



# PROJECT LIFESAVER

NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2020



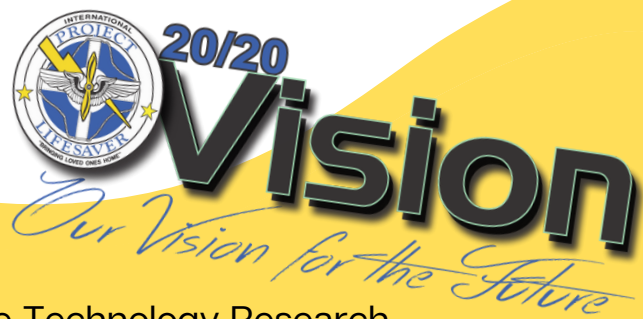


## PROJECT LIFESAVER 2020 CONFERENCE

Project Lifesaver is offering both remote and limited on-site attendance for this year's conference! In compliance with CDC and State of Florida COVID-19 guidelines, there is limited space available for on-site attendance. All attendees (both remote and on-site) **must** register in order to participate, so that we may accommodate accordingly. Check out the conference website for more details at the link below. We hope to see you there!

<https://projectlifesaver.org/conference/>





## Monday, August 31, 2020

10:00am – 10:30am	Opening Ceremonies
10:30am – 10:50am	U.S. Army Telemedicine Technology Research
10:50am - 10:55am	Meet Our Ambassadors: Candi Spritz
10:55am – 11:40am	Gary Barg, Fearless Caregivers & Caregiver Panel Discussion
11:40am – 11:55am	"A Sports Legend's View" with Dale Neuburger
11:55am - 12:00pm	Meet Our Ambassadors: Max Gail
12:00pm – 12:40pm	Fireside Chat on "Sensory Inclusive Training for First Responders" with Dr. Julian Maha M.D, CO-Founder of KultureCity; & Noah Wyle, film, television, & theater actor
12:40pm - 12:45pm	Meet Our Ambassadors: Haley Moss
12:45pm – 1:00pm	Closing Comments & Review

## Tuesday, September 1, 2020

10:00am – 10:15am	Opening Comments & Announcements
10:15am – 11:00am	Panel Discussion on "The High Incidence of Dementia Among Native Americans"
11:00am – 11:15am	North Dakota State Patrol Statewide Program
11:15am – 11:45am	Technology Updates
11:45am – 12:45pm	Keynote: Kim Campbell, Alzheimer's Advocate, Best-Selling Author, and widow of Grammy Hall of Fame Musician Glen Campbell
12:45pm – 1:00pm	Closing Comments



# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

The Ambassador's Column

Ron Yeaw

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Declaration of Independence is a statement that was adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776 which announced that the thirteen American colonies, then at war with Great Britain, regarded themselves as independent states and no longer a part of the British Empire. Instead, they now had formed a new nation – the United States of America. Ultimately, the document was a formal explanation as to why the Congress had voted on July 2 to declare independence more than a year after the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Commonly referred to as the Fourth of July,

Independence Day is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of that Declaration. Separation of the American colonies from Great Britain had actually occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Congress voted its approval of a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia. After voting for independence, the Congress then turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining the decision.

## II. THE DATE

Starting on July 2nd, the Congress debated and revised the draft Declaration of Independence, finally approving it on July 4th. Many of the delegates did not sign the document until August 2nd, and some did not sign until later. One of the most enduring myths surrounding Independence Day is that all 56 delegates who signed the document did so on the 4th. The myth had become so firmly established that, even decades after the event and nearing the end of their lives, both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams still believed that all of the delegates had signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th. In a remarkable series of coincidences, both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two of the founding fathers who signed the Declaration of Independence and later became President, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the country.

## III. THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESSES

Despite the growing popular support for independence, the Continental Congresses initially lacked the clear authority to declare it. The congressional delegates had been elected by the thirteen different colonial legislatures and they were bound by the instructions given to them. In fact, at the start, several colonies expressly prohibited their delegates from taking any steps toward separation. This was the case as, throughout the entire period, 40-45% of the colonial population remained neutral and 15-20% remained Loyalists to the Crown.

From September 5 to October 26, 1774, representatives from each of the thirteen colonies attended the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia. The function of the Congress was to prepare a coordinated response to the Coercive (or Intolerable) Acts, Great Britain's retaliation for the Boston Tea Party. The Congress organized a boycott of British goods and petitioned King George III for repeal of the Acts. Both of these measures proved fruitless. The Second Continental Congress was convened in Philadelphia on May 10, 1775, less than a month after the events at Lexington and Concord. For the second time, Congress petitioned Parliament for relief from the Coercive Acts. In late 1775, King George again rejected the Congress' petition. In April 1776, North Carolina became the first colony to explicitly authorize its delegates to vote for independence.

On May 4, 1776, Rhode Island became the first colony to declare its independence from Great Britain. While heated debates raged throughout most of the colonies, on May 10th Congress passed a resolution calling on the colonies that would not support a vote for independence to adopt new governments. On May 15th, the Virginia legislature instructed its delegates to propose to the Continental Congress a resolution “absolving all colonial allegiance and dependence upon Great Britain”. On June 7th, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented that resolution to the Congress. Reaction was swift, with seven colonial legislatures quickly voicing opposition to such a move. While political maneuvering continued and pressures mounted on the dissenting colonies, on June 11th, Congress appointed a “Committee of Five” to commence drafting a declaration of independence. Debate continued in Philadelphia through the end of June with several key colonies reversing their votes. On July 2nd, twelve colonies voted their approval of the resolution. The New York delegates abstained, since they still were not authorized to vote in favor of independence (although a week later they would be so authorized).

With the vote on July 2nd overwhelmingly in favor of Lee's resolution of independence, the Continental Congress then turned its attention to a formal document that would state its rationale for the decision. One irony in the entire process is that, although the Congress had been convened in Philadelphia's Independence Hall, the Pennsylvania delegation was one of the final two that was authorized to vote for independence.

#### **IV. THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

The “Committee of Five” appointed by the Continental Congress on June 11th to draft the document consisted of Thomas Jefferson of Virginia (the principal author), John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert Livingston of New York, and Roger Sherman of Connecticut. After numerous rewrites, the committee presented its final draft to the Congress 17 days later on June 28, 1776. The Congress tabled the document pending the results of the voting on Lee's resolution of independence. On July 2nd, with passage of the resolution, the Congress then turned its attention to the draft declaration. After two days of debate and extensive document revisions, the Declaration of Independence was approved and the handwritten copy was sent to the printer (John Dunlap) for publication. The initial prints were referred to as “Dunlap Broad sides”. Twenty four copies of this printing are known to exist today, two of which are in the Library of Congress, one of which was George Washington's personal copy. On July 5, John Hancock, the president of the Second Continental Congress, dispatched the first of the Dunlap Broad sides to the New Jersey and Delaware legislatures. On July 6, the Pennsylvania Evening Post printed the first newspaper rendition of the Declaration. The first public reading of the document was on July 8 in the yard of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Other public readings took place later that day in Trenton, New Jersey and Easton, Pennsylvania. John Hancock sent a Broad side copy to General George Washington who, with the British forces not far away, read it on July 9 to his troops camped near New York City with the hope that it would inspire the soldiers and encourage others to join the army. Within the next two weeks, the Declaration was read to audiences and printed in newspapers in all thirteen states.

On August 2, 1776, the most famous signed version of the declaration, a parchment (or engrossed) copy, was signed by a majority of the 56 delegates. Of the 64 delegates who attended the Congress from May to July and voted for independence, eight of them signed the parchment copy. Some of those who eventually signed were not even in Philadelphia on July 4 and several had not been elected to the Congress until a later date. Robert Livingston of New York, one of the “Committee of Five” drafters, refused to sign with the belief that the Declaration was premature. One signer, Matthew Thornton from New Hampshire, signed on November 4. The most famous signature on the parchment copy is that of John Hancock who, as President of the Congress, presumably was the first who signed it. A commonly circulated (but undocumented)

account claims that after Hancock signed it he proudly declared: "There! I guess King George will be able to read that without his spectacles." Although copies do exist, the original July 4 document was lost (possibly destroyed during the printing process). A parchment copy of the Declaration is on display in Washington D.C in the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom at the National Archives.

Jefferson's most immediate sources were two documents written the preceding month: his own draft of the preamble of the Constitution of Virginia, and George Mason's draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights. They, in turn, were directly influenced by the 1689 English Declaration of Rights which formally ended the reign of King James II. Jefferson and other Americans looked to the English Declaration of Rights as a model of how to end the reign of an unjust king.

The Declaration of Independence consists of the following five parts:

1. *Introduction.* It asserts, as a matter of Natural Law, the ability of a people to assume political independence and acknowledges that the grounds for such independence must be reasonable and ought to be explained.

2. *Preamble.* Appointed by Congress, John Adams wrote the preamble which outlines a general philosophy that justifies revolution when the governing body harms individuals natural rights. Passed by the Congress on May 15, it is considered a major statement on human rights and contains what has been called "one of the best-known sentences in the English language and the most potent and consequential words in American history":

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

3. *Indictment.* A listing of 29 instances where King George III "injured and usurped" Americans rights and liberties including such things as quartering British troops in colonial homes, cutting off trade, imposing taxes, dissolving colonial political bodies, burning towns, denying jury trials, and plundering colonial ships at sea.

4. *Denunciation.* Finished the case for independence by documenting King George's continuing disregard of colonial appeals for relief from Britain's unwarrantable jurisdiction over the colonies.

5. *Conclusion.* The signers assert that there are conditions under which people must change their government, that the British have produced such conditions and, by necessity, the colonies must throw off political ties with the British Crown and become independent states. At its core, the conclusion contains portions of Richard Henry Lee's resolution for revolution that had been passed on July 2.

## **V. SUMMARY**

Having served its purpose, the Declaration was initially largely neglected and interest in the document remained low until the late 1790's. Interest in the Declaration was revived with the emergence of America's first political parties. In particular, Jeffersonian Republicans sought political advantage over their rival Federalists by promoting its importance and Jefferson as its primary author. A less partisan appreciation for the Declaration emerged in the years following the War of 1812 because of a growing American nationalism and a renewed interest in the history of the Revolution.

More than twenty other political movement statements were directly influenced by the text of the Declaration. The major ones include: The Manifesto of the Province of Flanders (1789); the Venezuelan Declaration of Independence (1811); the Liberian Declaration of Independence (1847); the declarations of secession by the Confederate States of America (1860-1861); and the Vietnam Declaration of Independence

(1945).

Independence Day is a day to display the flag and celebrate the birth of America and the freedoms that were gained as a result of winning the Revolutionary War. It is a day to remember that the precious freedoms we enjoy were earned by the determination and sacrifices of our forefathers who fought and died for independence. As a nation, America has learned that freedom does not come without a heavy price. There is always the possibility that our republic will be threatened and we must continually fight for its independence.

While the official observation of the signing of the Declaration of Independence always falls on July 4th, participation levels vary according to what day of the week the 4th falls on. If it falls in the middle of the week, for the convenience of the attendees, some fireworks and other celebrations take place during the closest weekend.

Project Lifesaver wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable upcoming Independence Day! While we celebrate, take time to remember the sacrifices and struggles that have upheld our freedom. Thank you.



*The Ambassador's Column* is a new column to showcase the writing, knowledge, and experiences of Project Lifesaver's great Ambassadors! Topics will range widely to include everything from military to holidays to history and more. *The Ambassador's Column* will credit each author at the top of the article. We hope you enjoy it! If you have any questions in general or suggestions on topics, don't hesitate to reach out to Samantha Rush at [srush@projectlifesaver.org](mailto:srush@projectlifesaver.org).



# PROJECT LIFESAVER & WATERCREST SUPPORT SENIORS & HEALTH CARE WORKERS

by Ron Yeaw\*

On the last three Fridays in May and on June 12th, Chief Saunders, Jeanne Saunders, Samantha Rush, and Ron Yeaw volunteered support to the Watercrest Senior Living facility in Port St. Lucie, Florida. Positioned in front of the Watercrest building, the four PLI volunteers assisted the Watercrest staff by passing out Watercrest-provided rolls of toilet paper, brochures, and paper bags filled with PLI-donated face masks, sunglasses, stress stars, pens, and brochures to seniors and health care professionals in the area as they drove through.

Advertised in places like local newspapers, churches, social media, and Community Watch Programs all over the city, the events lasted from 10:00 - 2:00 with an average of 110 seniors each day! The service and the PLI donations were much appreciated by the recipients and the Watercrest staff. The event was also featured in an article and photograph in the St. Lucie Voice newspaper!

\*Ron is the Director of Ambassador Relations and guest writer for Project Lifesaver.





# A MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBER AGENCIES

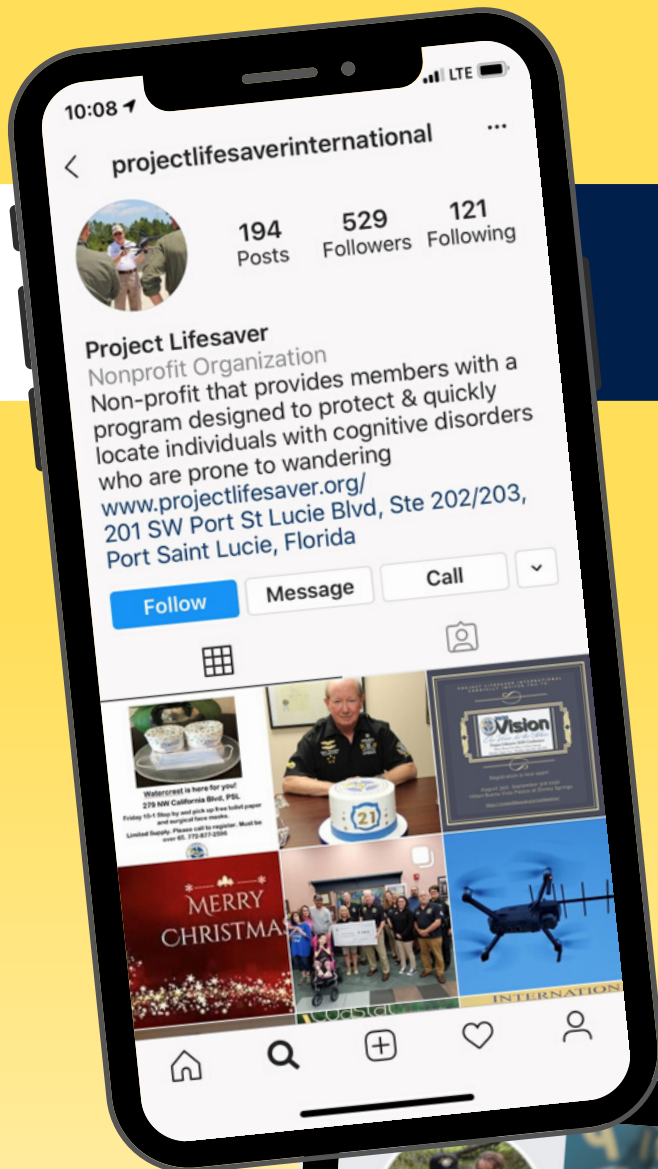
## TITLING OF PROGRAMS

At Project Lifesaver, we understand that branding and marketing can be a key detail in getting the word out about agencies and programs. That is why we encourage and welcome the use of special titles for agency programs. Titles can be catchy, informational, or straight-to-the point. However, Project Lifesaver wants to remind our agencies that our name (Project Lifesaver) & logo should be included in the titling of agency programs.

We clearly recognize how important it is to identify and “Brand” your agency’s program. It is also important to demonstrate to your current and future clients that your program is associated and partnered with a nationally recognized program that is the recipient of many prestigious national and international awards. Going forward, we respectfully request that you include the Project Lifesaver name and logo within your programs title and material. For examples, see the following: “Example Police Department Project Lifesaver” or “Project Lifesaver of Example County Sheriff Department”. We encourage creative titling, as well, but it still needs to name Project Lifesaver in some way.

Additionally, we are not asking established programs to change their names, but to begin adding the Project Lifesaver name with their title. A good example of adding Project Lifesaver’s name to previous branding is “Example Search and Rescue with Project Lifesaver”.

Our agencies are important to us and we thank you all for the hard, lifesaving work that you do. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns, as we are happy to help. Thank you!



# CHECK US OUT!

We enjoy interacting with you on social media!  
We also post articles, events, and updates so it's a great way to stay informed!

**Twitter: @Projectlifesavr**

**Instagram: @projectlifesaverintl**

**Facebook: Project Lifesaver International**

