

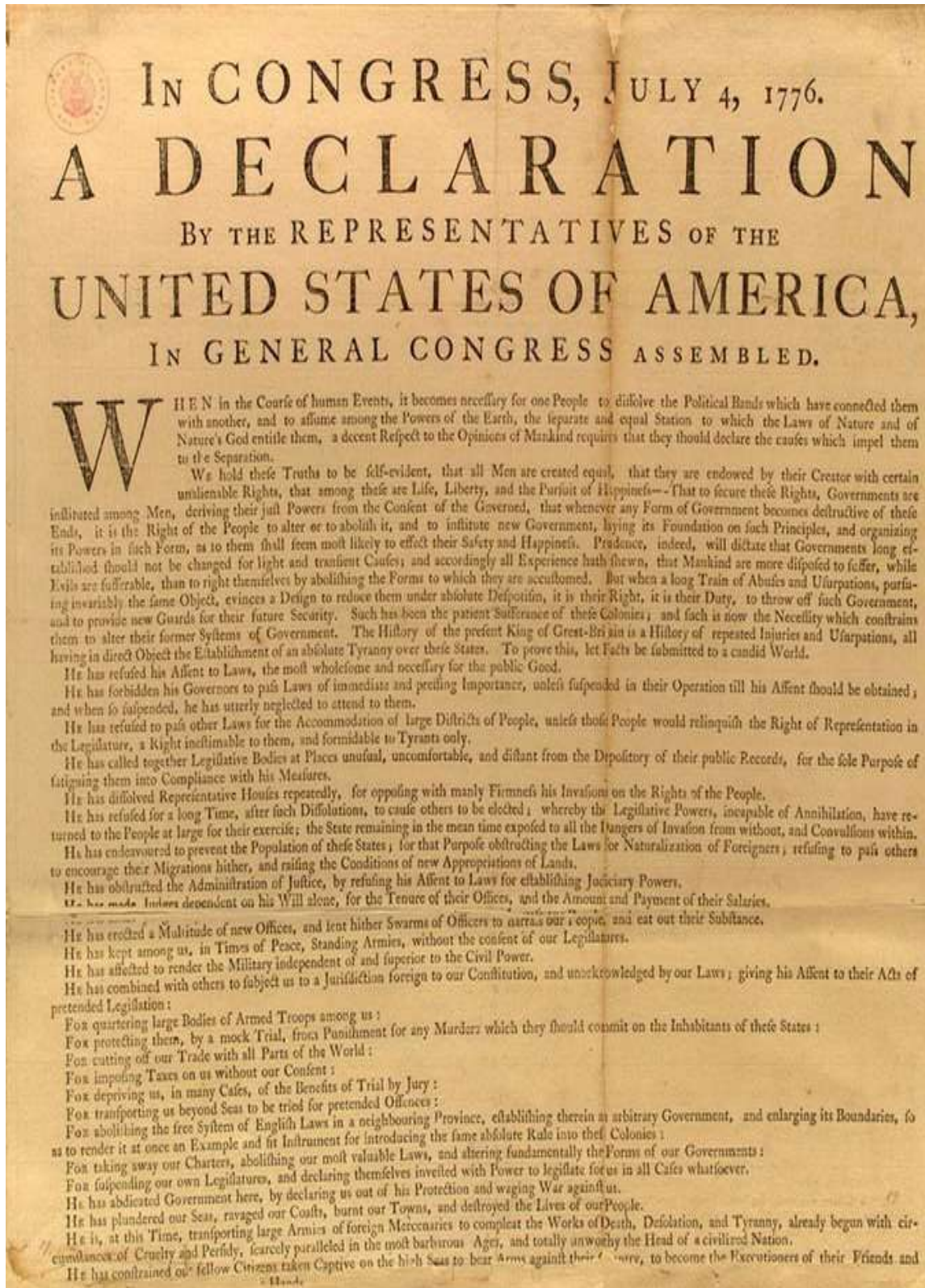
THE MONTHLY SALUTE

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Happy Independence Day!

USMG Celebrates America's Independence

Today, America celebrates her 236th birthday. Citizens everywhere have their own special way of celebrating. We asked our members to tell us how they mark the Fourth of July holiday, and some special feelings they have about what it means to be an American.

One of the newer members to the USMG family, USPatriot, shared a personal story of patriotism with the following: "I've always been a HUGELY patriotic man. I'm in the US Army, and come from a long line of military, including my father who retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 pilot flying Blackhawks for the Army.

This year, however, July 4th will mean so much more. Last year, late July, my brother, a Navy corpsman (HM3 Joel Booth) serving as a medic for a Marine unit in Afghanistan, was out on patrol. The patrol went longer than expected, so he volunteered to go back to retrieve chow for his guys. Close to his compound, and making sure he was stepping in the previous boot prints, he stepped on a low ordinance IED.

He remembers the blast and the pain. The blast essentially dissolved every bone in his foot and ankle. Help came rushing to him, but he refused it, and walked back on his own power. He boarded the MedEvac on his own strength as well. Months later, his leg was amputated below the knee after several attempts to save it.

I had the opportunity to spend time with him after the blast. He NEVER complained. He NEVER whined. All he wanted to do was return to his guys the front line... but it was a blessing in disguise. He now works for the Navy in prosthetics (gets to work on his own, of course), helping others who have lost limbs to our enemies.



My brother is a TRUE hero. Independence day, for me, will be, in part, a celebration of my brother's sacrifice."

PC recruiter ApollosArrow89 talked about some great memories he has had during the holiday:

"Every year we celebrate it, I am always with my family giving thanks to what we have and for the freedom we have today. Without the great leaders and willing Soldiers, we would not be enjoying the freedom we have today. Every year I am with my family to celebrate the Fourth of July with them. We would start the day with a good old Louisiana BBQ with hot dogs, burgers, gumbo, crawfish, fries, onion rings, and many other things that we loved to cook.

After the day wore down the Kohles men would sit around swapping war stories and stuff we did in our careers. We would laugh and give respect to fallen brothers and sisters in arms. After it would get dark, we would finish the day with fireworks galore. We would have (everything from) bottle rockets to mortar shells.

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Independence Day (continued from page 2)

The best memory I have is when me and my brother made our first "Bottle Rocket Bazooka". I can remember we were a finely-tuned bazooka team! With the one holding the tube while the other would load. I can still remember my brother yelling at me, "Prepare to fire!", and I would repeat, "Tube is ready to fire!" My brother would scream, "Back blast area clear!", and WOOSH...off goes the bottle rocket. A perfect flight into the sky and "POP!" That was my first 4th of July home when i redeployed from Afghanistan in September '08. It would be July 4, 2009 I got to spend with my family.

I am now stationed in Camp Hovey, Korea away from my family and (just) before Fourth of July. I think back to all the Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and Airmen that served before me, and I think of all the Fourth of July holidays they did not get to spend with their family. I know I am doing my part to protect my family, and I thank for all my past brothers and sisters in arms for giving the chance to do my part and to protect the very thing i hold dear to my heart, my family."

Another new member to the USMG family, Specops03SS, gave us her thoughts and memories about Independence Day as well:

"When I was little it was all about fireworks and food. But as I got older, my father taught me that it was about more than that. I learned about all the Soldiers who fought to keep us safe and give us our freedom. To me, it's not about the day our country gained its freedom. It's about the sacrifice all the Soldiers make for us.

Most people go out and celebrate or throw BBQs, but I have not done that in five years now. Instead, my girlfriend and I celebrate at home. We make a nice dinner and enjoy our evening at home.

We stay safe and don't have to deal with the cops. The freedom that was given to me is used at home, surrounded by the people I love. I think that is the best way to celebrate, since those who are out still fighting for that freedom can't spend it with their family."

However you choose to celebrate the birthday of our great nation, please do so safely. And never forget our brothers and sisters who are giving it all to make sure we all enjoy the right to celebrate!

OUR VERY FIRST SWEEPSTAKES! **WIN A COPY OF *SPEC OPS: THE LINE*!**

You read that right! We're hosting our very first sweepstakes, and if you're a member of the USMG community, you could win a copy of 2K Games' hot new title, *Spec Ops: The Line*!

Starting on July 5th, watch the news feed on the home page of USMilitaryGamers.com. You'll be able to read some facts about *Spec Ops*, catch trailers, get rules for the sweepstakes, and find the entry instructions.

What makes this even more exciting is that the marketing team for 2K Games has been generous enough to allow the winner to choose the platform that the winner would like their prize in (Xbox, PS3, PC, or Steam code)! Get ready to enter!

The logo for the video game "Spec Ops: The Line". "SPEC OPS" is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font, and "THE LINE" is in a much larger, bold, sans-serif font. The text is white with a slight shadow effect, set against a dark, textured background.

Meet the June 2012 Member of the Month

In June, USMG members nominated and ultimately awarded KaNtStOPMeH (a.k.a. Jared) as the June 2012 member of the month. Kant has taken on more and more responsibilities in the past several weeks, along with staying very active both in-game and in the forums. Here's a little background, in his own words.

"Well, to begin my story...I had a serious gambling addiction around the time of 2005-07, and when I left to go to college I wasn't exactly making ends meet. I played Texas Hold 'em for daysssss until I was about \$5,000 in debt. I decided that I needed to change my life, so I enlisted in the USAF, under the firm guidance of my father CMSgt "Brickwall" Wilson. After that I left for basic on 19 February 2008. (I've) been in the God's greatest Air Force ever since. I am a Weapons Load Team Chief, loading the bombas, missiles, and gun systems on the F-16. I haven't quite decided whether to stay in or get out yet. I have been at Hill my whole career...been to Iraq and Afghanistan and want to go back. My family is the most important thing in the world to me, so I am going to weigh my decision on that when the time comes."

So what brought him to USMG?

"Myself and ANGELS007 went to ALS together and we started gaming a lot...smoke checkin' noobs like it was going out of style! (That was) until we stumbled across a friend of his who was a member. He started telling us all about the clan and I personally was pretty tired of playing with all my stoner buddies and getting nowhere (ha-ha). So I applied to the clan and it's been all the in the rear view mirror ever since."

What does he like most about USMG?

"My favorite thing about USMG other than Guillermo's mom (I had to add that in of course) would be the brotherhood aspect of it all. I love

getting online seeing countless people online ready to have a good time. I could also say listening to a lot of the old stories, between Jump (Kev) and Sapper (Jeff) I have heard enough about the Airborne to be a full-fledged member."

Finally, we asked what he thought of his nomination and award from his peers.

"Being up against Tupac and Apollo (in the voting) was tough. Tupac puts the clan before himself constantly, always staying up to the wee hours of the morning just to make sure his gun is heard, and Apollo has revolutionized the PC side of the house. We are a better clan for having both of them as members. I really want to thank everyone who nominated me. In all honesty, I just want this place to keep growing and continue to be the best community on the net!"



Coming Next Month...

Starting next month, each new newsletter issue will feature cover art. The idea was presented to us by MK-82_1_EA, and the preliminary layouts looked fantastic. We had hoped to have that implemented with this issue, but logistics and time constraints were not on our side this month.

As always, we're open to your ideas and suggestions to improve our newsletter. If you've got an idea for a news feature, a regular addition, or would like to contribute something, please e-mail us at press@usmilitarygamers.com.

July Birthdays, Welcomes, and More

Happy Birthday this month to:

Veritas7787
givemetheb00t
ECHOx4xAlpha
MymidonSoldier
Jaguar27
Sseminole
Lorimere
Torp1d Sloth
Clarkness7112100
Razor2nd

Welcome Aboard to our newest members:

jeremyreese54 – Army – PC
BoscoTaco – USAF – PC/Xbox
ZuluNiner – Army – PC
archangel0071 – Army – Xbox
Bkwhopper0311 – USMC – PS3
Holbs – USAF – PC
Auleway – Navy – PC
Vahilior – Civi – PC
SnapPumkin667 – Army – Xbox
DevilMutt – USMC – Xbox
Digital – Army – Xbox
Itbephil – USAF – Xbox
diablo.diamante – Army – Xbox
MyrmidonSoldier – Army – Xbox/PS3
USPatriot – Army – PC
demrex – USMC – PS3
StarTek – Civi – PC
TrunkMonkey – Army – PC
smugglemurph – Army – PC
SLOWSPOKEMEXI – Civi – Xbox

“Once we have a war there is only one thing to do. It must be won. For defeat brings worse things than any that can ever happen in war.”

--Ernest Hemmingway

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