

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address June 29, 2018
Celebrating American Independence

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Each summer, Americans pause to remember the brave actions of our nation's founders over 240 years ago. The Fourth of July serves as a reminder of the heroism, dedication, and courage displayed in the founding of our nation.

Reflecting back on 1776, it is amazing to consider the achievements of our fellow Americans. In just over two centuries, America has fought for freedom, defended its allies, expanded its borders, and led the world's progress in innovation.

We owe much of our nation's success not only to our Founders and the leaders who have come before us, but also to our Armed Forces. It is only fitting that we ensure that the men and women in uniform have the resources they need to protect Americans at home and abroad. This week, the House voted to fund the Department of Defense, keeping our promise to American service members. Especially at holidays, it is important to remember that members of our Armed Forces, often serving far away from home, put service to their country first. We are indebted to them.

At a time in which our nation can feel sharply divided, the Fourth of July is an opportunity to come together and celebrate the American virtues that make our nation exceptional. Americans fought not only for their freedom from Great Britain, but also for the First Amendment rights that we enjoy today – among them the right of free speech, assembly, and protest.

All American voices have a right to be heard, and each voice is deserving of consideration and respect. As we celebrate American independence, we also should celebrate this immense privilege as we seek to find common ground with each other.

The Founders, the major characters in one of the most tumultuous times in our nation's history, were all well versed with the concept of civility. In his farewell address, our first President George Washington instructed Americans to "cultivate peace and harmony with all." I think that is good advice for us to heed each and every day.

As our picnics, parades, and fireworks begin, I wish you a happy and safe Independence Day.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, may God bless our Armed Forces, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.