



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

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## **This July 4th, we celebrate our Nation's 243 years of independence**

In communities all across Ohio and the Nation, there will be impressive fireworks displays, patriotic parades, and cookouts with friends and Family. Before the festivities though, let's remember the meaning of the day to all of us — our freedom.

On July 2, 1776, the Second Continental Congress unanimously resolved that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." Two days later, on July 4, the Congress solemnly approved the Declaration of Independence.

The Revolutionary War raged on for seven years as the 13 colonies struggled to work together to fight a military giant to gain freedom from Britain's monarchical form of government. The task was not easy, and 6,800 Americans were killed in action, 6,100 wounded, and upward of 20,000 taken prisoner. Their sacrifice on the battlefield, as well as the sacrifices made by Families on the homefront, secured freedom for the generations that followed.

I send special thanks this Independence Day to the women and men of the Ohio National Guard who are deployed and spending the holiday away from their Families. Their dedicated service to defend our country helps preserve the freedoms earned by our forefathers.

Please be safe during your holiday celebrations. Don't get behind the wheel if you've been drinking alcohol. Have a designated driver, call a taxi, or use a rideshare app to get a ride home.

Have a wonderful Independence Day, and God bless America!

Major General John C. Harris, Jr.  
Ohio National Guard, The Adjutant General