

# THE ORANGE COUNTY BETA REGISTER

## Happy Independence Day

[The Orange County Register](#)

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For an editorial staff dedicated to defending individual liberty, July 4th is a signal commemoration. This Commentary section represents the thoughtful contributions of every member of the Register's editorial team.

Our happy warriors for human liberty, Mark Landsbaum, Brian Calle and John Seiler, wrote the three essays on the cover that probe "Entitlements or Independence?" and "Why the Declaration Still Matters" and "What would the Founders Think Today?"

Deputy Editor Mike Tipping selected three essays that appear on Page Six, which focus on liberty in peril, by local contributors Stan Cohen, Richard Ralston and John Coupal. Mike chose for Page Two an essay by Cypress resident and Revolutionary War authority Dana Parker that explains the insurrection leading up to the signing of the Declaration.

**Web Editor Will Alexander suggested the 1838 address by Abraham Lincoln, which so eloquently warns that America's biggest threat to liberty may well lie within ourselves. We excerpted the Lincoln address on Page Four; the full version appears online at [ocregister.com/opinion](http://ocregister.com/opinion). Also on Page Four is a history of the Declaration by George J. Bryjak, Ph.D., who earned his B.A. from Cal State Fullerton in 1971 and is a former UC San Diego sociology professor. A longer version is also online at [ocregister.com/opinion](http://ocregister.com/opinion).**

**Letters Editor Betty Talbert last week asked our readers their assessment of freedom in America today. We received more than 25 letters and printed as many as space allowed in this section. Many more appear online at [ocregister.com/opinion](http://ocregister.com/opinion).**

**Editorial Director Cathy Taylor chose the cover art, "The Nation Makers," by famed 19th-century illustrator Howard Pyle, because it is gritty, emotive and heroic. "The Nation Makers" resides in the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, Pa., site of the Sept. 11, 1777, Battle of the Brandywine. (The poster is available for \$7.50 at [Brandywinemuseumshop.org](http://Brandywinemuseumshop.org)).**

**On our national liberty website, [Freedompolitics.com](http://Freedompolitics.com), we feature an essay by Roger Pilon of the Cato Institute.**

**So, we hope you learn a little from your neighbors who've written to us, from our contributors and Mr. Lincoln. We hope you think a bit about the freedoms we have today and how they came to be. And mostly, we hope you enjoy the holiday with family and friends and raise a glass to defending liberty, sweet liberty, for all.**

***"Freedom is the only thing you can't have unless you give it to others."* – William Allen White**

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