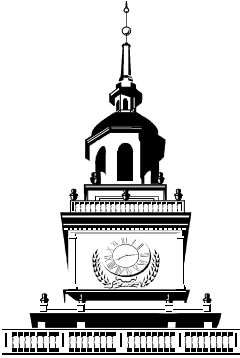


REMINDER

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Our Lives, Our Fortunes, Our Sacred Honor. . .

by Paul Harvey

Americans, you remember the cherry tree story a long time after you forget the more earth-shaking, history-making episodes in the life of George Washington.

You've misplaced in your memory the details of Ben Franklin's statesmanship, but you remember his flying a kite.

Joyce Kilmer was a *great* military hero, but the only thing you personally recall about him . . . is his poetic tribute to trees.

Maybe of this last century, that which will be best remembered will not be its wars and its space shots or its giants that lived and died. Maybe all that will survive to linger in the day-by-day vocabulary of generations yet unborn. . . will be a song about a Tennessee frontiersman or the incident at the window that night a speck of dust blew in and penicillin was discovered.

But for any Fourth of July, I, Paul Harvey, do hereby bequeath unto you something to remember.

You may not be able to quote one line from the Declaration of Independence at this moment; henceforth, you will always be able to quote at least one line.

It's in the last paragraph where you will recall, when I remind you, it says, "*We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.*"

You recognize those impressive words, but you don't understand the meaning of them until you

(continued inside)



The Late Paul Harvey

know **THE REST OF THE STORY**, so here goes -

In the Pennsylvania State House, that's now called Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the best men from each of the colonies sat down together. This was a fortunate hour in our nation's history, one of those rare occasions in the lives of men when we had greatness to spare.

These were men of means, well educated. Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Nine were farmers and owners of large plantations.

On June 11 a committee sat down to draw up a declaration of independence. We were going to tell our British fatherland, no more rule by redcoats! Below the dam of ruthless foreign rule, the stream of freedom was running shallow and muddy. We were lighting the fuse to dynamite that dam.

This pact, as Burke later put it, "was a partnership between the living and the dead and the yet unborn." There was no bigotry, no demagoguery in this group. All had shared hardships.

Jefferson finished a draft of the document in seventeen days. Congress adopted it in July. So much is familiar history.

Now . . .

King George III had denounced all rebels in America as traitors. Punishment for treason was hanging.

The names so familiar to you from the several signatures on that Declaration of Independence. . . the names were kept secret for six months. For each knew the full meaning of that magnificent last paragraph. . . in which his signature pledged his life, his fortune, and his sacred honor.

Fifty-six men placed their names beneath that pledge. Fifty-six men knew - when they signed - that they were risking everything.

They knew if they won this fight, the best they could hope for would be years of hardship in a struggling nation. If they lost, they'd face a hangman's rope.

But the signed. . . the pledge.

And they did pay the price.

That . . . is **THE REST OF THE STORY**.

Here is the documented fate of that gallant fifty-six.

Garner Braxton of Virginia, wealthy planter and trader; saw his ships swept from the seas. To pay his debts, he lost his home and all his properties and he died in rags.

Thomas Lynch, Jr., who signed that pledge, was a third generation rice grower. Aristocrat. Large plantation owner. After he signed, his health failed. With his wife he set out for France to regain his failing health. Their ship never got to France, he was never heard from again.

Thomas McKean of Delaware was so harassed by the enemy that he was forced to move his family five times in five months.

He served in Congress without pay, his family in poverty and in hiding.

Vandals looted the properties of Ellery and Clymer and Hall and Gwinnett and Walton and Heyward and Rutledge and Middleton.

And Thomas Nelson, Jr. of Virginia raised two million dollars on his own signature to provision our allies . . . the French fleet. After the war, personally he paid back the loans, wiped out his entire estate. He was never reimbursed by his government.

And in the final battle for Yorktown, he, Nelson, urged General Washington to fire on his, Nelson's. . . own home, which was occupied by Cornwallis.

It was destroyed. He died bankrupt. Thomas Nelson, Jr., had pledged "**his life, his fortune, and his sacred honor.**"

The Hessians seized the home of Francis Hopkinson of New Jersey.

Francis Lewis had his home and everything destroyed, his wife imprisoned. She died within a few months.

Richard Stockton, who signed that Declaration, was captured and mistreated. His health broken to the extent that he died at 51. And his estate was pillaged.

Thomas Heyward, Jr., was captured when Charleston fell.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside while she was dying. Their thirteen children fled in all directions for their lives. His fields and gristmill were laid waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves and returned home after the war to find his wife dead, his children gone, his properties gone; he died a few weeks later of exhaustion and a broken heart.

Lewis Morris saw his land destroyed, his family scattered.

Philip Livingston died within a few months of hardships of the war.

John Hancock history remembers best due to a quirk of fate rather than anything he stood for. That great, sweeping signature attesting to his vanity towers over the others. One of the wealthiest men in New England, he stood outside Boston one terrible night of the war and said, "*Burn Boston, though it makes John Hancock a beggar, if the public good requires it.*"

He, too, lived up to the pledge.

Of the fifty-six, few were long to survive.

Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes. . . from Rhode Island to Charleston. . . sacked, looted, occupied by the enemy or burned. Two lost their sons in the army. One had two sons captured. Nine of the fifty-six died in the war from its hardships or from its more merciful bullets.

I don't know what impression you'd *had* had of these men who met that hot summer in Philadelphia, but I think it's important that we remember this about them.

They were not poor men. They were not wild-eyed pirates. These were men of means, these were rich men, most of them, who enjoyed much ease and luxury in personal living.

Not hungry men. Prosperous men. Wealthy land owners, substantially secure in their prosperity.

But they considered *liberty* - and this is as much I shall say - they had learned that *liberty* is so much more important than security - that they pledged their lives. . . their fortunes. . .and their sacred honor.

And they fulfilled their pledge. They paid the price.

And freedom was born. ■

RELIGIOUS FOUNDERS? READ THEIR WRITINGS

BY DAVID BARTON

Among the liberties protected by our Constitution is the First Amendment's "free exercise of religion." Yet, over the past half-century, that once inalienable liberty has been greatly subjugated to the arbitrary whims of the Justices by a series of hostile and absurd Court decisions. In fact, the current Court's micromanagement of religious expressions prompted Justice Anthony Kennedy to characterize it as a "national theology board."

Recent attempts to limit public religious expression and to vilify people of faith have met widespread public opposition. The results of this backlash have manifested in numerous areas, including: (1) the landslide elections of evangelical Congressmen in 1994; (2) public support for a constitutional amendment to protect religious liberties reaching an all-time high of seventy-three percent; and (3) the recent Congressional introduction of a widely-supported constitutional amendment which would safeguard religious expressions.

However, there are groups and individuals whose goal of a secular society is clearly threatened by these changes. But what can they do to diminish the improving public climate toward religion? They can do what they have always done: misportray, distort, and/or ignore the truth. Those who become particularly skillful at this are termed "revisionists."

THE PLOYS OF REVISIONISTS

When revisionists attempt to concoct support for their usually unpopular viewpoint, they often vilify figures heroes, past or present, who embrace the position they reject. This tactic was evident in 1995's onslaught of media articles claiming that America's success was due to its

long-standing tradition of secularism.

For example, Steven Morris's Los Angeles Times article, "*America's Unchristian Beginnings*" (picked up by wire services and reprinted in scores of newspapers across the nation), was loaded with deliberate falsehoods to "prove" America's Founders were purely secular. For instance, concerning John Adams, Morris claimed:

"Late in life, he wrote, "Twenty times in the course of my late reading have I been upon the point of breaking out, This would be the best of all possible worlds if there were no religion in it!!!" "

THE REST OF THE STORY

This statement appears in Adams's letter to Thomas Jefferson on April 19, 1817, in which Adams recounted a conversation between Joseph Cleverly and Lemuel Bryant, a schoolmaster and a minister he had known. Disgusted by the petty religious bickering displayed by those two, Adams declared to Jefferson:

"Twenty times in the course of my late reading have I been on the point of breaking out, 'This would be the best of all possible worlds, if there were no religion in it!!!' But in this exclamation I would have been as fanatical as Bryant or Cleverly. Without religion, this world would be something not fit to be mentioned in polite company, I mean hell."

In reality, revisionists like Steven Morris (and especially those from the Society of Separationists or the American Atheist Society) deliberately reverse Adams's position. Not only did Adams declare that it would be "fanatical" to desire a world without religion (and that such a world would be "hell"), but on May 5, 1817, Jefferson wrote back to Adams and said that he agreed!

What makes revisionism so effective is that few citizens actually take time to confirm revisionists' claims or to proclaim to the public the real facts.

SPEAKING FOR THEMSELVES

Since the goal of Morris and others like him is to "prove" that people of faith have no precedent for being involved in politics, he characterizes the Founders' general religious beliefs with the same false summary that most revisionists, both in academia and media, often proclaim:

The early presidents and patriots were generally deists or Unitarians, believing in some form of impersonal Providence but rejecting the divinity of Jesus and the relevance of the Bible.

Yet, the Founders' own declarations in their last wills and testaments disprove those assertions and speak loud and clear that the great majority of our Founders were indeed believers in Jesus Christ!

For example:

“First of all, I . . . rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ for a pardon of all my sins.”

- Samuel Adams, Signer of the Declaration

“To my Creator I resign myself, humbly confiding in His goodness and in His mercy through Jesus Christ for the events of eternity.”

- John Dickinson, Signer of the Constitution

“I resign my soul into the hands of the Almighty who gave it in humble hopes of his mercy through our Savior Jesus Christ.”

- Gabriel Duvall, U.S. Supreme Court Justice; selected as delegate to Constitutional Convention

“This is all the inheritance I can give to my dear family. The religion of Christ can give them one which will make them rich indeed.”

- Patrick Henry

“I render sincere and humble thanks for His manifold and unmerited blessings, and especially for our redemption and salvation by his beloved Son. . . . Blessed be his holy name.”

- John Jay, Original Chief-Justice U.S. Supreme Court

“I am constrained to express my adoration of . . . the Author of my existence . . . [for] His forgiving mercy revealed to the world through Jesus Christ, through whom I hope for never ending happiness in a future state.”

- Robert Treat Paine, Signer of the Declaration

“I think it proper here not only to subscribe to . . . doctrines of the Christian religion . . . but also, in the bowels of a father's affection, to exhort and charge them [my children] that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, that the way of life held up in the Christian system is calculated for the most complete happiness.”

- Richard Stockton, Signer of the Declaration

These wills represent only a few examples from many with the identical tone. Furthermore, the personal writings of numerous other Founders contain equally strong declarations. Notice:

“My hopes of a future life are all founded upon the Gospel of Christ and I cannot cavil or quibble away [evade or object to]. . . the whole tenor of His conduct by which He sometimes positively asserted and at others countenances [permits] His disciples in asserting that He was God.”

- John Quincy Adams

“Now to the triune God, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all honor and dominion, forevermore, Amen.”

- Gunning Bedford, Signer of the Constitution

“You have been instructed from your childhood in the knowledge of your lost state by nature, the absolute necessity of a change of heart, and an entire renovation of soul to the image of Jesus Christ, of salvation thro' His meritorious righteousness

only, and the indispensable necessity of personal holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.”

- Elias Boudinot, Revolutionary Officer and President of the Continental Congress (to his daughter)

“You do well to learn . . . above all the religion of Jesus Christ.”

- George Washington

“[D]on't forget to be a Christian. I have said much to you on this head and I hope an indelible impression is made.”

- Jacob Broom, Signer of the Constitution (to his son)

“On the mercy of my Redeemer I rely for salvation and on His merits; not on the works I have done in obedience to His precepts.”

- Charles Carroll, Signer of the Declaration

“I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus Christ.”

- Thomas Jefferson

“I think the Christian religion is a Divine institution; and I pray to God that I may never forget the precepts of His religion or suffer the appearance of an inconsistency in my principles and practice.”

- James Iredell, U.S. Supreme Court Justice under President George Washington

“My only hope of salvation is in the infinite, transcendent love of God manifested to the world by the death of His Son upon the Cross. Nothing but His blood will wash away my sins. I rely exclusively upon it. Come, Lord Jesus! Come quickly!”

- Benjamin Rush, Signer of the Declaration

“I believe that there is one only living and true God, existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. That the Scriptures of the old and new testaments are a revelation from God and a complete rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him.”

- Roger Sherman, Signer of both the Declaration and the Constitution

“I shall now entreat . . . you in the most earnest manner to believe in Jesus Christ, for "there is no salvation in any other" [Acts 4:12]. . . [I]f you are not clothed with the spotted robe of His righteousness, you must forever perish.”

- John Witherspoon, Signer of the Declaration

There are many other examples.

SUMMARY

The evidence is clear; the revisionists are wrong. Although there was some anti-organized-religion sentiment among the Founders (e.g., Thomas Paine, Ethan Allen, Charles Lee, Henry Dearborn), those with such views were a small minority and, in fact, often were strongly criticized by others for those beliefs.

It is time that Christians retake the academic high ground. When historically false editorials or letters-to-the-editor are

written, or when call-in programs make reckless charges, we need to stand up and confront those errors. This will provide an opportunity for those who are undecided on the issue of public religious expressions to formulate their opinions from accurate information rather than from revisionist trash. The most effective defense against revisionism is aggressive truth, and lots of it! If we will faithfully present the truth, the Scriptures assure us that it will eventually prevail.

- David Barton



George Washington's Vision

(This account has been verified as authentic by multiple historical researchers. It is clear that General Washington did, indeed, share the following with Anthony Sherman and others. The following is an recount by a person who knew Mr. Sherman personally).

The last time I ever saw Anthony Sherman was on the fourth of July, 1859, in Independence Square. He was then 99 years old, and becoming very feeble. But though so old, his dimming eyes rekindled as he gazed upon Independence Hall, which he had come to visit once more.

"Let's go into the hall," he said. "I want to tell you of an incident of Washington's life - one which no one alive knows of except myself; and if you live, you will before long see it verified." *Mark the prediction, you will see it verified.*

"From the opening of the Revolution we experienced all phases of fortune, now good and now ill, one time victorious and another conquered. The darkest period we had, I think, was when Washington, after several reverses, retreated to Valley Forge, where he resolved to pass the winter of 1777. Ah! I have often seen the tears coursing down our dear Commander's careworn cheeks, as he would be conversing with a confidential officer about the condition of his poor soldiers. You have doubtless heard the story of Washington's going into the thicket to pray. Well, it was not only true, but he used to pray often in secret for aid and comfort. And God brought us safely through the darkest days of tribulation."

"One day, I remember it well, the chilly winds whistled through the leafless trees, though the sky was cloudless and the sun shone brightly. He remained in his quarters nearly all the afternoon, alone. When he came out I noticed that his face was a shade paler than usual, and there seemed to be something on his mind of more than ordinary importance. Returning just after dusk, he dispatched an orderly to the quarters of an officer, who was presently in attendance. After a preliminary conversation of about half an hour, Washington, gazing upon his companion with that strange look of dignity which he alone could command, said to the latter:

"I do not know whether it is owing to the anxiety of my mind, or what, but this afternoon, as I was sitting at this table engaged in preparing a dispatch, something in the apartment seemed to disturb me. Looking up, I beheld standing opposite me a singularly beautiful being. So astonished was I, for I had given strict orders not to be disturbed, that it was some moments before I found language to inquire the cause of the visit. A second, a third, and even a fourth time did I repeat the question, but received no answer from my mysterious visitor except a slight raising of the eyes.

"But this time," the General said, 'I felt strange sensations spreading over me. I would have risen but the riveted gaze of the being before me rendered volition impossible. I assayed once more to speak, but my tongue had become useless, as if paralyzed. A new influence, mysterious, potent, irresistible, took possession of me. All I could do was to gaze steadily, vacantly at my unknown visitor.

"Gradually the surrounding atmosphere seemed to fill with sensations, and grew luminous. Everything about me seemed to rarefy, the mysterious visitor also becoming more airy and yet more distinct to my eyes than before. I began to feel as one dying, or rather to experience the sensations which I have sometimes imagined accompany death. I did not think, I did not reason, I did not move. All were alike impossible. I was only conscious of gazing fixedly, vacantly at my companion.

"Presently I heard a voice saying, "***Son of the Republic, look and learn,***" while at the same time my visitor extended an arm **EASTWARD**. I now beheld a heavy white vapor at some distance rising fold upon fold. This gradually dissipated, and I looked upon a strange scene. Before me lay, spread out in one vast plain, all the countries of the world - Europe, Asia, Africa and America. I saw rolling and tossing between Europe and America the billows of the Atlantic, and between Asia and America lay the Pacific. "***Son of the Republic,***" said the same mysterious voice as before, "***Look and learn.***"

"Washington said, 'At that moment I beheld a dark, shadowy being, like an angel, standing, or rather floating in midair, **BETWEEN EUROPE AND AMERICA**. Dipping water out of the ocean in the hollow of each hand, he sprinkled some **UPON AMERICA** with his right hand, while with his left he cast some **OVER EUROPE**. Immediately a cloud arose **FROM THESE COUNTRIES**, and joined in mid-ocean. For a while it seemed stationary, and then it moved slowly **WESTWARD**, until it **ENVELOPED AMERICA** in its murky folds. Sharp flashes of lightning gleamed through it at intervals, and I heard the smothered groans and cries of the American people.

"A second time the angel dipped water from the ocean and sprinkled it out as before. The dark cloud was then **DRAWN BACK** to the ocean, in whose heavy billows it sank from view.

"A third time I heard the mysterious visitor saying, "***Son of the Republic, look and learn.***" I cast my eyes upon America and beheld villages and towns and cities **SPRINGING UP ONE**

AFTER ANOTHER UNTIL THE WHOLE LAND FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC WAS DOTTED WITH THEM.

“Again, I heard the mysterious voice say, “*Son of the Republic, the **END OF THE CENTURY** cometh, look and listen.*”

“‘And this time,’ Washington said, ‘the dark shadowy angel turned his face **SOUTHWARD**. From **AFRICA** I saw an ill-omened specter approach our land. It flitted slowly and heavily over **EVERY** town and city of the latter. The inhabitants presently set themselves in **BATTLE ARRAY AGAINST EACH OTHER**. As I continued looking, I saw a bright angel on whose brow rested a crown of light, on which was traced the word “**UNION**.” He was bearing the American flag. He placed the flag between the **DIVIDED NATION** and said, “*Remember, ye are **BRETHREN**.*”

“‘Instantly, the inhabitants, casting down their weapons, became friends once more and **UNITED** around the National Standard.

“‘Again I heard the mysterious voice saying, “Son of the Republic, look and learn.” At this, the dark, shadowy angel placed a **TRUMPET** to his mouth, and blew three distinct blasts; and taking water from the ocean, he sprinkled it upon Europe, Asia and Africa.

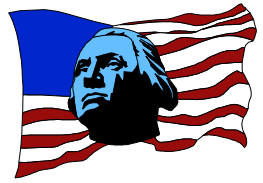
“‘Then my eyes beheld a fearful scene. From each of these continents arose thick black clouds that were soon joined into one. And through this mass there gleamed a **DARK RED LIGHT** by which I saw **HORDES OF ARMED MEN**. These men, moving with the cloud, **MARCHED BY LAND AND SAILED BY SEA TO AMERICA**, which country was enveloped in the volume of the cloud. And I dimly saw these **VAST ARMIES DEVASTATE THE WHOLE COUNTRY** and burn the villages, towns and cities which I had seen springing up.

“‘As my ears listened to the thundering of the cannon, clashing of sounds and the shouts and cries of **MILLIONS** in mortal combat, I again heard the mysterious voice saying, “*Son of the Republic, look and learn.*” When this voice had ceased, the dark shadowy angel placed his **TRUMPET** once more to his mouth, and blew a long and fearful blast.

“‘Instantly a **LIGHT AS OF A THOUSAND SUNS** shone down from above me, and pierced and broke into fragments the dark cloud which enveloped America. At the same moment the angel [?] upon whose head still shone the word “*Union*,” and who bore our national flag in one hand and a **WORD** in the other, **DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS ATTENDED BY LEGIONS OF WHITE SPIRITS**. These immediately joined the inhabitants of America, who I perceived were **WELL-NIGH OVERCOME**, but who immediately taking courage again, closed up their broken ranks and renewed the battle.

“General Washington continued - ‘Again, amid the fearful noise of the conflict I heard the mysterious voice saying, “*Son of*

the Republic, look and learn.” As the voice ceased, the shadowy angel for the last time dipped water from the ocean and sprinkled it upon America. Instantly the dark cloud rolled back, together with the armies it had brought, leaving the inhabitants of the land victorious.



“‘Then once more, I beheld the villages, towns and cities **SPRINGING UP** where I had seen them before, while the **BRIGHT ANGEL**, planting the azure standard he had brought in the midst of them, cried with a loud voice: “*While the stars remain, and the heavens send down dew upon the earth, **SO LONG SHALL THE UNION LAST**.*” And taking from his brow the **CROWN** on which blazoned the word “**Union**,” he placed it upon the standard while the people **KNEELING DOWN** said, “Amen.”

“‘The scene instantly began to fade and dissolve, and I at last saw nothing but the rising, curling vapor I at first beheld. This also disappeared, and I found myself once more gazing upon the mysterious visitor, who in the same voice I had heard before, said, “*Son of the Republic, what you have seen is thus interpreted. **THREE GREAT PERILS** will come upon the Republic. **THE MOST FEARFUL FOR HER IS THE THIRD**. But the whole world united shall not prevail against her. Let every child of the Republic **LEARN TO LIVE FOR HIS GOD, his land and Union**.*” With these words the vision vanished, and I started from my seat and felt that I had seen a vision wherein had been shown me the birth, the progress, and the destiny of the United States.

“Such, my friends,” the venerable narrator concluded, “were the words I heard from Washington’s own lips, and America will do well to profit by them.” ■

GALLANT MEN

“Down through the years there have been men, brave gallant men who have died that others might be free. And even now they do it still. Brave gallant men know that someone must and so they will.

Oh gallant men have built us a nation passed us a torch of flame. Let us hold it high and light up the sky with praise of our gallant men.”



Lest We Forget...

A flag is the emblem of sovereignty - a symbol and guarantee of protection. Every nation and people are proud of the flag of their country.

England, for a thousand years boasts her Red flag and Cross of St. George; France glories in her Tri-color and Imperial Eagle; ours, the "Star-spangled Banner," far more beautiful than they - this dear old flag! - the sun in heaven never looked down on so proud a banner of beauty and glory.

Men of the Black Brigade, rally around it! Assert your manhood, be loyal to duty, be obedient, hopeful, patient.

Slavery will soon die; the slaveholders' rebellion, accursed of God and man, will shortly and miserably perish.

There will then be, through all the coming ages, in very truth, a land of the free - one country, one flag, one destiny.

I charge you, Men of the Black Brigade of Cincinnati, remember that for you, and for me, and for your children, and your children's children, there is but one Flag, as there is but one Bible, and one God, the Father of us all.

*- James Lupton, Acting Camp Commandant
presenting the National flag to
The Cincinnati Black Brigade
September 4, 1862*



Red Skelton

THE MEANING OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

by Red Skelton

As a schoolboy in Vincennes, Indiana, one of Red Skelton's teachers explained the words and meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to his class. Skelton later wrote down, and eventually recorded, his recollection of this lecture. It is followed by an observation of his own.

I

Me; an individual; a committee of one.

Pledge

*Dedicate all of my worldly goods to give
without self-pity.*

Allegiance

My love and my devotion.

To the Flag

*Our standard; Old Glory ; a symbol of
courage; and wherever she waves there is
respect, because your loyalty has given her a
dignity that shouts, "Freedom is everybody's
job."*

United

That means that we have all come together.

States

*Individual communities that have united into
forty-eight great states. Forty-eight individual
communities with pride and dignity and
purpose. All divided by imaginary boundaries,
yet united to a common cause, and that is love*

of country... of America

And to the Republic

Republic - a sovereign state in which 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

meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible

Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty

Which is Freedom - the right of power for one to live his own life, without fears, threats, or any sort of retaliation.

And Justice

The principle, and qualities, of dealing fairly with others.

For All

For All - that means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

And now, boys and girls, let me hear you recite the Pledge of Allegiance:



“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it

stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Red’s Comments Following The Lesson His Teacher, Mr. Laswell, Taught Him That You Just Read -

“Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: ‘Under God.’

“Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, ‘That is a prayer’, and that would be eliminated from schools, too?

- Red Skelton

Video of Mr. Skelton presenting this marvelous recitation can be seen at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZBTyTWOZCM&feature=PlayList&p=9A254B155575A328&index=49



*Independence
Day,
Tom Riddle,
and
“Remember
Me?”*

“Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your flag, the flag of the United States of America. Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you.”

When you walk inside you wonder if you are entering a showroom or a museum. Two stories of glass highlight automobiles inside. Beside each car is an elaborate booth complete with story boards and a computer so any question can be answered. But it's the front wall that really captures your attention.

"I remember some time ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade and naturally, I was always there

proudly waving in the breeze. When your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it over his heart.

Remember?

And you - I remember you standing there straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat but you were giving the right salute."

You can't miss it. There is a two-story American flag on the wall so realistically painted it seems to wave in the breeze. Within and below the familiar stars and stripes are the words to this essay: "**Remember Me?**" Most businesses display a flag but I've never seen anything like this.

"Remember your little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you, with her hand over her heart. Remember? What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have added a few more stars since you were a boy and a lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago."

"I'm proud to live here and I'm proud of what we stand for as Americans," said Thomas F. Riddle, owner of the automobile dealership and designer of the wall. "I grew up in rural North Carolina. My family was poor but we were determined to live right and work hard. This country provided me the freedom and the opportunity to succeed and even influence others. Our business was one of the first to publish a mission statement illustrating the steps we are willing to take to treat our customers with respect and dignity. As a business leader I have the opportunity to encourage others to reach beyond their comfort zone, stretch their imaginations and achieve the impossible. What a great opportunity!"

"But I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, you just stand there with your hands in your pockets. I may get a small glance but then you look away. I see the children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am. I saw one man take off his hat and look around. He didn't see anybody else with his hat off so he quickly put his back on."

Mr. Riddle continued: "It bothers me to live in a country that offers so much, yet so few seem to really appreciate the benefits.

I am proud to call myself an American and I'm especially proud to remember the men and women who sacrificed their lives for the freedom I enjoy. This wall is my tribute to them."

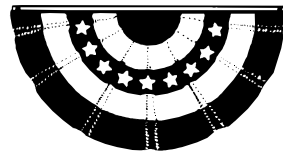
"Is it a sin to be patriotic any more? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been?" Anzio, Normandy, Omaha Beach, Guadalcanal, Korea, Vietnam, The Persian Gulf (Desert Storm), Terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the USS Cole, most recently for the second time on September 11, 2001 on the World Trade Center, New York City, The Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a hijacked aircraft crash outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania."

"September 11, 2001," said Mr. Riddle, "serves as a reminder that life and freedom are precious gifts from God never to be abused or taken for granted. I am grateful for what God has given. I have been blessed with a wonderful family; creative and hard-working employees and I live in a country which has given me the opportunity to make a difference in other people's lives. God bless America!"



"Take a look at the Memorial Honor Rolls some time. Look at the names of those who never came back in order to keep this Republic free. 'One Nation Under God.' When you salute me, you are actually saluting them. Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So, when you see me, stand straight, place your right hand over your heart. I'll salute you waving back. And I'll know you remembered."

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To the men and women who died for our freedom:

We Thank You

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Caryn Quinnelly
 Cradle Roll 2: Derek Quinnelly
 6:00 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Piper Martin
 Cradle Roll 2: Ryan Quinnelly
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
 Cradle Roll 2: Seth White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of June 21, 2009

Sunday School ----- 16
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 34
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 30
 Wed. Eve. Service, 06/24/09 ----- 23

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of June 14, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 960.00

Week of June 21, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 973.00

Week of June 28, 2009

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 923.00

New Hymnals Fund ----- \$ 20.00

Total Received for Week of 06/28/09: \$ 943.00

*Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
 to operate the church*

EACH WEEK,

as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00 🇺🇸



FUND DRIVE REPORTS

NEW HYMNAL FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 1,466.00

NEW PIANO FUND

Offerings Received To Date: \$ 570.00

PARSONAGE RENOVATION FUND

Total Received, To Date: \$ 335.00

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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today** - **OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Nathaniel & Rebekah White ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White