

Fellow citizens:

Happy Independence Day!

(I far prefer that to “Happy Fourth of July.”) It is the bold act of declaring independence from England, and not a date on a calendar, that we honor with this holiday.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our outstanding police department.

Whenever anyone asks me what singular accomplishment over the past decade has had the most positive impact for our citizens, I always respond with training our police officers to be the city’s medical first responders. It has reduced medical response times, and it has saved lives.

That decision hit very close to home yesterday.

It was a very sobering afternoon, when 850 miles away, we received a phone call from our Westworth Village daughter-in-law, advising us that first our police officers, and then the EMTs, were at their home on a medical emergency for one of our 11-month-old grandsons. He was experiencing severe breathing difficulty, was treated at the house, and then was transported by ambulance to Cook Children’s Hospital. He was dangerously ill. It turns out he has two types of viral infections and a bacterial infection, and is now in ICU on oxygen and IVs. We hope he should be fine in a few days.

(Special shout-out and thanks to Officers Steward and Munoz.)

Yes, I am proud to have been born in the United States, and to participate in the most revolutionary and representative form of government ever created.

I am equally proud to live in Westworth Village, with our excellent police department.

With our police seemingly under siege in some areas of our country, I have attached a fine and short video from the late (and great) Paul Harvey on the thankless challenges faced by our officers. If you have a few minutes over the holiday, I urge you to give it a quick viewing.

Please join Susan and me in celebrating our country’s independence, and also in honoring our own outstanding group of police officers.

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