



# Board of Directors President SAN DIEGO COUNTRY ESTATES ASSOCIATION

## Jeffrey Wells

Greetings.

I am surprised to note that we're already approaching the end of July. Before this month fades into memory, I wanted to expand slightly on comments you may have heard me make if you attended our Fourth of July Parade and Celebration at Ramona Oaks Park.

“Tradition is a set of solutions for which we have forgotten the problems.”

- Donald Kingsbury

We think of the Fourth as a simple tradition, but it's really a lesson intended to be passed on, not due to nostalgia, but due to the very real and immediate problem that the Founders were trying to solve with the Declaration - a problem that has never - and will never go away. That problem is the impulse to tyranny, over your body and your mind, in some segment of the population.

The Declaration represents a unique view of governance, one never attempted by a nation before, and one that has yet to be duplicated. Before the Declaration, all national governments were founded upon the idea that a monarch (or equivalent) grants “rights” - which are really privileges - to the population, including the lords directly under his or her rule. All attempts to “get ahead” boiled down to nothing more than patronage. Your status was based upon the whims of one person and those in that person’s favor. The amount of effort you put forth, or your talent or your expertise, were immaterial.

The Declaration states in clear English that human rights are rights from birth, that everyone is equal, and that governments are instituted and supported by the governed, and no one else. It also enumerated the right of a population to abolish and reform its own government at will.

With this document, the Founders did not merely break with King George and Britain - they broke with all of Europe, and indeed, the world. The Revolution was a much deeper act than merely the Colonies getting a divorce from their monarch. It is of surpassing significance.

It is imperative that we pass this lesson on to the next generation, and impress upon them the need to do the same. Their future depends upon it.

The Declaration is only a single page and is written in the plainest of English. I encourage you, if you have never done so, to read it.

I hope you've all had a wonderful July. See you at the next board meeting, if not before.

Sincerely,

J.