

EDWARD J. WEISS
MAYORAL SPEECH
JULY 4, 2016

Good morning everyone.

Could I please ask you to rise for
the Pledge of Allegiance and
National Anthem.

[PLEDGE AND ANTHEM]

Good morning and Happy 4th of
July! What a beautiful day!

Please allow me to introduce my
fellow trustees:

Deputy Mayor - Brian Vail
Trustees - Rosie Connell
- Sherry Neff
- Len Emma
And our Clerk and Treasurer - Cathy Spier
Village Justice - David Desmond
And Special Guest - Suffolk County
Legislator,
Sarah Anker

I'd also like to acknowledge our
Commissioners and Board and
Committee Members ... many of whom
are here today ... thank you all!

And our Webmasters, Joe and Mimi Falco, who will shortly be stepping down after 10 years of dedicated service ... thank you Joe and Mimi for all your good work.

And our friends at the Shoreham Country Club ... this summer to have its big centennial celebration ... and of course The Village Association for all it does for the community ... along with our various other clubs and organizations.

And to all those helping with
today's celebration ... and there
are many doing many things ...

From the banners on Woodville ...

To sound systems ...

To the events we enjoy every year
on this special day ...

To the flags overhead, the one on
top having been flown for the
first time on July 4, 2013, over
U.S. medical facilities in
Afghanistan, by our own Dr. and
Navy Captain, Jim Bates ...

Jimmy, thank you for your service
... and that too for all those

here today who have served or are now serving in the military.

And of course our color guard ... thank you guys ... and our million dollar band ... Bob take a bow ... and Rosie and Sherry ... and my wife, Linda ... for their help in organizing today's events.

Indeed, it takes many to make a Village!

And speaking of our Village ... I think you'll agree that the place looks great ... in no small part due to the efforts of many people

... Steve Blum, who will be retiring after six years of service in maintaining our grounds ... thank you Steve!

... John Scrimenti for our Village Hall.

... my brother, John, for our beach with the help of Tom Spier.

... B.J. Richter for our recreational facilities.

... Brian Mahoney for our parklands.

... Joe Abata, Jr. and Dale Schweyer for taking care of jobs that always have to be done.

... and people like Judy Buyar and others like her who always seem to be around to help.

And, of course, how can we forget our Steward, Colleen, who's been here ... and whom we've relied on ... for so many years.

And special recognition to a group of guys who have done so much work on our roads and other infrastructures ... Larry Kogel, Len Emma, Brian Vail, Steve Walker ... and the group's newest member, Jim Desario.

And we would be remiss if we didn't recognize the help and

guidance given us by the Town,
County (thanks Sarah), State and
Federal government ... and the
professionals and vendors we hire
to advise us ... and to allow our
many facilities to look the way
they do.

So many people involved ... so
many to thank!

And when I think about all these
people and what we have here in
our small community ... and for
that matter, what we have across
this great land ... I can't help
but reflect upon two articles
that have appeared in the Wall
Street Journal on the eve of

Thanksgiving ... for every year
... since 1961 ... one atop the
other.

The first, entitled "THE DESOLATE
WILDERNESS," chronicles the
voyage of the Pilgrims on the
Mayflower from Delfs-Haven,
Amsterdam to Plymouth ...
generally describing their
journey as a passage over a
"vast" and "mighty ocean" ... to
arrive at a land "[separating]
them from all the civil parts of
the world."

But the Pilgrims had the courage
to make such a journey and so
they did, even in face of a

"desolate wilderness" they knew they would encounter upon arrival ... at an "unknown" shore.

The second article, entitled "AND THE FAIR LAND," talks about – if I can paraphrase and lift certain wording directly from the writing –

It talks about the "bounty of America" and its potential for great things ... only for our forefathers to be troubled from time-to-time by an "air of unease" and fear of conflicts and "social discord" ... leading them to wonder ... how they would face their struggles ... and whether

"their country" ... our country
... would "endure."

Yet, our forefathers prevailed as
expressed in the article's
powerful ending that talks about
the "richness of [our] country"
as seen in its cities, towns,
farms, roads, factories, homes,
hospitals, schools ... that
spread everywhere over that
wilderness."

And of course our enduring
liberty ... making us "the marvel
of the world" ... with a reminder
to "ourselves ... that if those
men setting out from Delfshaven
had been daunted by the troubles

they saw around them, then we
could not this autumn ... [and
might I say this 4th of July] ...
be thankful for "a fair land."

Now ... over 50 years following
this writing, we can still be
proud of our heritage so
eloquently portrayed in these
articles.

So as we celebrate this special
day, let us not forget the
courage of our founding settlers
and fathers ... and let us be
thankful for all we have ...

our democracy ... our armed
forces ... our many

accomplishments in so many fields

... and ... indeed ...

accomplishments and victories yet

to be gained.

But above all ... let us be

thankful for the freedom and

liberty our Fair Land has allowed

us to enjoy ... for all these

years ... since the birth of our

great nation.

Thank you all ... and

Happy 4th of July!