



## Birthday Bash

*'Tis my party, and I'll cry if I want to.*  
George Washington

**Time:** July Fourth, 2026

**Place:** A Tavern, Somewhere in Heaven

**The Scene:** The Founding Fathers meet  
to celebrate America's 250th birthday.

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**INNKEEPER:** Why, if it isn't the Father of His Country!... Welcome, Mr. President, I've reserved the usual table for you and your most distinguished companions.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON:** A round of your best ale for all my friends, kind sir! This is a very special day for our country!

**INNKEEPER:** Indeed it is. The Susquis... Semisus... Semiquincy... Semisusquincy... The 250th year since the nation's founding!

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN:** In the spirit of the day, gentlemen, may I propose we pass the time this eve with a little drinking game?

**ALL PRESENT:** Here! Here! Capital idea!

**THOMAS JEFFERSON:** And to what cause do you propose we drink, dear Ben?

**FRANKLIN:** I propose that each of us shall state what was his dearest desire for the Nation, and we all drink to its success!

**WASHINGTON:** Splendid, but I fear we'll all be drunk before the first round is done!

*< Meanwhile, Thomas Paine speaks up from a darkened corner of the room >*

**PAINE:** If you're so confident of that, gentlemen, why not reverse the outcome? ...We drink not to success, but to *failure*.

**WASHINGTON:** Splendid! I'll go first... I daresay the thing I am most remembered for is the admonition that the country avoid costly and corrupting foreign entanglements.

**JOHN ADAMS:** If I may say so, Your Highness, the President of the United States and Protector of the Rights of the Same —

**WASHINGTON:** Damn it, Your Rotundity, I thought I told you not to call me that!

**ADAMS:** Sorry. What I mean to say, Mr. President, is that clearly the nation has failed you abysmally in that regard. How many American wars have there been now?

**PAINE:** By my reckoning, 123 and counting.

**WASHINGTON:** Well, that's thanks to my unworthy successors—for example, Monroe here, with his nincompoop Doctrine.

**JAMES MONROE:** Well, actually, Little Gemmy Madison here wrote that, not me.

**JAMES MADISON:** Don't pass the buck!  
< All present bang the table and quaff ale >

**WASHINGTON:** How about you, Tom?

**JEFFERSON:** Well, I daresay my dearest desire for the nation was for the educational enrichment of the lazy, ignorant rabble.

**PAINE:** And how's that going, Tom?...Did any of you happen to see the documentary "Idiocracy" at movie night last weekend?

< All present moan and quaff more ale >

**ALEXANDER HAMILTON:** I think we all agree that a nation's economic wellbeing is its greatest strength, and the wealth of its citizenry the paramount measure of—

**PAINE:** The yawning gap between rich and poor Americans has never been greater—and it all started with you gentlemen enriching yourselves by confiscating vast tracts of land from Loyalists in our beloved Revolution.

< All present sheepishly quaff more ale >

**FRANKLIN:** 'Tis pleasant to have a well-filled head and purse, but among the virtues "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," surely the happiness of the citizenry is the most sublime measure of a nation's success!

**SAMUEL ADAMS:** Aye, you've certainly pursued it yourself, you randy old coot!

**PAINE:** The USA currently ranks 23rd in the 'Happiness Index,' just below Slovenia.

< All present (happily) quaff more ale >

**MADISON:** As the most sickly and frail among those present, I must point out that health is surely the nation's greatest wealth!

**PAINE:** I'm afraid the U.S. ranks highest of all industrial nations in healthcare costs.

< All present cough and quaff more ale >

**JOHN JAY:** Fiddlesticks!...Surely the true measure of a nation's success is its ability to provide "Liberty and Justice for all!"

**PAINE:** Are you familiar with the phrase: "If the glove doesn't fit, you must acquit?"

< All take the liberty to quaff more ale >

**FRANKLIN:** Pray tell, my good sirs: there must be *something* the nation got right.

**JEFFERSON:** Well, thanks to my conveniently ignoring the Constitution, it got a whole lot bigger... Does that count?

**FRANKLIN:** Take it from me, Tom, those Louisiana women are easy to Purchase!

**WASHINGTON:** I'm feeling a bit tipsy.

**FRANKLIN:** Like I always say, "Nothing is more like a fool than a drunken man!"

**PATRICK HENRY:** Nonsense!...Like I always say, "Give me grog or give me death!"

**HAMILTON:** I'm quite fond of that other old proverb from your Almanack, Ben: "The early bird gets the worm!"

**FRANKLIN:** Quite true. But don't forget, "The second mouse gets the cheese."

< The innkeeper suddenly appears >

**INNKEEPER:** It grieves me to interrupt you, gentlemen, but I must inform you that a group of irate malcontents is assembling outside the front door...And I feel I must warn you, they appear to be well armed!

**WASHINGTON:** Bloody party crashers!... If I may ask, do you recognize any of them?

**INNKEEPER:** Indeed I do: Chief Joseph, Sitting Bull, Red Cloud, Germonimo...

**WASHINGTON:** Good lord!...The horror and calamity!...Kind sir, please direct us to the back door of this tavern at ONCE! ■