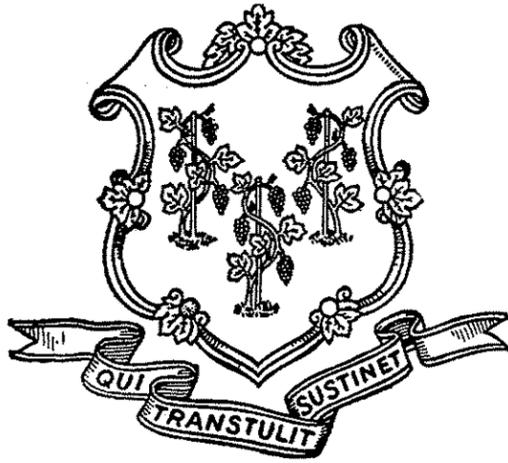


State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. JODI RELL, Governor: a
PROCLAMATION

Yesterday, the greatest question was decided which ever was debated in America; and a greater perhaps never has, nor will be, decided among men. A resolution was passed without one dissenting colony, that those United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

The powerful words of John Adams, written in a letter to his wife on July 3, 1776, reflect the spirit of our country in that historical year and the burning desire of our citizens for freedom.

The Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia the day after that letter was written. With the signing of this precious document, our country threw off the yoke of British rule and set forth the sanctity of human liberty as the guiding principle of our new nation.

The Declaration was written largely by Thomas Jefferson, and announced the separation of the 13 colonies from Great Britain and explained the justification for this historic action. At the same time, it established principles upon which our democratic form of government was founded.

The eloquent words of the Declaration signaled the birth of a new nation. The people of our State take great pride in the fact that Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams and Oliver Wolcott signed this document for the citizens of Connecticut.

The first observance in honor of the Declaration of Independence took place in Philadelphia one year after its adoption. The day was marked by the adjournment of the Congress, a ceremonial dinner, firework displays and the ringing of bells.

Through the years, similar festivities have become a traditional celebration of the wisdom and vision of our founding fathers, the power of our nation's commitment to freedom and the reverence that our citizens share for those who have devoted themselves to the highest ideals of our nation.

Now, 233 years later, men and women from Connecticut and from all over America are again engaged in protecting those freedoms and ideals, at home and abroad. On this day above all others we honor them, particularly those men and women from our State who have given their lives as members of the Armed Forces or as military contractors in Iraq or Afghanistan. Connecticut will never forget these patriots!

In observance of the 233rd birthday of the United States and in accordance with the statutes of the State of Connecticut, I am therefore privileged to proclaim July 4, 2009, to be

INDEPENDENCE DAY.

I call upon the citizens of our State to unite in rededicating themselves to the outstanding ideals embodied in the Declaration of Independence. In addition, I urge that this important holiday be marked by the ringing of bells at schools, churches and public buildings for two minutes on the Fourth of July, beginning at 2:00 P.M.

Given under my hand and seal of the State at the Capitol, in Hartford, this seventeenth day of June, two thousand and nine and of the independence of the United States the two hundred thirty-third.



M. Jodi Rell
by Her Excellency's Command

Jim Bryant
Secretary of the State