## Handschreiben

SEINER DURCHLAUCHT FÜRST FRANZ JOSEF II. VON UND ZU LIECHTENSTEIN ZUM 200. GEBURTSTAG DER VEREINIGTEN STAATEN VON AMERIKA

Dear Mr. President,

The American Nation celebrates on July 4, 1976, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence that laid the foundations of the United States of America.

Countless manifestations of goodwill, admiration and friendship have already been addressed to you and to your country from many parts of the world since the beginning of the bicentennial year. They all bear witness to the high significance universally attached to this historical commemoration.

The people of Liechtenstein also associate themselves gladly and with strong feelings of friendship and cordiality with the festive celebrations solemnising an event which in the ensuing years and decades came to influence the course of world history to a very considerable extent.

The beginning of the American people's struggle for independence two hundred years ago was the point of departure for a historical development in the course of which a steadfast commitment to idealistic convictions contributed considerably to the promotion of freedom and equality amongst all men and all peoples.

It is the sincere wish of myself and of all the people of Liechtenstein that God bestow on the American people His protection and blessing in the future and that they may always have the strength to stand up for the ideals bequeathed to them by their Founding Fathers.

Schloss Vaduz, June 30, 1976