

PEPPERDINE

Human Resources



Freedom For and Freedom From

Like many, the smells of backyard barbecues and the concussion of fireworks overhead consistently marked a mid-summer milestone for our family. Given that my father was born on the 4th of July, however, it took me a few years to realize that there was a much more complex meaning to this day than surprisingly a nation-wide celebration of dad's birthday!

Often, the words "independence" and "freedom" evoke a necessary looking back at things from which we long to be liberated (oppression, limitation, inequity). Yet, the motivations compelling the writing of the Declaration of Independence, I believe, reveal an even more important, forward-reaching commitment to a better way that was courageous, radical, costly, and for the sake of others.

On this Independence Day, I pray that we fully enjoy the blessings afforded by our freedoms through treasured time with our family and friends. I also pray that we will pause and ask from this place of abundant freedoms what each of us is committed to reaching for. Micah 6:8 inspires me to answer that question with a commitment to even more; acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly.

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