

# COMMENTARY

## The Daily Progress

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### A MAN OF LETTERS (AND NUMBERS)

## The mathematical magic of Jefferson's birthday

Thomas Jefferson, American Founding Father and the author of the Declaration of Independence, was the third president of the United States from 1801 to 1809. This past Monday marked his 283rd birthday.

Coincidentally, Jefferson died 283 days before his 84th birthday.

Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, and his death coincided with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



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Remarkably, a fellow Founding Father and the second president of the U.S., John Adams, also died hours later on the same day, July 4, 1826, at age 90.

So, this year, the United States will not only celebrate its 250th anniversary (semiquincentennial) of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, but the same day will also mark the 200th anniversary of the passing of two U.S. presidents and Founding Fathers, Adams and Jefferson.

Jefferson died at 83, and coincidentally, the total number of days from his 83rd birthday to and including the day of his death equals 83.

The following are some other fun numerical tidbits and connections regarding Jefferson:

Both 1743 and 1826, Jefferson's birth year and the year of his death, are divisible by 83, the age he died.

Moreover, the 83rd prime number is 431 and the reverse of 431, namely 134, interpreted as 13/4 in the day/month date format, is 13 April, Jefferson's birthdate.

Jefferson's 283rd birthday expressed in short as 4/13/26 has at least two interesting properties: If split as four, 13 and 26, the sum of these three numbers yields 43, representing 1743, Jefferson's birth year. Further, if split as 413 and 26, the squares of the digits of 413 add up to 26.

Jefferson's 282nd birthday last year expressed as 04/13/25 contained numbers zero to five, each number appearing only once.

Jefferson's 277th birthday expressed as 4/13/20 consisted of digits zero to four, each appearing only once.

Jefferson's 313th and 322nd birthdays expressed as 4/13/2056 and 4/13/2065 each contain digits zero to six, each digit appearing only once.

Additionally, if his 322nd birthday 4/13/2065 is split as 413 and 2065, 2065 equals five times 413.

4/13/2057 is Jefferson's 314th birthday and the reverse of 314, interpreted as 4/13, is his birthdate. (Note also that 314 is the first three digits of the number pi.)

Jefferson's 298th birthday on 4/13/2041 will be interesting because if split as 413 and 2041, half of the reverse of 413, namely 314 times 1/2 yields 157 and 157 times the sum of its digits, 13, yields 2041.

Jefferson's 287th birthday in 2030 will be unique since 287 equals the product of seven and 41, the fourth and 13th prime numbers, and four and 13 are the month and day numbers of his birthdate.

If Jefferson's 309th birthday expressed in short as 4/13/52 is split into four, 13 and 52, 52 equals four times 13.

Jefferson's 16th birthday expressed as 4/13/1759 had an interesting property: 413 equals one times seven times 59.

If numbers one through 26 are assigned to letters A through Z, the letter values of "Thomas Jefferson" add up to 174. Jefferson's 323rd birthday in 2066 will be special since half of 2066 is 1033 and 1033 is the 174th prime number. Also, if 4/13/66 is split as 413 and 66, 413 equals seven times 59 and 66 equals seven plus 59.

Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. If this date, expressed in full as 07/04/1826, is split as 704, 18 and 26, 18 plus 26 equals 44 and 44 times the product of its digits, 16, equals 704.

Lastly, July 4 is the 185th day of each non-leap year such as 1826 and interestingly, 185 equals the sum of the squares of four and 13, the month and day numbers of Jefferson's birthdate.

Happy birthday to President Thomas Jefferson!

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Thomas Jefferson, a native of Albemarle County, was the author of the Declaration of Independence, the third president of the United States and the founder of the University of Virginia.

### Letters policy

The Daily Progress welcomes letters of opinion on topics of public concern. Letters should be no more than 300 words. Submissions must be the original work of the writer and contain the author's full name, residential address and signature, along with daytime and evening phone numbers. All letters are subject to editing. The Daily Progress will list the affiliations of writers submitting opinions as official spokespeople of organizations. Writers should specify if they are expressing a personal point of view. The Daily Progress reserves the right to accept or reject any submission. The Daily Progress does not print letters that promote misinformation, manipulation or innuendo or that make personal attacks. Please send letters to The Daily Progress, Letters, 685 W. Rio Rd., Charlottesville, Va. 22901; or email [Letters@DailyProgress.com](mailto:Letters@DailyProgress.com).

### TAX DAY RECLAIMED

# Why April 15 felt different this year

Every year, Tax Day arrives with a familiar sense of anxiety, as millions of Americans wait to see what they owe or what they'll get back. This year felt different.

Thanks to the Working Families Tax Cuts, April 15 is no longer just a deadline. It is a moment of relief for millions of hardworking Americans who are seeing real, tangible benefits in their paychecks and tax refunds.

The results speak for themselves. According to a recent report from the Internal Revenue Service, tax refunds are up nearly 11% this year, with the average refund exceeding \$3,500. At the same time, mil-



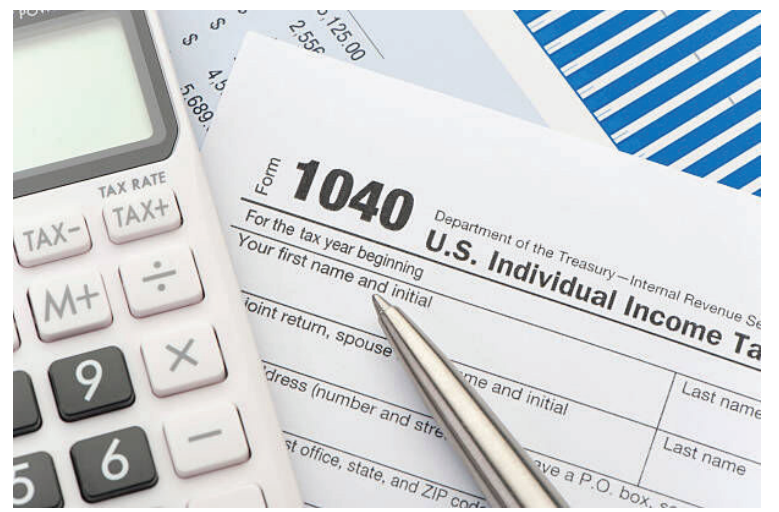
ROB WITTMAN

lions of Americans are already seeing higher take-home pay as they adjust their withholding under the law's lower, permanent tax rates.

Nearly half of all filers have already benefited from at least one of the law's key provisions, including no tax on tips, no tax on overtime and no tax on Social Security. These policies are delivering meaningful relief to workers across the country, especially those who put in long hours to support their families.

Department of Treasury officials have indicated that more than 23 million Americans have taken advantage of the no-tax-on-overtime provision. For too long, working extra hours meant sending more of their hard-earned income to Washington. Now, those workers are keeping more of what they earn, providing greater financial stability and rewarding hard work.

The same is true for service workers. More than 6 million Americans have already benefited from no tax on tips, helping restaurant staff, drivers, hairstylists and others keep more of their earnings. This is real relief



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for people who depend on every dollar they make.

Small businesses, the backbone of our economy, are seeing the impact as well. According to the Small Business Administration, nearly 12 million small business owners are receiving an average tax reduction of about \$7,000. The permanent extension of the 20% qualified business income deduction is providing an average of \$4,600 in relief to millions of entrepreneurs, enabling them to reinvest, grow and create jobs in their communities.

In addition, restoring immediate deductibility for research and development expenses, applied retroactively, is unlocking billions in prior-year deductions, while full expensing allows businesses to invest in new equipment and expansion with greater confidence. These are the kinds of pro-growth policies that strengthen our economy from the ground up.

Families are benefiting too. Parents of more than 4 million children have already claimed Trump Accounts, giving the next generation a head start and introducing young Americans to

the power of long-term saving and compound growth.

And for seniors, relief is long overdue. More than 26 million filers have claimed the no tax on Social Security provision, helping retirees keep more of the benefits they earned over a lifetime of work.

Taken together, these reforms represent one of the most significant efforts in recent years to return hard-earned money to the American people. And they come despite unified opposition from Democrats in Congress.

This Tax Day, Americans didn't just file. They felt the difference.

April 15, 2026, may well be remembered as the day we began to turn Tax Day back into something it should be — not a burden, but a reminder that when Washington steps back, hardworking Americans get to keep more of what they earn and invest it in their families, their futures and their communities.

U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman represents Virginia's 1st Congressional District and is vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Contact him at [wittman.house.gov/contact](http://wittman.house.gov/contact).

### DOLLARS & SENSE



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You may love and trust your spouse, but do they have the expertise to handle every health care, estate planning and financial decision?

## Who's on your (financial) team?

Who's on your team? Doris Gelbman, an elder law attorney in Charlottesville, likes to ask people this question. I think it's a good question, one that we should all be able to answer.

How would you answer this question?



JORGEN VIK

The question relates to health care decisions, to estate planning strategies and to financial decisions.

If you live with a partner, chances are this person is your first line of defense on all fronts. That's a great start. However, does this person have the expertise to handle these various

fields? And even if they do, have you named people as backups in case, if or when the need for help arises, the point person is no longer able to help?

There are many professionals able to help. Health care experts, attorneys, accountants, investment planners, trust companies and insurance brokers, to name a few.

If you feel your team is slim or nonexistent, I suggest you start with the attorney. They are the ones who can help you formalize who helps with what, and who inherits what. They can set up a durable medical power of attorney, a living will, a power of attorney, a trust if needed and, of course, a will. In doing so, she may identify what other people or functions you need on your team.

A financial planner may also help shine a light on potential team members, but keep in mind, they typically cannot author estate documents or provide complete tax advice.

For those who don't have a good answer to Ms. Gelbman's question, I encourage you to make this the year you put together your team. I bet you'll feel much better once you've done so.

Good luck.

Jorgen Vik is a financial advice columnist for The Daily Progress. He is a certified financial planner and partner with SKV Group LLC. Investment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network. SKV Group is a separate entity from WFAFN.