

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence released the following statement on the occasion of the Fourth of July, Independence Day. Congressman Pence will be participating in a concert at Garfield Park in Indianapolis on July 3 and a parade in Chesterfield on July 4:

**"This weekend, as we enjoy the great traditions of the 4th of July, let us also take time as individuals, as families and as a nation, to commemorate and celebrate our Independence.**

**"On Independence Day, we celebrate that day over two centuries ago, when America stepped out from the shadow of tyranny, and founded a government 'of the people, by the people and for the people.' The courage of our founders, who took this stand in the face of the most powerful empire in the world, is the cause of our celebration and it should be at the heart of every picnic, parade and fireworks display. They pledged 'their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor' to stand up to oppression and declare that all men are created equal and that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.**

**"And to our inestimable benefit, and the benefit of the world, freedom won.**

**"In communities throughout this nation, there will be celebrations, fireworks, barbeques and parades. I look forward to joining family and friends at parades and picnics across Central Indiana. And so it should be. As President John Adams wrote of the first Independence Day, 'It ought to be commemorated as a day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bell, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other...'**

**"On this Independence Day, let us take to heart the decree of our second president. Let us commemorate this day with thanksgiving to God for the blessings of liberty and let us celebrate the great gift of freedom with pomp and parade and the joy that befits a free people.**

**"From the Pence family to your family: 'Happy Independence Day, and let freedom ring.'"**