



## IN HONOR OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

A picture is worth a thousand words, and some images are powerful enough to move millions to action without requiring a word to be uttered. The U.S. flag, a majestic bald eagle, or the iconic painting of General Washington crossing the Delaware evoke a strong sense of national pride among Americans at home and abroad. These timeless symbols of freedom and democracy will be on grand display as we celebrate our nation's 239th birthday on Independence Day.

Another symbol of resilience, strength and patriotism is the Army Reserve crest, which depicts the image of Captain John Parker. Captain Parker, who commanded the Lexington militia, played a key role in the birth of our nation during the first battle of the Revolutionary War by mobilizing the "minutemen" of Lexington, Mass. to intercept British soldiers marching to Concord to search for hidden supplies and weapons.

A farmer and mechanic by trade, he took up arms at dawn on April 19, 1775 and ordered his company of 70 volunteers to "stand [their] ground" on Lexington Battle Green, otherwise known as the Lexington Common. A battle ensued, ending the lives of eight American heroes and marking the beginning of our struggle for independence.

Captain Parker's bravery and initiative epitomizes the spirit of the Citizen Soldier — one of the reasons his likeness was incorporated into the official Army Reserve symbol in 1922. As we celebrate Independence Day with friends and loved ones this weekend, reflect on the symbolism that fireworks displays, our nation's flag and John Parker represent to our fellow Citizen Soldiers, their Families and the millions of men and women around the world who support our Armed Forces, veterans and fallen heroes.

Twice the Citizen, Army Strong!

JEFFREY W. TALLEY  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Chief of Army Reserve/Commanding  
General, US Army Reserve Command

RUSSELL P. SMITH  
Chief Warrant Officer Five, US Army  
Command Chief Warrant Officer

LUTHER THOMAS, JR.  
Command Sergeant Major, US Army  
Army Reserve Command Sergeant Major

JAMES B. BALOCKI  
Command Executive Officer  
US Army Reserve