

LIBERTY PARK INN®

A Syndicated Column

Name: **Independence Day**

By: David Henry © 2012

Independence Day is always an exciting time here at Liberty Park Inn and I'm proud to be the Owner and General Manager of this fine resort hotel.

We typically have several thousand people attend our annual Independence Day Freedom Fest.

The barbeque and concert and the poolside movies are always popular. But my personal favorite part of the day is when we honor those who have served in our military and remember our founding fathers and their sacrifices that made our freedom possible.

I love America. I was born in Philadelphia and I sometimes think that the spirit of freedom must have rubbed off on me when I was born.

Just then my thoughts were interrupted by my Front Desk Manager standing in my office doorway.

"Excuse me David," he said.

"Hi John," I responded. "What can I do for you?"

"Doug just told me that everything is ready in the garden for the ceremony. He wants to know if you want him to put up the Declaration of Independence poster now."

Doug works in Maintenance. He's only 17 years old, but he is energetic, honest and reliable.

"Yes John," I replied. "Go ahead and give it to him."

So John came in and took the framed poster off of my office wall and handed it to Doug.

I keep that poster here to remind me how fortunate we are to live in this great country. But once a year on the 4th of July I take it down and put it on display in the garden area.

Then John turned and said to me, "David, the men who are setting up the fireworks display came to the front desk this morning before they left to go to the park. They said they enjoyed our ceremony so much last year that they're going to try to attend again this

year."

"Great," I replied. "I'm so glad that people appreciate what we're doing."

Then I turned toward the lobby and went over to look out at the garden area. The sweet sounds of the grand piano and the sweet smell of the fresh, hot chocolate chip cookies intermingle to give a warm pleasant atmosphere to the lobby. The two story high windows give a perfect view of both the park across the street and also the hotel garden area.

The sky is a shimmering blue today, perfect weather for this special day.

Across the street I see the two large lion statues, one on each side of the entrance to the park. And I also see the colorful sails of the sailboats on the lake. Some people will watch the fireworks tonight from their sailboats.

This is always a peaceful sight to me and I enjoy coming here to revitalize my soul. But today there's also a festive holiday spirit in the air. The park is filled with tents and booths and carnival rides that were set up for this year's event.

Then I looked over at our garden area where we hold the ceremony each year.

This ceremony is always a big event in our town. We set up 500 seats and it's still not enough for everyone who comes. People will bring blankets and lay them on the grass to sit on. Some people will come early with picnic baskets. Many of them come to our hotel first and then walk across the street to the town sponsored activities at Liberty Park.

Historically, this town has always cherished freedom. That's why the town is named Liberty and the park is called Liberty Park. And that's also why the hotel is called Liberty Park Inn.

When I was looking for a site to build this hotel, I considered a number of other locations. But the idea of being across from Liberty Park was just too intriguing for me to pass up.

But once again my thoughts were interrupted. This time it was Betty, my Head Housekeeper.

"David," she said, "the housekeepers

have finished all the guest's rooms. They put an American flag in each room with a note telling the guests to take the flag as a memento of their stay."

"Thanks Betty," I replied. "I know I can always count on you to have everything done right."

Just then, Marcia, one of my Desk Clerks, came up to me and said, "David, the color guard has arrived and is getting set up. Chaplain Bill is here too."

"Thanks Marcia," I replied.

Chaplain Bill is a local Court Chaplain and he uses one of our conference rooms to hold training classes each month. I appreciate him speaking at our ceremony each year and reminding us about the religious faith of our founding fathers.

"David," John interrupted, "it's time for the ceremony to start."

"Thanks John," I replied.

So I went outside and stepped up to the podium and said, "On behalf of the entire staff here at Liberty Park Inn I welcome you to this year's Independence Day Ceremony. And I would like to start by saying to our military and to our veterans, 'Thank you for your service.'"

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This is the very first published column. It introduces the readers to the main characters and the setting. The author hopes you will enjoy his commentary on issues and current events using this format.

Liberty Park Inn® is a syndicated column about issues and current events featuring conversations in an imaginary hotel. You may contact the author through his website at www.libertyparkinn.com.