

Joe Donahue
For July 4th
Independence Day

Hi, I'm Joe Donahue with a comment for Brookings-Harbor Voices:

Today is the 4th of July – Independence Day, the day we celebrate our country's independence from Great Britain. Our forefathers, at great risk, put everything on the line to set in motion the concept of freedom with the Declaration of Independence. They signed it saying, "... we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." This document included many grievances against the King of England and the authoritarian government of Great Britain.

Mutually pledging lives, fortunes and sacred honor does not sound like the rhetoric we hear today. Almost nothing seems to be mutual, and there is little sacred honor being exhibited. I am very tired and frustrated with our Legislative and Executive leadership. The President and the two parties and their members belittling and denigrating each other in very personalized ways does little to promote or protect our freedoms.

While we celebrate our country's independence, with hot dogs, beaches, fireworks and family, let us not forget that it takes all of the citizens constant diligence to ensure that our freedoms continue. As we watch and listen to the fireworks display at the port, recognize the symbolism of the rocket's red glare and bombs bursting in air. Freedom is worth fighting for and defending, but it is not free.

Let us thank and honor those who are serving in the armed forces on Independence Day and all the days of the year. Remember they put their life in danger to protect our freedoms just as our founding fathers did.

So, celebrate, have fun and be safe this 4th of July weekend. However, do it with awareness, humility and appreciation.

Thanks for listening.