

7/04/06

Happy 4th of July
by
Tom Holbrook

Happy Independence Day folks... may we all remember the purpose of this important date in our country's history. July 4th, 1776 was declared the official date of American independence of British rule and coincidentally George Washington officially took command of the Army on July 3rd, 1775. One year later we were a free country... with a long and exciting journey ahead of us.

200+ years later we have grown from a small, upstart country of 13 original colonies, to the most powerful nation in the world with 50 self governing states. In the beginning we depended on many nations to help us establish our independence and now we thank those nations who have allowed us to participate in seeking and assuring freedom for other countries around the world that have not been so blessed.

As I write this my family is at the beach enjoying a week of sun and fun and doing our best to contribute to the economy of the state of South Carolina and its surrounding states. While here we have eaten at just about every genre of restaurant there is so tonight, our last night, we are going to a cafeteria to slow things down a bit. My kids and grandkids say cafeterias are only for old people and my reply was that old people have been around enough to know what's good and what's not so they should give cafeterias the benefit of the doubt. One thing, however, if cafeterias are so popular with old folk like me why hasn't there been a cafeteria built in The Villages? It would probably be the most successful in the chain if a company were to build one. Maybe some of you readers have enough pull, or know the right people to get one located here.

All three of my sons and their wives and six grandkids were here this week and it sure was nice to be able to spend a week of leisure time with them. My grandkids brought their Game Cube with them and I spent more than a few hours sitting in front of a monitor defeating monsters and nefarious creatures trying to save the Princess Zelda. My five year old grandson says I'm the "Master" of the game and thinks I can do wonders with a game controller... which of course I can. One day they even gave up a

morning at the beach so I and two of the boys could stay in and capture one castle and acquire the Super Sword from Goron.

I mentioned the different restaurants we visited but didn't discuss the difficulty in getting reservations at a nice restaurant for 14 people. We finally had to make our dinner hour between 4:30 – 5:00 pm each day to miss the rush. Of course that gave us more time afterwards to play putt-putt and card games later. We never had to worry about dessert after dinner since my son Marc and his wife Lauren brought 15 gallons of ice cream from one of their two Coldstone Creamery Ice Cream stores in Greensboro, NC. And, of course, along with the beach it wouldn't have been a trip to Myrtle without the obligatory golf game with my three sons. All in all a great time was had by the bunch.

Can you believe it is now July and this summer only has two more months remaining, and the year only five more? Wow... does time fly when you're having a good time. At the end of August we will be returning to Myrtle for a week of golf with three other couples from The Villages so we will be getting one more crack at the beach before the cold weather arrives in the SC area.

Sorry you were unable to read the column last week... due to the quirkiness of e-mail the article written was unable to find its way to the city desk of the paper. It's the first time in two years we weren't in and I apologize for my snafu. .

I want to remind those readers who are fellow members of the Village Voices choral group that our first rehearsal will be the last Friday of August which will mark the official end of Summer and the beginning of Fall.

Well, enough chit-chat for one day... have the happiest of 4th of July you've ever had and enjoy the rest of this summer to the fullest. And, keep the reason for this day alive in your hearts.

See you next week.

#