

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we meet here today in this bicentennial year of our Bill of Rights, make us mindful of the unusually wonderful quality of life which these ten amendments to our constitution have afforded us.

Help us to fully understand why so many people throughout the world seek so desperately what we have; help to appreciate the kinds of sacrifices others are willing to make to secure the freedoms which we take so for granted day to day.

Give us the wisdom to guard these treasured freedoms; to accommodate the progress of our nation and our lives without compromising the principles upon we were founded and the basic human rights with which we are blessed.

Keep us aware of the wisdom displayed by our founding fathers; who, as they strove to mold a strong new government for our fledgling nation, never lost sight of the importance and significance of the individual; who showed us that government, in its best form, exists for the people governed and by their will.

May we, with your guidance, oh God, continue to hold high the banner of freedom and to allow our appreciation of these precious individual rights to manifest itself in how we live our daily lives.

~~Our~~ 300th Anniversary ~~is~~ is a milestone ^{country.}
in the proud history of our great STATE. It is
a time of celebration - for reflection on the past and dedication
to the future.

The emblem of our festivities depicts the outline
of Pa as two-hands clasped in friendship. It is fitting
that the emphasis for our ~~Tricentenary~~ ~~150~~ TERcentenary
has centered on people - people who have in the past fought
for their beliefs - people with strong moral convictions and
always the dream for the future - To-day we have those ~~same~~
people ^{with same} their hopes - their convictions - their dreams ^{give} cit

MEMBER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

ELINOR Z. TAYLOR



I commend the County Commissioners for providing adequately for our celebration - The Hibernia Birthday Party - the festival of arts - the play - The Proprietor - Frontier Day - Horses - Hounds + Hares Mock Meet at Hibernia - All of the ^{community} celebrations for townships / Baraught - and this Heritage Celebration of people, institutions and pride in an environment.

We, in Harrisburg, also had a special day - the 75th anniversary of the dedication of the State Capitol of Pa. To appropriately commemorate the historic occasion ^{+ the 300th Anniversary} the General Assembly of the Comm. of Pa. has an official Tercentenary Medal

MEMBER
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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

ELINOR Z. TAYLOR



~~So it is my privilege to present this~~ So it is my privilege to present this day to
model to the Governor on this day to
Appreciate the ^{working} partnership between county +
state and to congratulate you on a milestone -
four-tening - history making celebration -
Happy Birth Day Chester County.
Tom's History Experiment is working.



ELINOR Z. TAYLOR

MEMBER

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

*Speedy
300th*

PENNSYLVANIA'S 300TH BIRTHDAY 1981

FRIENDS --

This year in Penna. we have
~~TODAY WE HAVE COME HERE FOR A CELEBRATION....~~A CELEBRATION OF

PENNSYLVANIA'S 300TH BIRTHDAY.....A CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS. THE

EMBLEM FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVITIES DEPICTS THE OUTLINE OF PENNSYLVANIA AS TWO HANDS CLASPED IN FRIENDSHIP. BUT WHAT DOES FRIENDSHIP REALLY HAVE TO DO WITH HISTORY OR, FOR THAT MATTER, GOVERNMENT?

WHEN I ASKED MYSELF THIS QUESTION, I DECIDED TO CONSULT THE DICTIONARY FOR A DEFINITION OF "FRIEND". I FOUND AN INTERESTING FACT. TRACING FRIEND BACK TO ITS INDO-EUROPEAN BASE, I FOUND IT MEANT "FREE". FREEDOM HAS A LOT TO DO WITH PENNSYLVANIA.

ON MARCH 4, 1681, KING CHARLES II SIGNED A CHARTER GRANTING A TRACT OF LAND, FOUR TIMES THE SIZE OF NETHERLANDS, TO RID HIMSELF OF A TROUBLESOME SUBJECT. NOT EXACTLY A FRIENDLY ACT, YET IT WAS THIS ACT WHICH MADE *our 300th year* ~~TODAY'S~~ CELEBRATION POSSIBLE. PENN USED THE LAND FOR A "HOLY EXPERIMENT" IN FREEDOM.

WITHIN A MONTH OF RECEIVING THE CHARTER, PENN ISSUED A LETTER TO THE SETTLERS SAYING:

"I HOPE YOU WILL NOT BE TROUBLED WITH YOUR CHANGE
AND THE KING'S CHOICE; FOR YOU ARE NOW FIXT, AT
THE MERCY OF NO GOVERNOR THAT COMES TO MAKE HIS
FORTUNE GREAT. YOU SHALL BE GOVERNED BY LAWS
OF YOUR OWN MAKING AND LIVE FREE....."

NEXT PENN BEGAN WORKING DILIGENTLY TO FORM A FRIENDSHIP WITH
THE INDIANS IN THE REGION. BY JULY HE PUBLISHED PROVISIONS TO
"THOSE WHO MAY BECOME ADVENTURES AND PURACHSERS" IN THE PROVIDENCE.
THESE PROVISIONS REQUIRED SETTLERS TO TRADE WITH THE INDIANS OPENLY
AND FAIRLY AND TO TREAT THE INDIANS EXACTLY AS THEY WOULD OTHER
SETTLERS. THE PROVISIONS ALSO STATED THAT ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THE INDIANS AND THE SETTLERS WERE TO BE SETTLED BY A GROUP CONSISTING
OF SIX SETTLERS AND SIX INDIANS. ON DECEMBER 24, 1682, PENN SIGNED
THE TREATY OF AMNITY WHICH CEMENTED THE GOODWILL BETWEEN THE SETTLERS
AND THE INDIANS.

PENN'S PRIMARY CONCERN WAS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, FOR IT WAS HIS
EFFORTS TO FREE THE QUAKER SOCIETY OF FRIENDS FROM PERSECUTION THAT
LANDED HIM IN PRISON FOUR TIMES AND EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN THE KING'S

GRANTING OF THE CHARTER. HIS VISION OF FREEDOM, HOWEVER, EXTENDED TO GOVERNMENT ALSO.

"GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO ME A PART OF RELIGION ITSELF, A THING SACRED IN ITS INSTITUTIONS AND ENDS. ANY GOVERNMENT IS FREE TO THE PEOPLE UNDER IT, WHATEVER THE FRAME, WHERE THE LAWS RULE AND THE PEOPLE ARE PARTY TO THOSE LAWS."

THE FIRST ASSEMBLY MET AT CHESTER ON DECEMBER 14, 1682. THE FRAME OF GOVERNMENT DESIGNED BY PENN WAS TO CONSIST OF A PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF 72 MEMBERS, ANALOGOUS TO THE GOVERNOR'S CABINET, AND AN ASSEMBLY OF 200 MEMBERS. THE MEMBERS WERE TO BE CHOSEN BY FREE MEN AND COULD NOT SERVE FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS.

BY THE FIRST ACTUAL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY, HELD IN PHILADELPHIA, THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS WAS REDUCED TO 18 FOR COUNCIL AND 36 FOR THE ASSEMBLY BECAUSE IT WAS TOO DIFFICULT AND COSTLY FOR THE LAWMAKERS TO TRAVEL TO THE MEETINGS. VOTES WERE TAKEN BY DROPPING BEANS INTO A BOX.

PENNSYLVANIA'S HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TENACIOUS PEOPLE, AND SO THE COLONIAL ASSEMBLYMEN WERE NOT DAUNTED BY THE LACK OF A MEETING PLACE. THEY OFTEN MET IN PRIVATE HOMES, SCHOOL HOUSES AND EVEN IN MEMBER'S BEDROOMS WHEN NECESSARY. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING THE SPEAKERSHIP OF ISSAC NORRIS, THE ASSEMBLY RETIRED TO NORRIS' BEDROOM WHEN HE WAS STRICKEN WITH GOUT. ANOTHER TIME, LACKING A QUORUM, THE ASSEMBLY WENT TO THOMAS MASTER'S HOUSE SO THAT MASTERS, WHO WAS INDISPOSED, COULD COMPLETE THE NEEDED NUMBER.

COLONIAL RULES WERE STRICT. MEMBERS WHO EVENTUALLY EARNED SIX ^{*1/20 of a pound*} SHILLINGS A DAY FOR THEIR SERVICES, COULD BE FINED FOR MISSING A SESSION OR FOR BEING IMPOLITE TO ANOTHER MEMBER. DURING THE FOURTH ASSEMBLY, NICHOLAS MORE, A FORMER SPEAKER, WAS IMPEACHED FOR OFFENSES INCLUDING CALLING A FELLOW MEMBER A "MAN OF FEDITIOUS SPIRIT".

UPON ELECTION OF A SPEAKER, THE ASSEMBLY ACCOMPANIED THEIR CHOICE TO THE GOVERNOR'S CHAMBER FOR HIS APPROVAL. HERE THE SPEAKER WOULD FOLLOW A BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS TRADITION OF "DISABLING", PROCLAIMING HIMSELF UNFIT FOR THE POSITION AND PETITIONING THE GOVERNOR TO HOLD A NEW ELECTION.

THIS PRACTICE CONTINUED IN PENNSYLVANIA LONG AFTER IT DIED IN ENGLAND, UNTIL IN 1738 ALEXANDER HAMILTON TOLD THE GOVERNOR THAT AFTER EIGHT SUCCESSFUL TERMS AS SPEAKER, HE COULD NOT HONESTLY PROTEST THAT HE LACKED THE ABILITY FOR THE OFFICE. A FEW YEARS LATER, JOHN KINSEY INFORMED THE GOVERNOR THAT HAVING WON THE HONOR, HE FULLY INTENDED TO KEEP IT.

PENN WAS FOND OF SAYING THAT WHERE MEN CAN REASON TOGETHER, THEY CAN RECONCILE THEIR DIFFERENCES, OR IF THEY CANNOT, THEY CAN LIVE TOGETHER AMICABLY.

THIS PHILOSOPHY IS WHAT MAKES OUR GOVERNMENT WORK. A GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN ELECTED BY OTHER MEN AND WOMEN -- EACH AND EVERY PERSON WITH THEIR OWN IDEAS AND NEEDS -- TRYING TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND STILL LIVE IN FRIENDSHIP. RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S OPINIONS IS THE KEY; IT HAS KEPT THE SYSTEM WORKING FOR 300 YEARS. RALPH WALDO EMERSON EXPLAINED THE VALUE OF RESPECTING OTHER'S DIFFERENCES THIS WAY. "NEVER TRY TO MAKE ANYONE LIKE YOURSELF, BECAUSE YOU KNOW AND GOD KNOWS THAT ONE OF YOU IS ENOUGH."

I'M NOT SURE PENN'S HOLY EXPERIMENT TURNED OUR QUITE THE WAY HE HOPED. HE THOUGHT THAT THE LEADERS OF PENNSYLVANIA WOULD ALWAYS PUT THE PUBLIC GOOD ABOVE INDIVIDUAL OR REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE BELIEVED THAT SINCE THESE LEADERS WOULD BE CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE THAT EVERYONE WOULD AGREE TO THEIR DECISIONS GLADLY. THE RESULT, HE EXPECTED, WOULD BE A STATE ENTIRELY FREE FROM CONFLICT. PENN'S VISION WAS SO IDYLIC, IN FACT, THAT HE BELIEVED THAT PERSONS WHO THRIVED ON DISCONTENT SUCH AS CLERGY, LAWYERS OR WRITERS WOULD BE FORCED TO ABANDON THEIR PROFESSIONS OR LEAVE PENNSYLVANIA. WHAT HE GOT INSTEAD WAS A COMPETITIVE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND THE RISE OF INDIVIDUALITY. HE DIED A DISAPPOINTED MAN ACCUSING HIS CITIZENS OF PLAYING "THE GREAT GAME OF CHEAT THE GOVERNOR".

YET PENN'S MOST CHERISHED VALUES -- FRIENDSHIP AND FREEDOM -- HAVE STAYED ALIVE FOR THREE CENTURIES. TODAY, AFTER 300 YEARS OF EXPERIMENTATION, WE CAN TRULY CALL THIS A CELEBRATION OF FRIENDS. IN ^{our tricentennial} THE WORDS OF OUR MENTOR:

"I WISH YOU ALL HAPPINESS HERE AND HEREAFTER...

AND SO BESEECH GOD TO DIRECT YOU IN THE WAY

OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THEREIN PROSPER YOU AND

YOUR CHILDREN AFTER YOU."

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Tina & Joe
Rommel
quest from
George & Mary Zerk

Joe
Tina
Pat
Rose
Bell
May & Glance
Tom & Gavin
David
Mike & Sunny
Dann

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
301-D81

President - Mike
Past Pres.
Bob
Jesse & Shalors -
mess - leaders
of Communists

1- Ray's Invitation
2- Charles & my conversation
3. Sam might -

TRECENTIARY

GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
CONTACT: Steven Fink
Deputy Press Secretary
(717) 783-1116

HARRISBURG (March 4) -- Proclaiming March 14, 1981, as "Charter Day"

in commemoration of the founding of Pennsylvania 300 years ago by William Penn, Gov. Dick Thornburgh today called upon all citizens of the state, young and old, to join together in an 18-month, statewide "Celebration of Friends" in honor of Pennsylvania's 300th birthday.

The 18-month period denotes the first two important milestones in Pennsylvania's history: the granting of the Charter to Penn by England's King Charles II in March, 1681, and Penn's arrival in the Commonwealth aboard the ship, "Welcome," in October, 1682.

The governor also unveiled a theme and a logo for the celebration which depicts a stylized map of Pennsylvania formed by two hands clasped in friendship, under the slogan, "A Celebration of Friends," and over the phrase, "Pennsylvania's 300th Birthday."

"No other state can match Pennsylvania's three centuries of historical, social, economic and religious contributions to this country," said Thornburgh. "From its founding 300 years ago as a 'Holy Experiment' in religious freedom to its role a century later as this nation's 'Birthplace of Independence,' the contributions of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians have truly served as a keystone to our country's existence and growth."

Thornburgh said the celebration has been carefully designed "to involve the greatest number of Pennsylvanians possible," but at a modest expenditure of taxpayers' dollars in keeping with the "need for fiscal austerity in these difficult economic times."

"Our plans call for involvement and participation by the greatest number of Pennsylvanians possible," the governor said. "We are inviting all Pennsylvanians -- senior citizens and school children, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, people of every religious and ethnic persuasion from every city, town, borough and farm, everyone -- to join together under the banner of 'A Celebration of Friends' and commemorate Pennsylvania's 300th birthday in any manner they deem appropriate."

Thornburgh said the state is providing "an innovative, flexible

umbrella, a banner under which any local government, organization or individual can stage an appropriate celebration in a way we hope will encourage grass-roots participation."

For that reason, he said, the state has planned no major events of its own, but will provide guidance and coordination for events which others may develop.

"Indeed, if an organization wishes to observe the 300th anniversary of an important milestone in Pennsylvania's history which occurred after the Oct. 1684 date -- and there are many -- that's fine, too," the governor said. "A true 'Celebration of Friends' should continue until the people decide its over, not the government."

The governor said that a special 300th Birthday Celebration office has been established in the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission which will:

*Serve as a clearinghouse for all 300th birthday activities throughout the state and provide guidance to those who request it.

*Assist groups and communities in obtaining promotional exposure for local events.

*Provide for posterity a public and permanent record of all 300th Birthday events, activities and observances.

*Develop appropriate strategies to promote a few select statewide observances.

*Assist all state departments and agencies in developing 300th Birthday observances and activities within the framework of existing departmental programs.

Under the last item, Thornburgh said he was requesting all state departments and agencies to designate a liaison at the deputy secretary level to offer full cooperation in working with the 300th Birthday Celebration office in pinpointing ongoing and future programs which easily could be adapted to a 300th Birthday Celebration theme.

Commenting on the unique compatibility of the state's travel and tourism slogan, "You've Got A Friend in Pennsylvania," and the 300th Birthday slogan, "A Celebration of Friends," Thornburgh said the birthday celebration is also an open invitation "to people everywhere to visit the friendly places and people of Pennsylvania."

*Joe & Tim
you have visited
the friendly
people of PA*

The governor also invited Pennsylvanians to watch "Penn's Dream," a half-hour special on William Penn to be shown Thursday evening, March 5, on the Pennsylvania Public Television Network.

The 300th Birthday Celebration office is headed by Susan S. Kogan and Michael J. O'Malley of the museum commission's staff. A special phone number has been installed, (717) 783-0300, and their address is Box 1026, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

Copies of the proclamation and logo are attached.

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Note: "Penn's Dream" will be aired:

*7:30 p.m. on WVIA-TV/Scranton

*8:00 p.m. on WPSX-TV/University Park, WITF/Hershey,
WQLN-TV/Erie, WQED-TV/Pittsburgh

*8:30 p.m. on WHYI-TV/Philadelphia

*9:30 p.m. on WLVT-TV/Allentown



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HARRISBURG

PROCLAMATION

CHARTER DAY
MARCH 14, 1981

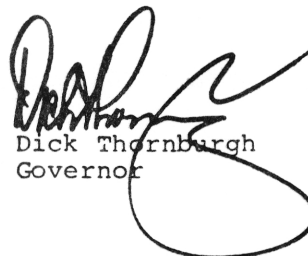
In 1681, King Charles II of England signed a charter granting William Penn a "parte of land in America" and called it "Pensilvania". Out of that charter, William Penn created a government for a free and prosperous people. Three centuries later, we continue to live, work and worship in the land that Penn called his "Holy Experiment".

When William Penn arrived in the New World, he brought with him the highest ideals of his English heritage and Quaker faith. Based on his belief in a government "where the laws rule, and the people are a party to those laws", Penn planted the seeds that blossomed into America. Our forefathers built a strong Pennsylvania that became the keystone of the entire nation. Today, we are blessed with a proud tradition of liberty and a rich legacy of justice, toleration and equality.

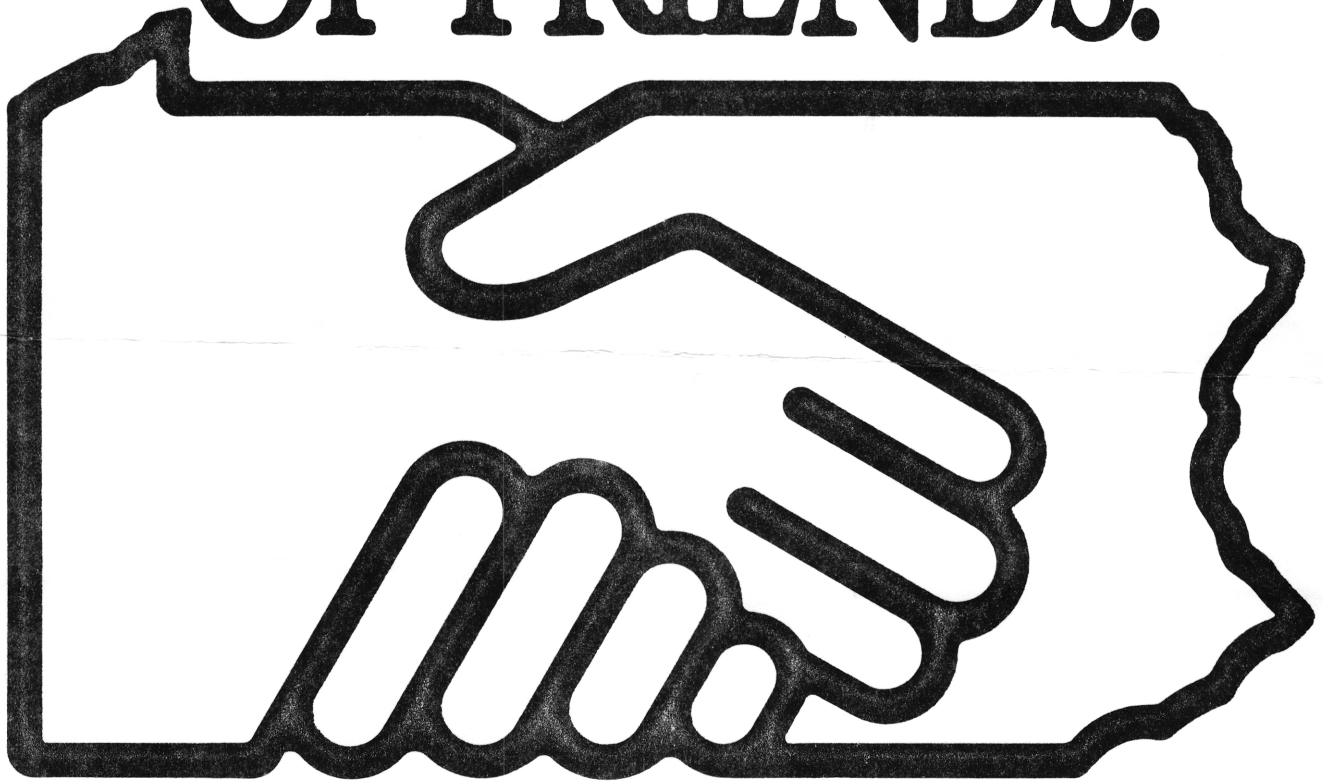
Three centuries ago, our Commonwealth was but a dream in the mind of one man, the man upon whose Bible I took my oath of office. On this 300th anniversary of the founding of Pennsylvania, I, Dick Thornburgh, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March 14, 1981 as CHARTER DAY in accordance with the Act of June 1, 1977, P.L. 676, No. 210, and with the hope that all Pennsylvanians join with me in this "Celebration of Friends". Let us reaffirm our commitment to the freedoms that nurtured our precious legacy and that have endured throughout the centuries.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Great Seal of the Commonwealth,
this fourth day of March,
in the year of our Lord,
one thousand nine hundred
and eighty-one, and of
the Commonwealth, the two
hundred and fifth.




Dick Thornburgh
Governor

**A CELEBRATION
OF FRIENDS.**



Pennsylvania's 300th Birthday.

Rep. Elinor Taylor

Sept. 1977

AS WE PAUSE HERE BRIEFLY THIS EVENING, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO JOIN ME IN A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME. LET US START BY TURNING OUR CLOCKS BACK TO NEARLY 500 YEARS AGO. TO A MEMORABLE OCCASION IN HISTORY. THIS, OF COURSE, PRECEEDS THE ACTUAL BIRTH OF OUR NATION BY 300 YEARS.

WHEN WE LOOK OUT OVER THE GREAT ATLANTIC OCEAN WE CAN SEE A MAN IN A LITTLE CRAFT BEING TOSSED ABOUT BY HUGH SWELLS. HE DID NOT HAVE THE ADVANTAGES OF RADIO, RADAR, OR TELEVISION THROUGH WHICH TO COMMUNICATE HIS FEELINGS. HE DID, HOWEVER, HAVE A PEN AND HE WROTE, "LET CHRIST REJOICE ON EARTH."

THE AUTHOR OF THOSE WORDS WAS CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, WHO CREDITED HIS EXPOLITS TO A BELIEF IN DIVINE GUIDANCE AS HE SAILED WESTWARD TOWARD THE NEW WORLD ON HIS SECOND GREAT VOYAGE.

"IN THE NAME OF GOD - AMEN" WERE THE WORDS THAT RANG OUT FROM THE MOST FAMOUS SHIP IN AMERICAN HISTORY -- THE MAYFLOWER A TINY VESSEL POWERED BY WINDS OFF THE GREAT DEEP, AS IT APPROACHED THE SHORES OF NEW ENGLAND. SHE CARRIED A CARGO OF PROTESTANT MEN AND WOMEN WHO CAME NOT AS POLITICAL PILGRIMS BUT AS RELIGIOUS PILGRIMS.

THEY WANTED TO LIVE IN A PLACE WHERE THEY COULD WORSHIP GOD ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN CONSCIENCES. WHEN THEIR LITTLE SHIP SAILED WESTWARD INTO THE ATLANTIC, A NATION UNDER GOD WAS RIDING INTO HISTORY.

A REMARKABLE SCENE IN THE HISTORY OF NATIONS WAS ENACTED ABOARD THE MAYFLOWER WHEN IT DROPPED ANCHOR IN PLYMOUTH HARBOR MANY WEEKS LATER. THERE, UNDER THE LOW-HUNG BEAMS OF THE CABIN, A GROUP OF DETERMINED AND BELIEVING MEN COMPACTED TOGETHER TO BUILD A GOD-RULED STATE. NOTABLE AMONG HISTORIC DOCUMENTS IS THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT, THE FIRST INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT IN THIS LAND, ESTABLISHING THE BASIS FOR AN ORDERLY SOCIETY.

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WAS WRITTEN BY GOD-FEARING PEOPLE, FOR IT AFFIRMS BELIEF IN A CREATOR WHO GIVE TO MEN "CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS," AND THOSE MEN WHO AFFIXED THEIR SIGNATURES TO IT DID A VERY COURAGEOUS THING. THEY LITERALLY TOOK THEIR LIVES IN THEIR OWN HANDS, FOR HAD THE REVOLUTION, WHICH

THEY WERE ENCOURAGING, BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN EXECUTED AS TRAITORS AND THEIR PROPERTY CONFISCATED. BUT, BELIEVING IN FREEDOM OF THE MIND AND OF THE SOUL, THEY PUT ASIDE THEIR FEARS AND STRUCK OUT FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN VALUES WITH THESE FAMILIAR WORDS THAT ARE DEAR TO THE HEARTS OF US ALL

"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 AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS."

MANY OTHER DOCUMENTS OF EARLY AMERICA CONTAINED HUMBLE, DEDICATED REFERENCES TO ALMIGHTY GOD. TAKE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE FIRST OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PROCLAMATION OF THANKSGIVING ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 1, 1777, BY THE SECOND CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, THIS PROCLAMATION SET ASIDE DECEMBER 18 OF THAT YEAR AS A DAY OF SOLEMN THANKSGIVING, PRAISE AND PRAYER PATTERNED AFTER THE FIRST INFORMAL CELEBRATION OF THE PILGRIMS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR FIRST DESOLATE YEAR IN THE NEW WORLD.

"..... IT IS THE INDISPENSABLE DUTY OF ALL MEN TO ADORE THE SUPERINTENDING PROVIDENCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD; TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE THEIR OBLIGATION TO HIM FOR BENEFITS RECEIVED, AND TO IMPLORE SUCH FURTHER BLESSING AS THEY STAND IN NEED OF"

FROM THE PILGRIMS FLEETING PERSECUTION, TO REFUGEES FROM HITLER'S MASS EXTERMINATION OF JEWS, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE SOUGHT AND FOUND RELIGIOUS AS WELL AS POLITICAL HAVEN IN AMERICA.

AMONG THE EARLIEST TO FLOCK TO OUR SHORES IN SEARCH OF FREEDOM OF WORSHIP WERE THE QUAKERS, WHO SETTLED IN PENNSYLVANIA; THE ROMAN CATHOLICS, WHO FOUND A NEW HOMELAND IN MARYLAND AND OTHER COLONIES; THE DUTCH PROTESTANTS, WHO BUILT NEW AMSTERDAM, WHICH LATER BECAME NEW YORK CITY; THE BAPISTS, WHO FOUND THEIR NEW HOME IN RHODE ISLAND. JEWS, AMISH AND MENNONITES ALSO WERE AMONG THE OPPRESSED WHO FOUND LIBERTY IN THE NEW WORLD.

MUCH OF OUR NATION'S GROWTH CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO RELIGIOUS LEADERS. METHODIST CIRCUIT RIDERS, MAKING THEIR PREACHING ROUNDS ON HORSEBACK, HELPED TO OPEN THE MIDWEST. ROMAN CATHOLICS CONTRIBUTED TO THE BUILDING OF THE FAR WEST. PRESBYTERIANS AND CONGREGATIONALISTS LAID THE FOUNDATION OF OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

WHEN WE REMEMBER THE ALAMO, WHERE DAVY CROCKET AND JAMES BOWIE DIED BEFENDING TEXAS AGAINST THE MEXICANS, WE SHOULD ALSO REMEMBER THAT THE BUILDING WAS NOT A FORT -- IT WAS A CATHOLIC MISSION.

INDEED, AMERICA HAS HAD A UNIQUE BACKGROUND OF FAITH FROM ITS VERY BEGINNING. NO OTHER NATION HAS ROOTS SO STEEPED IN THE COMMITMENT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM -- THE FREEDOM TO SEEK AND FIND EQUALITY BEFORE GOD UNDER THE ESTABLISHED GOVERNMENT.

WE CAN SEE EVIDENCE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TODAY BY MERELY REACHING INTO OUR POCKETS. OUR MONEY CARRIES THE MOTTO "IN GOD WE TRUST". SESSIONS OF CONGRESS AND THE SUPREME COURT OPEN WITH A PRAYER. A CAPITOL PRAYER ROOM IS MUCH USED BY LEGISLATORS. EVERY PRESIDENT TAKES HIS OATH OF OFFICE ON THE BIBLE. WITNESSES SWEAR ON BIBLES IN COURT PROCEEDINGS.

AMERICA HAS HAD FOUR EXTRAORDINARY CRISES DURING ITS HISTORY. IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, THE FOURTH CRISIS IN AMERICAN HISTORY IS THE CRISIS OF THE PRESENT MOMENT. OUR NATION IS BEING THREATENED TODAY AS IT HAS NOT BEEN THREATENED SINCE THE CIVIL WAR. IT IS NOT THAT WE ARE MENACED BY COMMUNISM, ALTHOUGH THAT DANGER IS WITH US FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT. SOMETHING EVEN MORE SERIOUS IS TAKING PLACE IN AMERICA TODAY. IT IS MORAL DETERIORATION.

EVER SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II THIS COUNTRY, ALONG WITH THE OTHER ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, HAS BEEN PLUNGING INTO MORAL CORRUPTION AT A RATE THAT IS GAINING MOMENTUM. HONESTY AND TRUTHFULNESS HAVE BEEN THROWN OUT THE WINDOW. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS ONE MAD WHIRL OF AMUSEMENTS AND PLEASURE AND LICENTIOUSNESS AND IMMORALITY. JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IS MOUNTING SO RAPIDLY WE CAN'T KEEP PACE WITH THE FIGURES.

THE DRUG MENACE, FAR FROM DECREASING IS INCREASING AND CLAIMING NEW YOUNG VICTIMS EVERY DAY. THE LATEST FBI CRIME FIGURES ARE SHOCKING; A 12 PERCENT INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIMES. CHRONIC ALCOHOLICS NUMBER AT LEAST SIX MILLION.

SOME OF THE IDENTICAL SYMPTOMS THAT WERE NOTICED IN ROME DURING THE LAST DAYS OF THE EMPIRE ARE NOW OBSERVED AND FELT IN OUR SOCIETY. DIVORCE RATES ARE INCREASING. RACIAL TENSIONS ARE WORSE, NOT BETTER. INFLATION IS SIPHONING OFF THE SAVINGS OF THOSE WITH LOWER INCOMES. POLITICAL ISSUES ARE DIVIDING US. CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN SHAKEN. WALK DOWN THE STREETS OF OUR CITIES AND READ THE NAMES OF THE LATEST FILMS ON THE MARQUEES. MOST OF THE FILMS DEAL WITH SEX, CRIME, AND ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR. ONE CAN ONLY ASK, WHAT IS THE COUNTRY COMING TO?

IT IS HOPED THAT MY PRESENCE HERE TONIGHT MAY SERVE AS A REMINDER TO ALL WITHIN MY VOICE OF OUR PRECIOUS HERITAGE AND AWAKEN IN EVERY MAN AND WOMEN, BOY AND GIRL, THE DETERMINATION TO KEEP IT ALIVE FOREVER.

TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, VIGILANCE IS ESSENTIAL. LAXITY ON OUR PART COULD RESULT IN GENERATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE GROWING UP UNFAMILIAR WITH THE FIRM MORAL FOUNDATION UPON WHICH OUR COUNTRY RESTS. THE PRESENT IS FULL OF THE PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF THE "NOW" GENERATION, YET OUR NATION IS WHAT IT IS BECAUSE OF WHAT IT HAS BEEN, TOGETHER WITH WHAT MAN WANTS TO MAKE IT.

IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, NOT ONLY THAT OUR YOUTH BUT OUR OLDER GENERATIONS AS WELL, REMAIN AWARE OF THE PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE MADE THE UNITED STATES UNIQUE. IMPORTANT IN THIS CONTEXT ARE THE WORDS OF THE GREAT QUAKER, WILLIAM PENN:

"UNLESS WE ARE GOVERNED BY GOD, WE WILL BE RULED BY TYRANTS. THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO BUILT AMERICA HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED -- AND IN TURN HAVE MOTIVATED OTHERS -- BY A SPIRITUAL ZEAL THAT CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE THE CHARACTER AND PURPOSE OF OUR LIFE TODAY."

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, THE GREATEST NEED TODAY IS NOT FOR MORE GUNS OR MORE ATOMIC BOMBS. IF WE GO BACK TO THE REIGN OF KING SOLOMON IN ISRAEL ABOUT 350 B. C., AS GIVEN US IN II CHRONICLES, WE FIND THAT WHEN THE PEOPLE WERE FAITHFUL TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD AT THE TEMPLE, THEY PROSPERED, AND WHEN THEY BECAME CARELESS. THE NATION HAD TROUBLE. AFTER SOLOMON FINISHED THE HOUSE OF THE LORD, THEN THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN THE NIGHT AND SAID TO SOLOMON AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THE 12TH, 13TH, AND 14TH CHAPTERS.

"I HAVE HEARD YOUR PRAYER, AND HAVE CHOSEN THIS PLACE FOR MYSELF AS A HOUSE OF SACRIFICE. WHEN I SHUT UP THE HEAVENS SO THAT THERE IS NO RAIN, OR COMMAND THE LOCUST TO DEVOUR THE LAND, OR SEND PESTILENCE AMONG MY PEOPLE, IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND."

THANK YOU.

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