



Digital Missouri Message

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God Bless America!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

The prayer below is read aloud each day during the public wreath laying ceremony at Mt Vernon's tomb of George Washington, our first President.

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have the United States in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would 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 Devine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation. Amen"

(<https://www.mountvernon.org/the-estate-gardens/the-tombs/george-washingtons-prayer-for-his-country/>)

This prayer was adapted from General George Washington's Circular Letter to the States. He wrote it at his headquarters in New York during June of 1783 when he was the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.

I can not think of a better message with which to emphasize the significance of the good works that you do each month.

Dei Gratia - By the Grace of God!

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Grand Commander

OUR NATION IS BLESSED

In world history's grand scheme America is a child among nations. If we compared its history to that of Egypt, China, Japan, Rome, or Greece; then America is a "Johnny come lately." Our history is really very brief. The United States was created just over four generations ago. When President Thomas Jefferson who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence died in 1826, Abraham Lincoln was only 17 years old. When President Lincoln was assassinated 39 years later, Woodrow Wilson was only 8 years old. When President Wilson died in 1924, Ronald Reagan was only 12 years old. President Reagan passed away in 2004. The lives of just these four Presidents span our nation's entire history.

We are a very young nation. Yet as young as we are, we stand tall among the other nations of the modern world. After the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America has become one of the premier nations of the world. We are also one of the most prosperous nations. We also exercise a high degree of freedom as compared to other nations of the world. There is an argument that our prosperity is linked to our freedoms. The most significant cause of poverty is tyranny and corruption. In any nation where freedom flourishes, the residents of that country will prosper. In a nation where tyrants rule, the ruling party will prosper, but the common people will suffer.

There is another more important factor to consider and that is that many of us feel that the United States of America is one of the most blessed nations in the world. Our greatness as a nation is secondary to how many feel that God smiles on us. While we will forever be indebted to those who have paved the way for us, we should be most thankful for all of the blessings that God has provided us. We are truly blessed and have so much for which to be thankful.

Our founding Fathers believed that God blessed our young nation and that His blessings enabled our new country to come into existence. There have been attempts in recent years to rewrite history in a manner that deemphasizes the roll of faith in the creation of our country. It has been claimed that Washington, Franklin, and others distrusted established religion and that is why we have the separation of Church and State. However, that is not true because several were Freemasons. In fact, they did not want government to control the Church. They wanted freedom of religion, not freedom from religion.

We have many examples of the original settlers seeking a place where they could practice their religion without the interference of government. Here is the text of the Mayflower Compact of 1620.

"In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the Faith, etc.:"

"Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith, and the honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another; covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience."

"In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, 1620."

(<https://www.history.com/topics/colonial-america/mayflower-compact>)

Then we have the historic words of the Declaration of Independence of 1776 in the first two paragraphs.

"The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have

connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

"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.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world."

(<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>)

We may not understand the personal religious beliefs of the founding Fathers of our country, but we do understand that their convictions were rooted in the Holy Bible. In passages such as Psalms 33:12 (NIV), "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance." And in passages such as Proverbs 14:33 (NIV), "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people."

The United States of America has received God's blessings. However, we can never let complacency cause us to assume the God's blessing will continue regardless of the direction that the country takes.

We, the Sir Knights of Templary, the Followers of Jesus the Christ, must never be complacent. We must never be satisfied that our country has been blessed by God. We must continue to work, continue to pray, and continue to live so that the Light of God's blessings shines down upon us and the generations who will come after us. The task of assuring God's continued blessings on our nation will never be finished - world without end.

Sir Knights, we should never forget that our ultimate allegiance belongs not to the American flag, but to the Kingdom of God. The Bible declares that our true citizenship is in Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is not defined by national boundaries, political philosophy, or ethnic background. All who believe and obey the Gospel of Jesus the Christ are fellow citizens of that Kingdom to which our ultimate allegiance belongs.

Finally, Siri Knights, we should be good citizens and understand that our Savior's reputation is measured by our reputations. We need to listen to the words found in the Bible written for believers who were suffering under the religious tyranny of oppressive and ungodly rulers found in 1 Peter

2:13-17 (NIV), "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."

MARCH EQUINOX

The March equinox occurs when the northward heading Sun appears to cross the celestial equator. The March equinox is the vernal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere and the autumnal equinox in the Southern Hemisphere. While there is nothing to see, the vernal equinox will occur on Monday, March 20th at 4:24 pm CST in Missouri.

A HEALING PRAYER

Dear Lord of Mercy and Father of Comfort,

We turn to you for help in times of need. We ask that you be with our Brethren Knights struggling with injury or illness. In the name of Jesus, drive out all infirmity and sickness from their bodies. Please send your healing Word to them. Lord, we ask that your healing touch turn their weakness into strength, their suffering into compassion, their sorrow into joy, and their pain into comfort.