



ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

*The Ambassador*

Washington, 06.05.2021

Dear People of Petersburg, Alaska,

I wish I could have been there to join your celebration, and I look forward to better times ahead!

The celebration of “syttende mai”, May 17, is a tribute to our Constitution, which was signed on that date in 1814. It marks the beginning of a modern and democratic Norway.

The Norwegian Constitution is quite remarkable, and is in fact inspired by the American Constitution, which was ratified only decades earlier - both are among the first democratic constitutions of the world.

In Norway on May 17 every year, the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law are underscored as the foundations of our society. Foundations that we cannot afford to take for granted, and that have come under threat in several parts in the world.

Our Constitution day is a day for children. May 17 in Norway will always be associated with children playing, laughing, parading, cheering and singing – just as I experienced it in my childhood days.

I hope you have a great celebration today, and I hope that you can be proud of the country of your ancestry. And I want to thank you sincerely for keeping this great tradition alive here in America. I extend my best wishes to all of you for a wonderful May 17. I hope to see as many of you as possible in the year to come!

Yours sincerely

Anniken R. Krutnes