

America, you've got to love it

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Our nation is 232 years old this year, and we have the freedom, among other things, to poke fun at ourselves and our country! We are living in a world today where lemonade is made from artificial flavors and furniture polish is made from real lemons. Here are some "real lemon" statements we can smile at because of the element of truth they contain!

America, you've got to love it! Only in America can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance. Only in America do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front. Only in America do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a Diet Coke. Only in America do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our junk in the garage. Only in America do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.

232 years of existence to develop such freedoms seems like a lot of time, but compared to other nations, we are just a child. And yet we stand tall among these countries because of the principles on which we were established: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." – Declaration of Independence.

Other contributions: "Do not let anyone claim tribute of American patriotism if they even attempt to remove religion from politics." - George Washington. "We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel."- Benjamin Franklin. "Sure I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be."- John Wayne. "Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." - Pope John Paul II.

I celebrate today with you the freedoms which God has blessed this great nations of ours. But with freedom comes responsibility, and with responsibility, outreach. Recall the inscription on the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming

shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me; I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

An old rabbi once asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and the day had begun. "Could it be," asked one student, "when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it's a sheep or a dog?" "No," answered the rabbi. Another asked, "Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it's a fig tree or a peach tree?" "No," answered the rabbi. "Then when is it?" the pupils demanded. "It is when you can look on the face of any person and see that it is your sister and brother, because if you cannot see this, it is still night."

Let's let freedom light our days!