

June 26, 2020

Subject: Monthly Activity Update

Dear Valued Member,

The resolution of independence was adopted with twelve affirmative votes and one abstention (New York), and the colonies officially severed ties with Great Britain. John Adams (Massachusetts) wrote to his wife and predicted that July 2nd would become a great American holiday. Mr. Adams did not foresee that Americans would instead celebrate Independence Day on the date when the announcement was made public — July 4th.

A month prior, the Second Continental Congress appointed the Committee of Five to draft a declaration. The committee discussed the general outline which the document should follow, and decided that Thomas Jefferson (Virginia) would write the first draft. History records that Mr. Jefferson was nervous about writing it, so Mr. Adams calmed him down with some spirits. The committee made some changes to the draft and presented it to the Congress. Congress tabled the edited draft on July 1st. The following day each colony, represented by a delegate, voted.

Mr. Jefferson required encouragement to initiate the draft document, and the printer required a day to set the type on the press of the approved version of the Declaration of Independence. The public announcement was made on the 4th of July. The signatures of the Second Continental Congress were not needed to make it official.

I have provided a link to an article written and posted recently on my LinkedIn page. It is about a personal experience from the early '80s. I hope you enjoy Justice Served.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/justice-served-joe-harris/>

In closing, the board of directors recently conducted its first virtual meeting. The board's actions will be reported to you next month. Happy Independence Day!

Fraternally,

*Joe Harris*

Director of Administration