



# Scuttlebutt

JULY 4, 2007

A Squid newsletter for Doc's of all Services!

## SPECIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY EDITION

### CORPSMAN.COM MEMBERS TELL WHAT MAKES JULY 4TH SPECIAL TO THEM

What does July 4th mean to me? The idea for this special edition was to give our members a chance to share with everyone what makes July 4th special to them. I received quite a few responses and hope you enjoy reading them in the pages that follow. Thank you to everyone who sent in something to include in this edition of Scuttlebutt.

Enjoy this holiday and take the time to remember the brave individuals who made the decision to fight for our independence and made the freedoms we enjoy now possible.

DeeDee - Editor Scuttlebutt

Our Editor, DeeDee Reno has asked me to write a article as to what the 4th of July means to me.

You really never understand what the 4th of July means to you until you have been stationed over seas on this holiday. Other Countries don't have a clue as to what the 4th means to a American, or even more what it means to a American who has volunteered to serve his country and to defend it. I missed my country and family more on the 4th then any other holiday. I don't know if it is because it is warm, the food is good, parades or what. Just the sense of Family we all feel on this date. The only other date that hits you in the gut like this when deployed is Christmas.

Another thing that makes me really appreciate the date is what has been going on with me of late. I am now a Veteran, no longer on Active Duty. I can appreciate and support all of you who are now doing the job of protecting our great nation. She needs you, don't ever forget it. No matter what you see on TV etc, She needs you like never before. I need you, My family needs you as well as my friends and fellow Americans. Thank you for standing the watch so I can continue to Fix my Living room etc. I could not do this trust me if Men and Women did not stand the watch that you all are doing. I don't think I even would have a house like what I own now if I were in Russia, Great Britain or many other countries. Thank you for your brother and sisterhood!

Happy 4th of July Corpsman.com. I am proud to call you all Brothers and Sisters.

Darrell "Da-Chief" Crone  
HMC(AW) Ret.

Fourth of July thought.

by Matt Hevezi

When I see scenes on the fourth of July, it really makes me think hard.

I heard a statistic that said something like only one tenth of one percent have actually served in the military since the current wars began and only one percent of Americans have an immediate family member who have served.

So when I got this photograph back from the drug store and sat down and looked at it ... well it really struck me as interesting.

It shows just a few of the thousands of folks moving carelessly along a festive beach walk in Southern California on the fourth of July. The pathway is roped with yellow police tape that reads "crime scene."

The thought that stuck in my mind was, "that it's a crime more Americans are not making a more direct contribution to the war effort." The thought that followed was "why not?"

I still wonder about the answer, or even if there is one.



To me the 4th means celebration of the service that my family has done to keep this country free. My Father CDR SG Higgins, USN Supply Corps 30 years, My Mother, Bertha E Higgins, LT NC USN 7 years, My Brother SG Higgins JR CAPT USN 29 Years, Myself HMC(SW/FMF) USN 22 years. Our family has been in every conflict from WWII to Operation Restore Hope, a total of 88 years of Service to this great country and the freedoms we enjoy. Semper FI

Bald Headed Squid

July fourth to me means biting into a Hamburger for the ones who dedicated their lives declaring our Independence from Great Britain.

Citrus

The fourth of July for me is a mix of emotions. Being from New England and a few hours drive from Concord, I have walked the same woods, roads and bridges that the first men to die for this country walked. My love of history got its roots deep in the American Revolution.

First is the extreme sense of history and what it means to us today that over 200 years ago, some group of people had a vision of a land where anyone would be allowed to live with out oppression. Of course they failed when it came to the slaves they used in many southern colonies and yes even up north.

Secondly, I feel privileged for the honor to have had a 20 year life serving this country and helping spread democracy over the lands many have only read about. It was my presence and the presence of others that helped many a country remove tyrants from power.

Third, I have to say I feel sadness. Not for those who died fighting for this freedom, because they knew the risks. Instead I am saddened that the majority of Americans do not have a concept of responsibility to accompany their rights. They say they have the right, but they do not show responsibility to keep from losing those rights. "It's my right to not vote" is always met by an icy stare and a retort of "No it's your responsibility unless you wish to lose the right altogether, if that happened would you stand and fight?"

Of course, I feel happy that not all America feels this way. I feel confident that should any one stand to attempt to remove our freedoms, myself and maybe a few million vets will stand back up and say no. I feel confident that we will use force if necessary to defend once again our freedoms, won for and protected over the course of history. People like me, no one special, just a person who was raised to believe in causes and defend them to the end.

Lastly, I'm proud to be part of a group that knows too well what the cost of this freedom is, here and abroad. We lose folks every day as they attempt to bring peace and stability to other nations, because tyranny has no place in this century or the next. Our folks over there make me wish I was back among them. The stories, the medals, the acts of pure bravery give our future service members role models just as Vietnam did for my generation.

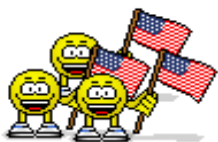
Fourth of July is a time to look at this country and check to make sure we don't forget why it was formed. Unfortunately, the grill and the picnics and fireworks take center stage and we have no idea of the sacrifices made by those who aren't here to enjoy the day with us.

Never forget and Let them know we care!

Dennis Lee \puckmedic  
HM1 (AW) USN (RET)  
Beech Bluff TN

The 4th of July is Honor, Courage, Commitment, God Bless the Navy/Marine Corps, Air Force, and Army.


Doc Squirrely  
Fredericksburg, VA



FREEDOM

Doc\_Pardue





The 4th of July brings back memories of picnics with my family at the lake, playing horse shoes with my grandpa & uncles, then going to the fireworks at the park. This was in the 60's & 70's. I remember my grandfather telling my brother and myself what a great country we lived in because of the sacrifice of our service men & women that allow us the freedom to live without fears that many in the world still live with everyday. To me the 4th of July means God, Country, & family.

### Did you know...

Of the 56 men who signed the "Declaration of Independence"

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed, and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well-educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rable-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told us a lot of what happened in the Revolutionary War. Our forefathers didn't just fight the British. They were British subjects at that time, and they fought their own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted...and we shouldn't.

So, let's take a few moments while enjoying our 4th of July holiday and silently appreciate these patriots and thank the God who moved them. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

### My prayer...

Lord, On this day and everyday, let us never take for granted the freedom that we enjoy, it is by your grace and the courage & commitment of our founding fathers that we are living in the greatest country in the world. Be with the young men & women serving our country all over the world, keep them strong in faith and heart, keep their family's strong in their absence. We thank you for their courage & commitment. We pray for their safe return.

Amen

Paul's dad

SPENDING THE 4TH WITH MY DAUGHTER IN 2006 PRIOR TO HER REPORTING TO ARMY RECRUIT TRAINING, WATCHING THE FIREWORKS AND TELLING HER THAT THE MILITARY HAS THE BEST FIREWORKS OF ALL, AND SHE IS FINDING THAT OUT IN IRAQ,

REMEMBER TO THINK ABOUT OUR MEN AND WOMEN NOW SERVING WHO'D PROBABLY MUCH RATHER BE WITH THEIR FAMILIES THIS 4TH OF JULY

HM1 WILLIAM A.(DOC)WINGATE  
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KERRVILLE TX

I just wanted to say the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to me means that I can come home and sit on my own front porch and fly the American flag as high as I want. I can get up on Sunday and go to the church of my choice, eat out at the restaurant of my choice. And I can serve in the Navy Reserves at my own free choice, nobody made me and nobody stopped me because I am a female. So HOORAH America the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is just a reminder of what my and your forefathers did for us...

Simper Fidelis America  
HM3 Schatte

Being in the healthcare field. It's usually another workday. For one reason or the other I got to work, but it also is a little day of remembrance. I take some time just to be by myself and remember where I am and how I got here. It's sorta a little like memorial day. I say a prayer for those I know both present and past. Then a prayer for those who made it possible for me to have the freedom of an American.

popsie HM3 from the 70's  
Poughkeepsie N.Y.

My fondest memory of July 4th was all the fireworks going off in my Brooklyn New York neighborhood. Actually, it sounded like a war-zone for the entire day and night. I think that Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner just from visiting my neighborhood where "the rockets red glare ... the bombs burst in the air" came to life on July 4th.

the\_Saint (Rob)  
Lansing, MI

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