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Liberia Celebrates 172nd Independence

THE LIBERIAN EMBASSY, U S A

Newsletter
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Liberia at 172 : Africa's Oldest Republic

President
1848—1856 ; 1872-1876

On July 26, 1847, 172 years ago, Liberia declared her independence, and became Africa's first republic.

Liberia's declaration of independence in 1847 was spearheaded by Joseph Jenkins Roberts, born in Norfolk, VA, U.S.A., who was then Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia, and became the first president of the new country.

Liberia, which derives her name from "liberty," meaning "land of the free," was founded in 1822 by former slaves and free-born Blacks from the United States, under the guidance of the American Colonization Society (ACS). The ACS was a philanthropic organization chartered to find a new home in Africa for freed men and women of color from the United States.

Among the founders of the ACS were many prominent early American leaders, including Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, Daniel Webster, Francis Scott Key, Henry Clay, and Bushrod Washington, an associate justice of the Supreme Court and nephew of George Washington. Liberia's capital, Monrovia, is named after James Monroe, the fifth president of the U.S during whose

H. E. George Manneh Weah , President:
2018-

administration the country was founded. The first Liberian Constitution was written at Harvard Law School.

With a population estimated to be 4.6 million, Liberia is endowed with abundant natural resources, and is home to 43 percent of the remaining tropical rain forest in West Africa, with unique plant and animal species, including the pygmy hippopotamus. The country is a potential tourism haven with 360 miles coastline along the Atlantic Ocean lined with white sandy beaches, coconut and palm trees. Liberia is also blessed with lakes, waterfalls, mountain ranges, and other natural attractions. Liberia is a founding member of the United Nations, and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), renamed the African Union (AU). Liberia is a founding member of the 15-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as the Mano River Union (MRU), which groups together Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire.

Liberia and Ethiopia are the two countries in Africa that were not colonized.

H. E. Dr. George Manneh Weah is the 25th President of the Republic of Liberia since independence.

H.E. George S.W. Patten, Sr. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America

On behalf of the President, Government, and People of Liberia,
Ambassador George S.W. Patten Congratulates Liberians on July 26, 2019, Commemorating the 172nd Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Liberia

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