

# Nation parties it up for 207th birthday

By United Press International

Groups as diverse as the Hells Angels and the Navy's 6th Fleet off the coast of Lebanon marked the Fourth of July in their own special ways and millions of Americans gathered today for more traditional celebrations of the nation's 207th birthday.

The Soviet parliament even got in on the occasion by sending President Reagan a telegram offering

"congratulations as well as wishes of peace and well-being to the American people" on the occasion of the day of independence.

In Putnam County, W. Va., Calvin Jones, a 67-year-old grandfather, was not putting on a fireworks show but still figured to have a lot of people looking up. He planned to hire a helicopter and drop 1,000 \$1 bills over the Teays Valley west of Charleston.

Along with fireworks extrava-

ganzas costing millions of dollars, music played a big part in the celebrations. Country singer Willie Nelson moved his annual Fourth of July concert out of the Southwest for the first time with a show at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., yesterday. About 40,000 people had to be treated for heat problems brought on by the 96-degree heat.

Nelson was to play in Atlanta today. The Beach Boys, shunned by

Interior Secretary James Watt for a Washington, D.C., show, were set for a free concert in Atlantic City, N.J., while Wayne Newton headlined the Washington show.

In Philadelphia, Peter Nero led the Philadelphia Pops Orchestra at the Philadelphia Art Museum with singers Melba Moore, David Cassidy and Jimmy Webb and basketball star Julius Erving reading excerpts from the Declaration of Independence.

Off the coast of Lebanon, American servicemen and civilians celebrated the Fourth yesterday on the decks of the 6th Fleet, guzzling beer and eating hot dogs and spareribs.

Barbecues replaced helicopters on launch pads. American flags hung from rails and seamen tested their skills in a regatta of cutters and landing craft.

"I'd rather be spending July Fourth with my wife and kids," said one of the lonelier sailors.