



Coalition of American Veterans

"Defending One Nation Under God"

P. O. Box 1136, Crestwood, Kentucky 40014

American History Under Fire!

On July 3, 2001, the day before "Independence Day," the Associated Press reported America's "Charters of Freedom; the Declaration of Independence, the first and last pages of the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, were "going out of sight" for restoration at the Declaration's 225th anniversary of the historic signing reflecting the founding of American civil government. The Washington Times also reported the removal of America's founding charter on July 4, 2001 when the National Archives were closed early to permit its removal. The front page headline ominously read "**Words of Freedom Get Last Look**".

Visitors to Philadelphia's Carpenters' Hall where our Congress first met and opened with prayer in 1774 are told the 1848 historic masterpiece painting by T.H. Matheson of The First Prayer in Congress also disappeared in 1987.¹

Even though Congress established the Red Cross as a "patriotic society," on March 10, 2002, a middle-school student music group was "uninvited" from performing at a September 11th volunteer recognition event because it planned to sing songs mentioning "prayer" and "God." The music director said the Red Cross told her the songs were "inappropriate" in America; "One Nation Under God," since these very words confirming, why our National Motto is "In God We Trust", were said to offend some. Also nixed by those authorities, reports the music director, was "a song based on the Declaration of Independence."

New Jersey school children are prohibited from reciting a small passage from the Declaration as the school day begins, and in May 2000 a Kentucky federal judge did what the mighty British empire couldn't during the War for Independence, strike down America's founding government charter. Astonishingly she heard arguments for the first time in a U.S. Court declaring the Declaration of Independence somehow offends the religion clauses of the Constitution. Thus the Judge agreed with the absurd argument of the ACLU, and struck down America's first official historic government document, The Declaration of Independence, from school and courthouse walls in Kentucky claiming it was somehow now a "religious" document and violated the First Amendment of the Constitution.

See Dr. Catherine Millard's *The Rewriting of American History* (1991) for details of dissembling by the Department of Interior and other officials. (pp. 249-257)

The nation's Birth Certificate and Bill of Rights are scheduled to be returned to the National Archives (which has the Ten Commandments as its official seal) during September 2003, but the Department of Interior offers no estimate for the return of the painting of the Declaration's signers, who prayed at the first Congressional prayer in Philadelphia.

What is happening to America's official and founding history? Who is behind the increasingly open assault against our national roots and historic identity as a "Christian" nation which is becoming overt and undeniable even to the most casual observer. One explanation for the bold removal of historic state documents is that the nation's schoolhouses haven't taught full and accurate American history from official documents since 1965. Americans no longer know - much less understand - the significance of America's founding history.

The nation's historic awareness has only gotten worse as headlines scream at us from daily press. Americans are "Ignorant of Constitution" *Courier Journal*, September 19, 1997, "Nation is Woefully Ignorant of History" *Washington Times*, June 30, 1998. A 2001 survey commissioned by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation reported one in five American teenagers don't know from what country America declared its independence. Nearly one in four didn't know who fought the Civil War. Thirteen percent thought it was the United States and England.

How is this happening? By 1965, the supreme Court had struck the Bible (1963) and prayer (1962) from schools, when and federal funding began flowing into local schools. In the wake of the supreme Court decisions of the early 1960s, administrators and educators were reticent to teach America's founding history, because of its very Christian nature and many did not want to jeopardize the lush green flow of federal education tax dollars to local school districts, but withholding America's history has given "domestic enemies" opportunity to boldly remove the last vestiges of our true American national identity.

How important is a nation's historic identity to its people? In the 1950's after the Korean War, the Eisenhower administration issued the military "Code of Conduct" to remind those going in harm's way for the nation, her servicemen, that they were American fighting men defending our unique and independent way of life. The Eisenhower study of returned POW's reported their poor performance in Communist hands, because "soldiers did not understand the Constitution or the stark differences between Communism and Americanism."

2002: The military establishment moves to restore historic national identity: In recognition of the importance of the Declaration and Constitution and the American military's first principles, Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, was encouraged and acted to promote within the military the historic understanding of the official and permanent history of American civil government on "**Liberty Day**," March 16, 2002

(President James Madison's birthday). Because few newspapers reported that to the American people, this memo is being sent to you as a veteran.

As we once fought foreign enemies, veterans must be aware, act and speak. America's founding documents are the pillars upon which rests the historic America whose guarantees of freedom are under assault by "domestic enemies." Opposition to freedom is great and, as you can see, significant ground with our generation and the next is already lost, but since September 11, 2001, the need for your participation has ratcheted up.

The open-ended "War on Terrorism" raises more **opportunities** for those who fought for freedom, as well as for "domestic enemies" to destroy freedoms, as American justice and liberty are suspended or severely compromised.² Will Americans understand their historic right to life, liberty and happiness? Or will it happen as our fourth President, James Madison, repeatedly warned?

Perhaps it is a universal truth that the loss of liberty at home is to be charged against provisions against danger, real or pretended from abroad...Of all the enemies to public liberty, war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes...No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.

President James Madison, 1795

America's future is up to you. What happens next is up to you. Will liberty-loving Americans take the initiative and carry the day, the battle, the war or will America's "domestic enemies" continue to destroy our national identity? Secretary Rumsfeld's "Liberty Day" proclamation is available through CAV, or can be accessed by internet. (<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/liberty.pdf>.) Take this information, pass it out; ask, as a veteran, for the opportunity to make a short announcement about "Liberty Day" to your Sunday school class, civic club, or any place where you can talk to others. Tell your children and grandchildren. Pass the word and, if you can, help us pass the word to others! The American way of life, liberty and happiness depends upon it. For more information, see the First Principles website. (www.firstprinciplespress.org)

² See attached assessment from Representative Kucinich (D-Ohio) about the 'Patriot Act'.

IN HONOR OF LIBERTY DAY

James Madison, the fourth President of the United States and the "Father of our Constitution," was born on March 16, 1751. It is therefore fitting and proper that Congress has proclaimed that each year, on the 16th of March, we should pause and recognize "Liberty Day" as a "celebration of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, where our unalienable rights and liberties are enumerated."

I encourage all to examine the words of the Declaration of Independence and of the Constitution, which together form the basis for our freedom and prosperity. These documents serve as a constant reminder of the oath that Congress has ordained for every "individual elected or appointed to an office of honor or profit in the civil service or uniformed services":

"that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Rumsfeld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Donald H. Rumsfeld

**The
Declaration of Independence
and the
Constitution
of the
United States of America**

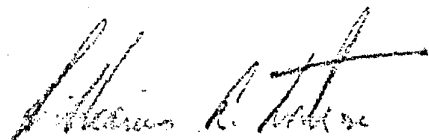


including selected appendices of historical documents relating to the duty of all who serve within the Department of Defense to honor and to uphold the law

Virtue, Honor, Patriotism & Subordination
First Principles of U.S. Armed Services 1775-2005

<p>Rules for the Regulation of the Navy of the United Colonies of North America, 1775*</p> <p>“ART. 1. The Commanders of all ships and vessels belonging to the THIRTEEN UNITED COLONIES, are strictly required to shew themselves a good example of honor and virtue to their officers and men, and to be very vigilant in inspecting the behaviour of all such as are under them, and to discountenance and suppress all dissolute, immoral and disorderly practices; and also, such as are contrary to the rules of discipline and obedience, and to correct those who are guilty of the same according to the usage of the sea.”</p> <p>*Enacted by the Continental Congress, Nov. 28, 1775</p>	<p>U.S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS</p> <p>Title 10, United States Code, 1956</p> <p>§5947, Requirement of exemplary conduct</p> <p>“All commanding officers and Others in authority in the naval service are required to show in themselves a good example of virtue, honor, patriotism, and subordination; to be vigilant in inspecting the conduct of all persons who are placed under their command; to guard against and suppress all dissolute and immoral practices, and to correct, according to the laws and regulations of the Navy, all persons who are guilty of them...” (10 U.S.C. § 5947)</p>	<p>U.S. ARMY</p> <p>Title 10, United States Code, 1997</p> <p>§ 3583. Requirement of exemplary conduct</p> <p>“All commanding officers and others in authority in the Army are required: (1) to show in themselves a good example of virtue, honor, patriotism, and subordination; (2) to be vigilant in inspecting the conduct of all persons who are placed under their command; (3) to guard against and suppress all dissolute and immoral practices, and to correct, according to the laws and regulations of the Army, all persons who are guilty of them; and (4) to take all necessary and proper measures, under the laws, regulations, and customs of the Army, to promote and safeguard the morale, the physical well being, and the general welfare of the officers and enlisted persons under their command or charge.”</p> <p>(10 U.S.C. § 3583)</p>	<p>U.S. AIR FORCE</p> <p>Title 10, United States Code, 1997</p> <p>§ 8583. Requirement of exemplary conduct</p> <p>“All commanding officers and others in authority in the Air Force are required: (1) to show in themselves a good example of virtue, honor, patriotism, and subordination; (2) to be vigilant in inspecting the conduct of all persons who are placed under their command; (3) to guard against and suppress all dissolute and immoral practices, and to correct, according to the laws and regulations of the Air Force, all persons who are guilty of them; and (4) to take all necessary and proper measures, under the laws, regulations, and customs of the Air Force, to promote and safeguard the morale, the physical well being, and the general welfare of the officers and enlisted persons under their command or charge.”</p> <p>(10 U.S.C. § 8583)</p>
--	---	--	--

**I am the spirit, generations gone,
Of Concord Bridge and Lexington,
Their progeny; through all the years
When brave men answered duty's call
And, in fierce and dreadful moments,
Saw horrid things both friend and foe befall;
Knew daunting fear, wavered, went on
To terrible victories, and so
Have heard death's sad, lamenting song.
I am courage, and sacrifice
And honor's grand and stark, unbending will
That will not yield to fear, but die
And offer to some worthy cause
The life we have but once to give.
I am the flag that guards this land,
The symmetry of Arlington, our sacred hill;
I am the essence, and shall be,
Of what is good in America
And what true worthiness can mean;
I am, what tyrants cannot kill.**



**William A. Watson, 2d Lt. USMC
G Co. 3d Bn. 7th Marines**