

Ringling of Bells, Independence Day

In 1963, then U.S. Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (Connecticut) proposed a resolution calling for the ring of bells nationwide at 2 p.m. every year on July 4. Concurrent Resolution 25, Declaration of Independence - Anniversary, "Ringling of Bells" was passed on June 26, 1963. C.R. 25, Resolved that "The Declaration of Independence should be observed each year by the ringling of bells throughout the United States at the hour of 2 0'clock, eastern daylight time, in the afternoon of the 4th day of July,..." There are many communities across America that still celebrates Independence Day by incorporating the "Ringling of Bells" into their ceremonies. We aren't aware of any sponsors or resources for the celebration however, you can create your own "Ringling of Bells". We found various websites announcing community activities for the 4th of July using bells. "Ringling of Bells" can be done at any other time on the 4th (not just 2 pm EDT) as long as the community is in agreement with the local leaders. Ring away!

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS—JUNE 26, 1963 [77 STAT.]

June 26, 1963
[S. Con. Res. 25]

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE—ANNIVERSARY

Whereas the tolling of the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 4th day of July, 1776, proclaimed the signing of the Declaration of Independence; and

Whereas the adoption of this historic document marked the birth of our country as a free and independent nation; and

Whereas it is fitting that the anniversary of this great event should be appropriately observed in each year at the same moment throughout the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Ringling of bells.

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress hereby (1) declares that the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence should be observed each year by the ringling of bells throughout the United States at the hour of 2 o'clock, eastern daylight time, in the afternoon of the 4th day of July, or at such other time on that day as may be determined by local authority, and (2) calls upon civic and other community leaders to take appropriate steps to encourage public participation in such observance.

Agreed to June 26, 1963.