



*Message from His Excellency the Ambassador of the
Republic of Indonesia to the United States of America*

Today, we celebrate sixty-two years of Indonesian independence.

Every year, we celebrate this holiday as something special. It means something different to each person. To some, the holiday is about the courage of the founding fathers. To others, it symbolizes the defiance of colonialism. And, sometimes, people just see it as a day off to spend with family.

This year, as I reflected on the holiday, a new meaning occurred to me. The holiday, I thought, is about more than courage, defiance, or a day off. It is about being Indonesian. When we celebrate the founding of our state, we celebrate our independent identity. No longer a colony, no longer an occupied state, we are now our own people.

This experience of 'being Indonesian' is captured best by our traditions, arts, and food. The celebration organized by the Dallas Indonesian American Education Foundation is a full of these joys. The IAEF has organized what looks to be a great day of food, music, dance, and ceremony to mark our country's independence and to celebrate our Indonesian identity.

But the work of the IAEF is not just limited to today's celebration. Every day, the IAEF works to share our culture with others and to introduce other cultures to us through education. This exchange increased mutual understanding. As ambassador, I have furthered these exchanges. Not only do they strengthen our identity, but they strengthen the important bilateral relationship between Indonesia and the United States.

So, it is with joy that I wish you a wonderful 62nd Indonesian Independence Day.

Dirgahayu Hari Ulang Tahun Kemerdekaan Republik Indonesia ke 62!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sudjadhan Parnohadiningrat'.

Sudjadhan Parnohadiningrat
Ambassador