



AMERICAN LEGION
FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
Wayne M. Kidwell Post #184



Vol XVII No. 2 **THE LEGION LETTER** Apr-May-Jun 2006

The Wings of Freedom



Congratulations are in order

For several years now, two of our members have been “officially” active in area politics as elected members of the Herndon Town Council. Their presence on the council has been of great benefit to the Town of Herndon, to Post 184 and to The American Legion itself. I am speaking of legionnaires Dennis Husch and Harlon Reece. In the Town of Herndon election on May 2nd these two fine gentlemen once again won council seats. They will be joined by two more Post 184 members who were successful in their campaign for town council --- first time councilman Dave Kirby, Post 184 Commander, and returning to council after a short absence is legionnaire Bill Tirrell, Sr. With this election, Post 184 members now fill four of the six town council positions. As an added bonus, these four legionnaires represent the four major military services --- how about that! Councilman Husch (USA), Councilman Reece (USMC), Councilman Kirby (USAF) and Councilman Tirrell (USN).

For God and Country

American Legion
Post 184
Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172

OFFICERS

Commander	Dave Kirby
1 st Vice Commander	Bob Thompson
2 nd Vice Commander	-- vacant --
Adjutant	John Rogosky
Judge Advocate	Bob Mullenger
Finance	Dan Gillespie
Chaplain	Dmytro Andriuk
Service Officer	Dmytro Andriuk
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Sanders
Historian	Bob Thompson
National Security	Herb Nunnenkamp
Americanism	Herb Nunnenkamp
Public Relations	-- vacant --

Commander's Phone	(703) 481-6189
Adjutant's Phone	(703) 481-5047

THE LEGION LETTER

Editor: Bob Thompson (703) 435-8377
Email: kd4fue@bellatlantic.net

MEMBERSHIP

As of May 1, 2006, Post 184 has 240 members who have renewed their membership in The American Legion. There are still 16 members yet to renew for 2006 that have an average of 9+ years as a legionnaire. Members not renewing by May 31, 2006 will be dropped from the rolls and lose their continuous years of membership if and when they rejoin. RE-UP NOW! If there are financial problems, PLEASE contact the Post and we'll work things out.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

William Badberg	Giancarlo Brizzi
Stephen M. Cella	Andy Marmorstein
Mary Meyers	Matthew Miller
Harry Osborne	Robert Rundine
Robert Shawn	Phillip Smoot
Matthew Ward	Harvey S. Warshaw

NOTE: If your birth date is listed incorrectly, or, not listed at all, please Email the correct date to the post at WMKAL184@yahoo.com, or, send it by mail to American Legion Post 184, P.O. Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172. →

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEGIONNAIRES

April

4th Leslie K. Gallipo
8th Michael M. Jacobs
9th Jerome A. Geary, John S. Ward
10th James S. Loftus, Jr.
13th Stanley A. Kachel, Robert W. Mullenger,
Geoffrey Schelhorn
15th Jerry L. Mullins
16th Thomas E. Kellner
18th Ryan Washington
19th Harold G. Oakes
20th Alice Deeley, Frank K. Elkins,
William L. Sickenberger
21st Barbara J. Metz
26th Deborah L. Parmenter
30th John C. Herge

May

1st Martin L. Kennebeck
2nd Kevin C. Chiaravalle, John R. Kirk, Sr.
4th David A. Kirby, Kenneth L. Wuelzer
6th Robert A. Shawn
10th Matthew Miller
11th Norman D. Eiben, Frederic A. Lombardo
12th Adrian Pelzner
14th William B. Tirrell, Sr.
15th Robert J. May
16th Stuart A. Crown
18th Ted T. Crites
20th Joseph R. Hyer, Philip G. Urban
22nd Norman D. Messman
24th Greg Wymard
26th Edward Reiff
27th John A Hvozdovic
29th Edmund R. Neach
30th James H. Godsey, Jr.
31st Daniel D. Gillespie, Terrell F. Waters

June

6th Robert J. Riendeau
8th Richard L. Deason
10th Ronald A. Butler
17th Theodore Lecour
18th Melville J. Appell
19th Anthony C. Gaudio, Patricia A. Janes
20th Glenn A. Stroup
21st Rex R. Roller
23rd Roger S. Busch
24th Robert D. Debner, Adolph M. Essigmann
28th Charles D. McGuire
29th John W. Walsh
31st Ronald Sanders, Jr.

****COMMANDER'S CORNER****



It's that time of the year once again. Spring has sprung and Memorial Day weekend is just around the corner and your Post needs volunteers. Memorial Day weekend (May 27 - 29) is the

biggest fund raising event of the year for Post 184 and it's what the American Legion is all about - raising money for our hospitalized Veterans. For over 70 years the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary have sponsored Poppy fundraising events to remind America that millions have sacrificed their lives and health to keep our nation strong and free. Last year we raised over \$10,000 by passing out the very familiar red Poppy at various locations throughout Herndon/Reston over the Memorial Day Weekend. With the Metro area Veteran Hospitals full to their capacity due to the ongoing War On Terror, it becomes even more important to raise money for those Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Marines who have been wounded in action, disabled, lost limbs, or have had their health seriously impaired. Let's break the \$10,000 mark this year and show all those Hospitalized Veterans that we care and that what they have done for our country is greatly appreciated.

Following the Memorial Day Weekend is the Herndon Festival, Thursday through Sunday, 1 through 4 June. If you have never made a Snow Cone before, now is your chance. Join your Legionnaire Comrades, family members, and Scouts and sign up to be a Festival Marshal and/or Snow Cone sales in our Post's Snow Cone trailer. Don't wait for the call from Post Sergeant at Arms Ron Sanders; call him NOW at 703-742-9668 and VOLUNTEER TODAY!

For God and Country

David Kirby

Post 184 Commander

Post 184
Electronic Mailbox
[**WMKAL184@yahoo.com**](mailto:WMKAL184@yahoo.com)
Post 184 - Web Site
[**http://www.wmkal184.org**](http://www.wmkal184.org)

****ADJUTANT'S CORNER****

MEMORIAL DAY weekend is rapidly approaching and Post 184 has a lot of activities planned for this weekend. We need volunteers to make these events happen. Remember, we are honoring our fallen comrades in arms on Memorial Day and what better way do we have to show our respect than to volunteer our services to help with Post 184 events.

Friday, May 26th, 7:30 AM

-- Place flags on individual graves at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

-- Erect the flagpoles for the Avenue of Flags at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

Saturday, May 27th, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

-- Poppy campaign at five local stores; three shifts - 9:00 AM to Noon, Noon to 3:00 PM and 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Sunday, May 28th, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

-- Poppy campaign at four local stores; three shifts - 9:00 AM to Noon, Noon to 3:00 PM and 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

Monday, May 29th - MEMORIAL DAY

-- 7:30 AM: raise the Avenue of Flags at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

-- 9:00 AM: Assemble at Cemetery.

-- 9:30 AM: Memorial Day Ceremony.

-- 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM: Poppy campaign at four local stores.

-- 7:45 PM: lower the Avenue of Flags and restore flags and poles.

Tuesday, May 30th, 7:30 AM

-- Remove individual grave flags at Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

HERNDON FESTIVAL

We will once again be selling Sno-Cones and performing Marshal duty at the Herndon Festival from June 1st through June 4th.

CONTACT Post 184 Sergeant At Arms, **RON SANDERS (703-742-9668)** to volunteer for the Poppy Campaign and the Herndon Festival events to get the dates and times you want. Don't wait for Ron to call you --- volunteer now!!

For God and Country

John Rogosky

Post 184 Adjutant

*** ELECTION OF OFFICERS ***

Please review the "proposed" slate of officers for 2006-2007 listed on this page and be prepared to vote on them at the **May 17th** meeting. Installation of newly elected officers will take place at the **June 21st** meeting. Please make every effort to attend these two very important meetings for Post 184.

Proposed Slate of Officers 2006 – 2007

Commander	Dave Kirby
1 st Vice Commander	Bob Thompson
2 nd Vice Commander	-- write in --
Adjutant	-- write in --
Judge Advocate	Bob Mullenger
Finance	Dan Gillespie
Chaplain	Dmytro Andriuk
Service Officer	-- write in --
Sergeant at Arms	Ron Sanders
Historian	Bob Thompson
National Security	Herb Nunnenkamp
Americanism	Herb Nunnenkamp
Public Relations	-- write in --

Voting: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 @ 7:30 PM

Installation: Wednesday, June 21, 2006 @ 7:30 PM

(Family members are cordially invited for the installation of Officers on June 21, 2006)

BOYS STATE/GIRLS STATE

Post 184 continues its support of these vital educational programs to help our youth better understand the processes involved in the day-to-day operation of our state government.

BOYS STATE

Post 184 is sponsoring two area high school students for the Virginia Boys State convention at Liberty University this summer.

Kevin J. Mooney - Herndon High School

Loghman Fattahi - South Lakes High School

GIRLS STATE

Two area high school students are sponsored by Post 184 Auxiliary for the Virginia Girls

State convention at Longwood University this summer.

Anne M. Harris - Herndon High School

Kaitlyn Williams - South Lakes High School

KOREAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

The Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM) was authorized by the U.S. Congress and is available to eligible veterans or their surviving Next of Kin at no cost to the veteran. Next of Kin to eligible deceased veterans apply for the medal by submitting your request online at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>. The Department of the Army maintains jurisdiction for issuing the actual award. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) verifies entitlement to the award and the award will be shipped directly to you via Regular Mail with the U.S. Postal Service from the U.S. Army Tank Automotive and Armament Command, Philadelphia, PA.

To be issued the medal, the suspected recipient must have served in the Republic of Korea AFTER "JULY 28, 1954."

To apply, veterans might have to provide a copy of their discharge paper (DD Form 214); submit a formal written request, with the proper documentation, to: National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5000. The formal request must contain: Full Name, Social Security Number and Service Number if applicable, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, Branch of Service, Dates of Service (Date Entered and Date Released), Officer or Enlisted, Complete Mailing Address, Signature, Date of Request, Daytime Phone Number and Email Address.

For additional information on how to apply for, or request the medal, contact the National Personnel Records Center, Monday - Friday, 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM (CST) at 1-866-272-6272 (then Press 4 for St. Louis). You can write to: National Personnel Records Center (NRPMA-M), 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100, or at <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>, or FAX to (314) 801.9195.

This item has been retyped verbatim from a letter received from Post 184 member Gerald J. Maier.



**The American Legion
Wayne M. Kidwell
Post 184**

**Memorial Day
Observance**

**Monday, May 29, 2006
9:30 AM
Chestnut Grove Cemetery
Herndon, Virginia**



**Herndon Memorial
Town Green
Herndon, Virginia**



**Avenue of Flags
Chestnut Grove Cemetery**

**This Memorial Day Observance is
dedicated to the Memory of
Rex Douglas Swisher II
Post 184, 1st Vice Commander
June 19, 1947 – November 12, 2005**

Program

Assembly of Legionnaires

*Posting of Colors
Herndon Junior NROTC*

*Invocation
Post Chaplain*

*Opening Remarks
Commander, Post 184*

*Guest Speaker
The Honorable Frank Wolf
United States Representative
10th District of Virginia*

*Laying of the Memorial Wreaths
(Congressman Wolf and Post Commander)*

Sounding of Taps

*Benediction
Post Chaplain*

Retiring of Colors

POST 184 - HAPPENINGS



American Legion Post 184 HONOR ROLL Years of Service

Mr. William A. Greb (center) with his certificate documenting 53 years of continuous membership in The American Legion. Presenting the award to Mr. Greb at his home are Post 184 Commander Dave Kirby (left) and Post 184 Adjutant John Rogosky (right).

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OK fellow legionnaires, here is your role model for continuous membership in The American Legion! If you haven't renewed your membership for 2006 yet, think about Bill Greb and RENEW NOW!

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MARCH 24, 2006
Town of Herndon
Public Works Center

For the past several years, Post 184 has provided a collection point at the Town of Herndon Recycling Center for the community to deposit old and worn American flags so that they may be disposed of properly.

Post 184 has been disposing of these flags by burning in accordance with guidelines from The American Legion.

This photo was taken at the flag disposal ceremony on March 24th with Post 184 Adjutant John Rogosky lowering a flag into the fire while other Post 184 members wait their turn.



The American Legion – National News

Guest Editorial – “War and Order” - Thomas L. Bock – March 30, 2006

“War is war, and it has never been the case that when you captured a combatant you have to give them a jury trial in your civil courts,” Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said during a recent lecture in Switzerland.

Scalia is only stating the obvious. That the Supreme Court today is even considering granting enemy combatants access to our criminal justice system is ludicrous. It is an insult to every American that has donned a military uniform.

As leader of the world’s largest wartime veteran’s organization, I hope that Scalia’s fellow justices follow his lead on this issue. Never in our history did we open our courts to prisoners of war. Even notorious war criminals like Hermann Goering, Hideki Tojo, Slobodon Milosovic and Saddam Hussein did not have access to our courts.

That is not to say that prisoners do not have rights. I have been to Guantanamo Bay. The detainees there are sworn-enemies of the United States. I have met the hard-working military attorneys that are ensuring fair reviews of the enemy-combatant status of the detainees. Yet some contend that foreign terrorists who have never set foot on U.S. soil are being deprived of their U.S. constitutional rights. What are these people thinking?

Simply put, enemy combatants do not have U.S. constitutional rights. If they did, can you imagine the repercussions? Every American soldier would need a lawyer next to him on the battlefield. Marines could be sued for “pain and suffering” inflicted on the enemy. Special forces would have to read captured enemies their “Miranda” rights.” War as we know it would resemble a Law and Order episode.

Public division about the Iraq war should not spill over into the debate about Guantanamo, where most of the detainees were captured fighting for the Taliban or al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. Not a single detainee in Guantanamo is being held in relation to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

We are very much at war. The people at Guantanamo and in other prisoner of war camps want to kill us. Yet professional litigators, who do not have access to classified information, are insisting that if these prisoners are not tried in open courts they should be released. They just don’t get it. Prior to 9/11, the United States treated terrorism as a traditional law enforcement problem. It didn’t work.

Former Justice Department official Mark Levin said it best. “It is difficult to win a war when the enemy is armed not only with rifles and rocket propelled grenades, but also with subpoenas, affidavits, and lawyers. And it’s difficult to maintain a republic when the judiciary abuses its constitutional authority.”

Justice Scalia has every right to be concerned. His son Matthew served with the U.S. Army in Iraq. Referring to detained enemy combatants, Justice Scalia said, “If he was captured by my army on a battlefield, that is where he belongs. I had a son on that battlefield and they were shooting at my son and I’m not about to give this man who was captured in a war a full jury trial. I mean it’s crazy.”

It is crazy, Justice Scalia. The American Legion believes it is time to stop the madness and get on with the business of protecting America. *Thomas L. Bock is national commander, The American Legion.*

Released from the Public Relations Office, The American Legion, Indianapolis, IN – March 30, 2006

Legion Launches National Awareness Campaign to Stop Abuse of the Taxpayer

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Feb. 28, 2006) – Meeting on Capitol Hill for its annual Washington Conference, the nation’s largest veterans organization today launched a national effort to close a legal loophole that gouges taxpayers when lawsuits against religious icons, veterans memorials, and the Boy Scouts are successful.

“Title 42 U.S. Code, Section 1988 was intended to help the poor obtain legal counsel in claims of real, tangible violations of civil rights,” said Tom Bock, national commander of The American Legion. “To leverage defendants into submission and enrich themselves at the same time, organizations like the ACLU have exploited it.”

A bill pending in the U.S. Congress, the Public Expression of Religion Act (H.R. 2679), would take away the authority of judges to award attorney fees in Establishment Clause cases involving religious heritage, such as veteran’s memorials.

The American Legion became involved at its 2004 National Convention by passing Resolution 326, Preserve Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial, after a federal judge in Riverside, Calif., ordered a solitary Latin cross located in the Mojave Desert – a World War I veterans memorial – to be destroyed. The court then awarded the ACLU \$63,000 of taxpayer money in attorney fees.

“The Mojave Desert World War I Veterans Memorial case is a very dangerous precedent,” Bock said. “There are 9,000 crosses and Stars of David at Normandy. There are 22 national cemeteries with veterans at rest beneath religious symbols. There is nothing in the law to prevent groups like the ACLU from filing Establishment Clause lawsuits against those sacred grounds and then receiving taxpayer-paid attorney fees.

The American Legion – National News (continued)

Bock is charging the nearly 15,000 American Legion posts across the nation to “educate and activate” their communities on this issue. Their mission is to create a ground swell of public demand on lawmakers to pass PERA in the 109th Congress. He has mailed to every post in the Legion a booklet, *In the Footsteps of the Founders*, which provides a complete step-by-step plan to conduct “educate and activate” campaigns in every town and neighborhood across the country.

Bock believes that stopping the flow of millions of dollars of taxpayer money to the ACLU and other organizations should remove or seriously decrease the incentive for them to pursue self-enriching suits against American values.

“Most people don’t know the ACLU receives taxpayer dollars when they challenge our values and heritage,” Bock said. “The American Legion aims to make sure Americans not only learn about it, but also learn how they can take action to stop it once and for all.”

(American Legion Press Release, Media Relations Office, Washington, D.C.)

Vision plan now comes with greater options

The American Legion family’s vision-care provider, Cole Managed Vision, has integrated with EyeMed Vision Care to provide members with an even stronger vision-care program. EyeMed Vision Care provides American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members with more provider options than ever, including access to LensCrafters and new independent providers, with continued great savings on eye care and eye wear. With EyeMed, members can choose from thousands of independent providers and optical retailers, including LensCrafters, Target Optical, and most Sears Optical and Pearle Vision locations.

Savings of up to 40 percent are available at any participating provider location. Members can select from any available frame or choose contact lenses. Both frames and contact lenses can be chosen together with unlimited frequency.

No enrollment is required, and members can access their savings at any time and as often as they want. To take advantage of the savings:

1. Locate a provider by calling **(800) 793-8626** or visit www.eyemedvisioncare.com.
2. Schedule an appointment or walk-in to one of the many providers that accept walk-in appointments.
3. Show your American Legion membership card at the time of service.

(The American Legion DISPATCH, Vol. 15, No. 6, February 23, 2006, page 3)

The American Legion – State and Local News

Birthright of Freedom

Close your eyes and picture in your mind the soldier at Valley Forge, as he holds his musket in his bloody hands. He stands barefoot in the snow, starved from lack of food, wounded from months of battle and emotionally scarred from the eternity away from his family surrounded by nothing but death and carnage of war. He stands though, with fire in his eyes and victory on his breath. He looks at us now in anger and disgust and tells us this: “I gave you a birthright of freedom born in the Constitution and now your children graduate too illiterate to read it.” “I fought in the snow barefoot to give you the freedom to vote and you stay at home because it rains!” “I left my family destitute to give you the freedom of speech and you remain silent on critical issues, because it might be bad for business.” “I orphaned my children to give you a government to serve you and it has stolen democracy from the people.” “It’s the soldier, not the reporter who gives you the freedom of the press.” “It’s the soldier, not the poet who gives you the freedom of speech.” “It’s the soldier, not the campus organizer who allows you to demonstrate.” “It’s the soldier, who salutes the flag, serves the flag.”

(VALPA VIEW, Virginia American Legion Press Association, Spring 2006, page 1)

VA Cemeteries

In 2007, “Taps” will sound for more than 107,000 veterans or approximately 300 a day, a sharp increase from just two years ago. In response to this growing need, three new VA cemeteries will soon be added to the 122 existing cemeteries, and six more are in the planning stages. Burial benefits for veterans include a grave site in any of our 122 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the veteran’s headstone, at no cost to the family.

(The Post Times, Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, Vienna, VA, May 2006, page 2)

[The American Legion – State and Local News \(continued\)](#)

[The History of Memorial Day](#)

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed by General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic on May 5, 1868, and was first observed on May 30, 1868. At the end of the Civil War, organized women's groups throughout the South were decorating graves. New York was the first state to recognize the holiday in 1873 and by 1890 all the northern states were celebrating it. The South refused to acknowledge the holiday until the end of WWII when the holiday celebration changed from those who died in the Civil War to honoring any American who died in any war.

It was Moina Michael's idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died while serving our nation. She was the first to wear one and sold them to her co-workers. The moneys were donated to benefit the servicemen.

Madam Guerin from France visited the United States and liked the poppy idea so much that she shared it with France and the tradition spread to other countries. Contributions were given to war orphaned children and widows. The Franco/American Children's League sold poppies in 1921 to benefit war orphans of Belgium and France. Madam Guerin asked the VFW for help when the League disbanded. The VFW became the first veteran's organization to sell poppies. In 1923 the "Buddy" poppies program sold poppies made by disabled veterans. Ms. Michael was recognized for her role in founding the national Poppy Movement by issuing a 3-cent postage stamp with her picture on it.

The VFW registered "Buddy Poppy" with the U.S. patent office and on May 20, 1924, a certificate was issued to the VFW granting all trademark rights in the name of Buddy under the classification of artificial flowers.

Americans are reminded to voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect by pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listen to taps at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 29, 2006, as outlined in the "National Moment of Remembrance" passed in December of 2000. *Gretchen Trujillo, Post Historian*

(Bicentennial Post 1976, Volume XXXII Issue, May 2006, page 3)

[America Supports You Links Troops](#)

Do you know of a service member or military family that needs help? If so, support might be just a few clicks away at, www.americasupportsyou.com/americasupportsyou/index.aspx the **America Supports You** website. The site has a long list of resources and partners all standing by and ready to help. Resources available include donated frequent flyer miles, home renovations for disabled veterans, free phone cards, and care packages. This program includes not only traditional and government programs, but also corporate, grassroots and individual efforts that help meet needs of deployed service members and their families that Department of Defense simply can't. Users are one click away from lists by State and type of service.

(The Post Times, Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, Vienna, VA, April 2006, page5)

*** ADVERTISEMENTS ***

This Quarterly Newsletter reaches over 250 veterans and their families, send your ad and payment to American Legion Post 184, PO Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172.

1.

BUSINESS CARD SIZE
Your ad here for \$5.00 an issue

2. QUARTER PAGE SIZE: Your ad here for \$15.00 an issue.

3. HALF PAGE SIZE: Your ad here for \$40.00 an issue

American Legion
Post 184
Box 5118, Herndon, VA 20172



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NEXT 3 MEETINGS

Mark Your Calendar
3rd **WEDNESDAY**, 7:30 – 8:30 PM

May 17th
June 21st
July 19th

Meetings held on the 1st Floor of the
Herndon Moose Lodge
714 Center Street
Herndon, VA



SHOW YOUR COLORS

Display your Flag !!

Armed Forces Day

May 20th

Memorial Day

May 29th (observed)

Flag Day

June 14th

Independence Day

July 4th