

Pleasanton Express

Judge Weldon P. Cude Article July 5, 2023

Greetings, Amigos! I hope you all had a Happy Independence Day. The 4th of July is incredibly significant to American history. It marks the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776 to announce the colonies' separation from the Kingdom of Great Britain and when America became a free nation.

Over the last 247 years, Americans have celebrated life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as defined by our Founding Fathers. Have you ever wondered why Americans celebrate the 4th of July with parades, fireworks, barbeques, and festivals? Many reference a letter that John Adams, one of the five-member committee assigned to draft the Declaration of Independence, wrote to his wife; "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this time forward forever more." History says that John Adams wrote that letter on July 3, 1776. I find it remarkable that nearly 250 years later, his words have remained tried and true. How special it is that we are privileged to live in a Country with such deeply embedded values and traditions. Many of you will have celebrated our Nation's Independence with your friends, families, and loved ones. It is truly something to be proud of. I am proud to represent this great County, in the great state of Texas, in the greatest nation in the world. Together we are Atascosa Proud!