

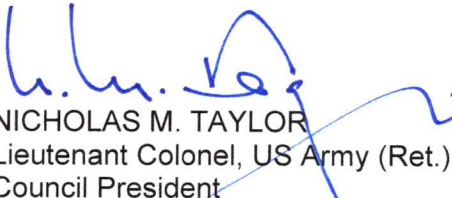
30 June 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR Pennsylvania Council of Chapters Members

SUBJECT: Council President's Independence Day Message for 2025

Dear MOAA Members:

1. In a few days from now, we celebrate the 249th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the beginning of a great experiment: American Democracy. In every corner of our country, we recall the valor and vision of patriots from Thirteen Colonies who declared independence from a powerful empire and gave birth to a new Nation. We gather in town centers and wave flags in parades not only to recall this history we share, but also to honor the vibrant and enduring spirit of America established on this day.
2. At a critical moment during the Revolutionary War, when his army was surrounded and in danger of being destroyed, General George Washington issued this order: "Put only Americans on guard tonight." Washington knew, at that moment of crisis, he could rely on those citizen-soldier volunteers who had left behind their families and farms, to risk everything for the cause of freedom.
3. Thanks to their service and sacrifice, America achieved her independence. And every July 4th since, Americans have come together to give thanks for our freedom and what our country has become: the freest, most creative, and dynamic nation on earth.
4. This dream has not come without tremendous cost. From the farmers and tradesmen who served in militias during our American Revolution to the present-day women and men protecting our Nation around the world, the sacrifices of our Armed Forces have been extraordinary. Just as this day serves as a reminder of the immeasurable bravery of those who have made America what it is today, it also renews in us the solemn duty we share to ensure our Nation lives up to its promise. We must not simply commemorate the work begun nearly two hundred and fifty years ago; we are called to join together, hoist their mantle upon our shoulders, and carry that spirit of service into tomorrow.
5. My wife Tanya joins me and the Officers of the Council in saying THANK YOU because it is through your service and sacrifice, you made everyday Independence Day for the United States of America. **NEVER STOP SERVING!**



NICHOLAS M. TAYLOR
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army (Ret.)
Council President