



News Worth Sharing: Fireworks safety & The Great American Freedom Ring

An important reminder from the Fire Marshall's office:

We hope everyone enjoying a great holiday weekend. **Please remember that sparklers and fountains are the only permissible fireworks allowed for use under Connecticut law.** Even sparklers and fountains can cause serious bodily injury and should always be used under adult supervision. Please watch the public service video from the State Fire Marshal's office for important additional information.

Have a safe 4th of July.
Stan McMillan, Fire Marshal &
Timothy Limbos, Deputy Fire Marshal

**This 4th of July, leave the Fireworks
to the experts**



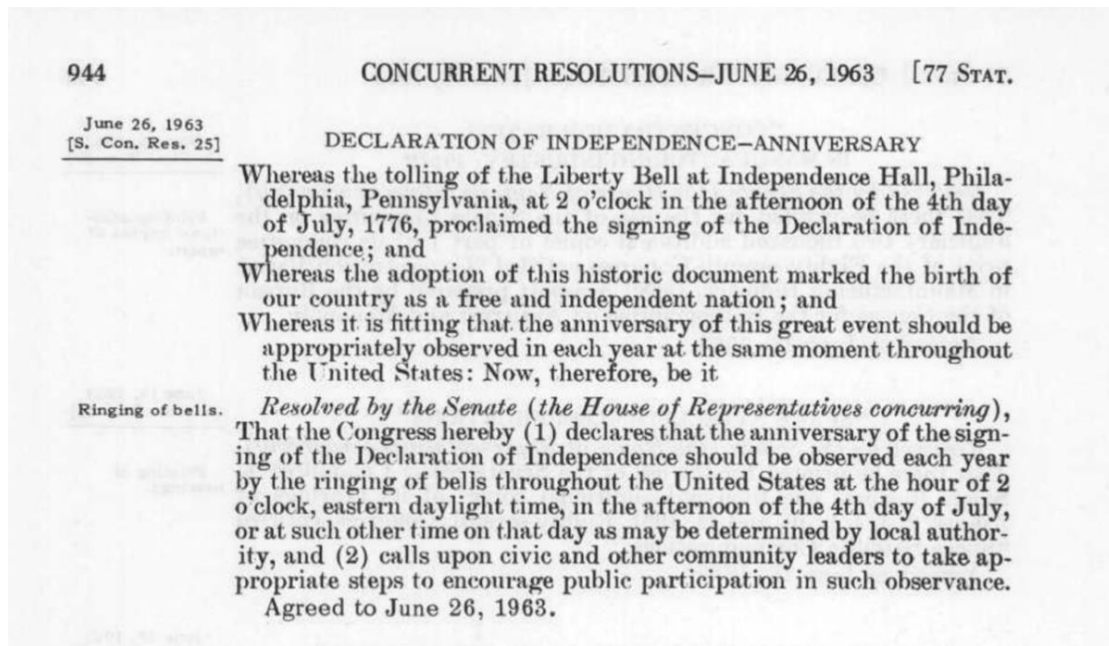
Great American Freedom Ring

Yesterday, I had the great honor of attending a bell-ringing ceremony at the Eric Sloane Museum to celebrate 50 years of the museum. During his welcome, museum Curator Andrew Rowand shared a story of the tradition at the museum of ringing the bell (which sits atop the museum) every 4th of July.

In 1963, Kent icon Eric Sloane, along with friend and Litchfield resident Eric Hatch, proposed the revival of bell-ringing to celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. On February 28th, 1963, Senator Abraham Ribicoff presented a concurrent resolution to the Senate. According to the [Congressional Record \(pages 3139-3140\)](#), Addressing his colleagues, Senator Ribicoff detailed the concept, saying:

"The bells...Sloane and Hatch now propose reviving as a uniting feature of the whole day - much like the national observance of two minutes of silence at 11am on Veteran's Day."

While later research found the Liberty Bell was under repair on July 4th, and Philadelphia officially celebrated the signing a few days later on July 8th, the spirit (and the congressional resolution, below) remain unchanged - that we should take time tomorrow to celebrate the legacy of this important moment in our history.



Let's All Let Freedom Ring!!!

At precisely 2:00p tomorrow, July 4th, go outside and ring some bells for three minutes - one minute for the 50 states, one minute for the original 13 colonies, and one minute for U.S. territories, Americans living overseas and those serving in the military and foreign service.

For me, it will be the sleigh bells that hang from our kitchen door, but any bells will do - hand bells, dinner bells, gongs, cow bells, chimes. If you don't have a bell, some pots and pans will do!! No bell? [Play this audio file](#) on your mobile device. Toll them for three minutes, and listen to hear your neighbors, churches and schools. If social media is your thing, post your bell-ringing pictures/videos using these hashtags:

#letfreedomringkent | #greatamericanfreedomring2022

At the end of the three minutes, read the Declaration of Independence (find the transcript on the National Archives by clicking this [link](#)). If you're enjoying the holiday with friends and family, read it as a group!

I'm hoping to hear us all unite to celebrate the moment the United States of America was established as a free, democratic and independent nation.

Jean

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