Independence Day 2019

Today is the celebration of our nation's independence from England and there are celebrations in our community starting with the 5K/10K run at Bonazaville sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 941 "Northern Warriors". By the time you read this, the runners and walkers will be relaxing and recovering. Bonanzaville will open at 10:00 am for their annual 4th of July Celebration with games and activities for all ages. The annual parade of old farm equipment and cars will be at 2:00 pm. At 3:00 pm, there will be a Red River Trivia contest, something new for their celebration. Of course there will be food all day. The Moorhead Business Association is again sponsoring the MSUM 4th of July celebration held on MSUM's campus. The celebration starts at 6:00 pm and ends about 11:30 when the fireworks are done. American flags will be handed out at the entrance while supplies lasts. Food trucks will be open at 6:00 pm and a special flag raising is scheduled for 6:30. Post Traumatic Funk Syndrome will perform at 8:00 pm and fireworks starts at 10:30.

On July 4th, we celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence when thirteen colonies stated their independence from England. Conflict with England was already a year old when the colonies convened a Continental Congress in Philadelphia in the summer of 1776. It was there that Richard Henry Lee of Virginia presented a resolution with the words "Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, dissolved." On June 11, a committee of five was appointed to draft a statement to be presented to the world on independence. John Adams, Roger Sherman, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Livingston and Thomas Jefferson were the committee with Jefferson doing the task of drafting the resolution. The resolution was officially adopted on July 4, 1776 with nine colonies voting in favor, two, Pennsylvania and South Carolina voting No, Delaware Undecided and New York Abstained. John Hancock, President of the Continental Congress signed with a great flourish so England's "King George can read that without spectacles!". The original copy of the Declaration is kept at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The US Constitution was drafted at the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787 and became official when the ninth state ratified it. On September 25, 1789, the First Congress proposed 12 amendments to the Constitution. Articles 3 to 12 were ratified on December 15, 1792 and are knows as the Bill of Rights.

Interestingly, three of our former Presidents died on the 4th of July, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4th, in 1826. James Monroe, our fifth President died on July 4th, 1831. On July 4th, 1872, our thirtieth President Calvin Coolidge was born, the only President born on Independence Day.