it, you were missed. There is a lot to say about the ASAC 35th Annual Awards; hats off to the finalists, nominees and winners what an impressive group of individuals and companies, the sponsors who supported the event and making a great event even better, attendees who were excited to be seen and to shake hands with folks they had not seen for some time, and of course the food, the drink, music and awards presentation. We will be putting out a full album of photos and in this issue of the President's Message are the winners of this year's ASAC 35th Annual Awards.

And now I turn my attention to the continued telling of the path to U. S. Independence. I ended last week with how Thomas Jefferson came to accept the challenge and the honor of penning the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson and the Committee of 5 had 17 days to present a Declaration of Independence to the President of the Second Continental Congress John Hancock.

Jefferson sat at his desk in a Philadelphia boarding house and drafted a commonsense treatise in terms so plain and firm, that all would come to agree with the principles found in the declaration. Jefferson was a scholar and he borrowed language and many of his ideas from well-known political works. One who influenced Jefferson was George Mason's Declaration of Rights. George Mason and his concept of inalienable rights influenced Jefferson greatly. Mason's premise of a strong local government and a weak central government also found its way into the rough draft. It is worth noting that Mason's words not only inspired the Declaration of Independence but the subsequent Bill of Rights.

Jefferson pressed on with the ultimate goal of expressing the unity of Americans, he called this an 'expression of the american mind' against the tyranny of Britain. I think that what we regard today as an act of patriotism and in many ways, it was, but we have to put ourselves in the place and time of 1776. In reality what the Committee of 5 were proposing was an act of treason. Jefferson believed that a strict adherence to the laws is one of the highest duties of any citizen, but it was not the highest.

Jefferson said that "When tyranny becomes law, rebellion becomes duty." He also said that "When people fear the government there is tyranny, when the government fears the people there is liberty." Jefferson knew what the path ahead would be should the declaration be adopted, and he pressed on.

More next week as we head into the July 4th weekend.

I am looking forward to the week ahead. I trust you are as well. Make it a good week.