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NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 6, 2017

**THE CITY OF FLORISSANT HOSTS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL 4th of JULY
CELEBRATION AT THE JAMES J. EAGAN CENTER**



Mayor Thomas P. Schneider is pleased to announce that the City of Florissant hosted another successful July 4th concert and fireworks display that was enjoyed by everyone who attended or could see from distant vantage points. Mayor Schneider would like to thank **Gateway Fireworks Display** for working to take every precaution for a safe pyrotechnic show. Gateway has been in existence since 2004 and is the fastest growing fireworks exhibitor in the Midwest.

The 4th of July celebration was kicked off by the **Northwinds Concert Band**. The band played and honored all military branches.

Enjoy our popular Saturday night concert series at St. Ferdinand Park Lake which returns Saturday, July 15th featuring the Rockin' Chair Band, followed on July 22 by the SSJ Rock and Roll Show and on July 29 you don't want to miss Butch Wax and the Hollywood's featuring Theo Peoples of the Four Tops. Smash himself will be here with the Smash Band to kick off the August slate on the 5th followed by Billy Peak Aug 12, Kitty Moeler and Fanfare Aug 19 before the Boeing Concert Band closes the summer Saturday series August 26th. For more information concerning more upcoming summer concert series and other events, please visit our website at www.florissantmo.com.

Below is Mayor Schneider's 4th of July remarks that he delivered during the Northwinds Band intermission:

In Congress, July 4, 1776, A DECLARATION, By the Representatives of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The second paragraph in the Declaration of Independence is a lightning bolt that has thundered for 241 years as an epiphany of wisdom with a challenge to pursue an elusive ideal.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

From there the document contains a long list of grievances with King George and Parliament before ending with a noble and defiant pledge.

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

56 men signed the Declaration of Independence including John Hancock, Sam Adams, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. Many signers lost their fortunes, families and lives but few lost their honor and sacred place in our history and that of the world.

I agree with Washington Post writer Michael Gerson’s editorial in the Post-Dispatch on July 4. In times of institutional conflict and uncertainty Americans turn to the Constitution. But in times of anger, division and National self-doubt, the greatest American leaders directed our attention to the very Declaration of Independence that we celebrate tonight with music and fireworks.

Abraham Lincoln noted that the Declaration could have been declared to separate from Britain without the above sacred paragraph but by including the high moral proclamation the founders set out a timeless truth for future generations to perfect, a standard maxim for free societies to revere and pursue.

Lincoln warned that if liberty is denied to anyone that it could eventually be denied to you and me and exposes us to being crushed beneath the tread of a tyrant. He accused officials who dismiss the declaration of blowing out our guiding light.

Abe Lincoln, our beloved man on the five dollar bill, saw the Declaration as a moral ideal giving liberty to the people of this country and lasting hope to the people of the world.

Fourth of July Remarks by Mayor Thomas P. Schneider, July 4, 2017