



AMERICAN COVENANT

IN GOD WE TRUST
ONE



**"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh . . .
... and the Lord shall be King over all the earth.
In that day shall there be One Lord
and His name,
ONE."**

from Zechariah 14:1,9



ANNUIT COEPTIS
HE HAS FAVORED OUR UNDERTAKINGS
NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM
A NEW ORDER OF THE AGES
E PLURIBUS UNUM
OUT OF THE MANY ONE
HE GUIDES THE HUMBLE IN JUSTICE
FOR SUCH IS GOD OUR GOD
FOR EVER AND EVER
HE WILL GUIDE US ETERNALLY

HALLELUJAH

HOLY ONE

AMEN

AMERICAN COVENANT REVIVAL

© Memorial Day, May 26, 2014

From: The Compiler, H.R.F., M.D., Psychiatrist

To: My family, my friends and neighbors; to America and to a Candid World

All parts of this compilation SHOULD BE reproduced in any effective form as a catalyst to inspire movement for national reawakening of the fundamental principles of the United States of America, to achieve Revitalization, Reformation, Transformation, and an economic True Fair Deal for the General Welfare.

IN MEMORIAM

“What God hath wrought”

Numbers 23:23

With reverence and piety for the wisdom
passed down to us the living
by our ancestors and forbears;
as it was written:

“Be still and know that I am God:
I will be exalted among the heathen,
I will be exalted in the earth.”

Psalms 46:11

“I will instruct thee
and teach thee in the way
which thou shalt go.
I will guide thee . . .”

from Psalm 32:8

“ . . . not in the wind . . .
. . . not in the earthquake . . .
. . . not in the fire . . .
. . . [in] a still small voice.”

from I Kings 19:11,12

“I AM-WILL-BE that I AM-WILL-BE.”

from Exodus 3:14

“I AM-WILL-BE hath sent me unto you.”

from Exodus 3:14

“I call heaven and earth
to witness against you this day,
that I have set before thee
life and death,
blessing and cursing:
therefore choose life
that thou mayest live,
thou and thy seed,
to love the Lord thy God . . .”

from Deuteronomy 30:19

“ . . . but thou shalt love thy neighbor
as thyself: I AM the Lord.”

from Leviticus 19:18

“ . . . proclaim Liberty throughout all the land
unto all the inhabitants thereof . . . ”

from Leviticus 25:10

“Seek the Lord and live—“

from Amos 5:6

“Happy is he whose help . . . is God . . .
. . . whose hope is the Lord his God . . .
. . . who keeps truth forever,
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives bread to the hungry.”

from Psalm 146:5,6,7

“They that regard lying vanities, forsake their own mercy . . .
. . . salvation is of the Lord.”

from Jonah 2:9,10

Amen

as it is written:
“In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth . . .
. . . and . . . rested on the seventh day . . .”
from Genesis 1:1 and 2:2

“And He allotted unto man two spirits
that he should walk in them
until the time of His visitation
(until the last judgement when the Evil spirit
shall be destroyed forever)
they are the spirits of truth and of perversity.”
from the Essene Scroll of the Rule

Then, in the course of human events,
“Our [fore]fathers brought forth on this [American] continent
a new nation,
conceived in Liberty,
and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”
from Lincoln’s Gettysburg address

And they proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence—on July 4th, 1776
“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.”

And they convened on May 25th, 1787, in the city of Philadelphia
presided over by George Washington
and framed the Constitution of the United States of America
in the name of the People
“One Nation Under God”
from The Pledge of Allegiance

Saying:
“We the people of the United States,
in Order to form a more perfect Union,
establish Justice,
insure domestic Tranquility,
provide for the common defence,
promote the general Welfare,
and secure the Blessings of Liberty
to ourselves and our Posterity,
do ordain and establish
this Constitution for the United States of America.”
Preamble of the U.S. Constitution

“With Liberty and Justice for all.”
from The Pledge of Allegiance

“Hear this I pray you . . . that abhor justice, and pervert all equity.”
from Micah 3:9

“. . . receive the instruction of wisdom,
justice and judgement, and equity.
from Proverbs 1:3

“. . . promote the general welfare . . .”
from the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution

“To everything there is a season . . .
. . . a time to get, and a time to lose . . .”
from Ecclesiastes 3:1,6

A time for the American Covenant of 1776:
Revival, Reformation and Transition to a True New Fair Deal for the General Welfare.

for the “. . . land of the free and home of the brave . . .”
from American National Anthem

“Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation . . .”
from American National Anthem

“ . . . 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 . . . ”
from the Declaration of Independence

Amen

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HALLELUJAH

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In awe and fervent reverence say:
In the Ineffable Name of the
Hallowed Creator, Sustainer, Transformer of the Universe and all therein;
Source and Guide and Goal;
Sovereign of Existence.

“ . . . AM-WILL-BE that AM-WILL-BE . . . ”
from Exodus 3:14

I AM that I AM = I WILL BE that I WILL BE
from Exodus 3:14

as it is written:
“I AM hath sent me unto you . . . ”
from Exodus 3:14

“ . . . to revive the spirit of the humble,
and to revive the heart of the contrite . . . ”
from Isaiah 57:15

“ . . . until the time of reformation.”
from Hebrews 9:10

for the American Covenant of 1776 A.D.
“ . . . for the general welfare . . . ”
from the Preamble of the
U.S. Constitution (1787)

“The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows His handiwork.”
Psalm 19:1

“The earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness,
the world and those who dwell therein.”
Psalm 24:1

“He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.”
Psalm 33:5

“And now, Lord what do I wait for?
My hope is in you.”
Psalm 39:7

Praise the "... Creator ... the Supreme Judge ..."
from the Declaration of Independence

Our Guide in Free Conscience to Whom alone is due
our highest allegiance; Who of old and anew in the words
of the Psalmist tells us, "I will instruct thee and teach thee
in the way which thou shalt go."
from Psalm 32:8

And so, "... appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world
for the rectitude of our intentions ..." and, "... with
a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence ..."
from the Declaration of Independence

Seeking Right Guidance for our times let us say,
"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid ..."
from Isaiah 12:2

"And this be our motto, 'In God is our trust' ..."
from The Star Spangled Banner

"Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry ..."
from Psalm 39:12

"Answer when I call ..."
from Psalm 4:1

"Show me Your ways, ... teach me Your paths.
Guide me in Your truth and teach me ...
... for You I wait all the day."
from Psalm 25:4,5

"Whom have I in heaven but Thee,
and beside Thee I desire none on earth."
from Psalm 73:25

"Teach me Thy way ...
... and lead me in an even path ..."
from Psalm 27:11

"Who can discern errors ...
... clear Thou me from hidden faults."
from Psalm 19:13

“ . . . cause me to know the way in which I should walk . . . ”
from Psalm 143:10

“ . . . in Thy righteousness
bring my soul out of trouble . . . ”
from Psalm 143:11

“For I am Thy servant.”
from Psalm 143:12
“I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all Thy works;
. . . my soul thirsts for Thee,
as a weary land.”
from Psalm 143:5,6

“Guide me in Thy truth, and teach me . . . ”
from Psalm 25:5

“That Thy way may be known upon earth,
Thy salvation among all nations.”
from Psalm 67:2

and as it is written:
“But thou, when thou prayest,
enter into thy closet,
and when thou hast shut thy door,
pray to thy Father which is in secret;
and thy Father which seeth in secret
shall reward thee openly.”
Jesus’s words, Matthew 6:6

“Think not that I AM come to destroy the law,
or the prophets: I AM not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”
Jesus’s words, from Matthew 5:17

“Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever.”

Jesus’s words, Matthew 6:9-13

“No man can serve two masters:
For either he will hate the one, and love the other;
or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.
Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (money, wealth).
Matthew 6:24

“... unrighteous mammon . . .”
from Luke 16:11

“For the love of money is the root of all evil . . .”
from I Timothy 6:10

“Sing unto God, sing praises to His name:
Extol Him that rideth upon the heavens . . .
. . . and rejoice before him.”

“A father of the fatherless,
and a judge of the widows,
is God in His holy habitation.”
from Psalm 68:4,5

“Our Father
Who art in heaven . . .
. . . deliver us from evil.”
from the Lord’s prayers

“Let God arise,
let His enemies be scattered:
let them also that hate Him flee before him.”
Psalm 68:1

“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints,
and to be had in reverence of all
them that are about Him.”

Psalm 89:7

“ . . . for He cometh to judge the earth:
with righteousness shall He judge the world,
and the people with equity.”

from Psalm 98:9

“ . . . with righteousness shall He judge the poor,
and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth:
and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth,
and with the breath of His lips
shall He slay the wicked.”

from Isaiah 11:4

“Hear this, I pray you . . .
. . . that abhor judgement,
and pervert all equity.”

from Micah 3:9

“To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

“A time to get, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to cast away.”

from Ecclesiastes 3:6

A time for Revival, Reformation
and Transition to a True Fair Deal!

Amen

So, as it is written:
“ . . . receive the instruction of wisdom,
justice and judgement, and equity.”
from Proverbs 1:3

“I will praise the Lord with my whole heart . . .”
from Psalm 111:1

“Blessed is everyone that feareth the Lord;
that walketh in His ways.”
from Psalm 128:1

“ . . . believing . . . rejoice with joy unspeakable [indescribable, Ineffable]
and full of glory.”
from I Peter 1:8

“Blessings are upon the head of the just . . .”
from Proverbs 10:6

“Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me.”
Psalm 51:10

Again! “Be still, and know that I AM God . . .”
from Psalm 46:10

“If thou return, and I bring thee back . . .
. . . thou shalt be as My mouth.”
from Jeremiah 15:19

“I the Lord have called thee in righteousness,
and have taken hold of thy hand,
and kept thee, and set thee for a covenant of the people . . .”
from Isaiah 42:6

“ . . . new things do I declare . . .”
from Isaiah 42:9

“Listen, you deaf! Look closely you blind!”
Isaiah 42:18

“Lead forth the people that are blind but have eyes,
that are deaf but have ears . . .”
from Isaiah 43:8

“Before me no God was formed,
and after there will be no other.”
Isaiah 43:10

“ . . . and beside Me there is no Savior.”
from Isaiah 43:11

“ . . . I am God. Yes, from eternity I AM . . .”
from Isaiah 43:12

“Do not remember the things that are past;
and do not consider bygone events.
See, I AM doing something new;
now it bursts forth—do you not know it?”
Isaiah 43:18,19

“I AM First and I AM Last; and there is no other God than I.”
from Isaiah 44:6

“Who is like Me? Let him call out, let him speak up,
let him confront Me.
Who has proclaimed from eternity the things to come . . .”
from Isaiah 44:7

“ . . . is there a God other than I?
There is no rock; I know none.”
from Isaiah 44:8

“I [the Ineffable] do all things;
I alone stretched out the heavens;
I laid out the earth; who was with Me?”
from Isaiah 44:24

“I AM [the Ineffable], and there is no other;
besides ME there is no god . . .”
from Isaiah 45:5

“ . . . know from the east and from the west
that there is none besides ME . . .
. . . there is no other.”
from Isaiah 45:6

“I form light, and I create darkness;
I produce well being and I create evil . . .”
from Isaiah 45:7

“I made the earth, and I created man upon it;
My hands stretched out the heavens,
and I direct all their hosts.”
Isaiah 45:12

“ . . . not for a price, and not for payment . . .”
from Isaiah 45:13

Thus says the Ineffable, the “Lord”:
“Preserve justice, and do righteousness . . .”
from Isaiah 56:1

“To loose the fetters of injustice,
to remove the bands of the yoke;
to set free the oppressed, to break every yoke.”
from Isaiah 58:6

“ . . . share your food with the starving . . .
. . . admit to your house the homeless poor . . .
. . . clothe the naked . . .”
from Isaiah 58:7

“Then your light will burst out like the dawn
and your healing will be quick;
your righteousness will march before you,
and the glory of [the Ineffable] ‘the Lord’
will march behind you.”
Isaiah 58:8

“Nations will walk to your light . . .”
from Isaiah 60:3

“Thus says [the Ineffable] ‘the Lord’:
The heavens are My throne, and the earth is My footstool;
where is the house that you would build for Me?
And where is the place for Me to rest?
My hand has made all these things, and all these things are Mine . . .”
from Isaiah 66:1,2

“But upon this one will I look:
on the lowly and the broken of spirit,
and the one who trembles at My word.”
Isaiah 66:2

“ . . . now I will arise, saith the Lord . . . ”
from Psalm 12:5

“For the oppression of the poor,
for the sighing of the needy,
now will I arise, saith the Lord . . . ”
from Psalm 12:5

“Be still, and know that I AM God . . . ”
from Psalm 46:10

“I will instruct thee and teach thee
in the way which thou shalt go.
I will guide thee . . . ”
from Psalm 32:8

“ . . . not in the wind . . . not in the earthquake . . . not in the fire . . .
 . . . [in] a still small voice.”
from I Kings 19:11,12

“Therefore thus saith the Lord,
if thou return,
then will I bring thee again,
and thou shalt stand before Me:
and if thou take forth the precious from vile,
thou shalt be as My mouth: let them return unto thee;
but return not thou unto them.”
King James version, Jeremiah 15:19

“ . . . If thou return,
and I bring thee back . . .
 . . . and if thou bring forth the precious out of the vile,
thou shalt be as MY mouth . . . ”
from the Masoretic Text, Jeremiah 15:19

“I wait for the Lord . . . ”
from Psalm 130:5

. . . God, the eternal and Most High,
The Creator, Sustainer, Transformer
Source and Guide and Goal of Being . . .

“Out of the depths have I called Thee,
O Lord, hearken to my voice . . .”
from Psalm 130:1,2

“I wait for the Lord . . . and in His word do I hope.”
from Psalm 130:5

“In my distress I called upon the Lord,
and cried unto my God . . .
and my cry came before Him,
even into His ears.”
from Psalm 18:6

“The Lord also thundered in the heavens,
and the Most High gave forth His voice . . .”
from Psalm 18:14as it is written:

“Be still/let be and know that I AM God . . .”
from Psalm 46:11

“I AM, I AM that I AM, I WILL BE.”
Exodus 3:14

“I will instruct thee and teach thee
in the way which thou shalt go;
I will give counsel,
Mine eye being upon thee.”
Psalm 32:8

“. . . not in the wind . . .
. . . not in the earthquake . . .
. . . not in the fire . . .
. . . [in] a still small voice.”
from I Kings 19:11,12

“Woe unto them that decree unrighteous laws . . .”
from Isaiah 10:1

“Woe to him that builds his house by unrighteousness,
and his chambers by injustice . . .”
from Jeremiah 22:13

as it is written:

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you, this day. . .”
from Deuteronomy 4:26

“ . . . that I have set before thee life and death,
the blessing and the curse;
therefore choose life, that thou mayest live,
thou and thy seed;
to love the Lord thy God,
to hearken to His voice,
and to cleave unto Him;
for that is thy life . . . ”
from Deuteronomy 30:19,20

“ . . . proclaim liberty throughout the land,
unto all the inhabitants thereof . . . ”
from Leviticus 25:10

“Seek the Lord and live—”
from Amos 5:6

“Be still, and know that I am God . . . ”
Psalm 46:10

“ . . . I will instruct thee and teach thee . . . ”
from Psalm 32:8

“ . . . [in] a still small voice.”
from I Kings 19:12

it is written:

“ . . . love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul,
and with all your mind . . .
. . . thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself . . . ”
from Matthew 22:37,39

“Honor thy father and thy mother:
that thy days may be long
upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”
Exodus 20:12

“ . . . have joy of the wife of thy youth.”
from Proverbs 5:18

“Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine . . .
 . . . thy children like olive plants, round about thy table.”
from Psalm 128:3

“Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord;
the fruit of the womb is a reward.”
Psalm 127:3

“ . . . lay up these My words in your heart and in your soul . . .
 . . . and ye shall teach them your children . . . ”
from Deuteronomy 11:18,19

“ . . . receive My words, and lay up my commandments with thee
so that thou make thine ear attend unto wisdom
and thy heart incline to discernment.”
from Proverbs 2:1,2

“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom,
and the man that obtaineth understanding.”
Proverbs 3:13

“Blessed are the peacemakers . . . ”
Matthew 5:9

“They who live by the sword
shall die by the sword.”
Matthew 26:52

“Seek justice, relieve the oppressed,
judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.”
from Isaiah 1:17

“ . . . The Lord fulfill all thy petitions.”
from Psalm 20:5

“Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and justice,
and equity;
yea, every good path.”
from Proverbs 2:9

“ . . . with righteousness judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the land.”
from Isaiah 11:4

“Keep ye justice and do righteousness.”
Isaiah 56:1

“Remember the sabbath day to keep it Holy.”

“Honor thy father and thy mother . . .”

“Thou shalt not kill.”

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

“Thou shalt not steal.”

“Thou shalt not bear false witness . . .”

“Thou shalt not covet . . .”

from Exodus 20:8,12,13,14,15,16,17

and remember,

“. . . the sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.”

Jesus’s words from Mark 2:27

“Blessed is he whose
transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.”

Psalms 32:1

“I acknowledge my sin unto Thee,
and mine iniquity have I not hidden.

I said, ‘I will confess
my transgressions unto the Lord’;
and thou forgave the iniquity
of my sin.”

from Psalm 32:5

“For this shall everyone
that is godly shall pray
unto Thee in a time when Thou
mayest be found . . .”

from Psalm 32:6

“Thou shalt not steal.”

Exodus 20:15, Deuteronomy 5:19

“Be not thou afraid when one waxeth rich,
when the wealth of his house is increased;
For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away.
His wealth shall not descend after him.”

Psalms 49:17,18

“He that augmenteth his substance by interest
and increase [usury] gathereth it for Him [God]
that is gracious to the poor.”

Proverbs 28:8

“Do not steal.”
“Thou shalt not steal.”
Leviticus 19:11

“And if thy brother be waxen poor, and his means fail . . .
. . . then thou shalt uphold him . . .
. . . take thou no interest [usury] of him or increase . . .”
from Leviticus 25:35,36

And, “Put on the whole armor of God,
that ye may be able to stand
against the wiles of the devil.”
Ephesians 6:13

“. . . we wrestle not against flesh and blood,
but against principalities, against powers,
against the rulers of darkness of this world,
against spiritual wickedness in high places.”
from Ephesians 6:12

So with, “. . . Faith, Hope and Love . . .”
from I Corinthians 13:13

“Try Me now herewith: says the Lord of Hosts.”
Malachi 3:10

“I will instruct thee and teach thee . . .”
from Psalm 32:8

“. . . faith without works is dead . . .”
from James 2:17

“For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy,
now will I arise, saith the Lord . . .”
from Psalm 12:5

“Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity . . .”
from Isaiah 5:18

“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil . . .”
from Isaiah 5:20

“Woe unto them that decree unrighteous laws . . .”
from Isaiah 10:1

“Woe to him that builds his house by unrighteousness,
and his chambers by injustice . . .”
from Jeremiah 22:13

“Hear this, all ye people . . .
. . . both low and high, rich and poor, together . . .
. . . they that trust in their wealth,
and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches . . .
. . . for the redemption of their soul . . .”
from Psalm 49:1,2,6,8

“ . . . rich men, weep and howl
for your miseries that shall come upon you.
Your riches are corrupted . . .
. . . Your gold and silver is cankered;
and the rust of them shall be a witness against you,
and shall eat your flesh as if it were fire.
Behold the hire of laborers . . .
. . . Kept back by fraud crieth
and the cries of them . . .
. . . are entered into the ears
of the Lord of sabbath.”
“Ye have lived in pleasure . . .
. . . and been wanton . . .
. . . ye have condemned and killed the just . . .”
from James 5:1-6

So Again! “Be still, and know
that I AM God.”
from Psalm 46:10

“I will instruct thee and teach thee . . .”
from Psalm 32:8

“See I am doing something new . . .”
from Isaiah 43:19

But! As it is written:
“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle,
than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”
Matthew 19:24, Mark 10:25, Luke 18:25

“Vengeance is Mine and recompense,
against the time when their foot shall slip,
for the day of their calamity is at hand,
and the things that are to come upon them
shall make haste.”

from Deuteronomy 32:35

“For a fire is kindled in My nostril
and burneth unto the depths of the netherworld,
and devours the earth with her produce,
and sets ablaze the foundations of the mountains.”
Deuteronomy 32:22

“To everything there is a season, and a time . . .”
from Ecclesiastes 3:1

“I will instruct thee and teach thee
in the way which thou shalt go . . .”
from Psalm 32:8

“. . . [in] a still small voice.”
from I Kings 19:12

as it is written:
“Be still, and know that I AM God . . .”
from Psalm 46:10

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you,
that I have set before you life and death,
the blessing and the curse;
therefore choose life,
so that thou and thy seed may live.”
from Deuteronomy 30:19

“Proclaim liberty throughout all the land
to all the inhabitants thereof . . .”
from Leviticus 25:10,
inscribed on the Liberty Bell

“Seek the Lord and live—”
from Amos 5:6

“Happy is he whose help . . . is God . . .
. . . whose hope is the Lord, his God . . .
. . . who keeps truth forever,
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives bread to the hungry.”
from Psalm 146:5,6,7

“Seek justice; relieve the oppressed,
judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.”
Isaiah 1:17

“. . . You shall not defile the land which you inhabit
in the midst of which I dwell . . .”
from Numbers 35:34

“. . . God took man, and put him into the garden [Mother Earth] to dress it and keep it.”
from Genesis 2:15

“I AM the Lord, righteous and victorious,
there is not another.
Turn to ME and be saved
all the ends of the earth.”
Isaiah 45:21,22

“See! I AM doing something new . . .”
from Isaiah 43:19

“If you return to Me and I bring you back,
you shall stand before Me,
and if you bring forth the precious out of the vile
you shall be as My mouth.”
Jeremiah 15:19

“See! I AM doing something new.
Now it bursts forth.
Shall you not know it?”
Isaiah 43:19

“Whom have I in heaven but Thee?
And beside Thee I desire none upon earth.”
Psalm 73:25

“Show me Thy ways . . .
 . . . Teach me Thy paths.
 Guide me in Thy truth,
 and teach me . . .
 . . . for you I wait all the day.”
 from Psalm 25:4,5

“ . . . lead me in an even path . . . ”
 from Psalm 27:11

“Thou . . . who can discern errors . . .
 . . . clear . . . me from hidden faults . . . ”
 from Psalm 19:13,15

“ . . . cause me to know the way
 in which I should walk . . .
 . . . Teach me to do Thy will . . .
 . . . lead me into the land of uprightness.”
 from Psalm 143:8,10

“Open to me the gates of righteousness;
 I will enter into them,
 I will give thanks unto the Lord.”
 Psalm 118:19

“In Thy righteousness
 bring my soul out of trouble . . . ”
 from Psalm 143:11

“I remember the days of old;
 I meditate on all Thy works . . .
 . . . my soul thirsts after Thee,
 as a weary land . . . ”
 from Psalm 143:5,6

“Guide me in Thy truth, and teach me . . . ”
 from Psalm 25:5

“The Lord is my banner . . .
 . . . Thou art my trust.”
 from Exodus 17:15, Psalm 71:5

“ . . . for I am Thy servant.”
 from Psalm 143:12

Amen

“Woe is me for I am undone;
because I am a man of unclean lips,
and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips . . .”
from Isaiah 6:5

“This I recall to my mind,
therefore have I hope.”
Lamentations 3:21

“We have sinned with our fathers,
we have done iniquitously,
we have dealt wickedly.”
Psalm 106:6

“. . . O Lord, let the Lord, I pray Thee, go in the midst of us;
for it is a stiffnecked people;
and pardon our iniquity and our sin . . .”
from Exodus 34:9

“Be Thou my judge, O God,
and plead my cause
against an ungodly nation . . .”
from Psalm 43:1

“That Thy way may be known upon earth,
Thy salvation among all nations.”
from Psalm 67:2

“And as you go, preach
saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
Matthew 10:7

“. . . proclaiming and bringing good news
of the kingdom of God.”
from Luke 8:1

“The Lord is my banner . . .”
from Exodus 17:15

“In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust . . .”
from Psalm 71:1

Amen

Etcetera ad libitum
by the grace of God

Amen

AN AMERICAN LITURGY

A Confession of Faith

In God we trust.
American Motto

Annuit Coeptis:
He has favored our undertakings.
motto from the Great Seal of the United States

Praise the Power that hath made us and preserved us . . .
from The Star Spangled Banner

[for a] Land of the free and home of the brave!
from The Star Spangled Banner

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of Liberty,
To Thee we sing,
Great God our King
from America's National Hymn

Invocation

Creator,
Nature's God
Supreme Judge of the World
words from the Declaration of Independence, July 4th, 1776

Almighty Being that rules the universe;
Great Author of every public and private good;
Invisible Hand,
and Benign Parent of the human race
*from George Washington's Inaugural Address
President 1789-1797*

Being Who is supreme over all;
Patron of Order;
Fountain of Justice;
Protector in all ages of virtuous Liberty . . .
*from John Adams' Inaugural Address
President 1797-1801*

Infinite Power which rules the destinies of the universe;
That Being in Whose hands we are . . .
from Thomas Jefferson's Inaugural Address
President 1801-1809

Almighty Being Whose power regulates
the destiny of nations;
Heaven . . .
from James Madison's Inaugural Address
President 1809-1817

Providence;
The Almighty . . .
from James Monroe's Inaugural Address
President 1817-1825

Prayer for Divine Guidance

Almighty God . . .
from James Monroe's Second Inaugural Address

We appeal . . . for the rectitude of our intentions . . .
with a firm reliance
on the Protection of Divine Providence . . .
from the Declaration of Independence

In order to form a more perfect union . . .
from the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution

E Pluribus Unum:
One out of the many;
American Motto

Novus Ordo Seclorum:
A New Order for the Ages
motto on the Great Seal of the United States

Under God, indivisible . . .
"Under God" occurs in the Gettysburg Address
of Abraham Lincoln, 1863, and was added in 1952
to the Pledge of Allegiance written in 1899,
by Francis Bellamy; "Indivisible" occurs
in the Pledge, also.

With Liberty and Justice for all;
from the Pledge of Allegiance

In God is our Trust!
*motto in The Star Spangled Banner; the American
National Anthem, made official by Congress in 1931,
written by Francis Scott Key, 1814*

Credo

We The People . . .
*opening words of the Preamble
of the U.S. Constitution*

Under God our King . . .
words from America's National Hymn

With a decent respect
for the opinion of mankind . . .
words from the Declaration of Independence

Solemnly publish and declare . . .
words from the Declaration of Independence

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 . . .
from the Declaration of Independence

. . . to which the Laws of Nature,
and of nature's God entitle them . . .
. . . 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 shown,
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 . . .
from the Declaration of Independence

WE THEREFORE . . .
from the Declaration of Independence

. . . appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world
for the rectitude of our intentions . . .
and for the support of this Declaration,
with a firm reliance
on the Protection of Divine Providence,
we mutually pledge to each other
our Lives,
our Fortunes
and our sacred Honor . . .
from the Declaration of Independence

. . . in order to form a more perfect union,
establish Justice,
insure domestic tranquility,
provide for the common defence,
promote the general Welfare,
and secure the Blessings of Liberty

to ourselves and our Posterity . . .
*from the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution
of 1787, ratified by June 1788*

. . . that . . . under God . . .
government of the people,
by the people,
for the people,
shall not perish from the earth.
from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, 1863

*Songs of prayer for the Blessings of God's guidance and Instruction;
Protection from Distress, Praise of God, Confession of Foremost Allegiance to God,
and Faith in the triumph of God's Justice and Truth in traditional American Hymns.*

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he hastens and chastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing,
to cease them from distressing;
Sing praises to His name,
he forgets not His own.
Thanksgiving Hymn

General Acclamation

A toast:
TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

IN GOD WE TRUST

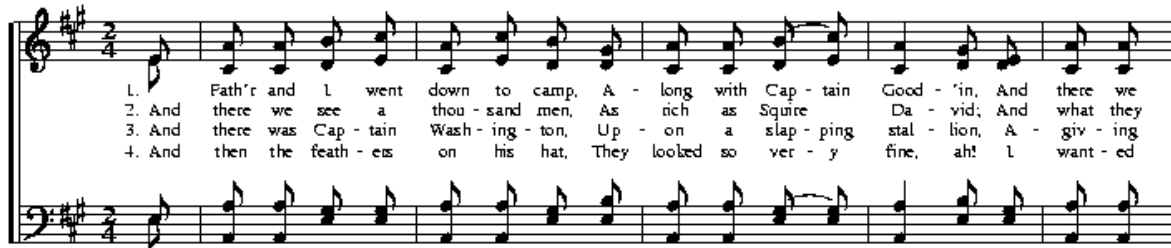
HOLY ONE

AMEN

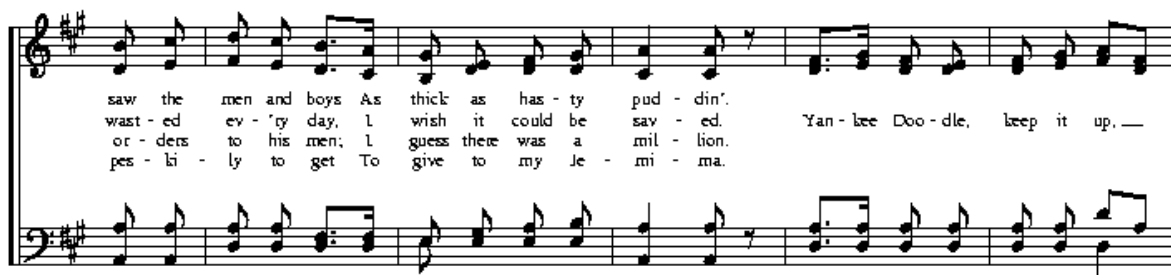
SONGS

YANKEE DOODLE

Probably written by a member of General Braddock's army during the French and Indian War, the Americans in the army made it a song of the patriots during the War of Independence.



1. Fath'r and I went down to camp, A - long with Cap - tain Good - 'in, And there we
2. And there we see a thou - sand men, As rich as Squire Da - vid; And what they
3. And there was Cap - tain Wash - ing - ton, Up - on a slap - ping stal - lion, A - giv - ing
4. And then the feath - es on his hat, They looked so ver - y fine, ah! I want - ed



saw the men and boys As thick as has - ty pud - din'. Yan - kee Doo - dle, keep it up. —
wast - ed ev - 'ry day, I wish it could be sav - ed.
or - ders to his men; I guess there was a mil - lion.
pes - ki - ly to get To give to my Je - mi - ma.



Yan - kee Doo - dle dan - dy, Mind the mu - sic and the step, And with the girls be hand - y.

- 5 And there I see a swamping gun,
Large as a log of maple,
Upon a mighty little cart;
A load for father's cattle.
- 6 And every time they fired it off,
It took a horn of powder;
It made a noise like father's gun,
Only a nation louder.
- 7 And there I see a little keg,
Its head all made of leather;
They knocked upon't with little sticks,
To call the folks together.

- 8 And Cap'n Davis had a gun,
He kind o' clapt his hand on't
And stuck a crooked stabbing-iron
Upon the little end on't.
- 9 The troopers, too, would gallop up
And fire right in our faces;
It scared me almost half to death
To see them run such races.
- 10 It scared me so I hooked it off,
Nor stopped, as I remember,
Nor turned about till I got home,
Locked up in mother's chamber.

AMERICA

NATIONAL HYMN, 1832

By Samuel Frances Smith, 1832

In *Thesaurus Musicus*, 1740

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. The first system has two staves for the voices and one for the piano. The lyrics are: 1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of the; 2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, Land of the. The second system has two staves for the voices and one for the piano. The lyrics are: lib - er - ty, Of thee I sing; Land where my; no - ble free, Thy name I love; I love thy. The third system has two staves for the voices and one for the piano. The lyrics are: fa - thers died, Land of the pil - grims' pride,; rocks and rills, Thy woods and tem - pled hills;. The fourth system has two staves for the voices and one for the piano. The lyrics are: From ev - 'ry moun - tain - side Let free - dom ring,; My heart with rap - ture thrills Like that a - bove. A - men.

3 Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake,
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

4 Our fathers' God, to thee,
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King. Amen.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

By Francis Scott Key, 1814

Made Official Anthem of the United States in Congress, 1931

(To tune of Anacreon in Heaven,

by John Stafford Smith, 1771)

1 O say can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly
2 O thus be it ev - er, when free - men shall

light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last
stand Be - tween their loved homes and the war's des - o -

gleam - ing, Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the per - il - ous
la - tion! Blest with vic - t'ry and peace, may the heav'n-res - cued

fight, O'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly
land Praise the Power that hath made and pre - served us a

stream - ing? And the rock - ets' red glare, the bombs burst - ing in
na - tion! Then con - quer we must, when our cause it is

air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
just, And this be our mot - to, "In God is our trust."

O say does that star - span - gled ban - ner yet wave
And the star - span - gled ban - ner in tri - umph shall wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

DOCUMENTS

SOURCES OF BILL OF RIGHTS

Bill of Rights Guarantees	First Document Protecting	First American Guarantee	First Constitutional Guarantee
Seizures	Magna Carta, c. 39 1215	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 10 1776	Same
Due process	Magna Carta, c. 39 1215	Md. Act for Liberties of the People 1639	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 8 1776
Jury trial	Magna Carta, c. 39 1215	Mass. Body of Liberties, S. 29 1641	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 8 1776
Free speech	Mass. Body of Liberties, S. 12 1641	Same	Pa. Declaration of Rights, Art. XII 1776
Double jeopardy	Mass. Body of Liberties, S. 42 1641	Same	N.H. Bill of Rights, Art. XVI 1783
Counsel	Mass. Body of Liberties, S. 29 1641	Same	N.J. Constitution, Art. XVI 1776
Jury trial (civil)	Mass. Body of Liberties, S. 29 1641	Same	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 11 1776
Bail	Mass. Body of Liberties, S. 18 1641	Same	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 9 1776
Punishment	Mass. Body of Liberties, S. 43 1641	Same	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 9 1776
Free exercise of religion	Md. Act Concerning Religion 1649	Same	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 16 1776
Public trial	West N.J. Concessions, c. XXIII 1677	Same	Pa. Declaration of Rights, Art. IX 1776
Quartering soldiers	N.Y. Charter of Liberties 1683	Same	Del. Declaration of Rights, S. 21 1776
Grand jury indictment	N.Y. Charter of Liberties 1683	Same	N.C. Declaration of Rights, Art. VIII 1776
Petition	Bill of Rights (1689)	Declaration of Rights and Grievances, (1765), S. XIII	Pa. Declaration of Rights, Art. XVI 1776
Right to bear arms	Bill of Rights (1689)	Pa. Declaration of Rights, Art. XIII 1776	Same
Witnesses	Pa. Charter of Privileges, Art. V 1701	Same	N.J. Constitution, Art. XVI 1776
Fines	Pa. Frame of Government, S. XVIII 1701	Same	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 9 1776
Reserved Powers	Mass. Declaration of Rights, Art. IV 1765	Same	Same
Free press	Address to Inhabitants of Quebec 1764	Same	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 12 1776
Assembly	Declaration and Resolves, Continental Congress 1774	Same	Pa. Declaration of Rights, Art. XVI 1776
Self-incrimination	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 8 1776	Same	Same
Cause and nature of accusation	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 8 1776	Same	Same
Rights retained by people	Va. Convention, proposed amendment 17 1776	Same	Ninth Amendment 1791
Speedy trial	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 8 1776	Same	Same
Establishment of religion	Rights of the Colonists (Boston) 1736	Same	N.J. Constitution, Art. XIX 1776
Searches	Rights of the Colonists (Boston) 1736	Same	Va. Declaration of Rights, S. 10 1776

THE FIRST AMERICAN CONSTITUTION: THE MAYFLOW COMPACT

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*, &c. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith and the Honour 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 Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid; And by Virtue hereof do 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 eleventh of *November*, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *James* of *England, France, and Ireland*, the eighteenth and of *Scotland*, the fifty-fourth. *Anno Domini*, 1620.

CONSTITUTION OF VIRGINIA

JUNE 12, 1776

BILL OF RIGHTS

A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS made by the representatives of the good people of Virginia, assembled in full and free convention which rights do pertain to them and their posterity, as the basis and foundation of government .

Section 1. That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

Section 2. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants and at all times amenable to them.

Section 3. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community; of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration. And that, when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community has an indubitable, inalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.

Section 4. That no man, or set of men, is entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services; which, nor being descendible, neither ought the offices of magistrate, legislator, or judge to be hereditary.

Section 5. That the legislative and executive powers of the state should be separate and distinct from the judiciary; and that the members of the two first may be restrained from oppression, by feeling and participating the burdens of the people, they should, at fixed periods, be reduced to a private station, return into that body from which they were originally taken, and the vacancies be supplied by frequent, certain, and regular elections, in which all, or any part, of the former members, to be again eligible, or ineligible, as the laws shall direct.

Section 6. That elections of members to serve as representatives of the people, in assembly ought to be free; and that all men, having sufficient evidence of permanent common interest with, and attachment to, the community, have the right of suffrage and cannot be taxed or deprived of their property for public uses without their own consent or that of their representatives so elected, nor bound by any law to which they have not, in like manner, assembled for the public good.

Section 7. That all power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without consent of the representatives of the people, is injurious to their rights and ought not to be exercised.

Section 8. That in all capital or criminal prosecutions a man has a right to demand the cause and nature of his accusation, to be confronted with the accusers and witnesses, to call for evidence in his favor, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury of twelve men of his vicinage, without whose unanimous consent he cannot be found guilty; nor can he be compelled to give evidence against himself; that no man be deprived of his liberty except by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers.

Section 9. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 10. That general warrants, whereby an officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places without evidence of a fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, or whose offense is not particularly described and supported by evidence, are grievous and oppressive and ought not to be granted.

Section 11. That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, the ancient trial by jury is preferable to any other and ought to be held sacred.

Section 12. That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.

Section 13. That a well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

Section 14. That the people have a right to uniform government; and, therefore, that no government separate from or independent of the government of Virginia ought to be erected or established within the limits thereof.

Section 15. That no free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

Section 16. That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practise Christian forbearance, love, and charity toward each other.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

JULY 4, 1776

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.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their

exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The 56 signatures on the Declaration appear in the positions indicated:

John Hancock
 Button Gwineth
 Lyman Hall
 Geo. Walton
 Wm. Hopper
 Joseph Hewes
 John Penn
 Edward Rutledge
 Thos. Heyward,
 Junr.
 Thomas Lynch,
 Junr.
 Arthur Middleton
 Samuel Chase
 Wm. Paca
 Thos. Stone
 Charles Carrol of
 Carrollton
 George Wythe
 Richard Henry Lee

Th. Jefferson
 Benja. Harrison
 Thos. Nelson, Jr.
 Francis Lightfoot
 Lee
 Carter Braxton
 Robt. Morris
 Benjamin Rush
 Benja. Franklin
 John Morton
 Geo. Clymer
 Jas. Smith
 Geo. Taylor
 James Wilson
 Geo. Ross
 Caesar Rodney
 Geo. Read
 Tho. McKean
 Wm. Floyd
 Phil. Livingston

Frans. Lewis
 Lewis Morris
 Richd. Stockton
 Jno. Witherspoon
 Fras. Hopkinson
 John Hart
 Abra. Clark
 Josiah Bartlett
 Wm. Whipple
 Saml. Adams
 John Adams
 Robt. Treat Paine
 Elbridge Gerry
 Step. Hopkins
 William Ellery
 Roger Sherman
 Sam. Huntington
 Wm. Williams
 Oliver Wolcott
 Matthew Thornton

CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA

AUGUST 16, 1776

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS all government ought to be instituted and supported for the security and protection of the community as such, and to enable the individuals who compose it to enjoy their natural rights, and the other blessings which the Author of existence has bestowed upon man; and whenever these great ends of government are not obtained, the people have a right, by common consent to change it, and take such measures as to them may appear necessary to promote their safety and happiness.

AND WHEREAS the inhabitants of this commonwealth have in consideration of protection only, heretofore acknowledged allegiance to the king of Great Britain ; and the said king has not only withdrawn that protection, but commenced, and still continues to carry on, with unabated vengeance, a most cruel and unjust war against them, employing therein, not only the troops of Great Britain, but foreign mercenaries, savages and slaves, for the avowed purpose of reducing them to a total and abject submission to the despotic domination of the British parliament, with many other acts of tyranny, (more fully set forth in the declaration of Congress) whereby all allegiance and fealty to the said king and his successors, are dissolved and at an end, and all power and authority derived from him ceased in these colonies.

AND WHEREAS it is absolutely necessary for the welfare and safety of the inhabitants of said colonies, that they be henceforth free and independent States, and that just, permanent, and proper forms of government exist in every part of them, derived from and founded on the authority of the people only, agreeable to the directions of the honourable American Congress. We, the representatives of the freemen of Pennsylvania, in general convention met, for the express purpose of framing such a government, confessing the goodness of the great Governor of the universe (who alone knows to what degree of earthly happiness mankind may attain, by perfecting the arts of government) in permitting the people of this State, by common consent, and without violence, deliberately to form for themselves such just rules as they shall think best, for governing their future society; and being fully convinced, that it is our indispensable duty to establish such original principles of government, as will best promote the general happiness of the people of this State, and their posterity, and provide for future improvements, without partiality for, or prejudice against any particular class, sect, or denomination of men whatever, do, by virtue of the authority vested in us by our constituents, ordain, declare, and establish, the following Declaration of Rights and Frame of Government, to be the CONSTITUTION of this commonwealth, and to remain in force therein forever, unaltered, except in such articles as shall hereafter on experience be found to require improvement, and which shall by the same authority of the people, fairly delegated as this frame of government directs, be amended or improved for the more effectual obtaining and securing the great end and design of all government, herein before mentioned.

BILL OF RIGHTS

I. That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and inalienable rights, amongst which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

II. That all men have a natural and unalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences and understanding: And that no man ought or of right can be compelled to attend any religious worship, or erect or support any place of worship, or maintain any ministry, contrary to, or against, his own free will and consent: Nor can any man, who acknowledges the being of a God, be justly deprived or abridged of any civil right as a citizen, on account of his religious sentiments or peculiar mode of religious worship: And that no authority can or ought to be vested in, or assumed by any power whatever, that shall in any case interfere with, or in any manner controul, the right of conscience in the free exercise of religious worship.

III. That the people of this State have the sole, exclusive and inherent right of governing and regulating the internal police of the same.

IV. That all power being originally inherent in, and consequently derived from, the people; therefore all officers of government, whether legislative or executive, are their trustees and servants, and at all times accountable to them.

V. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community; and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single man, family, or sett of men, who are a part only of that community; And that the community hath an indubitable, unalienable and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish government in such manner as shall be by that community judged most conducive to the public weal.

VI. That those who are employed in the legislative and executive business of the State, may be restrained from oppression, the people have a right, at such periods as they may think proper, to reduce their public officers to a private station, and supply the vacancies by certain and regular elections.

VII. That all elections ought to be free; and that all free men having a sufficient evident common interest with, and attachment to the community, have a right to elect officers, or to be elected into office.

VIII. That every member of society hath a right to be protected in the enjoyment of life, liberty and property, and therefore is bound to contribute his proportion towards the expence of that protection, and yield his personal service when necessary, or an equivalent thereto: But no part of a man's property can be justly taken from him, or applied to public uses, without his own consent, or that of his legal representatives: Nor can any man who is conscientiously scrupulous of bearing arms, be justly compelled thereto, if he will pay such equivalent, nor are the people bound by any laws, but such as they have in like manner assented to, for their common good.

IX. That in all prosecutions for criminal offences, a man hath a right to be heard by himself and his council, to demand the cause and nature of his accusation, to be confronted with the witnesses, to call for evidence in his favour, and a speedy public trial, by an impartial jury of the country, without the unanimous consent of which jury he cannot be found guilty; nor can he be compelled to give evidence against himself; nor can any man be justly deprived of his liberty except by the laws of the land, or the judgment of his peers.

X. That the people have a right to hold themselves, their houses, papers, and possessions free from search and seizure, and therefore warrants without oaths or affirmations first made, affording a sufficient foundation for them, and whereby any officer or messenger may be commanded or required to search suspected places, or to seize any person or persons, his or their property, not particularly described, are contrary to that right, and ought not to be granted.

XI. That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, the parties have a right to trial by jury, which ought to be held sacred.

XII. That the people have a right to freedom of speech, and of writing, and publishing their sentiments; therefore the freedom of the press ought not to be restrained.

XIII. That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the state; and as standing armies in the time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; And that the military should be kept under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

XIV. That a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles, and a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, industry, and frugality are absolutely necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty, and keep a government free: The people ought therefore to pay particular attention to these points in the choice of officers and representatives, and have a right to exact a due and constant regard to them, from their legislatures and magistrates, in the making and executing such laws as are necessary for the good government of the state.

XV. That all men have a natural inherent right to emigrate from one state to another that will receive them, or to form a new state in vacant countries, or in such countries as they can purchase, whenever they think that thereby they may promote their own happiness.

XVI. That the people have a right to assemble together, to consult for their common good, to instruct their representatives, and to apply to the legislature for redress of grievances, by address, petition, or remonstrance.

STATUTE OF VIRGINIA FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

1780

*Drafted by Thomas Jefferson in 1777
and adopted
by the General Assembly in 1786*

Whereas, Almighty God hath created the mind free;

That all attempts to influence it by temporal punishments or burthens, or by civil incapacitations tend only to beget habits of hypocrisy and meanness, and therefore are a departure from the plan of the holy author of our religion, who being Lord, both of body and mind yet chose not to propagate it by coercions on either, as was in his Almighty power to do,

That the impious presumption of legislators and rulers, civil as well as ecclesiastical, who, being themselves but fallible and uninspired men have assumed dominion over the faith of others, setting up their own opinions and modes of thinking as the only true and infallible, and as such endeavouring to impose them on others, hath established and maintained false religions over the greatest part of the world and through all time;

That to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions, which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical;

That even the forcing him to support this or that teacher of his own religious persuasion is depriving him of the comfortable liberty of giving his contributions to the particular pastor, whose morals he would make his pattern, and whose powers he feels most persuasive to righteousness, and is withdrawing from the Ministry those temporary rewards, which, proceeding from an approbation of their personal conduct are an additional incitement to earnest and unremitting labours for the instruction of mankind;

That our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions any more than our opinions in physics or geometry,

That therefore the proscribing any citizen as unworthy the public confidence, by laying upon him an incapacity of being called to offices of trust and emolument, unless he profess or renounce this or that religious opinion, is depriving him injuriously of those privileges and advantages, to which, in common with his fellow citizens, he has a natural right,

That it tends only to corrupt the principles of that very Religion it is meant to encourage, by bribing with a monopoly of worldly honours and emoluments those who will externally profess and conform to it;

That though indeed, these are criminal who do not withstand such temptation, yet neither are those innocent who lay the bait in their way;

That to suffer the civil magistrate to intrude his powers into the field of opinion and to restrain the profession or propagation of principles on supposition of their ill tendency is a dangerous fallacy which at once destroys all religious liberty because he being of course judge of that

tendency will make his opinions the rule of judgment and approve or condemn the sentiments of others only as they shall square with or differ from his own;

That it is time enough for the rightful purposes of civil government, for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order;

And finally, that Truth is great, and will prevail if left to herself, that she is the proper and sufficient antagonist to error, and has nothing to fear from the conflict, unless by human interposition disarmed of her natural weapons free argument and debate, errors ceasing to be dangerous when it is permitted freely to contradict them:

Be it enacted by General Assembly that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief, but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of Religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge or affect their civil capacities.

And though we well know that this Assembly elected by the people for the ordinary purposes of Legislation only, have no power to restrain the acts of succeeding Assemblies constituted with powers equal to our own, and that therefore to declare this act irrevocable would be of no effect in law; yet we are free to declare, and do declare that the rights hereby asserted, are of the natural rights of mankind, and that if any act shall be hereafter passed to repeal the present or to narrow its operation, such act will be an infringement of natural right.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

1787

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies.

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section. 4.

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section. 5.

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section. 6.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section. 7.

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States: If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented

to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section. 8.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively,

the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;--And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section. 9.

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another; nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section. 10.

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use

of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article. II.

Section. 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing] the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President,

and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:--"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section. 2.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section. 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section. 4.

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III.

Section. 1.

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section. 2.

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;--to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;--to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;--to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;--to Controversies between two or more States;-- between a State and Citizens of another State,--between Citizens of different States,--between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section. 3.

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article. IV.

Section. 1.

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section. 2.

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.

Section. 3.

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section. 4.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence.

Article. V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner

affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Article. VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article. VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

UNITED STATES BILL OF RIGHTS

Amendment I (1791)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II (1791)

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III (1791)

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV (1791)

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V (1791)

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI (1791)

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII (1791)

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII (1791)

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX (1791)

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X (1791)

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

FURTHER U.S. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT XI

Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.

Note: Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

AMENDMENT XII

Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.

Note: A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; -- the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; -- The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. --]* The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

**Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.*

AMENDMENT XIII

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

Note: A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XIV

Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.

Note: Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3.

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4.

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

**Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

AMENDMENT XV

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude--

Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XVI

Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

AMENDMENT XVII

Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: *Provided*, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

AMENDMENT XVIII

Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.

Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2.

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XIX

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XX

Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.

Note: Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

Section 1.

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3rd day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which

one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Section 4.

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5.

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

AMENDMENT XXI

Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.

Section 1.

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2.

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XXII

Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.

Section 1.

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

Section 2.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

AMENDMENT XXIII

Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.

Section 1.

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXIV

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXV

Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.

Note: Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

Section 1.

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2.

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3.

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Section 4.

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

AMENDMENT XXVI

Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.

Note: Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

AMENDMENT XXVII

Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of representatives shall have intervened.

From George Washington's farewell address to the Senate, 1796:

"It is substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule, indeed, extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric?"

Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that the public opinion should be enlightened."

The American Pledge of Allegiance

*The primary and foremost allegiance is to God through free conscience;
the second allegiance is to the Republic of the United States of America
by the symbol of the flag of a nation, that in the words of Abraham Lincoln,
in the Gettysburg Address, as conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the
proposition that all men are created equal:*

*a nation ordained to manifest
the Universalistic, Transcendent, yet Immanent and worldly Ideal expressed
in the hallowed Doctrines of the Dispensation of the American Covenant
of the Theophany of the American Revolution of 1776.*

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America,
and to the Republic for which it stands,
One Nation, under God, indivisible,
with Liberty and Justice for all.

Etcetera ad libitum
by the grace of God

Amen

Memorial Day
May 26, 2014

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