

John Adams said, on July 2nd, 1776 (two days before the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence)

"Yet through all the gloom I can see the
the rays of ravishing light and glory.
I can see that the end is worth all the
means. This is our day of deliverance.
With solemn acts of devotion to God we
ought to commemorate it. With pomp and
parade, with shows, games, sports, guns,
bells, bonfires and illuminations from
one end of the continent to the other
from this time forward forevermore."