

**A**MY HOFFMAN, special events coordinator for the Capital City Lake Murray Country Regional Tourism Board, puts together the Fourth of July events on the lake each year, including the boat parade and the fireworks. Many people think the fireworks are paid for with tax dollars or by some large corporate sponsor, but they are dependent on personal donations and the proceeds of the annual Taste of Lake Murray event.

Hoffman thinks we should wave the flag, and give thanks for those who allow us to wave the flag, more often than just July Fourth, Veterans' Day and Memorial Day.

"We should celebrate the freedom we enjoy," Hoffman said. "A lot of people have given their time, and even their lives, for that freedom. It's sad that only three times out of the year, we remember those people."

