

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

# LIBERTY

A Ministry of Grace Baptist Church, Pittsfield, Illinois - 217-285-5230

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IN MEMORY OF ALL VETERANS

## Memorial Day

2021

May 31 - Memorial Day Observed



"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.



### GOD BLESS AMERICA

God bless America, land that I love,  
Stand beside her, and guide her  
Through the night with a light from above.  
From the mountain, to the prairie  
To the ocean, white with foam,  
God bless America, my home sweet home,  
God bless America, my home sweet home.



# THE PRICE THEY PAID

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

Five signers were captured as traitors by the British, and were tortured to death. 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 hardship of the Revolutionary War.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers. 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.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter, 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. Poverty was his reward.

Vandals, soldiers, or both looted many of their homes. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

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 and his children had vanished. He died from exhaustion and a broken heart.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not 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 an independent America. Let us keep it!**

Christian Beacon

# The Unknown Soldier

**H**ERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD. The inscription on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., is a constant reminder of our great debt to those brave men who gave their lives to keep our country free. Today our President will lay a wreath before the front panel where the three symbolic figures commemorate the spirit of the Allied World: "Victory through Valor attaining Peace." The ceremony, like the tomb, is simple—but touching.

The first of the three Unknown Soldiers gave his life during World War I. To him went the Congressional Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross. The Unknown Soldier was joined by two unidentified servicemen later: one a World War II casualty; the other, a young man who gave his life in the Korean conflict. If the magnificent old mansion of General Robert E. Lee could speak as it overlooks the murky waters of the Potomac River, it would say: "Be still, Americans! Lift up your voices in prayer. Here lie three heroes who kept you free!" With a click of his military heels and a snap of the rifle, the lone sentry would turn to resume his measured pace, that of guarding the symbolic tomb.

No President and no other national hero ever went to his final resting place with higher honors than did the Unknown Soldier on Armistice Day, November 11, 1921—and nobody knows his name or the names of those who joined him. Proudly, with fixed bayonets, the changing guards stand watch—ever watchful lest some person or some thing come between them and the symbol that they guard. The uniformed men would give their lives to protect the noble idea for which the Unknown Soldier died.

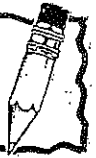
Far away, on the road leading from the Mount of Olives, eight olive trees stand like sentries guarding Gethsemane—traditionally supposed to have been the place where our Lord was crucified. He gave His life for an entire world and was an "Unknown Soldier" to almost all. On this day when we honor our dead, let us remember the New Life in Christ for us all.

**TO THINK AND PRAY ABOUT:** Pray that others will know Christ.

# Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

\*STORIES  
\*EVENTS  
\*VIEWS  
\*NEWS



## Memorial Day

These did not pass in selfishness; they died for all  
mankind.

They died to build a better world for all who stay  
behind;

And we who hold their memory dear and bring them  
flowers today,

Should consecrate ourselves once more to live and die  
as they.

These were defenders of the Faith and guardians of  
the truth;

That you and I might live and love, they gladly gave  
their youth;

And we who set this day apart to honor them who sleep  
Should pledge ourselves to hold the Faith they gave  
their lives to keep.

If tears are all we shed for them, then they have died  
in vain;

If flowers are all we bring them now, forgotten they  
remain;

If by their courage we ourselves to courage are not led,  
Then needlessly these graves have closed above our  
heroes dead.

To symbolize our love with flowers is not enough to do;  
We must be brave as they were brave and true as they  
were true.

They died to build a better world, and we who mourn  
today

Should consecrate ourselves once more to live and die  
as they.