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## U.S. CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE

Independence Hall, in the city of Philadelphia, in the eastern State of Pennsylvania. Much of the political life of the 13 North American colonies of Great Britain centered in Philadelphia, and it was virtually the capital of the Nation during part of the Revolutionary period, when the colonists were winning their freedom. Independence Hall is the oldest of four buildings still standing on Independence Square, in the heart of the city. The main building, erected to house Pennsylvania's legislative assembly, was completed in 1734, but it was without the bell tower until 1751. Buildings at either end of the main building were finished in 1785, after the Revolutionary War had ended, and were used as a city hall and a courthouse.

It was in the east room of Independence Hall, on May 10, 1775, that the patriots met to form the Second Continental Congress. In the same room, on June 15, 1775, George Washington was chosen commander in chief of the Continental Army. It was here, on July 4, 1776, that the Declaration of Independence was adopted and signed. It was also in Independence Hall that the convention which adopted the United States Constitution met in 1787.

For more than a century, Independence Hall was used for public meetings of all kinds. Today it is a museum and national shrine. The Liberty Bell, rung in celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, is on display in the entrance hall. The Congress Room still has the desk of the officers of the Continental Congress and 14 of the original chairs of members, and across the hall is another large room where relics of the Revolutionary period are displayed. (SD-60475)

(No. 1 of 5-photo FPS Picture Story No. 134. See accompanying text.)



NORTEAMERICA CELEBRA EL ANIVERSARIO DE SU INDEPENDENCIA

EL INDEPENDENCE HALL, EN LA CIUDAD DE FILADELFA: MUSEO Y  
MONUMENTO NACIONAL Y SIMBOLO PERMANENTE DE LA INDEPENDENCIA  
AMERICANA.