



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Mike DeWine, Governor

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

## **A Message from the Adjutant General on the Fourth of July**

This Sunday, our Nation will celebrate its 245th birthday. The actions of the patriots from 13 colonies on July 4, 1776, to boldly declare independence set the path that eventually would lead to the formation of the United States of America.

One of the brave figures from the American Revolution was a woman whose nickname was "Molly Pitcher." Her real name was Mary Ludwig Hays, and she followed her husband William Hays to the battlefield, where she carried water to Soldiers in her husband's artillery battery during the Battle of Monmouth in New Jersey on June 28, 1778.

Legend has it Molly took over for her husband during the battle in the gun crew when he either collapsed or was wounded. Afterward, George Washington rewarded her heroics and promoted her to a noncommissioned officer. She, like countless others since the time of the American Revolution who've supported their loved one serving in the military, represents the strength of Family as well as the importance of the Citizen-Soldier.

We enjoy so many freedoms in this country because of patriots like Molly. As we celebrate independence this weekend with cookouts, fireworks, and parades — let's remember the sacrifices that were made more than two centuries ago so we could be free.

God bless you, your Family, and America!

John C. Harris Jr.  
Major General  
The Adjutant General