

God in America

*excerpts from
Bill Federer's American Minute
compiled by Sylvia Huffnagle*



LAUS DEO: A little history lesson you may enjoy. I thought that you and others may like to see this. One detail that is not mentioned, in DC, is that there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. With all the uproar about removing the ten commandments, etc..., this is worth a moment or two of your time. I was not aware of this historical information.

On the aluminum cap atop the Washington Monument in Washington, DC, are displayed two words: Laus Deo. No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less.

Once you know Laus Deo's history, you will want to share this with everyone you know. But these words have been there for many years; they are at 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, capital of the United States of America.

Laus Deo! Two seemingly insignificant, un-noticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say "Praise be to God!"

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty five years to finally cap

the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation,
 Laus Deo ... Praise be to God!"

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into

four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfant...a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north. The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution. So, read on. How interesting and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice.

Praise be to God! Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6. Praise be to God!

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848 deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy .."One Nation, Under God."

I am awed by Washington's prayer for America. Have you

never read it? Well, now is your unique opportunity, so read on!

"Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine

Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Laus Deo! When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, he or she will easily find the signature of God, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look. You may forget the width and height of "Laus Deo", its location, or the architects but no one who reads this will be able to forget its meaning, or these words: "Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Psalm 127: 1)

Much attention is given to examining the **Federal Constitution** in an effort to learn what the original intent of **America's founders** was towards religion, yet little attention is given to examining the individual **States' Constitutions**, which at the time were regarded by citizens living in those **States** as being more important to their everyday life.

(In an effort to shed light on the subject, a few excerpts are included below from the hundreds contained in the new book by William J. Federer, titled: "THE ORIGINAL 13 -- A Documentary History of Religion in America's First Thirteen States" (Amerisearch, Inc., 2005))

CONSTITUTION OF VIRGINIA, June 29, 1776 (written by James Madison and George Mason): **BILL OF RIGHTS, SECTION 16**. That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity towards each other.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, June 15, 1780 (written by John Adams): **ARTICLE 3**. The people of this commonwealth have a right to invest their legislature with power to...make suitable provision... for the institution of the public worship of God, and for the support and maintenance of public Protestant teachers of piety, religion and morality...And every denomination of Christians, demeaning themselves peaceably, and as good subjects of the commonwealth, shall be equally under the protection of the law: and no subordination of any one sect or denomination to another shall ever be established by law.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONSTITUTION, 1784: PART 2-THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT, SENATE: That no person shall

be capable of being elected a senator who is not of the Protestant religion...

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES...Every member of the house of representatives...shall be of the Protestant religion.

CONSTITUTION OF VERMONT July 8, 1777, (claimed by New Hampshire and New York at the time of the Revolution): SECTION 9...And each member, before he takes his seat, shall make and subscribe the following declaration, viz. "I ___ do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the Universe, the Rewarder of the good and Punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration, and own and profess the Protestant religion."

CONSTITUTION OF MARYLAND, November 11, 1776: ARTICLE 35. That no other test or qualification ought to be required, on admission to any office of trust or profit, than such oath of support and fidelity to this State, and such oath of office, as shall be directed by this Convention or the Legislature of this State, and a declaration of a belief in the Christian religion.

CONSTITUTION OF NEW JERSEY, 1776: ARTICLE 19: That there shall be no establishment of any one religious sect in this Province, in preference to another; and that no Protestant inhabitant of this Colony shall be denied the enjoyment of any civil right, merely on account of his religious principles; but that all persons, professing a belief in the faith of any Protestant sect, who shall demean themselves peaceably under the government...shall be capable of being elected into any office of profit or trust.

CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA, September 28, 1776 (Signed by Ben Franklin): PLAN OR FRAME OF GOVERNMENT, SECTION 10. And each member, before he takes his seat, shall make and subscribe the following declaration, viz: I do believe in one God, the Creator and Governor of the Universe, the Rewarder of the good and the Punisher of the wicked. And I do acknowledge the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by Divine Inspiration. And no further or other religious test shall ever hereafter be required of any civil officer or magistrate in this State.

CONSTITUTION OF DELAWARE, 1776 (written by George Read and Thomas McKean, both signers of the Declaration of Independence): ARTICLE 22. Every person who shall be chosen a member of either house, or appointed to any office or place of trust, before taking his seat, or entering upon the execution of his office, shall...make and subscribe the following declaration, to wit: "I, A B. do profess faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ His only Son, and in the Holy Ghost, one God, blessed for evermore; and I do acknowledge the holy scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be given by divine inspiration."

CONSTITUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA, 1776: ARTICLE 32. That no person, who shall deny the being of God or the truth of the Protestant religion, or the divine authority either of the Old or New Testaments, or who shall hold religious principles incompatible with the freedom and safety of the State, shall be capable of holding any office or place of trust or profit in the civil department within this State.

CONSTITUTION OF GEORGIA, 1777: ARTICLE 6: The representatives shall be chosen out of the residents in each county...and they shall be of the Protestant religion.

CONSTITUTION OF CONNECTICUT, 1662 till 1818:
 PREAMBLE. The People of this State being by the Providence of God, free and independent, have the sole and exclusive Right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent State; and having from their ancestors derived a free and excellent Constitution of Government whereby the legislature depends on the free and annual election of the people, they have the best security for the preservation of their civil and religious rights and Liberties. And forasmuch as the free Fruition of such Liberties and Privileges as Humanity, Civility and Christianity call for, as is due to every Man in his Place and Proportion, without impeachment and infringement, hath ever been, and will be the Tranquility and Stability of Churches and Commonwealths.

CONSTITUTION OF RHODE ISLAND, 1663 till 1842: That they, pursuing, with peaceable and loyal minces, their sober, serious and religious intentions, of godly edifying themselves, and one another, in the holy Christian faith and worship as they were persuaded...to hold forth a lively experiment, that a most flourishing civil state may stand and best be maintained...with a full liberty in religious concernments; and that true piety rightly grounded upon Gospel principles, will give the best and greatest security to sovereignty...Now know ye, that we being willing...to secure them in the free exercise and enjoyment of all their civil and religious rights...and to preserve unto them that liberty, in the true Christian faith and worship of God...and because some of the people and inhabitants of the same colony cannot, in their private opinions, conforms to the public exercise of religion, according to the liturgy, forms and ceremonies of the Church of England, or take or subscribe the oaths and articles made and established in that behalf; and for that the same, by reason of the remote distances of those places, will (as we hope) be no breach of the unity and uniformity established in this nation.

CONSTITUTION OF NEW YORK, April 20, 1777: 38. And whereas we are required, by the benevolent principles of rational liberty, not only to expel civil tyranny, but also to guard against that spiritual oppression and intolerance wherewith the bigotry and ambition of weak and wicked priests and princes have scourged mankind, this convention doth further, in the name and by the authority of the good people of this State, ordain, determine, and declare, that the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever hereafter be allowed, within this State, to all mankind: Provided, That the liberty of conscience, hereby granted, shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this State.

After examining the Constitutions of the original States, it becomes clearer that the initial purpose of the First Amendment, and for that matter the First Ten Amendments, was to limit Federal Government jurisdiction, not the States, as

Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story wrote in his Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States, 1833:

"The whole power over the subject of religion is left exclusively to the State governments, to be acted upon according to their sense of justice and the State Constitutions."

THE ORIGINAL 13 -- A Documentary History of Religion in America's Original Thirteen States -

"The whole power over the subject of religion is left exclusively to the State governments, to be acted upon according to their sense of justice and the State

Constitutions," wrote Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story in his Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States, 1833. *(Who was Joseph Story? He was the founder of Harvard Law School and appointed to the Supreme Court by President James Madison - the same James Madison who introduced the First Amendment in the first session of Congress. To understand the progression of religious freedom in America, it is necessary to review the Constitutions of the original thirteen States, together with the Colonial Charters that preceded them, i.e.:)*

VIRGINIA CHARTER OF KING JAMES I, 1606
 "...propagating of Christian Religion to such People as yet live in Darkness..."

DELAWARE CHARTER OF KING ADOLPHUS, 1626
 "...further propagation of the Holy Gospel..."

MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUTION, 1780, Part 1, Article 3 "Every denomination of Christians...shall be equally under the protection of the law and no subordination of any one sect or denomination to another shall ever be established..."

PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION, 1776, Article 1, Section 3 "All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences..."

NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION, 1776, Article 11, Section 4 "Beneficent provision for the poor, the unfortunate, and the orphan is one of the first duties of a civilized and a Christian state..."

Examining Charters, Constitutions, Court Decisions and Correspondence, this overview of history is intended as a study help for those interested in discovering the role religion played in America's original thirteen States.

The process of how the Federal Courts used the 14th Amendment to remove religion from States' jurisdiction, most notably in the 1947 Everson v. Board of Education case, and subsequently evolved it into its present interpretation, is the subject of another book. (Paperback, 416 pages, illustrations)

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY & THE SEASON OF LAWSUITS
 By Bill Federer

Just the threat of a lawsuit caused Seattle's Sea-Tac International Airport to remove all its Christmas trees, thus beginning the Season of Lawsuits.(1)

This, right before "Bill of Rights Day," observed on December 15th, which is the day in 1791 when three-quarters of the new States ratified the First Ten Amendments, causing them to go into effect.

At the 150th anniversary of their ratification, in 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed December 15th as "Bill of Rights Day."(2)

"The Father of the Bill of Rights" was George Mason.(3) Mason was a wealthy Virginia landowner who wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights, June 12, 1776, from which Jefferson drew upon for the Declaration of Independence. Mason also wrote Virginia's first State Constitution, adopted on June 29, 1779.(4)

In 1787, George Mason was one of 55 men who wrote the U.S. Constitution, being one of the five most frequent speakers at the Constitutional Convention, but he refused to sign it because there were no specific limits on the power of the new Federal Government.

George Mason's anti-federalist campaign, supported by Patrick Henry and Samuel Adams, worked against the ratification of the Constitution, and caused a breach in Mason's friendship with federalist George Washington.(5)

In 1788, Mason drew up his "Master Draft of the Bill of Rights," listing 20 suggested Amendments to limit the new Constitution's power. These were used at the ratifying

conventions of New York, North Carolina and Rhode Island, and by Elbridge Gerry and James Madison in the first session of Congress. It is primarily due to George Mason's efforts that Congress passed "The Bill of Rights"-the First Ten Amendments.(6)

The last item in George Mason's "Master Draft of the Bill of Rights" resulted in the First Amendment. It stated: "20. That Religion or the Duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by Reason and Conviction, not by Force or Violence, and therefore all men have an equal, natural, and unalienable Right to the free Exercise of Religion according to the Dictates of Conscience, and that no particular religious Sect or Society of Christians ought to be favored or established by Law in preference to others."(7)

It is clear that the purpose of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, according to George Mason, "The Father of the Bill of Rights," was simply that "no particular religious Sect or Society of Christians ought to be favored or established by Law in preference to others."

This is consistent with Justice Joseph Story, appointed to the Supreme Court by James Madison, who introduced the First Amendment in the first Congress.

Justice Story, who founded the Harvard Law School, wrote in his Commentaries on the Constitution, 1833, Book III:

"CH. XLIV, 727, Section 1868: Probably, at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, and of the Amendment to it now under consideration, the general, if not the universal, sentiment in America was, that Christianity ought to receive encouragement from the State so far as was not incompatible with the private rights of conscience and the freedom of religious worship. An attempt to level all

religions, and to make it a matter of state policy to hold all in utter indifference, would have created universal disapprobation, if not universal indignation."(8)

"CH. XLIV, 728, Section 1871: The real object of the First Amendment was not to countenance, much less to advance Mohammedanism, or Judaism, or infidelity, by prostrating Christianity, but to exclude all rivalry among Christian sects..."(8)

In his "Familiar Exposition of the Constitution of the United States, 1840, Justice Story wrote:

"We are not to attribute this prohibition of a national religious establishment to an indifference to religion in general, and especially to Christianity (which none could hold in more reverence than the framers of the Constitution)..."(9)

As water is purer the closer you get to the source, one can see an example of what early States thought just eight years after the Bill of Rights were ratified in Maryland's Supreme Court case of *Runkel v. Winemiller*, 1799:

"Religion is of general and public concern, and on its support depend, in great measure, the peace and good order of government, the safety and happiness of the people. By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed upon the same equal footing, and are equally entitled to protection in their religious liberty."(10)

Though considered narrow by today's standards, these views were very generous and progressive for their time, as prior to the Revolution, many States were like the countries of Europe, where one denomination was established in preference to others. (ie. Anglican

Church in Virginia, Congregationalist Church in
Connecticut, etc.)

It seems ironic as Bill of Rights Day is being observed this Christmas season, that the views of "Father of the Bill of Rights" should be subject to lawsuits by the ACLU and activist judges, who seemed to be on a grinch jihad to purge the country of its Judeo-Christian heritage.

Fisher Ames helped ratify the U.S. Constitution and authored the House language of the First Amendment. At age 46, he was elected Harvard's president, but declined due to an illness which led to his death on July 4, 1808.

An orator, Fisher Ames stated no one could be eloquent "without being a constant reader of the Bible and an admirer of the purity and sublimity of its language."

In January 1788, Fisher Ames stated: "The known propensity of a democracy is to licentiousness which the...ignorant believe to be liberty."

In his "Dangers of American Liberty," February 1805, Fisher Ames warned that democracy without morals would eventually reduce the nation to the basest of human passions, swallowing freedom: "A democracy is a volcano which conceals the fiery materials of its own destruction."

In Palladium magazine September 20, 1789, Fisher Ames wrote: "We have a dangerous trend beginning to take place in our education. We're starting to put more textbooks into our schools...containing fables and moral lessons..."

We are spending less time in the classroom on the Bible, which should be the principal text in our schools."

Fischer Ames concluded: "The Bible states these great moral lessons better than any other man made book."

"Done...the seventeenth day of September in the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and eighty seven."
This was the last line of the U.S. Constitution.

A study done by Professors Donald S. Lutz and Charles S. Hyneman, titled "The Relative Influence of European Writers on Late Eighteenth-Century American Political Thought" published in the American Political Science Review, 1984, revealed that after examining nearly 15,000 writings of the 55 writers of the Constitution, including newspaper articles, pamphlets, books and monographs, that the Bible, especially the book of Deuteronomy, contributed 34 percent of all direct quotes made of the Founders.

When indirect Bible citations were included, the percentage increased even more.

Just ten days after his Inauguration, President George Washington wrote regarding the Constitution to the United Baptist Churches of Virginia, May 10, 1789: "If I could have entertained the slightest apprehension that the Constitution framed by the Convention, where I had the honor to preside, might possibly endanger the religious rights of any ecclesiastical Society, certainly I would never have placed my signature to it."

On October 11, 1798, President John Adams wrote to the 1st Brigade of the 3rd Division of the Militia of Massachusetts: "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net."

Adams continued: "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

British Statesman Edmund Burke told the National Assembly, 1791: "What is liberty without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils...madness without restraint. Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites."

Edmund Burke continued: "Society cannot exist, unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without."

U.S. Speaker of the House Robert Winthrop stated on May 28, 1849: "Men, in a word, must be controlled either by a power within them, or a power without them; either by the word of God, or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible or by the bayonet."

September 16, 1620, according to the Gregorian Calendar, 102 Pilgrims set sail on the Mayflower. The 66-day journey of 2,750 miles encountered storms so rough the beam supporting the main mast cracked and was propped back in place with an iron screw of a printer's press.

One youth, John Howland, was swept overboard by a freezing wave and rescued. His descendants include Ralph Waldo Emerson, Humphrey Bogart, Franklin D. Roosevelt and George W. Bush.

On the Pilgrims' voyage, a boy died, and a mother gave birth.

Intending to land in Virginia, they were blown off-course. Of their landing, Governor William Bradford wrote: "Being thus arrived in a good harbor, and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of Heaven who had brought them over the vast and furious ocean, and delivered them from all the perils and miseries thereof, again to set their feet on the firm and stable earth, their proper element."

Though half died that first bitter winter, Governor William Bradford wrote: "Last and not least, they cherished a great hope and inward zeal of laying good foundations...for the propagation and advance of the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in the remote parts of the world."

In exchange for 60 guilders of brass buttons, scarlet cloth and trade goods, Manhattan Island was purchased from the Manhattan Indian tribe on MAY 6, 1626, by Peter Minuit, Dutch Governor of the New Netherlands Province.

Naming the Island New Amsterdam, it was later taken over by the British and renamed New York City.

The colony's original Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions, June 1, 1629, stated: "Patroons and colonists shall in particular, and in the speediest manner, endeavor to find out ways and means whereby they may support a Minister and Schoolmaster, that thus the service of God and zeal for religion may not grow cool and be neglected among them, and they shall, for the first, procure a Comforter of the sick there."

In 1665, the Colonial Legislature of New York stated: "Whereas, The public worship of God is much discredited for want of...able ministers to instruct the people in the true religion, it is ordered that a church shall be built in each parish capable of holding 200 persons; that ministers of every church shall preach every Sunday, and pray for the king, queen, the Duke of York, and the royal family....

Sunday is not to be profaned."

On September 21, 1924, America's 30th President, Calvin Coolidge, addressed the Holy Name Society in Washington, D.C., saying: "The worst evil that could be inflicted upon the youth of the land would be to leave them without restraint and completely at the mercy of their own uncontrolled inclinations. Under such conditions education would be impossible, and all orderly development intellectually or morally would be hopeless."

Calvin Coolidge continued: "The Declaration of Independence...claims...the ultimate source of authority by stating...they were... 'appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of their 'intentions.'..."

The foundations of our independence and our Government rests upon basic religious convictions. Back of the authority of our laws is the authority of the Supreme Judge of the World, to whom we still appeal."

President Coolidge concluded: "It seems to me perfectly plain that the authority of law, the right to equality, liberty and property, under American institutions, have for their foundation reverence for God. If we could imagine that to be swept away, these institutions of our American government could not long survive."

Early on: On April 16, 1859, French historian Alexis de Tocqueville died.

After nine months of traveling the United States, he wrote *Democracy in America* in 1835, which has been described as "the most comprehensive...analysis of character and society in America ever written."

Alexis de Tocqueville wrote: "Upon my arrival in the United States the religious aspect of the country was the first thing that struck my attention..."

In France I had almost always seen the spirit of religion and the spirit of freedom marching in opposite directions. But in America I found they were intimately united."

De Tocqueville continued: "The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other..."

They brought with them into the New World a form of Christianity which I cannot better describe than by styling it a democratic and republican religion."

In Book Two of *Democracy in America*, de Tocqueville wrote: "Christianity has therefore retained a strong hold on the public mind in America...In the United States...Christianity itself is a fact so irresistibly established, that no one undertakes either to attack or to defend it."

The son of one of the Boston Tea Party "Indians," he graduated from Harvard and eventually became Massachusetts Speaker of the House. At age 32, he was appointed the youngest Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, where he served 34 years and helped establish the illegality of the slave trade in the Amistad case.

His name was Joseph Story, and he died September 10, 1845.

A founder of Harvard Law School, Justice Joseph Story stated in *Vidal v. Girard's Executors*, 1844: "Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfectly as from the New Testament?"

Appointed to the Supreme Court by James Madison—the person who introduced the First Amendment, Justice Joseph Story commented on it in his *Familiar Exposition of the Constitution of the United States*, 1840: "At the time of the adoption...of the Amendment...the general, if not the universal, sentiment in America was, that Christianity ought to receive encouragement from the State."

Justice Story continued: "The real object of the First Amendment was not to countenance, much less to advance Mohammedanism, or Judaism, or infidelity, by prostrating Christianity, but to exclude all rivalry among Christian sects."

Woodrow Wilson didn't interpret Separation of church and state the way they are trying to now. (this comment by SYLVIA Huffnagle)

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed a Day of Thanksgiving, stating: "The season is at hand in which it has been our long respected custom as a people to turn in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His manifold mercies and blessings to us as a nation...

In the year that has just passed...we have seen the practical completion of a great work at the Isthmus of Panama."

Wilson continued: "'Righteousness exalteth a nation' and 'peace on earth, good will towards men' furnish the only foundation upon which can be built the lasting achievements of the human spirit...

Now, Therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate...a day of thanksgiving and prayer, and invite the people throughout the land to cease from their wonted occupations and in their several homes and places of worship render thanks to Almighty God."

Woodrow Wilson concluded: "In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington this 23rd day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirteen...

William Jennings Bryan, Secretary of State."

On March 15, 1984, the Senate voted down voluntary prayer in public schools.

President Reagan said: "I am deeply disappointed that, although a majority of the Senate voted for it, the school prayer amendment fell short."

On September 25, 1982, Ronald Reagan said: "Unfortunately, in the last two decades we've experienced an onslaught of such twisted logic that if Alice were visiting America, she might think she'd never left Wonderland."

We're told that it somehow violates the rights of others to permit students in school who desire to pray to do so. Clearly this infringes on the freedom of those who choose to pray, the freedom taken for granted since the time of our Founding Fathers...

To prevent those who believe in God from expressing their faith is an outrage... The relentless drive to eliminate God from our schools...should be stopped."

Ronald Reagan said February 25, 1984: "Sometimes I can't help but feel the First Amendment is being turned on its head."

Reagan told the Alabama Legislature, March 15, 1982: "The First Amendment was not written to protect the people of this country from religious values; it was written to protect religious values from government tyranny."

He was President of the American Bar Association, Chief Justice of Michigan's Supreme Court and dean of the University of Michigan Law School.

His name was Thomas Cooley and he died September 12, 1898.

The first Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, Cooley's commentaries shaped American law.

He declined offers to teach at Hastings College of Law, University of Texas, Johns Hopkins University, Boston Law School, University of Pennsylvania and Cornell Law School.

In his General Principles of Constitutional Law, 1890, Cooley wrote:

"It was never intended by the Constitution that the government should be prohibited from recognizing religion, or that religious worship should never be provided for in cases where a proper recognition of Divine Providence in the working of government might seem to require it, and where it might be done without drawing an invidious distinction between religious beliefs, organizations, or sects.

The Christian religion was always recognized in the administration of the common law of the land, the fundamental principles of that religion must continue to be recognized in the same cases and to the same extent as formerly."

William Orville Douglas died this day, January 19, 1980. He was a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court for 36 years, after having taught law at Yale and Columbia University.

In the 1952 case of *Zorach v. Clauson*, Justice Douglas wrote: "The First Amendment, however, does not say that in every and all respects there shall be a separation of Church and State...Otherwise the state and religion would be aliens to each other- hostile, suspicious, and even unfriendly."

Justice William O. Douglas continued: "We are a religious people whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being..."

When the state encourages religious instruction...it follows the best of our traditions. For it then respects the religious nature of our people and accommodates the public service to their spiritual needs.

To hold that it may not would be to find in the Constitution a requirement that the government show a callous indifference to religious groups. That would be preferring those who believe in no religion over those who do believe..."

Justice William O. Douglas concluded: "We find no constitutional requirement which makes it necessary for government to be hostile to religion. We cannot read into the Bill of Rights such a philosophy of hostility to religion."

The 33rd U.S. President was born May 8, 1884.

He was Captain of a field artillery battery in France during World War I, a county judge, a U.S. Senator, and Vice-President under Franklin Roosevelt. He ended World War II by dropping the atomic bomb. His name was Harry S Truman.

To the Federal Council of Churches, March 6, 1946, President Truman said: "We have just come through a decade in which the forces of evil in various parts of the world have been lined up in a bitter fight to banish from the face of the earth both of these ideals-religion and democracy...

The right of every human being...to worship God in his own way, the right to fix his own relationship to his fellow men and to his Creator-these again have been saved for mankind."

Truman continued: "Let us determine to carry on in a spirit of tolerance, and understanding for all men and for all nations-in the spirit of God and religious unity."

President Truman told the Attorney General's Conference, 1950: "The fundamental basis of this nation's laws was given to Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings... of Isaiah and St. Paul. I don't think we emphasize that enough these days."

Alexis de Tocqueville was born July 29, 1805. A French social scientist who traveled the United States in 1831, he wrote in *Democracy in America*: "Religion in America...must be regarded as the foremost of the political institutions of that country; for if it does not impart a taste for freedom, it facilitates the use of it... This opinion is not peculiar to a class of citizens or a party, but it belongs to the whole nation."

De Tocqueville stated: "The sects that exist in the United States are innumerable. They all differ in respect to the worship which is due to the Creator; but they all agree in respect to the duties which are due from man to man.

Each sect adores the Deity in its own peculiar manner, but all sects preach the same moral law in the name of God... Moreover, all the sects of the United States are comprised within the great unity of Christianity, and Christian morality is everywhere the same."

De Tocqueville added: "There is no country in the whole world where the Christian religion retains a greater influence than in America...and nothing better demonstrates how useful it is to man, since the country where it now has the widest sway is both the most enlightened and the freest."

One of the founders of the Lutheran Church in America, his son John Peter was a pastor promoted to Major-General in the Continental Army, then elected to Congress.

Another son, Frederick, was a pastor who became the first Speaker of the House. Both sons served in the first U.S. Congress and passed the First Amendment.

Henry Muhlenberg pastored the German congregations near Valley Forge during the Revolution.

In The Notebook of a Colonial Clergyman, Henry Muhlenberg wrote: "I heard a fine example today, namely that His Excellency General Washington rode around among his army yesterday and admonished each to fear God, to put away wickedness...and to practice Christian virtues."

Rev. Muhlenberg continued: "From all appearances General Washington does not belong to the so-called world of society, for he respects God's Word, believes in the atonement through Christ, and bears himself in humility and gentleness.

Therefore, the Lord God has also singularly, yea, marvelously preserved him from harm in the midst of countless perils, ambuscades, fatigues, etc., and has hitherto graciously held him in his hand as a chosen vessel."

He coordinated relief to millions when the Mississippi River levees broke during the 1927 flood and he organized feeding 300 million in 21 countries of Europe and Russia following World War I.

In 1928, he was elected the 31st U.S. President in a landslide victory. His entire life he refused to receive any payment for public service.

This was Herbert Hoover, who died October 20, 1964. Born in 1874, his Quaker mother taught Sunday School and spoke at Friend's meetings before dying when he was ten. Hoover lived on an Indian Reservation in Oklahoma before moving to Oregon.

He worked his way through Stanford University doing laundry, delivering papers and working for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Herbert Hoover served under Presidents Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Truman and Eisenhower.

During World War II, in a joint-statement with the widows of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Coolidge, Taft, Harrison and Cleveland, Herbert Hoover stated: "We must seek revival of our strength in the spiritual foundations which are the bedrock of our republic.

Democracy is the outgrowth of the religious conviction of the sacredness of every human life. On the religious side, its highest embodiment is the Bible; on the political side, the Constitution."

British Admiral **Horatio Nelson** lost his right eye capturing Corsica and his right arm attacking the Canary Islands.

He captured six and destroyed seven of Napoleon's ships at the Battle of the Nile and successfully assaulted Copenhagen.

Horatio Nelson is best remember, though, for winning one of the greatest naval battles in history, The Battle of Trafalgar, on October 21, 1805.

The daring 47-year-old Nelson defeated 36-year-old Napoleon's combined French and Spanish fleets, consisting of 33 ships with 2,640 guns off the coast of Spain.

The fifteen million dollars Napoleon received two years earlier from selling 600 million acres to the United States was not enough to change the outcome.

Admiral Nelson's defeat of the French navy abruptly ended Napoleon's power at sea, and with it, his dreams of world conquest.

The 90,000 French troops assembled on the coast of France were forced to abandon their plans of crossing the English Channel and invading Britain.

During the Battle of Trafalgar, cannonade and musket shot ripped apart ships at point blank range, killing or wounding nearly ten thousand.

Admiral Nelson was fatally shot in the spine. He was carried below deck to the ship's surgeon where he died. Admiral Horatio Nelson's last words were: "Thank God I have done my duty."

In 1746, French Duke of d'Anville sailed for New England, commanding the most powerful fleet of the time - 70 ships with 13,000 troops. He intended to recapture Louisburg, Nova Scotia, and destroy from Boston to New York, all the way to Georgia.

Massachusetts Governor William Shirley declared a Day of Fasting on October 16, 1746, to pray for deliverance.

In Boston's Old South Meeting-house, Rev. Thomas Prince prayed "Send Thy tempest, Lord, upon the water...scatter the ships of our tormentors!"

Historian Catherine Drinker Bowen related that as he finished praying, the sky darkened, winds shrieked and church bells rang "a wild, uneven sound...though no man was in the steeple."

A hurricane subsequently sank and scattered the entire French fleet. With 4,000 sick and 2,000 dead, including d'Anville, Vice-Admiral d'Estournelle threw himself on his sword.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a Ballad of the French Fleet: "Admiral d'Anville had sworn by cross and crown, to ravage with fire and steel our helpless Boston Town..."

From mouth to mouth spread tidings of dismay, I stood in the Old South saying humbly: 'Let us pray!'

Like a potter's vessel broke, the great ships of the line, were carried away as smoke or sank in the brine."

Margaret Thatcher was born October 13, 1925.

She was the first woman Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. While traveling through New York City in 1996, Margaret Thatcher had an interview with Joseph A. Cannon, which was printed in Human Events.

She stated: "The Decalogue-Ten Commandments-are addressed to each and every person. This is the origin of our common humanity and of the sanctity of the individual. Each one has a duty to try to carry out those commandments. You don't get that in any other political creed...It is personal liberty with personal responsibility."

Margaret Thatcher continued: "Responsibility to your parents, to your children, to your God. This really binds us together in a way that nothing else does. If you accept freedom, you've got to have principles about the responsibility. **You can't do this without a biblical foundation.**"

Margaret Thatcher concluded regarding America: "Your Founding Fathers came over with that. They came over with the doctrines of the New Testament as well as the Old. They looked after one another, not only as a matter of necessity, but as a matter of duty to their God. There is no other country in the world which started that way."

According to tradition, the Liberty Bell cracked tolling at Marshall's funeral, July 8, 1835. Chief Justice John Marshall wrote to Jasper Adams, May 9, 1833: "The American population is entirely Christian, and with us Christianity and Religion are identified. It would be strange indeed, if with such a people, our institutions did not presuppose Christianity and did not often refer to it and exhibit relations with it."

A hundred years after Marshall's death, the present Supreme Court Building was completed in 1935. Engraved above the Chief Justice are the Ten Commandments.

Moses is included among the great lawgivers in Herman A. MacNeil's marble relief on the east portico, and every session of the Supreme Court opens with an invocation: "God save the United States and this Honorable Court."

Son of a butcher, his family died when a plague swept England, leaving him an estate. He attended Emmanuel College, was ordained, married and sailed for Massachusetts where he pastored the First Church of Charlestown.

At age 31, he died of tuberculosis on September 14, 1638. His name was Rev. John Harvard. The College at Cambridge was renamed for him.

Fifty-percent of 17th-century graduates were ministers, as were ten out of twelve of Harvard's presidents prior to the Revolution.

Harvard's founders wrote: "After God had carried us safe to New England, and we...rear'd convenient places for God's worship...dreading to leave an illiterate Ministry to the Churches, when our present Ministers shall lie in them Dust..."

it pleased God to stir up the heart of one Mr. Harvard, a godly gentleman and a lover of learning...to give the one half of his estate...towards the erecting of a college and all his Library."

As 106 of the first 108 schools in America were founded on Christianity, Harvard's Rules & Precepts stated September 26, 1642: "Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life. John 17:3."

One of America's greatest generals for capturing Fort Ticonderoga with Ethan Allen and leading the charge at Saratoga, he felt unappreciated, so August 30, 1780, General Benedict Arnold conspired with British General Clinton to surrender West Point for 20,000 pounds, equivalent to one million dollars today.

The British courier was Major John Andre, who had met Arnold's wife in Philadelphia. As Andre tried to cross to the British lines, he was searched, found with the blue prints for West Point in his boot and executed.

Arnold escaped on the ship Vulture. George Washington wrote September 26, 1780: "Treason of the blackest dye was yesterday discovered! General Arnold who commanded at West Point, was about to...give the American cause a deadly wound if not fatal stab..."

Its discovery affords the most convincing proof that the Liberties of America are the object of divine Protection."

On May 8, 1783, Yale President Ezra Stiles stated: "A providential miracle at the last minute detected the treacherous scheme of traitor Benedict Arnold, which would have delivered the American army, including George Washington himself, into the hands of the enemy."

Unveiling the Equestrian Statue of Francis Asbury in Washington, D.C., 1924, President Calvin Coolidge stated: "Our government rests upon religion It is from that source that we derive our reverence for truth and justice, for equality and liberty..."

This circuit rider spent his life making stronger the foundation on which our government rests."

August 17, 1955, President Eisenhower authorized the code of conduct for U.S. soldiers, which stated: "I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense..."

If captured...I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy...

I will never forget I am an American fighting man, responsible for my actions and dedicated to the principles which made my country free.

I will trust in my God and in the United States of America."

In 1947, the U.S. Corp of Cadets required: "Attendance at Chapel is part of a cadet's training; no cadet will be exempted. Each cadet will receive religious training in one of the three particular faiths: Protestant, Catholic or Jewish."

In 1949, the U.S. Naval Academy required: "All Midshipmen, except those on authorized outside church parties, shall attend Sunday services in the chapel."

On November 15, 1862, Lincoln ordered: "The Commander in Chief...enjoins the...observance of the Sabbath..."

The sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a Christian people...demand that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity."

"FREEDOM IS NOT FREE" is the inscription on the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Korean War ended July 27, 1953, with the armistice signed at Panmunjom.

Begun three years earlier as a UN "police" action, the outnumbered U.S. troops fought courageously against the Communist Chinese and North Korean troops, who were supplied with arms and MIG fighters from the Soviet Union.

With temperatures sometimes forty degrees below zero, and Washington politicians limiting the use of air power against the Communists, there were nearly 140,000 American casualties: in the defense of the Pusan Perimeter and Taego; in the landing at Inchon and the freeing of Seoul; in the capture of Pyongyang; in the Yalu River where nearly a million Communist Chinese soldiers invaded; in the Battles of Changjin Reservoir, Old Baldy, White Horse Mountain, Heartbreak Ridge, Pork Chop Hill, T-Bone Hill, and Siberia Hill.

First Lady Mamie Geneva Doud Eisenhower stated in a conversation at the Doud home regarding their son John, who was serving in Korea: "He has a mission to fulfill and God will see to it that nothing will happen to him till he fulfills it."

On July 26, 1775, Benjamin Franklin became the first U.S. Postmaster General, a position he held prior to the Revolution under the British Crown.

He established a volunteer fire department, a circulating public library, an insurance company, a city police force, a night watch and a militia.

He set up the lighting of city streets and coined the electrical terms "positive" and "negative."

On June 28, 1787, as Governor of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin hosted the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, where he moved: "That henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning."

Tennessee's Constitutional Convention composed its State Constitution in 1796. The U.S. Congress accepted it and President George Washington signed the bill admitting Tennessee as the 16th State on June 1, 1796.

The Tennessee Constitution, Article XI, Section III, stated: "All men have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences."

Though Article XI, Section IV, stated: "No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under this State,"

Article VIII, Section II, stated: "No person who denies the being of God, or a future state of rewards and punishments, shall hold any office in the civil department of this State."

After the Civil War, Tennessee was the first State readmitted to the Union on July 24, 1866. President Andrew Johnson issued a Proclamation of Amnesty and Pardon to former Confederates on September 7, 1867: "Every person who shall seek to avail himself of this proclamation shall take the following oath...

"I do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support...the Constitution of the United States...So help me God."

Roger Sherman was elected a state senator, a judge and a delegate to the Continental Congress.

He helped draft the Declaration of Independence and gave instructions to an embassy to Canada: "That all civil rights and the right to hold office were to be extended to persons of any Christian denomination."

The Monkey Trial ended July 21, 1925, as John Scopes, a Tennessee High school biology teacher was fined for teaching a theory of origins called evolution.

William Jennings Bryan, a three time Democrat Presidential candidate, was the prosecuting attorney arguing against evolution. Bryan objected to a tooth being presented as proof of humans evolving from apes. Later the tooth was found to be that of an extinct pig.

William Jennings Bryan was a Colonel in the Spanish-American War, a U.S. Representative and Secretary of State under President Wilson. He edited the Omaha World Herald and founded The Commoner newspaper. Dying just 5 days after the trial, William Jennings Bryan's statue is in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall. He gave over 600 public speeches during his Presidential campaigns, one of his favorites being "The Prince of Peace."

William Jennings Bryan stated: "I am interested in the science of government but I am more interested in religion...I enjoy making a political speech...but I would rather speak on religion than on politics. I commenced speaking on the stump when I was only twenty, but I commenced speaking in the church six years earlier-and I shall be in the church even after I am out of politics."

The Continental Congress was evacuating Philadelphia as the British had just won the Battle of Brandywine, forcing Washington's troops to retreat to Valley Forge. In addition, Congress was informed that the war had interrupted trade with the King's authorized printers in England, thereby causing a shortage of Bibles, commonly used in education.

The Continental Congress voted September 11, 1777, to import Bibles from Scotland or Holland into different parts of the Union, stating: "The use of the Bible is so universal and its importance so great...it was resolved accordingly to direct said Committee of Commerce to import 20,000 copies of the Bible."

Five years later, September 10, 1782, the Continental Congress again responded to the shortage of Bibles by authorizing the publisher of The Pennsylvania Magazine, Robert Aitken, who died July 15, 1802, to print America's first English language Bible—"A neat edition of the Holy Scriptures for the use of schools."

Congress stated: "Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled highly approve the...undertaking of Mr. Aitken...and... recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States, and hereby authorize him to publish this recommendation."

His name was **Gerald Rudolph Ford**, who stated upon assuming the Presidency, August 9, 1974: "I am acutely aware that you have not elected me as your President by your ballots, and so I ask you to confirm me as your President with your prayers."

On September 8, 1974, President Ford stated: "The Constitution is the supreme law of our land and it governs our actions as citizens. Only the laws of God, which govern our consciences, are superior to it. As we are a Nation under God, so I am sworn to uphold our laws with the help of God."

In a Proclamation of Prayer, December 5, 1974, President Ford quoted President Eisenhower: "**Without God there could be no American form of government...**

Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first-the most basic-expression of Americanism."

"Old Rough and Ready" died July 9, 1850. He fought the British in the War of 1812, the Sac Indians in the Black Hawk War, and the Seminole Indians in Florida. Zachary Taylor's courageous victories in the Mexican War, being greatly outnumbered by Santa Anna's forces, made him a national hero. Zachary Taylor was elected the 12th U.S. President.

Presented with a Bible by a delegation of ladies from Frankfort, Kentucky, President Zachary Taylor's acknowledgment was printed in the Frankfort Commonwealth, February 21, 1849: "I accept with gratitude...your gift of this inestimable Volume. It was for the love of the truths of this great Book that our fathers abandoned their native shores for the wilderness. Animated by its lofty principles they toiled and suffered till the desert blossomed as a rose."

Zachary Taylor continued: "The same truths sustained them...to become a free nation; and guided by the wisdom of this Book they founded a government."

Refusing to be sworn in on the Sabbath, President Zachary Taylor told a Sabbath-School celebration in the City of Washington, July 4, 1849: "The only ground of hope for the continuance of our free institutions is in the proper moral and religious training of the children."

Once political enemies, they became close friends in later life. Both served in the Continental Congress. One was elected the second President and the other elected the third.

An awe swept America when they died on the same day, July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years since they both signed the Declaration of Independence. Their names were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

In his Second Annual Message to Congress, December 5, 1826, President John Quincy Adams stated: "Since your last meeting at this place, the fiftieth anniversary of the day when our independence was declared...two of the principal actors in that solemn scene - the hand that penned the ever-memorable Declaration and the voice that sustained it in debate - were by one summons, at the distance of 700 miles from each other, called before the Judge of All to account for their deeds done upon earth."

President John Quincy Adams added in an Executive Order, July 11, 1826: "A coincidence...so wonderful gives confidence... that the patriotic efforts of these...men were Heaven directed, and furnishes a new...hope that the prosperity of these States is under the special protection of a kind Providence."

The first settlement in North America was Fort Caroline at St. John's River in Florida, founded by French Christians known as Huguenots.

On June 30, 1564, they set a day of Thanksgiving and offered the first Protestant prayer in North America:

"We sang a psalm of Thanksgiving unto God, beseeching Him that it would please Him to continue His accustomed goodness towards us."

"I would rather be right than President," stated Henry Clay, who died June 29, 1852.

The son of a Baptist minister, he was elected Speaker of the U.S. House 6 times, serving in Congress over 40 years with Daniel Webster and John Calhoun.

The State of Kentucky placed Henry Clay's statue in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall. Struggling to hold the Union together prior to the Civil War, Henry Clay stated in 1829 to the Kentucky Colonization Society in Frankfort: "Eighteen hundred years have rolled away since the Son of God...offered Himself...for the salvation of our species..."

"When we shall...be translated from this into another form of existence...we shall behold the common Father of the whites and blacks, the great Ruler of the Universe."

In an obituary address upon his death, Representative John C. Breckinridge recalled Henry Clay as saying: "The vanity of the world, and its insufficiency to satisfy the soul of man, has been long a settled conviction of my mind.

Man's inability to secure by his own merits the approbation of God, I feel to be true.

I trust in the atonement of the Saviour of mercy, as the ground of my acceptance and of my hope of salvation."

The Constitutional Convention was in a deadlock over how large and small states could be represented equally. Some delegates even gave up and left. Then, on June 28, 1787, 81-year-old Benjamin Franklin spoke and shortly after, the U.S. Constitution became a reality.

As recorded by James Madison, Franklin stated: "Groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights."

Franklin continued: "In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for Divine protection.

Our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a Superintending Providence in our favor... And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance?"

Franklin concluded: "We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.'... I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed...no better than the Builders of Babel."

The U.S. Constitution went into effect June 21, 1788, when New Hampshire became the 9th state to ratify it.

The 55 writers of the U.S. Constitution consisted of: 26 Episcopalians, 11 Presbyterians, 7 Congregationalists, 2 Lutherans, 2 Dutch Reformed, 2 Methodists, 2 Roman Catholics, 2 Quakers and 1 Deist-Dr. Franklin, who stated during the Constitutional Convention, June 28, 1787: "I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning."

The Journal of the U.S. House of Representatives, March 27, 1854, recorded the 33rd Congress' unanimous vote to print Congressman James Meacham's report, which stated: "At the adoption of the Constitution, we believe every State-certainly 10 of the 13-provided as regularly for the support of the Church as for the support of the Government..."

Down to the Revolution, every colony did sustain religion in some form. It was deemed peculiarly proper that the religion of liberty should be upheld by a free people."

It was on June 14, 1777, that the Second Continental Congress selected the **Flag** of the United States.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed a Proclamation making June 14th "National Flag Day."

On June 14, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower signed the Joint Resolution of Congress (Public Law 396) which added the phrase "**One Nation Under God**" to the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Eisenhower stated: "From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty.

To anyone who truly loves America, nothing could be more inspiring than to contemplate this rededication of our youth, on each school morning, to our country's true meaning."

President Eisenhower concluded: "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace or in war

The turning point in the Pacific War began June 4, 1942. American intelligence intercepted Japan's plans to capture Midway Island and from there, Hawaii.

The outnumbered U.S. Fleet ambushed the Japanese armada, but was losing badly.

It was not until American dive bombers, navigating by guess and by God, sighted the Japanese aircraft carriers far below through a break in the clouds at the precise moment the Japanese planes had left to attack the U.S.S. Yorktown.

In just five minutes, the screeching American dive bombers sank three Japanese carriers, and a fourth shortly after. After this providential event, Japan was forced to go on the defensive.

In a Memorial Day Address, May 31, 1923, President Calvin Coolidge said: "Settlers came here from mixed motives...Generally defined, they were seeking a broader freedom.

They were intent upon establishing a Christian commonwealth in accordance to the principle of self-government... It has been said that God sifted the nations that He might send choice grain into the wilderness."

Coolidge continued "They had a genius for organized society on the foundations of piety, righteousness, liberty, and obedience of the law... Who can fail to see in it the hand of destiny? Who can doubt that it has been guided by a
Divine
Providence?"

June 5, 1967, the **Six-Day War** began. Egypt had 80,000 troops and 900 tanks advancing on Israel. Jordan and Syria, with Soviet weapons, violently shelled Jerusalem and Israeli villages. Cairo radio announced: The hour has come in which we shall destroy Israel.

The hot line between Washington and Moscow was used for the first time. In a surprise move, Israeli air force destroyed 400 Egyptian planes, courageously drove Syria from the Golan Heights and captured all of Jerusalem.

Midnight, May 14, 1948, the State of Israel came into being and was immediately recognized by the United States and the Soviet Union.

A homeland for the thousands of Jews who were persecuted and displaced during World War II, Israel was attacked the next day by the Transjordanian Army, the Arab Legion, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.

Against all odds, Israel survived.

In November of 1948, President Harry S. Truman wrote to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the first president of Israel: "I want to tell you how happy and impressed I have been at the remarkable progress made by the new State of Israel."

In 1968, President Johnson stated: "America and Israel have a common love of human freedom and a democratic way of life...Through the centuries, through dispersion and through very grievous trials, your forefathers clung to their Jewish identity and their ties with the land of Israel.

The prophet Isaiah foretold - 'And He shall set up an ensign for the nations and He shall assemble the outcasts of Israel and gather together the dispersed of Judah from all the four corners of the earth.'

President Johnson concluded: "History knows no more moving example of persistence against the cruelest odds."

May 12, 1502, **Christopher Columbus** began his last voyage.

Afflicted by Caribbean hurricanes, Columbus recorded seven months later: "The tempest arose and wearied me so that I knew not where to turn, my old wound opened up, and for 9 days I was lost without hope of life; eyes never beheld the sea so angry and covered with foam.

The wind not only prevented our progress, but offered no opportunity to run behind any headland for shelter; hence we were forced to keep out in this bloody ocean, seething like a pot on a hot fire. The people were so worn out that they longed for death."

Columbus' son, Ferdinand recorded on December 13, 1502, how a waterspout passed between the ships; "the which had they not dissolved by reciting the Gospel according to St. John, it would have swamped whatever it struck...for it draws water up to the clouds in a column thicker than a waterbutt, twisting it about like a whirlwind."

Columbus' biographer, Samuel Eliot Morrison described: "It was the Admiral who exorcised the waterspout. From his Bible he read of that famous tempest off Capernaum, concluding, 'Fear not, it is I!' Then clasping the Bible in his left hand, with drawn sword he traced a cross in the sky and a circle around his whole fleet."

On April 17, 1790, the son of a poor candle-maker died. The 15th of 17 children, he apprenticed as a printer, and published a popular almanac.

He retired at age 42, then taught himself five languages, invented the rocking chair, bifocal glasses, and the lighting rod, which earned him degrees from Harvard and Yale.

He helped found the University of Pennsylvania, a hospital, America's first postal system and fire department. He became the governor of Pennsylvania, signed the Declaration of Independence and called for prayer at the Constitutional Convention.

He was also president of America's first anti-slavery society. His name was Ben Franklin.

In his Poor Richard's Almanac, May 1757, Ben Franklin wrote: "Work as if you were to live 100 years; pray as if you were to die tomorrow."

In a pamphlet for Europeans titled "Information to Those Who Would Remove to America," 1754, Benjamin Franklin wrote: "Atheism is unknown there; Infidelity rare and secret; so that persons may live to a great age in that country without having their piety shocked by meeting with either an Atheist or an Infidel. And the Divine Being seems...pleased to favor the whole country."

President John Adams' son, John Quincy Adams, was U.S. Minister to Russia.

In September 1811, John Quincy Adams wrote from St. Petersburg to his son, Charles:

"My dear Son...You mentioned that you read to your aunt a chapter in the Bible...every evening."

John Quincy Adams continued: "This information gave me real pleasure; for so great is my veneration for the Bible, and so strong my belief, that when duly read and meditated on, it is of all books in the world, that which contributes most to make men good, wise, and happy-that the earlier my children begin to read it...the more lively and confident will be my hopes that they will prove useful citizens of their country."

This correspondence was published after his death as "Letters of John Quincy Adams to his son, on the Bible and its Teachings."

President John Quincy Adams' grandson, Henry Adams, was an American historian, writing from his unique perspective the 9-volume work "History of the United States."

Henry Adams, who died March 27, 1918, wrote: "The Pilgrims of Plymouth, the Puritans of Boston, the Quakers of Pennsylvania, all avowed a moral purpose, and began by making institutions that consciously reflected a moral idea."

Sir Isaac Newton died March 20, 1727. With his mother widowed twice, he had been raised by his grandmother before being sent off to grammar school and later Cambridge.

He discovered calculus, the laws of gravity and built the first reflecting telescope. Using a prism, he demonstrated that a beam of light contained all the colors of the rainbow.

President of the Royal Society from 1703 till his death, Sir Isaac Newton wrote in Principia, 1687: "This most beautiful system of the sun, planets, and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent Being...

All variety of created objects which represent order and life in the universe could happen only by the willful reasoning of its original Creator, whom I call the Lord God."

In Optics, 1704, Newton wrote: "God in the beginning formed matter." Regarding the Bible, Newton wrote: "The system of revealed truth which this Book contains is like that of the universe, concealed from common observation yet the labors of the centuries have established its Divine origin."

In A Short Scheme of the True Religion, Sir Isaac Newton wrote: "Atheism is so senseless and odious to mankind that it never had many professors."

James Madison, born March 16, 1751.
 During the War of 1812, he proclaimed two National Days of
 Prayer, 1812 and 1813.

When the British marched on Washington, D.C., citizens
 evacuated, along with President and Dolly Madison.

As the British burned the Capitol, White House, and public
 buildings, August 25, 1814, dark clouds rolled in and a
 tornado sent debris flying, blew off roofs and knocked over
 chimneys on the British.

Two cannons lifted off the ground and dropped yards away.
 A British historian wrote "More British soldiers were killed
 by this stroke of nature than from all the firearms the
 American troops had mustered."

British fled the city and rains extinguished the fires.
 Madison then proclaimed a National Day of Public
 Humiliation, Fasting & Prayer to Almighty God, November
 16, 1814.

Two weeks after the War ended, Madison proclaimed a
 National Day of Thanksgiving & Devout Acknowledgment to
 Almighty God, March 4, 1815.

Five-Star General Omar Bradley died April 8, 1981. Born 1893, in a cabin near Clark, Missouri, he was a star player on his high school baseball team. He worked for Wabash Railroad, until his Sunday School superintendent recommended he apply to West Point.

President Eisenhower said, April 29, 1954: "I thank General Bradley, my old comrade in arms, my classmate from West Point, my great associate in World War II."

Bradley commanded the 2nd Army Corps in North Africa, was Senior Commander of U.S. Ground Forces for the invasion of France, and in August 1944 led the 12th Army Group in France and Germany, consisting of a million men in four armies.

President Johnson stated, May 23, 1964: "General Bradley, you were the field commander of more American fighting troops than any commander in any era."

Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, 1948-49, and first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1950, General Omar Bradley stated, November 11, 1948:

"We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount...The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants."

When Barnum's show began traveling, Moody, with help from J.P. Morgan and Cornelius Vanderbilt, transformed the Hippodrome into a revival tabernacle.

Services began February 7, 1876, with 7,000 people in the main hall, 4,000 in overflow, thousands outside, 500 ushers and 1,200 singers directed by Ira Sankey.

Sunday attendance hit 25,000. It was perhaps Moody's most important campaign, for impacting New York impacted the nation.

D.L. Moody said: "Moses spent 40 years thinking he was somebody; 40 years learning he was nobody; and 40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody."

Born in a slave hut April 5, 1856, was **Booker T. Washington**.

In dire poverty after the Civil War, he moved to West Virginia to work in a salt furnace and coal mine. At age 16 he walked 500 miles to attend Hampton Institute.

He taught in West Virginia until he founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he recruited George Washington Carver as a professor. At his death, the school had 1,500 students and a faculty of 200 teaching 38 trades.

The first African American to have his image on a U.S. coin and postage stamp, Booker T. Washington wrote in *Up From Slavery*,
1907:

"If no other consideration had convinced me of the value of the Christian life, the Christlike work which the Church of all denominations in America has done during the last 35 years for the elevation of the black man would have made me a Christian."

Of his speech in Atlanta, 1895, Booker T. Washington wrote: "The afternoon papers had forecasts of the next days' proceedings in flaring headlines...I did not sleep much that night...The next morning...I also kneeled down and asked God's blessing..."

I make it a rule never to go before an audience...without asking the blessing of God upon what I want to say."

Tenth President John Tyler was born March 29, 1790.

He was the first Vice-President ever to assume the Presidency when William Henry Harrison died after only one month in office.

To mourn his death, President John Tyler's first act was to proclaim a National Day of Fasting and Prayer, in which he stated: "When a Christian people feel themselves to be overtaken by a great public calamity, it becomes them to humble themselves under the dispensation of Divine Providence, to recognize His righteous government over the children of men...and to supplicate His merciful protection for the future."

In his 2nd Annual Message to Congress, December 6, 1842, President Tyler stated: "The schoolmaster and the missionary are found side by side."

In his 4th Annual Message to Congress, December 3, 1844, President Tyler stated: "The guaranty of religious freedom, of the freedom of the press, of the liberty of speech, of the trial by jury, of the habeas corpus...will be enjoyed by millions yet unborn...."

Our prayers should evermore be offered up to the Father of the Universe for His wisdom to direct us in the path of our duty so as to enable us to consummate these high purposes."

On March 28, 1885, the Salvation Army was organized in the United States. It was begun in England by "General" William Booth in 1865, who conducted meetings among the poor in London's East End slums.

Originally named the Christian Mission, he designed uniforms and adopted a semi-military system of leadership.

On December 1, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson remarked to the Salvation Army in New York: "For a century now, the Salvation Army has offered food to the hungry and shelter to the homeless-in clinics and children's homes, through disaster relief, in prison and welfare work, and a thousand other endeavors. In that century you have proved time and again the power of a handshake, a meal, and a song.

But you have not stopped there. You have demonstrated also the power of a great idea."

President Lyndon Johnson continued: "The voice of the Salvation Army has reminded men that physical well-being is just not enough; that **spiritual rebirth is the most pressing need of our time and of every time; that the world cannot be changed unless men change.**

Susan B. Anthony, whose face is on a U.S. dollar coin, died
 March 13, 1906.

Raised a Quaker, her father owned a cotton mill and refused to buy cotton from farmers who owned slaves.

Her religious upbringing instilled in her the concept that every one is equal before God and motivated her to crusade for freedom for slaves and a woman's right to vote.

Opposing liquor, drunkenness and abortion, she encountered mobs, armed threats, objects thrown at her and was hung in effigy.

After the Civil War, Susan B. Anthony worked hard for the passage of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments.

She succeeded in having women admitted to the University of Rochester and was arrested for voting in the 1872 Presidential Election.

Fourteen years after her death, women won the right to vote.

"I deplore the horrible crime of child-murder," wrote Susan B. Anthony in *The Revolution* (July 1869), "No matter what the motive, love of ease, or a desire to save from suffering the unborn innocent, the woman is awfully guilty who commits the deed."

It will burden her conscience in life, it will burden her soul in death; but oh! Thrice guilty is he who...drove her to the desperation which impels her to the crime."

Ben Franklin was the first president of the first anti-slavery society in the United States.

Richard Bassett, a Signer of the Constitution, converted to Methodism, freed all his slaves and paid them as hired labor.

John Quincy Adams fought to end slavery by removing Congress' Gag Rule.

But it was Senator Charles Sumner's vehement stand against slavery that resulted in enraged Congressman Preston S. Brooks of South Carolina violently beating him on the head with a cane while he was seated at his desk on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Charles Sumner died March 11, 1874, having never fully recovered from those injuries.

A founder of the Republican Party, Sumner served as a Senator from Massachusetts for 23 years. He stated:

"Familiarity with that great story of redemption, when God raised up the slave-born Moses to deliver His chosen people from bondage, and with that sublimer story where our Saviour died a cruel death that all men, without distinction of race, might be saved, makes slavery impossible."

Charles Sumner continued: "There is no reason for renouncing Christianity, or for surrendering to the false religions; nor do I doubt that Christianity will yet prevail over the earth as the waters cover the sea."

6-year-old William Penn received from King Charles II the charter to Pennsylvania on March 10, 1681, as repayment of a debt owed to his deceased father Admiral Sir William Penn, who captured Jamaica and defeated the Dutch navy.

A student at Oxford, William Penn was expelled for having his own prayer services in his dorm room instead of attending the Anglican chapel.

He converted to Quakerism and was imprisoned in the Tower of London.

His colony was a "holy experiment" for persecuted Europeans, one of the few original colonies to accept Mennonites, Amish, Catholics and Jews.

Emphasizing his plan of Christian tolerance, he named the city "Philadelphia," Greek for "Brotherly Love."

History records that since William Penn insisted on treating the Delaware Indians honestly, paying a fair sum for the land, Philadelphia was spared the Indian attacks and scalplings that other colonial settlements experienced.

Before arriving, Penn wrote to the Delaware chiefs: "My Friends, There is one...God...and He hath made...the king of the country where I live, give...unto me a great province therein, but I desire to enjoy it with your...consent, that we may always live together as...friends."

March 6, 1776, General Washington ordered: "Thursday...being set apart by the Legislature of this Province as a day of fasting, prayer and humiliation, 'to implore the Lord and Giver of all victory to pardon our manifold sins and wickedness, and that it would please Him to bless the Continental army with His divine favor and protection,' all officers and soldiers are strictly enjoined to pay all due reverence on that day to the sacred duties of the Lord of hosts."

Colonel Henry Knox moved 59 cannons from Fort Ticonderoga 300 hundred miles to a position overlooking Boston Harbor, wrapping wagon wheels with straw so the British would not hear.

Amidst a violent storm, British General Howe was forced on March 17 to evacuate his ships and 3,000 men from Boston.

General Washington wrote his brother, John Augustine Washington, March 31, 1776: "Upon their discovery of the works next morning, great preparations were made for attacking them; but not being ready before the afternoon, and the weather getting very tempestuous, much blood was saved, and a very important blow...was prevented.

That this most remarkable Interposition of Providence is for some wise purpose, I have not a doubt."

Colonists were forced to house British soldiers. On March 5, 1770, a crowd protested and in the confusion British soldiers fired, killing five, one being Crispus Attucks, the most famous African American who participated in the Revolution.

Paul Revere's popular engraving of the Boston Massacre fanned flames of anti-British sentiment. Joseph Warren, the President of the Massachusetts Congress who sent Paul Revere on his midnight ride, stated on the 2nd anniversary of the Massacre, 1772:

"If you perform your part, you must have the strongest confidence that the same Almighty Being who protected your pious and venerable forefathers...will still be mindful of you...May our land be a land of liberty...until the last shock of time shall bury the empires of the world in one common indistinguishable ruin!"

John Hancock, first to sign the Declaration of Independence, stated on the 4th anniversary of the Boston Massacre, 1774:

"Let us play the man for our GOD, and for the cities of our GOD...By a faithful discharge of our duty to our country, let us joyfully leave her important concerns in the hands of HIM who raiseth up and putteth down empires and kingdoms of the world as HE pleases."

Until 1937, March 4th was Inauguration Day. Each President acknowledged faith upon assuming office, for example, John Adams in 1797 gave: "Veneration for the religion of a people who profess and call themselves Christians...to consider a decent respect for Christianity among the best recommendations for the public service."

In 1809, James Madison referred to the: "Guidance of that Almighty Being."

John Quincy Adams stated in 1825: "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh in vain."

In 1841, William Harrison said: "I deem the present occasion sufficiently important...in expressing to my fellow citizens a profound reverence for the Christian religion."

Franklin Pierce, in 1853, stated: "There is no national security but in the nation's humble, acknowledged dependence upon God."

President James Buchanan, 1857, said: "Cultivate peace...with all nations...in a spirit of Christian benevolence."

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln wrote: "Intelligence, patriotism, Christianity, and a firm reliance on Him who has never yet forsaken this favored land, are still competent to adjust in the best way all our present difficulty."

President Calvin Coolidge said in 1925: "America...cherishes no purpose save to merit the favor of Almighty God."

From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli"-the Marine anthem recalls when **Muslim Barbary Pirates** of North Africa committed terrorist acts on American ships, selling crews into slavery.

Tripoli demanded tribute and a treaty was attempted, but it was not honored as the Koran prohibited friendship with infidels:

"Infidels are those who declare 'God is Christ, the son of Mary'"-Surah 5:17;

"Infidels are those that say 'God is one of three in a Trinity'"-Surah 5:73;

"Infidels are your sworn enemies"-Sura 4:101.

The Koran continued: "Make war on the infidels"-Sura 9:123;

"When you meet the infidel in the battlefield strike off their heads"-Surah 47:4;

"Muhammad is Allah's apostle, those who follow him are ruthless to the infidels"-Surah 48:29; "Take neither Jews nor Christians for your friends"-Surah 5:51.

President Jefferson finally sent in the Marines, and in what Admiral Horatio Nelson described as the "most bold and daring act of the age," Lieut. Stephen Decatur sailed his ship, the Intrepid, on the night of February 16, 1804, into the pirate harbor, burned a ship and escaped unharmed amidst fierce enemy fire.

The Marines captured Tripoli and forced the Pasha to make peace on U.S. terms.

At the Alfred M. Landon Lecture Series, 1982, Ronald Reagan stated: "We can't have it both ways. We can't expect God to protect us in a crisis and just leave Him over there on the shelf in our day-to-day living.

I wonder if sometimes He isn't waiting for us to wake up, He isn't maybe running out of patience."

At Reunion Arena in Dallas, 1984, Ronald Reagan stated: "America needs God more than God needs America. If we ever forget that we are One Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was born January 30, 1882, in Hyde Park, New York.

The 32nd President, he was in office longer than any other, over 12 years, serving during the Great Depression and World War II. On October 6, 1935, FDR stated: "We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a nation, without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic..."

Where we have been the truest and most consistent in obeying its precepts, we have attained the greatest measure of contentment and prosperity."

In a Fireside Chat, March 9, 1937, FDR stated: "I hope that you have re-read the Constitution of the United States in these past few weeks. Like the Bible, it ought to be read again and again."

In a Campaign Address, November 1, 1940, FDR stated: "Those forces hate democracy and Christianity as two phases of the same civilization."

In a Radio Address, November 4, 1940, FDR stated: "Democracy is the birthright of every citizen, the white and the colored; the Protestant, the Catholic, the Jew."

In a Radio Address, May 27, 1941, FDR stated: "The Nazis are as ruthless as the Communists in the denial of God."

In his State of the Union Address, January 25, 1984, President Reagan stated:

"Each day your members observe a 200-year-old tradition meant to signify America is one nation under God. I must ask:

If you can begin your day with a member of the clergy standing right here leading you in prayer, then why can't freedom to acknowledge God be enjoyed again by children in every school room across this land?"

A month later in a radio address, February 25, 1984, President Reagan stated: "The First Amendment of the Constitution was not written to protect the people from religion; that amendment was written to protect religion from government tyranny..."

But now we're told our children have no right to pray in school. Nonsense.

The pendulum has swung too far toward intolerance against genuine religious freedom. It is time to redress the balance.

Former Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart noted if religious exercises are held to be impermissible activity in schools, religion is placed at an artificial and state-created disadvantage...

Refusal to permit religious exercises is seen not as the realization of state neutrality, but rather as the establishment of a religion of secularism."

The 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1933, changed the date of Presidential Inaugurations from March 4th to JANUARY 20th.

Since then, in their first addresses upon assuming office, Presidents stated:

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, 1945: "Almighty God has blessed our land."

HARRY S TRUMAN, 1949: "We believe that all men are created equal because they are created in the image of God."

DWIGHT EISENHOWER, 1953: "This is the work that awaits us all, to be done with bravery, with charity, and with prayer to Almighty God."

JOHN F. KENNEDY, 1961: "The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God."

LYNDON B. JOHNSON, 1965: "The judgment of God is harshest on those who are most favored."

RICHARD M. NIXON, 1969: "As all are born equal in dignity before God, all are born equal in dignity before man."

GERALD FORD, 1974: "To do what is right as God gives me to see the right."

JIMMY CARTER, 1977: "What does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

RONALD REAGAN, 1981: "With God's help, we can and will resolve the problems which now confront us. And after

all, why shouldn't we believe that? We are Americans."

GEORGE H.W. BUSH, 1989: "I have just repeated word for word the oath taken by George Washington 200 years ago, and the Bible on which I place my hand is the Bible on which he placed his."

GEORGE W. BUSH, 2001: "We are guided by a power larger than ourselves, Who creates us equal in His image."

Mel Gibson's movie "The Patriot" depicted the Battle of Cowpens, January 17, 1781, where American General Daniel Morgan had a line of militia fire into British General Cornwallis' and Colonel Tarleton's dragoons, regulars, Highlanders and loyalists.

When the Americans retreated, the British pursued, only to be surprised by American Continentals waiting over the hill.

In the confusion, the Americans killed 110 British and captured 830. Cornwallis regrouped and chased the Americans, arriving at the Catawba River just two hours after the Americans had crossed, but a storm made the river impassable.

Cornwallis nearly overtook them as they were getting out of the Yadkin River, but rain flooded the river. This happened again at the Dan River.

British Commander Henry Clinton wrote: "Here the royal army was again stopped by a sudden rise of the waters, which had only just fallen (almost miraculously) to let the enemy over."

In March of 1781, General Washington wrote to William Gordon: "We have...abundant reasons to thank Providence for its many favorable interpositions in our behalf. It has at times been my only dependence, for all other resources seemed to have failed us."

"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." This famous quote was from British statesman Edmund Burke, who was born this day, January 12, 1729.

Considered the most influential orator in the House of Commons, Burke stands out in history, for, as a member of the British Parliament, he defended the rights of the American colonies and strongly opposed the slave trade.

In "A Letter to a Member of the National Assembly," 1791, Edmund Burke wrote:

"What is liberty without wisdom and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice, and madness, without restraint.

Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites; in proportion as they are disposed to listen to the counsels of the wise and good in preference to the flattery of knaves.

Society cannot exist, unless a controlling power upon will and appetite be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without.

It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things, that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters."

Becoming the 13th President when Zachary Taylor died unexpectedly, he sent Commodore Perry to Japan and admitted California, which just began the Gold Rush, into the Union.

This was Millard Fillmore, born January 7, 1800. When the Library of Congress caught fire, he formed a bucket brigade to extinguish the flames. On July 10, 1850, Millard Fillmore stated:

"I dare not shrink; and I rely upon Him who holds in His hands the destinies of nations to endow me with the requisite strength for the task."

In his Annual Message, December 2, 1850, Millard Fillmore stated: "I can not bring this communication to a close without invoking you to join me in humble and devout thanks to the Great Ruler of Nations for the multiplied blessings which He has graciously bestowed upon us. His hand, so often visible in our preservation, has stayed the pestilence, saved us from foreign wars and domestic disturbances, and scattered plenty throughout the land."

In his Annual Message, December 6, 1852, President Fillmore stated:

"We owe these blessings, under Heaven, to the Constitution and Government... bequeathed to us by our fathers, and which it is our sacred duty to transmit...to our children."

Though the War of 1812 had ended two weeks earlier, news had not yet reach New Orleans and on January 8, 1815, five thousand British soldiers charged in a frontal assault against General Andrew Jackson's Tennessee and Kentucky sharpshooters.

French pirate Jean Lafitte and his men aided the Americans. In just a half-hour, over two thousand British were killed and only 8 Americans.

On January 8, 1815, General Andrew Jackson wrote to Robert Hays regarding the victorious Battle of New Orleans: "It appears that the unerring hand of Providence shielded my men from the shower of balls, bombs, and rockets, when every ball and bomb from our guns carried with them a mission of death."

Known as "Old Hickory," Andrew Jackson commented to Major Dravezac on his confidence before the Battle: "I was sure of success, for I knew that God would not give me revisions of disaster, but signs of victory. He said this ditch can never be passed. It cannot be done."

Andrew Jackson wrote to Secretary of War James Monroe: "Heaven, to be sure, has interposed most wonderfully in our behalf, and I am filled with gratitude, when I look back to what we have escaped."

Alexander Solzhenitsyn was born in Russia this day, December 11, 1918. He was arrested for writing a letter criticizing Joseph Stalin and spent eleven years in prisons and labor camps.

He began writing and eventually received the Nobel Prize for Literature. Solzhenitsyn wrote: "At the height of Stalin's terror in 1937-38...more than 40,000 persons were shot per month...Over there people are groaning and dying and in psychiatric hospitals. Doctors are making their evening rounds, injecting people with drugs which destroy their brain cells."

Solzhenitsyn continued: "You know the words from the Bible: 'Build not on sand, but on rock'.... Lenin's teachings are that anyone is considered to be a fool who doesn't take what's lying in front of him. If you can take it, take it. If you can attack, attack. But if there's a wall, then go back. And the Communist leaders respect only firmness and have contempt and laugh at persons who continually give in to them."

Solzhenitsyn concluded: "America...they are trying to weaken you; they are trying to disarm your strong and magnificent country...I call upon you: ordinary working men of America...do not let yourselves become weak."

A week after Congress approved the First Amendment, President George Washington issued the first National Thanksgiving Proclamation, 1789:

"Whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me 'to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness;'

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next, to be devoted by the People of these United States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be;

That we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks...for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government...particularly the national one now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed...to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue."

Elected to Congress at age 29, he was a Senator at 33. He resigned, enlisted as an army private and was eventually promoted to brigadier general. His leg was crushed in the Battle of Churubusco in Mexico. He served under General Winfield Scott, whom he later ran against for President.

Before he died, Franklin Pierce was baptized in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Concord. He was friends with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Nathaniel Hawthorne, who was with him the night he died and wrote in a biography of Pierce:

"Whether in sorrow or success he has learned...that religious faith is the most valuable...of human possessions...With this sense, there has come...a wide sympathy for the modes of Christian worship and a reverence for religious belief as a matter between the Deity and man's soul."

President Franklin Peirce said in his Inaugural, March 4, 1853: "It must be felt that there is no national security but in the nation's humble, acknowledged dependence upon God and His overruling providence."
In the south banks of Washington's tidal basin,

Jefferson still speaks: 'Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever.'

November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address where 50,000 soldiers were killed or wounded in a three day battle:

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield...to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live... But...we cannot dedicate...this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it...

It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced...That from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure...

That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain-that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom-and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Created to prevent future wars, the United Nations, a term coined by Franklin Roosevelt, officially began **October 24, 1945.**

Since then there have been over 100 million casualties in over 150 wars and armed conflicts: 25 in Latin and South America, 54 in Africa, 13 in Eastern Europe, 52 in Africa, 11 South Asia, 5 Central Asia, 20 Southeast Asia.

Amidst accusations of U.N. Oil for Food Scandal, U.N. Sex Scandal, the 185 member United Nations spends \$20 billion annually, though never independently audited.

The first U.N. Secretary General was Alger Hiss, accused in a highly publicized 1948 trial of being a Communist agent by former Soviet spy Whittaker Chambers.

The fourth President of the U.N. General Assembly, elected 1949, was Philippine General Carlos Romulo, who served with General Douglas MacArthur in the Pacific and was the first Asian to win a Pulitzer Prize.

General Romulo wrote: "Never forget, Americans, that yours is a spiritual country. Yes, I know you're a practical people. Like others, I've marveled at your factories, your skyscrapers, and your arsenals. But underlying everything else is the fact that America began as a God-loving, God-fearing, God-worshiping people."

Lewis Cass was born October 9, 1782. A Brigadier-General in the War of 1812, he was Governor of the Michigan Territory where he made Indian treaties, organized townships and built roads.

Appointed Secretary of War by President Andrew Jackson, he was a Senator, Secretary of State for President Buchanan and the 1848 Democrat Presidential Candidate.

The State of Michigan placed his statue in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall.

Lewis Cass stated: "Independent of its connection with human destiny hereafter, the fate of republican government is indissolubly bound up with the fate of the Christian religion, and a people who reject its holy faith will find themselves the slaves of their own evil passions and of arbitrary power."

From Washington, 1846, Cass wrote: "God, in His providence, has given us a Book of His revealed will...to teach us what we ought to do here, and what we shall be hereafter."

In a Eulogy for Daniel Webster, December 14, 1852, Lewis Cass stated: "He died in the faith of the Christian - humble, but hopeful - adding another to the long list of eminent men who have searched the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and have found it to be the word and the will of God."

Historian Arnold Joseph Toynbee died October 2, 1975. Providing foreign intelligence for the British, he was a delegate to the Paris Peace Conferences after World Wars I and II. Educated at Oxford "almost entirely in the Greek and Latin Classics," he taught at King's College, University of London and the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

His 12-volume "Study of History," 1934-61, described the rise, flowering, and decline of 26 cultures, from Egypt, Greece, and Rome to Polynesia and Peru. "Civilizations die from suicide, not by murder," argued

Toynbee, who saw religion as the prime motivation in history. "When I started, religion was not a prominent feature... In writing my study, I have been constantly surprised to find religion coming back to fill an even greater place... So what does the universe look like?..It looks as if everything were on the move either toward its Creator or away from Him."

Toynbee wrote: "The course of human history consists of a series of encounters...in which each man or woman or child...is challenged by God to make the free choice between doing God's will and refusing to do it. When Man refuses, he is free to make his refusal and to take the consequences."

Crying "no taxation without representation," he instigated the Stamp Act riots and the Boston Tea Party.

After the "Boston Massacre," he spread Revolutionary sentiment with his Committees of Correspondence.

Called "The Father of the American Revolution," Samuel Adams, who was born September 27, 1722, called for a Continental Congress and signed the Declaration.

A cousin of second President John Adams, Samuel Adams wrote in *The Rights of Colonists, 1772*: "Among the natural rights of Colonists are: First, a right to life; Secondly, to liberty; Thirdly, to property; together with the right to defend them... The supreme power cannot justly take from any man any part of his property, without his consent."

As Governor of Massachusetts, Samuel Adams wrote to James Warren, February 12, 1779: "A general dissolution of the principles and manners will more surely overthrow the liberties of America than the whole force of the common enemy.

While the people are virtuous they cannot be subdued; but once they lose their virtue, they will be ready to surrender their liberties to the first external or internal invader... If we would enjoy this gift of Heaven, let us become a virtuous people."

Daniel Boone served with George Washington in 1755 during the French and Indian War, explored Florida in 1765 and was sent by Patrick Henry to survey Kentucky.

In 1775, the Pennsylvania Company had him lay out lands in Kentucky, erecting a fort on the Kentucky River called Boonesboro.

In 1778, during the Revolution, he went to Blue Licks to get salt for the settlement but was captured by Shawnee Indians and taken to Detroit. He learned the British had incited Indians to attack his settlement, so he escaped and ran nearly 400 miles in 5 days to warn Boonesboro.

He became a Major in the militia and served in Virginia's legislature.

He bought land in Kentucky but lost it due to poorly prepared titles, so he left in 1799 and bought land from Spain west of the Mississippi River. He lost this land in 1803 with the Louisiana Purchase, but 6 years before his death on September 26, 1820, Congress gave him back the land.

On October 17, 1816, Daniel Boone wrote his sister-in-law Sarah Boone: "The religion I have is to love and fear God, believe in Jesus Christ, do all the good to my neighbor, and myself that I can, do as little harm as I can help, and trust on God's mercy for the rest."

"The power to tax is the power to destroy," wrote John Marshall, 4th

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who was born September 24, 1755. No one had a greater impact on U.S. Constitutional Law than Marshall. Sworn in on February 4, 1801, he served on the bench 34 years and helped write over 1,000 decisions.

He fought in the Revolution under Washington, enduring the terrible winter at Valley Forge. According to tradition, the Liberty Bell cracked tolling at his funeral, July 8, 1835.

Chief Justice John Marshall wrote to Jasper Adams, May 9, 1833: "The American population is entirely Christian, and with us Christianity and Religion are identified. It would be strange indeed, if with such a people, our institutions did not presuppose Christianity, and did not often refer to it, and exhibit relations with it."

A hundred years after Marshall's death, in 1935, the Supreme Court Building was completed. Engraved above the Chief Justice are the Ten Commandments.

Moses is included among the great lawgivers in Herman A. MacNeil's marble relief on the east portico.

Every session of the Supreme Court opens with an invocation: "God save the United States and this Honorable Court."

On September 21, 1924, America's 30th President, Calvin Coolidge, addressed the Holy Name Society in Washington, D.C., saying: "The worst evil that could be inflicted upon the youth of the land would be to leave them without restraint and completely at the mercy of their own uncontrolled inclinations."

Under such conditions education would be impossible, and all orderly development intellectually or morally would be hopeless." Coolidge continued: "The Declaration of Independence...claims...the ultimate source of authority by stating...they were...appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of their 'intentions.'... The foundations of our independence and our Government rests upon basic religious convictions. Back of the authority of our laws is the authority of the Supreme Judge of the World, to whom we still appeal."

President Coolidge concluded: "It seems to me perfectly plain that the authority of law, the right to equality, liberty and property, under American institutions, have for their foundation reverence for God. If we could imagine that to be swept away, these institutions of our American government could not long survive."

Like the Roman leader Cincinnatus, who twice led the Roman Republic to victory in battle and twice voluntarily gave up his power to return to a life of farming, George Washington led the American Republic to victory over the British, resigned, then after having served two terms as President, chose to return to a life of farming at Mount Vernon.

In an age when ambitious men relentlessly sought political power, the world stood in awe as Washington voluntarily gave up his powerful position and on this day, September 19, 1796, delivered his Farewell Address.

He stated: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism, who should labor to subvert these great Pillars..."

Let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion... Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle...

Morality is a necessary spring of popular government... Who that is a sincere friend to it, can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?"

Just weeks after the British burned the U.S. Capitol, they set out for Baltimore. On the way they caught an elderly physician of Upper Marlboro, Dr. William Beanes.

The town feared he would be hanged, so they asked a young lawyer, Francis Scott Key, to sail with Colonel John Skinner under a flag of truce to the British flagship TONNANT and arrange a prisoner exchange. Concerned their planned attack on Baltimore would be revealed, the British placed them under guard aboard the H.M.S. Surprise, then on a sloop where they watched the night of September 13, 1814, as Fort MCHenry was bombarded.

The next morning, "through the dawn's early light," Key saw the flag still flying. Elated, he penned the Star-Spangled Banner, which states in the 4th verse:

"O! thus be it ever when free men shall stand, Between their loved home and the war's desolation; Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land, Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just; And this be our motto, 'In God is our trust!' And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!"

Son of a butcher, his family died when a plague swept England, leaving him an estate. He attended Emmanuel College, was ordained, married and sailed for Massachusetts where he pastored the First Church of Charlestown. He died of tuberculosis at age 31, on September 14, 1638. He was Rev. John Harvard.

The College at Cambridge was renamed for him. Ten of twelve Harvard presidents prior to the Revolution were ministers, as were 50 percent of 17th-century graduates.

Harvard's founders wrote: "After God had carried us safe
to New

England, and we...reard convenient places for God's worship...dreading to leave an illiterate Ministry to the Churches, when our present Ministers shall lie in the Dust...it pleased God to stir up the heart of one Mr. Harvard, a godly gentleman and a lover of learning...to give the one half of his estate...towards the erecting of a college and all his Library."

As 106 of the first 108 schools in America were founded on Christianity, Harvard's Rules & Precepts, September 26, 1642, stated: "Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the main end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life. Jn 17:3."

August 27, 1776, British General Howe trapped 8,000 American troops on Brooklyn Heights.

Desperate, Washington ferried his army all night across the East River. Morning came yet half his troops were still in danger. A fog allowed the entire army to be evacuated. Never again did the British have such a chance to trap the American army.

Major Ben Tallmadge, Washington's Chief of Intelligence, wrote: "As the dawn of the next day approached, those of us who remained in the trenches became very anxious for our own safety, and when the dawn appeared there were several regiments still on duty.

At this time a very dense fog began to rise off the river, and it seemed to settle in a peculiar manner over both encampments. I recollect this peculiar providential occurrence perfectly well, and so very dense was the atmosphere that I could scarcely discern a man at six yards distance... We tarried until the sun had risen, but the fog remained as dense as ever."

Connecticut Governor Jonathan Trumbull had written to General George Washington, July 13, 1775: "May the God of the armies of Israel shower down the blessings of his Divine Providence...in the day of battle and danger."

One of America's greatest generals for capturing Fort Ticonderoga with Ethan Allen and leading the charge at Saratoga, he felt unappreciated, so August 30, 1780, General Benedict Arnold conspired with British General Clinton to surrender West Point for 20,000 pounds, equivalent to \$1 million today.

The British courier was Major John Andre, who had met Arnold's wife in Philadelphia. As Andre tried to cross to the British lines, he was searched, found with the blue prints for West Point in his boot and executed. Arnold escaped on the ship Vulture.

George Washington wrote September 26, 1780: "Treason of the blackest dye was yesterday discovered! General Arnold who commanded at West Point, was about to...give the American cause a deadly wound if not fatal stab... Its discovery affords the most convincing proof that the Liberties of America are the object of divine Protection."

On May 8, 1783, Yale President Ezra Stiles stated: "A providential miracle at the last minute detected the treacherous scheme of traitor Benedict Arnold, which would have delivered the American army, including George Washington himself, into the hands of the enemy? "In the name of the most holy and undivided Trinity." Thus began the Treaty of Paris which ended the Revolutionary War.

The Treaty continued: "It having pleased the Divine Providence to dispose the hearts of the most serene and most potent Prince George the Third...and of the United States of America, to forget all past misunderstandings and differences...

Done at Paris, this third day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

The Treaty was signed by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, the 2nd President, and John Jay, the first Chief Justice.

On January 27, 1983, declaring a National Day of Prayer,
President Ronald Reagan stated:

"Prayer is the mainspring of the American spirit, a
fundamental tenet of our people since before the Republic
was founded.

A year before the Declaration of Independence, in 1775,
the Continental Congress proclaimed the first National Day
of Prayer as the initial positive action they asked of every
colonist.

Two hundred years ago in 1783, the Treaty of Paris officially
ended the long, weary Revolutionary War during which a
National Day of Prayer had been proclaimed every spring
for eight years."

Judge Janice Rogers Brown, of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, recently gave a speech at Harding University that deserves an enthusiastic amen from every Christian in the land.

"Christianity at its best is the foundation of reason and liberty," Judge Brown declared. Can you believe it - a judge of one of the most powerful courts in the land declaring that Christianity is the basis for freedom? (By Vision America)

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