

HIS Time

A few weeks ago, I said “It’s That Time”. It seemed to me that it was “MY Time” to take a break to look into myself, take care of my wife and family, and get rebalanced. Plus, I was unsure of the path that my God wanted me to follow. I had questions about my faith and as many of us need to be reminded, while our faith in Him may weaken at times, His faith in US, never weakens. His path for us is straighter and truer than we usually understand. While I was feeling the uncertainty and pain so many of us share in the direction of the American Legion in Washington and elsewhere, I also was reminded of why we all are here: “*For God and Country*”. While I may have had doubts in my part in that, I was also reminded in Isaiah 6:8 “*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’*” That is the same voice that I have heard many times for so many years. Then there is the mission of generations of all Chaplains who went before. “*Your mission is twofold: help Legionnaires and others grow in their relationships with God and one another, and minister to people wherever there is a need.*” Relationships and Needs are most certainly still requiring Gods help. And just as with the oath we all took upon joining the Military, there is no official or unofficial expiration date. My care of and for my Lord God, America and the American Legion will go with me to my Post Everlasting and beyond.

Therefore, with that, hearing of and knowing there are uncertainties and questions of where we are going, how will we get there, who will help us, and when we all are in unison, will be on that path that God is leading us on for the future success of our American Legion, I offer the following remarks of one our country’s Founding Fathers, Benjamin Franklin. Please read and seriously consider his words and as they remain as true today as they were in 1787, in consideration of our WA Department Constitution and Bi-Laws, and beyond.

(Psalm 127:1 “*Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.*”)

“In the summer of 1787, as America’s Founders met at Independence Hall in Philadelphia to hammer out the specifics of our nation’s governing constitution, tempers flared among the delegates of the 13 colonies to such an extent that the entire convention was in danger of breaking down. Into this atmosphere thick with division and conflict, an 81-year-old statesman slowly rose to speak words of profound wisdom.

Although one of the least religious of our nations Founders, Dr. Benjamin Franklin nonetheless understood how critical moral and biblical virtues would be to this newborn republic. Appealing to the words of Psalm 127:1, Franklin addresses George Washington, president of the convention, and counseled his fellow delegates to beseech the aid of Almighty God before they proceeded further:

‘I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred Writings, that ‘except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it.’ I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our partial local interests; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing governments by human wisdom and leave it to chance, war, and conquest.

I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one of more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service.'

God, indeed, answered the prayers of the Founding Fathers, as on September 17, 1787, the drafting of the U. S. Constitution was completed, the greatest political document ever written. Franklin's words remain forever true: as our nation face today's political, moral, and spiritual issues, we shall fail in this "grand experiment" of liberty unless we seek the "assistance of Heaven."

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I recognize that we, per the Officers' Guide open all our meetings (or we certainly should) with Prayer, but there are also times when each one of us especially needs to offer up Prayers of our own, not just those from a Chaplain. As we move forward toward reinstatement of our Charter, the development of our constitution and bi-laws, and for the furtherance of our Four Pillars, Pray earnestly and often. As it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 *"pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; ..."*

"For God and Country" Thank you all for your support!