

I'd like to talk about American Independence Day, which is celebrated on the 4th of July every year. The reason that it's on the 4th of July is because that was the date in 1776 that the Continental Congress, the second Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. And they did that to announce and explain why they were separating from Great Britain or why they wished to separate from Great Britain.

All of this started many years before that, mostly with economic issues, the most famous of which is the Boston Tea Party, which was in December of 1773, when colonists dumped all of the tea off of the British boats into the harbor to show that they didn't want any taxation without representation. In other words, they were having to pay huge tax or stamp duty on the tea arriving, but they didn't have any representation in parliament in England. So that's one of the reasons that they decided to separate from Great Britain.

And the most famous sentence perhaps, or passage goes like this, "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." So of course when they wrote that, they didn't mean all men, they certainly didn't mean women, they meant that the colonists were just as good as the people living in Britain and.

So since then, basically, we've been still struggling nearly 250 years later to achieve any kind of equality, especially for women, especially for African Americans and many other groups. But the way that 4th July is typically recognized or was during my childhood, is mainly the backyard barbecue, very innocuous, sausages and hamburgers, and macaroni salad and fireworks, which recall the words in the national anthem, bombs bursting in air.