

Holidays, History, and Political Comments:

Facts, Poems, Pictures, etc. about
Presidents, July 4, and Juneteenth

Plus family Civil War history, by Paul VanRaden

Motivation and History

- **June 19, 2024:** I had to give a [scientific talk](#) on our Juneteenth federal holiday, so I educated the international audience on what it celebrates and why it is my favorite holiday.
- **July 4, 2024:** The Supreme Court had ruled on July 1 that a President can commit any crime with no punishment, so I spent the July 4 holiday documenting their terrible decision and 1 year later spent July 4, 2025 documenting another terrible decision.
- **February 17, 2025:** On Presidents' Day, I summarized crimes that our President and his closest associates had already committed and finished a poem about the terrible Supreme Court case.

Presidents Day 2025: Crimes of Donald J. Trump

Trump Cases	Explanation	Outcome
Trump campaign finance fraud	Stormy Daniels hush money	Convicted on 34 felonies
Trump sexual assault	Assault on E. Jean Carroll	\$90 million fine
Trump University scam	Defrauded students	Closed with \$25 million fine
Trump Foundation fraud	Not a real charity	Dissolved after \$2 million fine
Trump Organization fraud	Falsified asset values	\$175 million fine
Trump election crimes	Jan 6 case, U.S. Justice Dept	Delayed by Supreme Court
Trump classified papers	Govt theft, U.S. Justice Dept	Dismissed by Trump judge
Trump impeachment 1	Abuse of power and obstruction	Senate voted to acquit 48 to 52
Trump impeachment 2	Incitement of insurrection	Senate voted guilty 57 to 43
Trump Colorado ballot access	14 th amendment on insurrection	Overtaken by Supreme Court
Trump emoluments case	DC and MD suit, foreign income	Dismissed by Supreme Court
Trump bogus lawsuit 1	To Hillary Clinton and DNC	Paid \$1 million fine
Trump bogus lawsuit 2	To NY Times and Mary Trump	Paid \$400,000 legal fees

Presidents Day: Crimes of Trump's close associates

Trump's close associates	Associate name and explanation	Outcome
National security advisor	Michael Flynn, lying to FBI	5-year prison sentence
Campaign chairman	Paul Manafort, tax fraud	43-month prison sentence
Campaign advisor	Roger Stone, witness tampering	40-month prison sentence
Chief financial officer	Alan Weisselberg, tax fraud	5-month prison sentence
Chief strategist	Steve Bannon, fundraising fraud	4-month prison sentence
Personal lawyer	Michael Cohen, campaign finance	3-year sentence, served 13 mo
Personal lawyer, advisor	Rudy Giuliani, election lies	\$150 million fine, lost law license
Fox News	Lied about voting machines	\$787 million fine

Feb 17 2025 Presidents Day poem page 1

Who took this country from us? The crook just can't be Thomas.

Whose thumb is on the scale, so justice is on sale?

I swear it won't be Barrett, who'll bury what we cherish.

Nor will Gorsuch force us, to worship at Trump's doorstep.

Who buys with open eyes, those lies that hypnotize?

Is Brett M. Kavanaugh, a threat to end our laws?

Your lifetime jobs from Don, are worth a lot of dough.

Of course you must recuse, from his cases, don't refuse.

The worst case was Dred Scott, We dread you're worse than that.

But someday you will say, of Trump v. USA,

This court is so ashamed. You'll reclaim your good names.

You've got no time to waste. You must retry his case.

This time you've got to say, that crime is not okay.

Will thieves, and cheats, and Roberts, believe Alito robbed us?

Who'd think a king could bring us, what written laws once brought us?

The king don't care a hoot. His power's now absolute.

Dear king please pardon me, My crimes I do for thee.

His ear got shot by gun, by young Republican.

Blame it on the Dems, let's Fight! Fight! Fight with them!

His friends all fear that he, will dial up the heat.

Like frog in frying pan, jump out now while you can.

Feb 17 2025 Presidents Day poem page 2

He'll end the job you do, or send his mob for you?
Their anger so intense, they tried to hang Mike Pence.
Are lawyers, courts, and judges, employed to carry grudges?
Obey the law's your duty. Don't be disbarred like Rudy.
Or set a precedent, by buying President.
Why would rules apply? When you're world's richest guy.
Like Roosevelt or Ike, can we prevent Fourth Reich?
My con, my thugs, my struggle. I'm Don, come join mein Kampf?
You failed but not your fault. This court can quit this cult.
Just stop and reconsider, the dissent that Sonia sent ya.
We care about you Clarence. Your friends don't doubt your
fairness.

The court and you too Thomas, can be unanimous.
Trained for Trump's attack, let's take our country back.
You can become our hero! Supreme Court 1: Trump 0.

*I began writing this poem while flying to Thurgood Marshall
International airport (BWI) on January 8, 2025. Thurgood
Marshall convinced the Supreme Court in 1954 to unanimously
overturn its 1896 racial segregation doctrine. Thurgood Marshall
became a highly respected Supreme Court Justice from 1967-
1991.*

The U.S. Supreme Cult, Washington, DC, Oct 11 2024

The U.S.
SUPREME



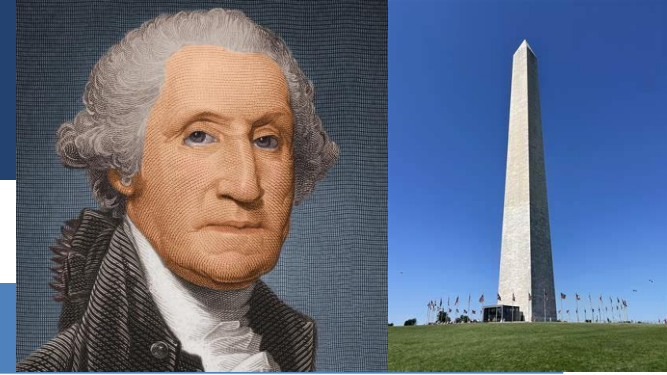
CULT

Photo by sister Miriam

Miriam and
Paul
*Washington,
Oct 2024*



July 4 Independence Day holiday



Year	Who	Quote
1776	US Declaration of Independence	The history of the present King of England is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations... He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states... obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners... He has obstructed the administration of justice... He has made judges dependent on his will alone... cutting off our trade with all parts of the world... transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences... He has excited domestic insurrections among us...
1796	George Washington	The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge... gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual.

July 4: Supreme Court making US President a King

Year	Who	Cases and quotes
July 1, 2024	US Supreme Court (Trump v. United States)	The President committed many crimes, but the court said that is ok: “Presidential power entitles a former President to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution...” (<i>majority opinion</i>) “In every use of official power, the President is now a king above the law.” (<i>dissent opinion</i>) (Full decision)
June 27, 2025	US Supreme Court (Trump v. CASA)	The President issued many illegal executive orders such as repealing the birthright citizenship section of the 14th Amendment. The Supreme Court ruled that other courts can no longer stop his illegal actions: “This Court endorses the radical proposition that the President is harmed, irreparably, whenever he cannot do something he wants to do, even if what he wants to do is break the law.” (<i>dissent opinion</i>) (Full decision)

Juneteenth holiday



Year	Who	Quote
1776	U.S. Declaration of Independence	"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."
1857	U.S. Supreme Court	Dred Scott , and members of his race, were "so far inferior, that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect; and that the negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit."
1858	Abraham Lincoln	"We shall lie down pleasantly dreaming that the people of Missouri are on the verge of making their State free; and we shall awake to the reality, instead, that the Supreme Court has made Illinois a slave State."
1861-65	Union States vs. Confederate States	This Civil War "embraces more than the fate of these United States. It presents to the whole family of man, the question, whether... discontented individuals... can break up their Government, and thus practically put an end to free government upon the earth" (Lincoln, 1861). The war killed 600,000 soldiers and wounded 1 million more.
1865	Texas	June 19: The last of the 4 million U.S. slaves was freed.
2021	U.S. Congress	June 19 declared a federal holiday after celebrated in each state 1980-2021.

Civil War rifle carried 1861-64 by Jan (John) VanRaden



John VanRaden and his horse, about 1895. He fought in Grant's Army, Company C 46th IL Infantry.



Paul VanRaden with John's rifle, 2024

Jan (John) VanRaden, brother of Engelke VanRaden

Civil War Record: Grant's Army of the Tennessee, Company C 46th IL Infantry

Year	Date	Location	Event
1839	Sep 13	Germany	Born in Neermoor
1851		Forreston, IL	Immigrated to USA
1861	Sep 10	Freeport, IL	Joined Union army
1861	Dec 28	Camp Butler	Training
1862	Feb 14	Ft Donelson, TN	1,634 men killed, 15,822 wounded
1862	Apr 26	Shiloh, TN	3,482 men killed, 16,420 wounded, > half of 46 th IL
1862	May	Corinth, MS	One-month siege, >2,000 casualties
1862	Oct 4	Matamora, MS	Jan's Colonel and Lieutenant killed

Year	Date	Location	Event
1862	Nov 30	Tallahatchie River, MS	Winter camp
1863	May 15	Vicksburg, MS	3-month siege, 8,037 casualties
1863	Sep 1	Louisiana	Expedition to guard trains and ferry
1864	Jan 4	Freeport, IL	Furloughed, with a hero's welcome
1867 ~		Allison, IA	Moved, but left his rifle in Forreston, IL
1899	Mar 3	Allison, IA	Died, age 59
After 1900	4 generations	Forreston, IL	Joe, Martin, Walter, Paul inherited rifle

1888 Engelke and Aaltje VanRaden family

Joe: 2nd from
right, back
row



Happy Juneteenth from VanRaden family to you!



Charlee, Angel, Paul, Jeremiah, Cheryl, Elexys, Samira,
Bige,
Brandon (2017 photos)

Labor Day

- Over 7 billion people on 5 continents celebrate International Workers' Day or Labour Day on May 1.
 - They remember the U.S. worker's strike that began on 1 May 1886 to reduced working time to the standard 8-hour day still enjoyed by billions of people 139 years later.
- About 0.4 billion people on 2 continents celebrate Labor Day in the first week of September.
- Like the metric system, if most of the world agrees on a uniform system or a holiday for the benefit of all workers, the United States sometimes says no just to show them who's the boss.