

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

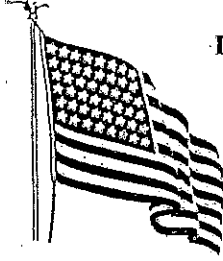
LIBERTY

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Pastor Randy Love Leonard Dice, Editor

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LAND OF FREEDOM UNDER GOD

Across the waves our Fathers came:
To claim a Land in Freedom's name,
To worship God who reigns above,
To practice justice, truth, and love.
The Rock of Ages was their stay
Thru peril and toil along the way,
Till, safely led, they came to dock
Their Freedom Ship at Plymouth Rock;
And yet another day
At Massachusetts Bay.

Across the years our nation grew:
A Land of Freedom, tried and true,
A Land that God has greatly blessed,
A Land where heroes gave their best.
The Flag of Freedom proudly waves,
To mark the Freedom-Soldiers' graves,
And, yes, to show where Free Men live,
The homes of those who now must give
Their all to God above,
For justice, truth, and love.

Across the future years to be,
The Torch is passed to you and me;
The Flag is ours now to defend,
To keep this nation Freedom's Land.
Our children's children shall prolong
The joyful sound of Freedom's Song,
If, standing firm on sacred sod,
We keep our nation under God;
And under God we must
Declare, "In God We Trust."

Dale Shellhamer

**FREEDOM IS
NOT FREE!**

July 4th 2021



245
YEARS
OF
FREEDOM

No nation is better than its sacred book. In that book are expressed its highest ideals of life, and no nation rises above those ideals. No nation has a sacred book to be compared with ours. This American nation from its first settlement at Jamestown to the present hour is based upon and permeated by the principles of the Bible. The more this Bible enters into our national life, the grander and purer and better will that life become.

—David J. Brewer

JULY
4th

July 4 is more than just fireworks – it's a day to thank God for the sacrifices that have been made to bring about our freedom and to keep us free.

Red Skelton had an elementary teacher who explained the Pledge of Allegiance to him and his classmates. This is how Mr. Skelton described it on January 14, 1969.

I – me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge – dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance – my love and devotion.

To the Flag – our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

Of the United – that means we have all come together.

States – individual communities that have united into 50 great states. Fifty communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided by imaginary boundaries, yet common purpose and that's love for country.

Of America

And to the Republic – a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands

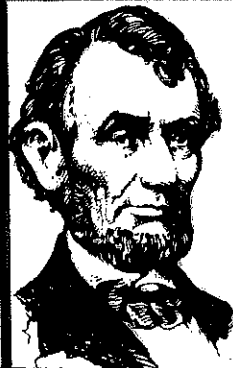
One nation under GOD – meaning so blessed by GOD.

Indivisible – incapable of being divided.

With Liberty – which is freedom and the right or power to live one's own life without threats or fear of some sort of retaliation.

And justice – the principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all – which means it's as much your country as it is mine.



Abraham Lincoln left us some guidelines to help us in maintaining the framework of democracy in this nation of free men. They are:

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

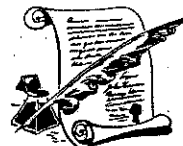
You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.



The Family



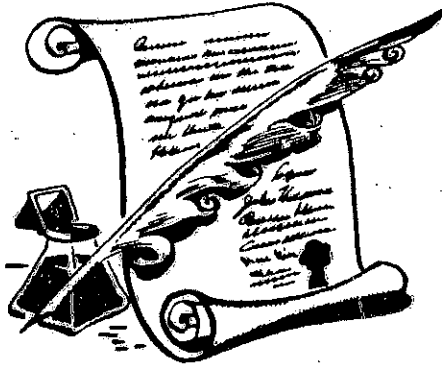
It's the families all across the land
That make a nation great,
Who work together, play together,
And carries its own weight.
It's the families all across the land
That make a nation strong,
Who pray together, stay together,
Where everyone belongs.
It's the families all across the land
That make a nation proud,
Who live together, give together,
So none will be without.
It's the families all across the land,
Each doing its own part,
That will make a nation live or
die,
For the family is its heart.

DON'T THROW FREEDOM AWAY!

High atop the U.S. Capitol dome in Washington stands the statue of the stately "Freedom Lady," almost twenty feet high. Her face is framed by a crest of stars. A shield of stars and stripes is in her left hand.

The sculptured Freedom Lady was brought from Rome during a fierce storm, and the captain ordered some of the cargo thrown overboard. The sailors wanted to include the heavy statue, but the captain refused, shouting above the wind, "No! Never! We'll flounder before we throw FREEDOM away."

The Declaration of Dependence



As we celebrate the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, it is well to remember that the best known document of modern times is really and truly a "Declaration of Dependence". The committee which was appointed to draw up the Declaration had no doubt concerning the doctrine of "dependence upon God".

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This is the opening sentence of the second paragraph of the Declaration. The Declaration closes with the sentence, "And for the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." It is definitely an acknowledgement, a "Declaration of Dependence" upon God, and they were willing to stake their

lives upon it. There was not an "evolutionist" or an "atheist" among the framers or the signers of the Declaration. In my opinion, we surely have a different group in Washington today.

The Declaration was passed on the evening of July 4, 1776, and thereafter was proclaimed to the world. On July 19th, Congress passed a resolution that the Declaration would be engrossed upon parchment, and on August 2nd, it was signed by the 53 members present. Thus our nation was born in the spirit of utter dependence on the will and providence of God.

As we look upon 2021 America, upon today's society, we observe that the vast majority of people have forgotten the God of our fathers and mothers. We have those comforts which no other civilization in the history of the world has known or enjoyed. We have become high-minded and self-sufficient. The vast majority of people are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. On this "Fourth of July, 2021", there will be parades, baseball games, golf, tennis, swimming, dancing, drinking and other pleasures that shall rule America as God. Many have made Gods of avarice, greed, and sex. God is out of the thoughts of the vast majority of Americans this Fourth of July.

To millions of people here in America, "pleasure" is god. It is urgent that America repent and put away the strange gods that are among us.

-Your Good Neighbor