

#8-41
My birthday certificate is the Declaration of Independence and I was born on July 4, 1776. I am a fabulous country of many things and many people. I am the United States of America.

I am over 200million living souls and the ghost of millions who have courageously lived and died for me.

I am William Penn and Paul Revere. I stood on the Lexington green and fired the shot heard around the world. I am Washington, Jefferson, Hale and Patrick Henry. Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and Yorktown are a part of my heritage. I am John Paul Jones, Daniel Boone, the Green Mountain Boys and Davy Crockett. I am Generals Lee, Grant and MacArthur. I am Abraham Lincoln and the Gettysbury Address.

I remember the Alamo, the Lusitania, Pearl Harbor and Iwo Jima. Whenever freedom called, I answered that call. I have left my heroic dead in the Argonne Forest, Flanders Field, on the rock of Corregidor and on the cold bleak slopes of Korea.

I am the Golden Gate Bridge, the wheatlands of Kansas, the farmlands of Idaho and the fabulous forests of the Northwest. I am the Grand Canyon and Old Faithful. I am a small village in the hills of New England, an open-pit copper mine in Montana and a farm in North Dakota.

My capitol, Washington, D.C., is like no other American city. It is completely free from any state government and there are no factories or commerce there. It has but one business and that is government.

From the top of the Washington Monument you can look north to the White House and to the east you see the Capitol. To the west is the long reflecting pool and the memorial to Lincoln. Inside is the famous statute of him by Daniel Chester French. His face is compassionate, sad and strong.

Looking south, you see the Tidal Basin, the famous cherry trees and the memorial to Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and our third President.

Across the Potomac river in Arlington, Virginia in the huge national cemetery, is the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. All during the day and night, back and forth, paces an armed sentry in honor of those men who are known "but to God." There is no other memorial in my capitol which is quite so symbolic of our Republic as this one. There have always been the unknown Americans who have played a fundamental part in my progress in addition to the famous men whose names have been known to all.

I am a Christian nation founded upon Christian principles. My people recognize God's power and authority and their responsibility to Him.

I am a nation that believes in the worth and dignity of the individual and his inability to solve his own problems without the help of God.

A sense of responsibility to God carries my people beyond the short range view of what they can get for the moment. They consider the future benefits or damages as a result of their action and conduct.

I am a government that is responsible to God and the people. Most of my organic documents of government, the Mayflower Compact of 1620, the Declaration of Independence of 1776, the Constitution of 1789, given recognition to God.