

# Independence

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, Americans celebrate Independence Day. Historically, it is the day that America gained independence from England. In today's world, independence can have different meanings for different people. For the young, it can be the time of leaving home for college or marriage. For parents, it can be the time when those same young people leave home and couples can re-define their relationships and begin a new chapter of life. For older folks, it can be the day that the long tended nest egg is large enough to offer financial security and a good standard of living for the retirement years.

Human beings, particularly Americans, value independence as a way of life. The route to independence at all stages is through goal setting and careful planning. Making a solid end-of-life plan insures that your wishes will be carried out. Advanced directives ensure that you will be cared for the way you want even if you are not able to make decisions for yourself. Financial planning makes sure that your hard

earned assets are used properly during your life and allocated according to your wishes when you are gone. Complete funeral and cemetery



**Cheryl Godbout**

planning ensures that you will be celebrated and memorialized according to your wishes.

Planning ahead makes certain that your legacy will be the one that you have worked to achieve. Lewis Carroll once said, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there." By taking the time to learn

all the options that are available to you and making some simple choices and plans, you can pave your road to independence from worry and that nagging feeling that there are still things left undone. Make July your independence month by setting your goals and taking action to put your plans in place!

*Cheryl Godbout is the Community Development Director for the Dignity Memorial Funeral and Cemetery Providers in South Florida.*

*For information on any of the Dignity Memorial Community Outreach programs, please call (561) 747-1100.*

[www.DignityMemorialPalmBeach.com](http://www.DignityMemorialPalmBeach.com)