

The fifty-six courageous men who signed that document knew this was not just high-sounding rhetoric—and that if they succeeded, the best they could expect would be years of struggle in a new nation. If they lost, they would face the hangman's noose as traitors.

Of the fifty-six, few were long to survive. Five were captured by the British and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes sacked, looted, occupied by the enemy or burned.

Two lost their sons in the army. One had sons captured. Fifty-six died in war from its hardships—or its bullets.

John Quincy Adams penned these words: "Posterity—you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it."

For years we flourished as a Christian nation. The Supreme Court, in an 1892 decision, declared: "Our laws and our institutions must be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of Mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; *and to this extent, civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian!* "This in a religious people!"

"This is historically true. From the discovery of this continent to the present hour, there is a single voice making this affirmation—we find everywhere a clear recognition of the same truth—that *this is a Christian nation.*" *This from the Supreme Court: 1892.*

In this century, our great nation began to crumble morally.

In June of 1962 the Supreme Court, which once ruled that America was a Christian Nation, declared prayer in public schools to be unconstitutional. The Bible and God Himself, were expelled. This in spite of the fact that America's greatest leaders have shown no doubt about God's proper place in the American government!

Every session of the House and Senate begins with prayer—each house has its own Chaplain.

The Eighty-third Congress set aside a small room in the capital, just off the rotunda, for the private prayer and meditation of members of Congress. The room's focal point is a stained glass window showing George Washington knelling in prayer. Behind him is etched these words from Psalms 16:1 "Preserve me, O God for in thee do I put my trust."

Inside the rotunda is a picture of the Pilgrims about to embark on the sister ship of the Mayflower—the Speedwell. The ship's revered chaplain, Brewster, who later join the Mayflower, has open on his lap, the Bible.

Very clear are the words, "The New Testament, according to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." On the sail is the motto of the Pilgrims—*IN GOD WE TRUST, GOD BE WITH US.*"

The phrase, "In God We Trust" appears opposite the President of the Senate, who is the Vice President of the United States. The same phrase, in large words inscribed in marble, backdrops the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Above the head of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court are the Ten Commandments, with the Great American eagle protecting them. Moses is included among the great lawgivers in a marble sculpture on the east front. The crier who opens each session, closes with these words: "God save the United States and the Honorable Court."

Engraved on the metal cap on top of the Washington Monument are the words: "Praise Be To God." Lining the walls of the stairwell are such biblical phrases as, "Search the Scriptures", "Holiness to the Lord", "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Numerous quotations from the scriptures can be found within the walls of the Library of Congress. One reminds each American of this responsibility to his Maker. "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:8) Another preserves the psalmists acknowledgement that all nature reflects the order and beauty of the Creator: "The Heavens declare the Glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handwork." (psalm 19:1) And still another reference: "The Light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not." (John 1:5)

I, like millions of others, have stood in the Lincoln Memorial and gazed up at the statue of the great Abraham Lincoln. The sculptor who chiseled the features of Lincoln in granite seems to make Lincoln speak his own words inscribed into the walls: "**** that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." At the opposite end, on the north wall, his second inaugural address alludes to "God", "the Bible", "Providence", "The Almighty" and "divine attributes." And then continues: "As was said three thousand years ago, and so it still must be said, 'The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'"

At the Jefferson Memorial on the south banks of Washington's tidal basin, Jefferson still speaks: "God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever." This is indeed an explicit warning to us. Especially to us in this day that, to allow God to be removed from this country, will surely destroy it.

A result of our lack of resolve—the once Great American Dream is turning into a spiritual nightmare. *America has rejected God in dealing with the issues of life.* When God fades from a nation's conscience, one can justify almost anything. For example: God says: "Thou shalt not kill."

Americans have given murder a new name and now abort one and one half million babies a year. Many try to camouflage sin with new age terminology.

God calls it "Drunkenness." We call it alcoholism—a social disease. God calls it "Sodomy." We call it homosexuality—gay rights—an "Alternative Lifestyle." God calls it "Perversion." We call it pornography—"Adult" entertainment.

God calls it "Immorality." We call it the "New" morality. God calls it "Cheating." We call it abnormal social development. With the erosion of moral absolutes Jefferson's warning should make us all shudder as each succeeding generation drifts further from the moral absolutes of the Lord.

As revealed in the scriptures and banned by the courts from our schools, the words of a great Christian reformer, Martin Luther, become prophetic. "I am much afraid that schools will prove to be great gates of Hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not increasingly occupied with the work of God must become corrupt."

And on occasions when we pay tribute to and acknowledge the sacrifices of those men raised up by the Lord to establish and sustain our independence, we must re-dedicate ourselves to protecting and preserving those liberties and the righteous, God-fearing ideals

that have been fought and died for by patriots throughout our American history.

In two hundred and twenty-two years, Americans have fought many wars from Valley Forge to the far-flung corners of the earth. From the bloody beaches of Normandy to the island by island war in the Pacific, to the frozen mountains of the Chosin Reservoir, millions of young Americans have given their lives for the freedoms vouchsafed by our divinely-inspired Constitution . . . for this nation under God.

In all of these wars fought on the field of battle, our enemies were definable. They wore uniforms. They fought with bayonets, grenades, rifles, cannons, mortars. A far more insidious enemy faces us today and we must prepare our youth for a more hard-fought battle for survival than we have ever known!

Girded up in the Armor of Truth and Knowledge and in the strength of our families, our youth will not be fighting in trenches, foxholes or storming beaches. The enemy is amongst us and not in uniform. His weapons are the media, new age philosophies designed to deceive and destroy the moral character of our youth. Perversion, disguised as tolerance.

Their battlefield will be the city halls, the county courthouses, state legislatures and the Congress. They must be prepared and we must prepare them that they may hold high, *with new resolve*, the Title of Liberty in memory of our God, our religion and freedom and our peace and our wives and children.

In Patrick Henry's words: "The enemy is in the field. Why stand we here idle?"

May God bless us all with continued freedom. May God bless our youth with the strength and resolve to bear the burden our complacency has placed upon them.

And may God continue to bless America.

TRIBUTE TO WTOP'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing WTOP Radio, our local and regional news station. WTOP is celebrating its 30th anniversary today, Tuesday March 9, 1999. I am sure the Members of the House and Senate listen to and are informed by WTOP. The station has been a prime source of information of news events and a pioneer in all-news radio.

Without fail, WTOP usually gets there before we do and before anyone else does. From the mundane news of traffic and weather, to breaking news in the nation and around the world, WTOP is there for Washington, the region, and Members of the House and Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I also must say a special word of tribute to Dave McConnell, who has been with WTOP for 34 years, even before it was an all-news station. Dave is one of the best reporters in any of the media in Washington. His amazing dexterity and extraordinary range have made him a one-man class reporter and commentator capable of speaking to any and every subject. Members listen to Dave's Today On the Hill broadcasts to find out what is really happening in Congress! Dave McConnell is only one of the best of an extraordinary group of first rate radio journalists at WTOP who keep the nation's capital truly informed. I

ask the House to join me in expressing our gratitude to WTOP for the indispensable service the station performs as well as our congratulations for 30 years of a job very well done.

WALNUT GROVE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Walnut Grove Retirement Community which is celebrating its 10th anniversary of outstanding service to the elderly community of Grundy County.

On March 7, 1989, the Walnut Grove Healthcare Center opened with 97 beds available to seniors. Four years later, in 1993, Grundy County experienced a need for more beds for the elderly. Walnut Grove applied for and completed the Certificate of Need process in order to add more beds and better serve Grundy County senior citizens. This process resulted in the increase of licensed beds from 97 to 123.

On January 10, 1994, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for these 24 private suite sheltered care units. This addition is known as the Walnut Grove Villa. As these Villas have established a fine reputation, a waiting list of applicants wanting to reside in them usually exists.

In addition to the Healthcare Center and the Villa, there are duplexes included in the retirement community. These 24 cottages house 30 elderly residents for independent living.

Walnut Grove's provision of care is sensational. The rehabilitation program of Walnut Grove is Medicare certified. Furthermore, there are always special events on the holidays, along with various outing and recreational events.

Mr. Speaker, I find it appropriate that the Walnut Grove Retirement Community be given praise for its 10 years of existence. May the service Walnut Grove has provided to the people of the 11th District and the elderly community of Grundy County continue as we move into the 21st Century.

CONGRATULATING MATTHEW JENDIAN AND ARMEN DEVEJIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Matthew Jendian and Armen Devejian upon their ordination to rank of dea-

con for St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church. The rank of deacon requires much effort and discipline; the responsibility is heavy, and the standards are high. Both men have risen to those standards.

Deacon Matthew and Deacon Armen were previously ordained together as sub-deacons in 1991, and have been serving at the Holy Altar for the past 15 years. They served on the executive committee of the St. Paul Armenian Christian Youth Organization (ACYO) Chapter, were co-editors of the ACYO California in 1987, and currently teach the high school Sunday school class.

Deacon Matthew is married to Pamela Manoogian. He teaches at California State University, Fresno in the sociology department, and is campus director of the American Numenics Program. He is currently gathering data on Armenian-Americans in Central California for his Ph.D. dissertation through the University of Southern California. Deacon Matthew enrolled in his father's altar servers class at age nine, later graduated from the St. Nersess Deacons' Training Program, and has been serving at the Holy Altar for 20 years.

Deacon Armen is married to Paula Der Matoian. He is vice president of a construction and development company in Fresno, and is project manager of the New Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall which is currently under construction. In 1996, at the age of 26, he became California's youngest licensed architect. During his tenure as ACYO Central Council chairman, from 1994-1996, he helped establish the ACYO Mission Fund, the ACYO Camp Fund, and the Summer Camp ACYO Scholarship Program. Deacon Armen has been serving at the Holy Altar since 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deacon Matthew and Deacon Armen on their fine accomplishment of spiritual leadership. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing these men and their families a bright future and continued growth.

PEACE CORPS ACT AUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 669) to amend the Peace Corps Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 through 2003 to carry out that Act, and for other purposes:

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, as an original cosponsor of H.R. 669, the Peace Corps reauthorization bill, I was pleased to vote yes on this legislation that will increase the number of Peace Corps volunteers from today's 6,700 to 10,000 over the next four

years. To achieve this modest number, H.R. 669 authorizes \$270 million for fiscal year 2000.

I do not simply support this bill because I myself was a Peace Corps volunteer. I support this bill because the demand, both internationally and domestically, is real.

In the Caucasus, Central Asia and Africa, burgeoning new democracies are crying out for Peace Corps volunteers. In Central Asia, particularly Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, health volunteers are especially in need to teach sanitary living skills and show mothers how to better nourish their children with available resources. Programs in Africa chronically need more volunteers, especially in HIV/AIDS prevention and girls' education.

The recently created programs in South Africa and Jordan, having proved themselves successful, need more volunteers to expand current programs to meet country needs. Recently agreements have been reached with China, Bangladesh and Mozambique to begin Peace Corps programs. New volunteers ready to take on not only the usual Peace Corps experiences in a country and culture they are unfamiliar with, but also willing to meet the challenges of being the first Peace Corps volunteers in a country are needed.

As we have learned around the world, the best way to support a democracy is to help development at the local level. The Peace Corps is one of the most effective mechanisms for doing just that.

Unfortunately, natural disasters and humanitarian crises continue at an alarming rate, devastating countries just beginning to prosper. In these instances, the international community is quick to provide assistance to save lives, restore hope, and, in the long run, buttress democracy. The Peace Corps has developed the Crisis Corps to use language and cultural knowledge that Peace Corps volunteers possess to assist in these times of need.

An increase in Peace Corps volunteers will allow Crisis Corps volunteers to be sent for hurricane relief missions in Central America and keep open the possibility of sending volunteers elsewhere should they be needed.

Domestic demand for more Peace Corps volunteers is just as impressive. Last year, 150,000 Americans requested information about joining Peace Corps. This is an increase of approximately 40% over the last four years. In the same time frame, Peace Corps has been able to support only a 2% increase in the number of volunteers (this with a 13% decrease in headquarters staffing since 1993, and a 14% drop in support costs per volunteer from FY93 to FY98).

Americans, young and old, single and married, would like to serve their country, humanity and democracy. This is an asset we should not let go to waste. It is my sincere hope that H.R. 669 is signed into law, allowing more Americans the opportunity to participate in the Peace Corps, the hardest job they will ever love.