

## Chancellor Weekly Brief – 7.2.2020

### Dr. James Malm

#### INDEPENDENCE DAY.

The summer months are a favorite time of the year, where—in more normal times—we are able to gather with friends, family, and neighbors to hold wonderful cookouts, celebrations, and community parades during the weekends and special holidays that fall within these months. Independence Day is especially a crowd-pleasing holiday when we get to view fireworks, spend time together, and enjoy a special summer evening.

Although this year's Fourth of July celebrations will be remarkably different—with all of the social distancing, travel restrictions, and other stressors that we're experiencing—it remains a time to reflect on the freedom we enjoy as Americans living in one of the greatest countries on earth.

When our nation's founders set out to declare their independence 244 years ago, they did so to free themselves from serious oppressions and to also establish free and independent states that are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown. Ever since this incredible and singular heroic act in our nation's history, we have worked imperfectly over time to protect our freedom for generations to come.

Liberty and the pursuit of happiness enshrined in the Declaration of Independence are principles that are uniquely ours to treasure and value—and we should continue the good fight to ensure that they are truly enjoyed by all. We are a wonderful country even with the problems, issues, and pandemic we face within our communities today.

Throughout our history, we have survived many epochal crises, plagues, and existential threats. And, they have made us better and stronger as a country. We are a people who persevere, and we find comfort knowing that we will soon be able to see beyond the horizon to better days ahead.

I wish you a wonderful holiday weekend. Please stay safe, be well, and enjoy your Independence Day celebrations.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J. Malm'.

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor  
Professor of Business