

## PROCLAMATION

On July 4, 1776, a band of patriots risked everything for the idea that “all men are created equal.” Knowing that confronting a colonial superpower was an act of treason, the Founders nevertheless pledged their “lives, fortunes and sacred honor” to create something bigger than themselves. They forged a new nation that could determine its own destiny.

This year, we can once again determine our destiny – through the heroic acts of Californians across the state. As we celebrate this holiday amid the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, it is incumbent on all Californians to be more vigilant than ever in protecting themselves, their loved ones and the broader community by wearing face coverings, practicing physical distancing and following public health guidelines.

Each Californian should recognize the power we have to stop the spread of the virus and protect our communities. The decisions each of us make – to stay home and forego celebrations that we know put us and our loved ones at risk – will ultimately determine our ability to mitigate the spread of the virus and move forward as a state.

Though our celebrations will look different this year as we practice physical distancing, we can still honor the people and promises celebrated on July 4. We pause to thank the brave Americans who serve in our military. Their sacrifice, and the sacrifice of their families, reminds us every day that our freedom is not free. We also take time to recommit ourselves to the work that remains to realize the Declaration’s ideals of liberty and equality for all Americans.

Let us summon the courage that drove our Founders then, and the courage that drives all those who fight for America’s promise today, as we continue to protect one another from the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and work to build a brighter future for all.

**NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim July 4, 2020, as “Independence Day.”

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2020.

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GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State