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## Fourth has special meaning to industry

John Topp

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The Fourth of July has special meaning for every person living in or visiting the United States of America. It's a holiday and a reminder of the good things about being American. It recalls a point in time when the treasured value called freedom truly rang loud across the land. Independence Day committed to paper the freedom and right to be heard without fear, and to progress, even though sometimes seemingly ever so slowly, no matter the issue.

On this special summer's day, all Americans should reflect on just how great this country is, and how much human sacrifice and hard work it has taken to create it and preserve it.

We should also never take our freedom for granted, as complacency will lead to apathy.

For the construction industry in this country, the members of all trades and technical professions should stand proud and honor the accomplishments achieved thanks to the opportunity made possible by those who came before us. The Building Advantage members take pride in the fact that our industry strives to be completely self-supporting. When you stop and think about it, as an industry we recruit, train, provide continued education, provide health care and retirement security, and all in a pay-as-we-go environment, with no contributions from the tax-paying public. We have a very good model that should be used by other segments within our own industry as well as others in other industries. Our success demonstrates that all participants can enjoy the fruits of their labor, no matter where your personal abilities take you.

There is mutual respect and a true spirit of cooperation among the players. The founding fathers would be proud of these accomplishments.

Ours is a great industry that future generations of workers will be proud to be a part of, just as our current members are. It remains on solid ground, dedicated to the fundamental principals of self-reliance and accomplishment. This Independence Day, take a moment and take pride in being a hard-working contributor to the success of this great nation.

*John Topp is the executive director of the Construction Labor Management Council of Southeast Wisconsin Inc. and the Building Advantage initiative.*