

## Burgess Weekly Video Address July 4, 2014 “Independence Day”

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess. Today, I'd like to wish you and your family a heartfelt and happy Fourth of July.

My days in Washington are often filled with a busy schedule, difficult decisions to be made and partisan gridlock. But the other day, I walked to the capitol from my office for votes and I looked up at the dome. At that moment, I was reminded of what it means to live in a free democracy, and what an overwhelming privilege that it is. Indeed, the very political disagreements that we often find burdensome are the byproduct of living in a free and open country with a representative government.

And for that, we should all be thankful.

Not that long ago, our forefathers envisioned a radical idea never before tried: that individuals could govern themselves. That they could have freedom and liberty and live out their God-given potential. Those ideas indeed changed the course of history forever.

That is why, from our country's earliest days, we have raised Old Glory, paraded down our streets and celebrated the Fourth of July. This holiday represents everything that makes America unique and wonderful. In today's era of the 24-hour news cycle, the pundits and the talking heads, the contentious political races and the doom-and-gloom headlines, we still have very much to celebrate. For we

are free, and our system of government has not only endured, but prevailed. And will continue to do so.

So here is to the Spirit of '76. Here's to the colorful and diverse group of people who make up America: the workers, the innovators, the healers, the philanthropists, the teachers, the members of our military, the moms and dads.

That hardworking spirit embodied by our founding fathers and colonists is still alive and well in the DNA of Americans, both young and old. And for that, I am thankful.

Here's to the United States of America, the land where anything is possible and our best days lie ahead. Happy Fourth of July from my family to yours.