



www.firstprinciplespress.org

P. O . Box 1136  
Crestwood, Kentucky 40014  
Email: [colonelronray@gmail.com](mailto:colonelronray@gmail.com)  
Phone 502 241-5552 Fax 502 241-1552

## **“Endowed by Their Creator”**

### ***A Collection of Historic American Military Prayers 1774-Present***

In 1942, the U.S. Government Printing Office printed at tax expense a copy of the New Testament and Psalms “for the use of Protestant Personnel of the Army of the United States.” These small pocket-sized Bibles emphasized the prayers of the Psalmist David, a man well versed in war and the intervening Providence of Almighty God. President Franklin Roosevelt wrote on the inside cover, dated March 6, 1941:

To the Members of the Army: As Commander-in-Chief I take pleasure in commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the armed forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul.

There are many references to America’s historic position as a “Christian Nation” based on official documents of law and civil government, commitment by the Pilgrims and Founders to spread the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ, our national motto declaring “In God We Trust,” and our military history replete with prayers calling on the name of Jesus Christ for victory and justice. The strategy of the anti-prayer forces is not to totally eliminate prayer from the public square, rather they intend to replace Christian prayer with prayer substitutes which omit the truth that acknowledges America’s dependence upon God, and are meaningless to guide the course of American history, as George Washington declared, under “the blessings and protection of Heaven, which are at all times necessary.”

America is currently distressed due to the War on Terror at home and abroad, and stunningly since 9/11 anti-prayer forces in and outside of government have escalated a relentless and unprecedented attack on prayer in the military and the service academies. Contrary to all of American history, the ACLU, for example, demands that Christian prayers calling upon Divine Providence for the blessing and protection of heaven be banned from public events led by Chaplains, military leaders, and Statesmen.

One of the most difficult missions ever engaged by First Principles is the battle to defend and restore Christian prayer in America’s Armed Forces, where battle-proven military standards and practices since 1774 continue to be incrementally eliminated. There is vast collection of historic military prayer books and testimonies demonstrating the “military necessity” of Christian prayer pleading for the favor of Almighty God over the United States of America

for over 230 years. How important is Prayer on the battlefield? Rod Dreher writing in *National Review*, March 10, 2003, says:

The nearly 1,400 chaplains in the U.S. armed forces – nearly all Christian except for about 30 Jewish and 15 Muslim clergy – must be on-the-spot counselors to men and women living through a kind of trauma that few civilians will ever experience...And most important, on the battlefield they serve as a sign of the presence of the just and good God in the midst of hell on earth...To soldiers under fire, the chaplain's presence is a sign that God has not abandoned them...The things soldiers are asked to do and to suffer are so extreme that in many cases, only a belief the God is with them helps them to endure.

The absence of and the need for a written history of American military prayers for use by Christian chaplains, troops and military leaders became apparent, and thus we began a collection effort of books and prayers dating back to 1774.

With this publication, we have aimed to:

- Present historic evidence of God's Divine Providence in America's military history.
- Present the beliefs and actions of military leaders in preparing the Armed Forces to "pray as well as to fight."
- Define the scope of the "war" against our national identity by groups wishing to silence Christian Chaplains who need to understand the challenge before them.
- Provide Chaplains and military leaders with access to an expansive body of prayers included with the rich history of Christian prayer in the American military since the nation's founding.

Seventy-four prayer books have been published and/or distributed for our fighting forces beginning in 1774. Of those seventy-four Armed Forces Prayer Books we were able to obtain copies of twenty-seven; in addition to a dozen or so available online. Out of those prayer books we have collected a select number of historic military prayers on a variety of prayer topics. More than 70% of the prayers in these books acknowledge the name of Jesus Christ. We have taken a sample from each of these prayer books as a chronology, to document the history of prayer in our Armed Forces and to support America's Biblical foundations, and also as a reference tool with prayers identified by subject for use in specific situations and circumstances.

And so, after years of prayer and action, we present "*Endowed by Their Creator*": A *Collection of Historic American Military Prayers 1774-Present*, drawn from our growing collection of historic American military prayer books. With these battle-tested, historical prayers, we hope that this collection will provide guidance, comfort, and confidence through Jesus Christ for all who serve to protect "One Nation Under God".