

INSPIRED BY INDEPENDENCE

ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, many of us share the holiday by gathering with family and friends for activities such as watching fireworks, grilling burgers and participating in community celebrations. These traditions are how we Americans celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As you enjoy the holiday, take a moment to reflect on the significance of the day. Approving the Declaration on July 4, 1776, was a bold and brave move for the members of the Continental Congress. A document declaring a people's liberties and freedoms was unheard of in its time — and signing it was considered an act of treason.

Today, this marvelous document remains a guiding light for Americans. It inspires us to continually expand on the ideals of freedom. The founding of Jackson Energy, which also occurred in July, is a perfect example of the heights that can be reached by those who are inspired by independence.

Local people denied the benefits and conveniences of electricity took the first steps toward a new kind of freedom on July 26, 1938. They banded together to make electricity accessible to rural homes, and succeeded in gaining independence from life in the dark.

Whether on the grand scale of national independence or the freedoms afforded by our local co-op, I hope you will never take for granted the sacrifices of others that make the our way of life possible. Here's wishing you and your family a safe and relaxing holiday. From Jackson Energy, happy Independence Day!



SOME OF the Jackson Energy founding fathers at the setting of the cooperative's first pole included F.H. DeJong, Alfred Oppeneer, J.M. Feltner, W.R. Reynolds, Bob Spence and Coleman Reynolds.