

**GREAT WORDS
FROM
GREAT AMERICANS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649125463

Great words from great Americans by Various

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Cover @ 2017

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VARIOUS

**GREAT WORDS
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GREAT AMERICANS**



John Waples

HUS.C
G7867

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*THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE—
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED
STATES—WASHINGTON'S INAUGURAL
AND FAREWELL ADDRESSES—LIN-
COLN'S INAUGURAL AND FARE-
WELL ADDRESSES, ETC., ETC.*

NEW YORK AND LONDON
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
The Knickerbocker Press

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THE DECLARATION OF INDE-
PENDENCE



THE DECLARATION OF INDE-
PENDENCE.*

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.
By the Representatives of the United States in
Congress assembled.

A DECLARATION.

WHEN, in the course of human events,
it becomes necessary for one people
to dissolve the political bands which have
connected them with another, and to as-
sume among the powers of the earth the
separate and equal station to which the
laws of nature and of nature's God en-
title them, a decent respect for the
opinions of mankind requires that they
should declare the causes which impel
them to the separation.

* See Appendix, page 191.

4 The Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident : —that all men are created equal ; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights ; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness ; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed ; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes ; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of

abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former system of government. The history of the present king of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.