I know that to date I have been nearly silent about the decisions made by our countries leaders. I still intend to stay that way in compliance to my personal convictions. In this month where we celebrate Independence I simply want to expound on my view on choices. As the past months have revealed we as citizens of an American Democracy have seen how the choices of some can be an impact on the freedoms of others. We have also seen how our elected leadership uses the powers we granted them, by virtue of election. All in all it’s a complicated social and even economical blend of what is right for all and how it impacts the actions for others. On those points, we individually need to make a choice and apply it to our lives. Independence day approaches and we have reviewed the meanings of INDEPENDENCE as it applies to Americans so in-depth that some people have changed their view points. I for one can never forget that as a volunteer I joined the military to protect the rights of my family, my friends and people I don’t know and will never meet. So when I review independence it comes down to one single point for me. **Right to choose. Please don’t take this comment as a political standpoint, or read into it in any way, it is a simple and honest point. American’s have the right to choose how they wish to follow, it is a personal choice. As well I’m in no way indicating that anyone should follow me in this. Simply my fraters make your choice’s as you are directed by the voice of God. I will ask one thing of you my fellows, once you make your choice honor your brother and the choices they have made.** We are a band of brothers who agree to “protect and defend the Christian religion”, no where in that is any implication that we should try to change the view points of any others. The word of God is interpreted in each heart, it is for God to sway those who have chosen a path he may not wish for them not us. Serious times in our world can and will be resolved by serious and dedicated men of GOD, who stand on the choices God directs them too and who support the choices of their fellows who do the same. I know that we will again be able to grasp the hands of our fraters and meet on the 5 points of fellowship that we share. Peace be unto you my brothers and take time to hear Gods voice while you make the choices we face in todays world.

**Butch**

Darel W. “Butch” Winslow KYGCH
Grand Commander
Knights Templar of Michigan

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In these changing times, the flow of information is more and more critical. Please the information you have for others to participate. Make sure to visit the Grand Commandery Web page often, [WWW.Kt-MI.org](http://WWW.Kt-MI.org) always remember it they don’t know they won’t go.

Independence day: On July 4, 1776, the 13 colonies claimed their independence from England, an event which eventually led to the formation of the United States. Each year on the fourth of July, also known as Independence Day, Americans celebrate this historic event.

But did everyone agree, even here in the United States?

Discussions of Jefferson's Declaration of Independence resulted in some minor changes, but the spirit of the document was unchanged. The process of revision continued through all of July 3 and into the late afternoon of July 4, when the Declaration was officially adopted. Of the 13 colonies, nine voted in favor of the Declaration, two -- Pennsylvania and South Carolina -- voted No, Delaware was undecided and New York abstained.

History has taught that we don’t have to agree to make a choice that is best for all, we just have to rely on the majority of choice and support that right.

Happy Independence Day my Brothers