**United States Navy Independence Day Speech 2014**

For questions on this speech, please contact Todd Martin at todd.martin@navy.mil or 901 874 5805.

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| **Speaker** |  |
| **Event** | 2014 Independence Day Events |
| **Date** |  |
| **Location** |  |
| **Duration** | Approximately 9 minutes |
| **Goal of Speech** | Recognize the importance of Independence Day while conveying key Navy messages to audiences. |
| **Top Line Message Points** | - The Navy protects and defends America on the world's oceans.- The Navy is deployed around the world, around the clock.- The Navy is ready to defend America at all times. |
| **People to Acknowledge** | Consult with your Protocol Officer to determine order of acknowledgements |
| **Additional Resources** | <http://www.navyoutreach.org/programs/speakers/speakers-resources-archive/> |

(Note : the time of delivery is determined using a public speaking rate of 100 words per minute. Your actual time may vary).

On behalf of all the men and women serving, both here and abroad, I thank you for inviting me here today. it is truly an honor to celebrate independeNce day – OUR NATIONS’ BIRTHDAY - with you.

at events like these, I TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO speak about the power and strength of your u.s. navy.

IT IS A PRIVILEGE to share the STORY OF THE amazing accomplishments that the men and women who wear THE uniform OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY are achieving everyday, around the world.

and i must admit it is a privILEGE I quite enjoy, BECAUSE it’s a great story.

Today, YOUR UNITED STATES Navy is the largest in the world. RIGHT NOW, Your Navy has MORE THAN 323,000 MEN AND WOMEN ON ACTIVE DUTY AND MORE THAN 108,000 SErVING IN THE NAVY RESERVE, PROTECTING AND DEFENDING AMERICA ON THE WORLD’S OCEANS. WE HAVE 288 SHIPS, MORE THAN A THIRD OF WHICH ARE DEPLOYED AROUND THE WORLD AROUND THE CLOCK. YOUR UNITED STATES NAVY IS READY TO DEFEND AMERICA AT ALL TIMES.

IN ESSENCE, YOUR Navy is uniquely positioned to be there when it matters, WHERE IT MATTERS.

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, The world’s oceans have BEEN THE AVENUES OF COMMERCE. YOUR NAVY IS TRAVELING THESE AVENUES, BEING THERE WHERE IT MATTERS, WHEN IT MATTERS, ensuring the free flow of global trade and, in turn, preserving America’s economic prosperity. your Navy HAS the power to protect America’s interests any TIME, ANY WHERE.

THE UNITED STATES NAVY HAS sent men and women to the skies, to the seas and under the seaS in defense and protection of the freedoms we hold dear.

I could talk for hours about the BROAD SCOPE of missions THE UNITED STATES NAVY IS currently executing around the world, even as i stand here, but THE NAVY IS only part of the story OF THESE UNITED STATES WHOSE BIRTHDAY WE CELEBRATE TODAY.

independence Day is A TIME TO REJOICE IN OUR shared American story. THE FIRST INDEPENDENCE DAY – THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE-WAS A RALLYING CRY IN THE INFANCY OF AMERICA’S WAR FOR INDEPENCE, WHEN those who came before us ANNOUNCED THEIR WILLINGNESS to sacrifice everything in pursuit of a life that UNTIL THEN THEY COULD ONLY DREAM OF.

And whether your family has been on these shores for many, many generations, or IS spending this holiday FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THIS COUNTRY, THIS AMERICAN STORY is your story too.

And what makes this story so extraordinary, SO COMPELLING, is that our PATH TO freedom was CEMENTED BY THOSE WHO wielded the power of words INSTEAD OF THE POWER OF WEAPONS.

on july fourth, 1776, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA declared our independence.

DECLARED.

it’s a bold WORD, isn’t IT?

We didn’t announce our decision.

we didn’t amend an agreement.

we didn’t ask for our independence.

our founding document is a declaration.

A DECLARATION that ROUSED fathers and sons, who left farms and stores and homes, to fIGHT FOR SOMETHING THEY BELIEVED IN.

A DECLARATION THAT COMPELLED mothers and daughters TO KEEP family, community and business together when there was no assurance there would be a tomorrow.

i imagine that while they believed whole heartedly in their cause, THE NATURAL instinct of self-preservation was likely urging them to stay in their homes and let someone else fight the fight.

but they took up arms and stood shoulder to shoulder with their neighbors, friends, FAMILY, AND FOLKS THEY HAD NEVER MET BEFORE. they chose to be there.

and let us be clear, while we celebrate a day of independence, it was MERELY A SCENE IN A DRAMA THAT WOULD PLAY OUT IN years of conflict and adversity. A BURDEN OF CONFLICT AND ADVERSITY OUR FOREFATHERS WILLINGLY BORE IN ORDER TO SECURE OUR NATION’S FREEDOM.

the price for our freedom was a costly one, but A PRICE our forefathers WILLINGLY PAID.

we americans ARE KNOWN FOR OUR BOLDNESS AND DARING, PERHAPS IN NO SMALL MEASURE BECAUSE THE foundation OF AMERICA was built on boldness and daring.

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, john hancock signed the declaration of independence with a great flourish, so that king george could read it without his spectacles.

we honor our heritage proudly.

so today is a day we celebrate loudly, SO THE WHOLE WORLD MAY HEAR OUR CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

wave your flags. set off fireworks. ENJOY TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. celebrate your freedom.

and know that when it comes time to defend thE freedom, the FREEDOM WE SO DEARLY CHERISH,

your navy will be there.

They will be there when we are sleeping tonight. They will be there every Saturday, Sunday and holiday this year.

the SAILORS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY have ALSO come from farms and stores and schools, RURAL AREAS AND THE LARGEST CITIES, JUST AS OUR REVOLUTIONARY ANCESTORs did. they too have committed to sacrificing for what they believe in.

UNITED STATES NAVY SAILORS stand shoulder to shoulder, around the clock, far from our shores, defending AND PROTECTING America at all times.

they not only protect our legacy, OUR INDEPENDENCE, they are part of it.

thank you again for Inviting me here today to join with all of you in celebrating the freedoms that WE IN the UNITED STATES Navy are so incredibly proud to protect.

MAY GOD BLESS OUR NAVY SAILORS AND OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ARMS.

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF US GATHERED HERE TODAY.

MAY GOD BLESS THE MORE THAN 300 MILLION FOLKS WHO CALL AMERICA THEIR HOME.

AND MAY GOD, ON THIS, OUR GREAT NATION’S BIRTHDAY, CONTINUE TO BLESS AMERICA.

THANK YOU!