Many of us look forward to enjoying the free time associated with this upcoming Independence Day weekend. This is an opportunity to take a break from work, a chance to travel or to do something special with friends and family, and hopefully a moment to just sit back and relax. But more than a pause from our labors, Independence Day weekend provides us time to reflect on the meaning and significance of a defining event in our nation’s history.

In the history of our nation, there are certain defining moments that shape our sense of who we are as a people. On Independence Day, we celebrate one such moment. On the 4th of July 1776, a group of brave American colonists boldly declared their independence. Our forefathers in the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence that set our course toward a land of freedom and liberty.

While it is great to focus on the historic roots of this significant day, we do want all to remain safe. Whether you stay to enjoy the activities planned for the Fort Leavenworth Independence Day Celebration or leave for the weekend, please take a moment to plan your activities and to place safety in the forefront of your minds.

Let us also take a moment to remember those in uniform overseas that continue to defend our Nation during this Independence Day weekend. Keep these men and women and their families in your thoughts and prayers as you sit on your blankets and enjoy the sounds of the fireworks … the sound of freedom.

Thank you all for your service and for protecting our independence and our American way of life. God Bless our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines and God Bless our Nation.

Robert B. Brown
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding