

## Happy 4th of July!

ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS July 4, 2014



As New Yorkers join in the celebration of the 238th birthday of our nation today, let us not forget those who came before us. The determination to establish our independence resulted in the birth of our country. Their strength, courage and spirit remain American characteristics today.

We cannot take for granted the freedom and protections we enjoy and expect. We owe a debt of gratitude to all veterans and those who serve in the military fighting for our freedom.

While you celebrate our nation's birthday, please also pause to reflect on the contributions veterans and their families have made. I wish you all a happy and safe Fourth of July.