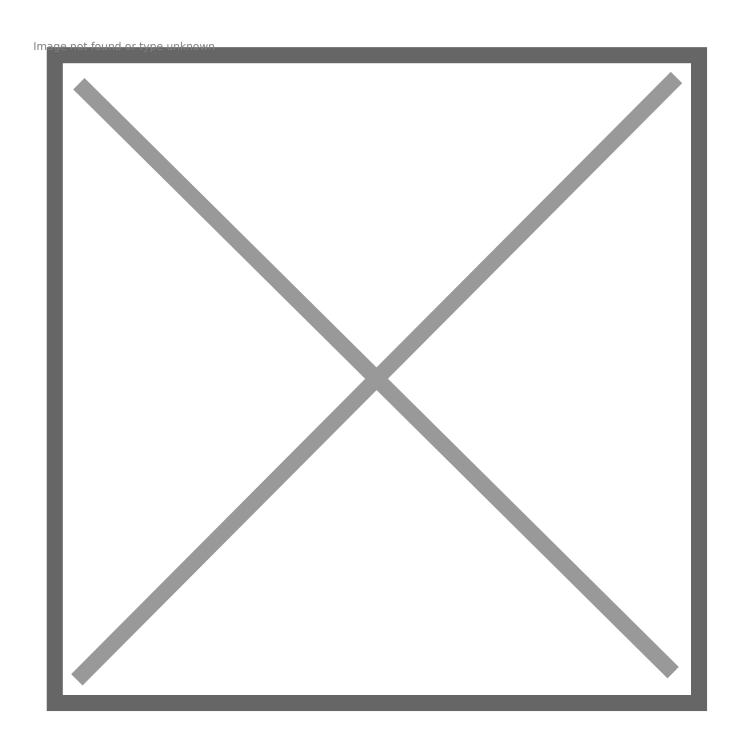NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Hugh T. Farley

Senator Farley Reflects on New York's Role in the Birth of This Nation

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As Americans celebrate Independence Day, State Senator Hugh T. Farley (R, C, I - Schenectady) reflects on the birth of this nation and New York State's role in the development of our nation.

Independence Day is the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

"As one of the original 13 states, New York played a key role in helping construct the freedoms and rights we all appreciate as Americans," Senator Farley said.

The Senator said that five days after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, New Yorkers abandoned the British Provincial Congress and formed their own Convention of the Representatives of the State of New York. Although their state was the scene of many battles fought in the American Revolution, including the pivotal battle at Saratoga, New York residents still delivered large quantities of supplies to General George Washington and the troops.

"New Yorkers also had the privilege of seeing the American flag christened when the Stars and Stripes was first flown in battle at Fort Stanwix in Rome," Senator Farley said.

New York adopted its State Constitution on April 20, 1777 - 12 years before the Federal Constitution. After the adoption of the Federal Constitution, New York City was the nation's first capital and was the site of the inauguration of George Washington as President on April 30, 1789.

Senator Farley also said this patriotic holiday is a good time to salute our American soldiers who are currently serving our Country. "Their service to our country is courageous. We pray for the safe return of our military personnel who are bravely fighting to protect our Nation and take a few moments of silence to honor those who were lost in battle," Senator Farley said.