

## 7-4-2023 - Inspiration

I would like to share with you all the words of John Adams, as he wrote to his wife, that we all can cling to for our challenges of today and tomorrow and remember where it all started.

“On July 3, 1776, following the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote to his wife, reflecting of what he had shared in Congress concerning the importance of that day:

*The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever.*

*You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am not. I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it will cost to maintain this Declaration and support and defend these States. Yet through all the gloom I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is worth more than all the means; that posterity will triumph in that day's transaction, even though we (may regret) it, which I trust in God we shall not.”*

Through the 247 years since that Declaration, there most certainly has been bloodshed and toil to preserve our independence and liberties. We have faced many challenges from foes, both here and abroad, and still do. But, by the Grace and Mercy of God, The United States of America has prevailed. From that first declaration, through the Constitution and Bill of Rights we still stand strong in the world for Freedom and Democracy. It hasn't been, and still is not perfect, but there is no other country as close to the values of liberty and freedom of its' people as the U.S.A. Was this accomplished for personal gain and self-gratification? Most certainly not! But, it has been through the Blessing of God upon our actions.

Within the American Legion, we still affirm where our allegiance lay when we state our Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion, beginning with: “For God and Country”. When we forget, or do not follow those words we do, and will, find ourselves in trouble. When we strive for self-gain, and not for our “Four Pillars”, we are and will be unsuccessful. Obviously, as now, we are forced to take a step back and seriously examine why we are here, what it is that we truly want to aspire to. Are we here to help ourselves, or with Gods sanctifications, together help others? Personally, I truly believe that the vast majority of us

do, and it will be with our unified voice that we can get back to that glory that we once had. But, it must be without the human evils that can creep in.

So, not just a Past Department Chaplain, but a citizen and veteran, I ask each of you to look into yourselves and ask, "What IS my 'Why'". Are you here for "God and Country", helping others, to 'BeTheOne", and to help maintain our Freedoms and Democracy – OR is there another reason more to "Self"? If we can take advantage of the offerings from our National Advisors we can get away from the gloom and again "see the rays of ravishing light and glory", as John Adams once foresaw. All we have to do is to put others before self, put God first, and to truly Love our neighbors.

I wish all of you Gods Blessings with a safe and glorious Independence Day, and not forget what CAN BE, instead of WHAT IS. As it says in James 1:25 *"But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."* May God Bless America!

"For God and Country"