

Monday with Mikey: July 4, 2016



“We hold these truths to be self-evident...created equal...life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...”

Two hundred and forty years ago, a group of business owners declared a collection of thirteen colonies of the British Empire a Nation, separate and apart from that Empire. The document itself, one of the seminal writings relating to government and human freedom, was organized into four major sections:

- A Preamble,
- A List of Abuses and Usurpations,
- Past Actions of Colonists, and
- A Conclusion and Definition of a New Government

It's important to note that this document took *months* to write (Congress passed the resolution to draft the preamble in May of 1776) and almost a full month for it to be ratified after its final draft was completed.

While most American citizens are required, at some point during their primary or secondary education, or during the process of becoming a citizen, to memorize the words of the preamble, most of us don't have a *clue* as to what the other words of this earth-shaking document are – much less what they *mean*, and least of all what they *did*.

I am attaching to this week's note a copy of the Declaration of Independence, and I challenge you to read it – word for word – and consider what it means to you and your way of life.

Please don't misunderstand: I don't mean to say that there aren't alternative ways to look at “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” In my opinion, we took a long, long time and great cost as a Nation to go from “all men are created equal” to “all humans are equal and all lives matter.” I believe we (humans) still haven't nearly achieved that – especially on a global scale, but I believe Rotary's six Areas of Focus go a long way to making that hope become real someday.

The United States of America is the birthplace of Rotary -largely, I believe, because of our Right to Peaceful Assembly (you can look it up in the Constitution of the United States: Bill of Rights' First Amendment). The four business owners in Chicago who formed Rotary had no idea how *far-reaching* their concept of a networking/social/service club would go. Look how far the idea of Rotary has reached!

I am absolutely a proud American, and a humble Rotarian.

Until next Monday, keep **“Doing Good, Having Fun!”**
Your Friend in Rotary Service,

Mikey

Mike Chapman
District 6950 Governor 2016-17
mjc6950rotary@gmail.com

727-415-3181



Rotary District 6950
Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties
Florida's Nature Coast / Suncoast

