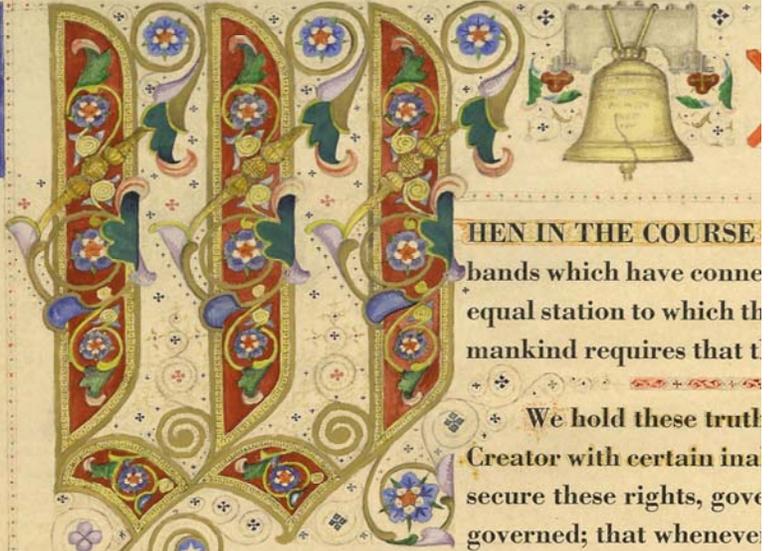


IN CONGRESS JULY 4, 1776. A DECLARATION BY THE F



WHEN IN THE COURSE of the late colonies, bands which have conne... equal station to which th... mankind requires that t...

We hold these truth... Creator with certain ina... secure these rights, gove... governed; that whenever...

people to alter or to abolish it, and to institu... powers in such form, as to them shall seem... governments long established should not... shown that mankind are more disposed to... which they are accustomed. But when a lo... design to reduce them under absolute desp... new guards for their future security. Such... which constrains them to alter their forma... of repeated injuries and usurpations, all... To prove this, let facts be submitted to a c...

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necess... He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and p... suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large... inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncon... compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing...

He has refused, for a long time after such dissolution, to cause c... large for their exercise; the State remaining, in the mean time, exposed t...

He has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; fo... migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of la...

He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his...

He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure c...

He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarm...

He has kept among us, in time of peace, standing armies, withou...

He has affected to render the military independent of and superi...

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign...

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: ...

For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any...

For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world: ...



# REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



SE OF HUMAN EVENTS, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political connections which unite 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 for the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

That these truths are 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:—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 new Government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its Powers in such Manner, as shall seem to them most likely to affect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shewn, that the abuse of Power, and usurpation of Authority by those who have the Administration of the Government, ought not to be tolerated for a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce us to absolute Tyranny, if we suffer it, it is our duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for our future Security. —Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former System of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated Injuries and Oppressions, all having in direct Object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. —

It is the natural Right of every People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Manner, as shall seem to them most likely to affect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly, all Experience hath shewn, that the Abuse of Power, and Usurpation of Authority by those who have the Administration of the Government, ought not to be tolerated for a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a Design to reduce us to absolute Tyranny, if we suffer it, it is our Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for our future Security. —Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former System of Government. The History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Oppressions, all having in direct Object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. —

many murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States:





For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world:  
 For imposing taxes on us without our consent:  
 For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury:  
 For transporting us beyond seas, to be tried for pretended offences:  
 For abolishing the free system of English law in a neighboring province, and substituting in its place a tyrannical and oppressive one:  
 For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the whole system of our government:  
 For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves sole legislators in all cases:  
 He has abdicated government here by declaring us out of his protection and withdrawing his forces from us:  
 He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of many thousands of our people:  
 He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to invade and oppress our shores:  
 He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their brethren by the hands of their countrymen.  
 He has excited domestic insurrections among us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.  
 Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our disunion, and of the injuries which we have sustained by their refusal to assist us in our just and lawful claims. We have reminded them of the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which they have acquiesced in, and to support us in our resistance to them.  
 We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown; and that, as free and independent States, they have full power to do all those acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.

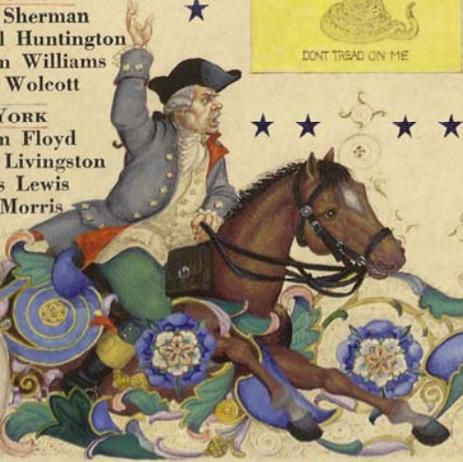
Attested, CHARLES THOMPSON, Secretary.

	<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b> Josiah Bartlett William Whipple Matthew Thornton		<b>RHODE ISLAND, ETC.</b> Stephen Hopkins William Ellery		<b>CONNECTICUT</b> Roger Sherman Samuel Huntington William Williams Oliver Wolcott		<b>NEW YORK</b> William Floyd Philip Livingston Francis Lewis Lewis Morris
	<b>MASSACHUSETTS BAY</b> Samuel Adams John Adams Robert Treat Paine Elbridge Gerry		<b>RHODE ISLAND, ETC.</b> Stephen Hopkins William Ellery		<b>CONNECTICUT</b> Roger Sherman Samuel Huntington William Williams Oliver Wolcott		<b>NEW YORK</b> William Floyd Philip Livingston Francis Lewis Lewis Morris









TO MY FELLOW AMERICANS, I DEDICATE WITH LOVE THIS IMMORTAL HERITAGE OF OUR FOREFATHERS. MAY THESE WORDS LIVE IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER.



ry:  
ffences:

g province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries so as to render it at once an  
to these colonies:  
laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our government:  
es invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.  
protection, and waging war against us.  
owns, and destroyed the lives of our people.  
naries, to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun, with circumstances of cruelty and  
worthy the head of a civilized nation.  
high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall  
deavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is  
dress in the most humble terms; our petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose  
fit to be ruler of a free people.  
r. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts made by their legislatures to extend an unwarrantable  
our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have  
urpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too, have been deaf to the  
e necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war – in  
erica, in general Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our  
hese colonies, solemnly publish and declare that these united colonies are, and of good right ought to be, free and  
British crown, and that all political connection between them and the states of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally  
ver to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which  
ation, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our



Signed by order and in behalf of the Congress,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

- NEW JERSEY**  
Richard Stockton  
John Witherspoon  
Francis Hopkinson  
John Hart  
Abraham Clark
- NORTH CAROLINA**  
William Hooper  
Joseph Hewes  
John Penn
- GEORGIA**  
Button Gwinnett  
Lyman Hall  
George Walton
- PENNSYLVANIA**  
Robert Morris  
Benjamin Franklin  
George Clymer  
George Taylor  
Benjamin Rush  
John Morton  
James Smith  
William Paca  
George Ross



- DELAWARE**  
Caesar Rodney  
George Read  
Thomas M'Kean
- MARYLAND**  
Samuel Chase  
James Wilson  
Thomas Stone  
Charles Carroll  
of Carrollton
- VIRGINIA**  
George Wythe  
Richard Henry Lee  
Thomas Jefferson  
Benjamin Harrison  
Thomas Nelson, Jr.  
Francis Lightfoot Lee  
Carter Braxton
- SOUTH CAROLINA**  
Edward Rutledge  
Thomas Heyward, Jr.  
Thomas Lynch, Jr.  
Arthur Middleton



E PLURIBUS UNUM



VERAND EVER FOR NO GOOD MAN LOSES HIS FREEDOM BUT WITH HIS LIFE... ARTHUR SZYK, NEW CANAAN, CONN. JULY 4, 1950