

2010 Independence Day Message from
Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus

On the Fourth of July, 1776, 56 patriots committed their individual colonies to take up arms and win their freedom from an overseas ruler. They came together as representatives of 13 colonies, but left as citizens of a new nation unique upon this Earth, dedicated to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

What began 234 years ago endures today. The United States is still a bastion of freedom and democracy and remains unique as a nation upon the Earth.

At home and abroad, the Navy and Marine Corps established by our forefathers continue to defend that legacy. The example of the thousands of patriots that served in the revolution now embodied in the thousands of Sailors and Marines at war in Afghanistan and Iraq and on patrol across the world's oceans.

So as Americans everywhere celebrate the Fourth in backyard barbecues and with fireworks that recall the red glare of the rockets and bombs during the battle of Baltimore in September 1814, I'd ask you to remember the legacy that we have all inherited. Take pride in our nation's 234 years of liberty.

For those on the front lines and deployed away from home, know that you are foremost in our thoughts; and to all in uniform, thank you again for your service. Happy Independence Day.