



II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

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WE REMEMBER



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MEMORIAL DAY

What a debt of gratitude we owe to every person who has served in the armed forces of our great nation!



"TAPS"

Day is done Gone the sun
From the Lakes From the hills
From the sky. All is well,
Safely rest. God is nigh.

Fading light Dims the sight
And a star Gems the sky,
Gleaming bright From afar,
Drawing nigh, Falls the night.

Thanks and praise, For our days
Neath the sun, Neath the stars
Neath the sky, As we go
This we know, God is nigh.



LEST WE FORGET

The Price They Paid

Have you ever wondered what happened to those men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or the hardships of the Revolutionary War.

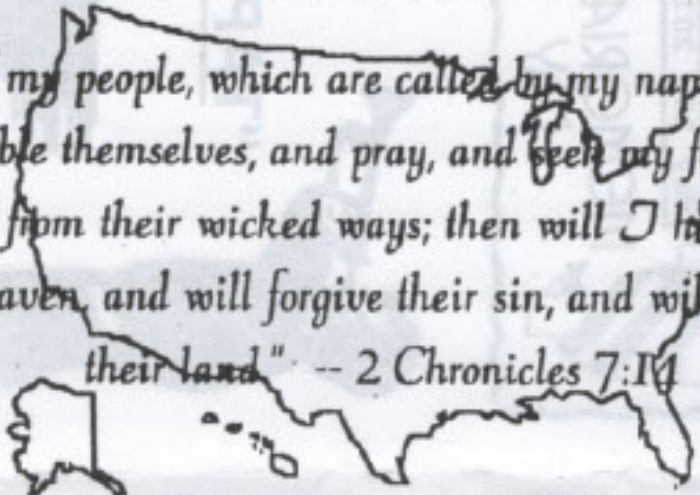
What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means and well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence, knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family

almost constantly. He served in Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers or both looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge,



"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." -- 2 Chronicles 7:14

and Middleton. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife and she died within a few months.

At the Battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire, which was done. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and grist mill were laid waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home after the war to find his wife dead, his children

vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Morris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were no wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians; they were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance

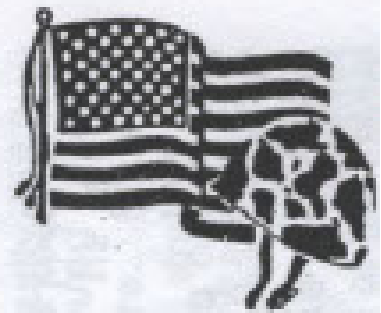
on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave us a free America. Can we keep it?



IN MEMORY OF ALL VETERANS

Memorial Day



On Memorial Day, in almost every cemetery of our country, we see the little American flags fluttering in the breeze beside the graves of those soldiers who are buried there. We can read the names of those who fought in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf Wars and many other conflicts throughout our history.

Most of these soldiers never thought of themselves as heroes. They were simply at the right age at the wrong time. They found themselves in uniform, fighting an enemy they knew little about. Most of them would find it very strange that in a few short years those enemies would be our allies.

We often wonder what we would have done in their place, gripped with fear, crouched in a landing craft, struggling on the beach, watching our buddies fall all around us screaming and dying, knowing that at any moment our lives could end. Many will argue the politics of war, but most of us prefer to honor those who fought those wars, sometimes to the death.

Wherever they fought, whether in Northern Africa, or in the Argonne Forest, or on the shores of Normandy, or at Heartbreak Ridge in Korea, or at Khe Sanh in Vietnam, or on the desert sands in the Persian Gulf, or in the many other conflicts during our history, WE HONOR THEM ALL, the men and women who served in the uniforms of our great nation. May God continue to bless America, the land of the free. Psalm 33:12 - "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..."

Throughout the history of America, there have been many wars and conflicts, some big, some small. Our country stands today because each time they were needed, brave men and women stepped forward to answer the call of duty. On Memorial Day we honor those brave Americans, living and dead, who put on uniforms and took up arms for this great country.

