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XVII

PATRIOTIC SENTIMENTS

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.

I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for Whose kingdom it shines, one brotherhood uniting all mankind in service here.

I was born an American; I live an American; I shall die an American.

—Daniel Webster

We in the United States should count ourselves fortunate that we live under a Constitution which guarantees freedom of expression. Those who have never known anything but freedom can never appreciate its blessings to the full. Truth and liberty refuse to be suppressed. No matter how great the danger or severe the penalty, men will be found who treasure spiritual freedom above physical punishment. Even death does not deter them.

There can be no fifty-fifty Americanism in this country. There is room here only for those who are Americans and nothing else.

—*Theodore Roosevelt*

Guard, O God, our flag forever;
 May dishonor stain it never;
 To a grander future speed it;
 In the paths of peace still lead it.

It remains a fact that the best salute to the flag in this land is good citizenship. No flag waving, no flowery oratory, no good writing, can take the place of it.

Liberty is not a gift; liberty has to be worked for continually; the responsibility never ceases. Only by our own labor and protection can we hold this privilege of freedom.

To the south there is a border line separating California from Mexico and the Central and South American Republics. To the north there is a border line between the United States and Canada. But we are one people, we of the American continents, and together we must, by our strength and might, keep liberty alive in the New World today, tomorrow, and for all time.

The union of lakes, the union of lands,
 The union of states none can sever,
 The union of hearts, the union of hands,
 And the flag of our Union forever.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln! Speak the name with reverence. No greater-hearted man was ever born into this world than Lincoln.

With Washington, he stands a giant in the history of our nation. Yet he began life with no advantages of any kind. All that he gained, all that he made of his life, he wrested from it by the force of his will and the firmness of his purpose. Robert G. Ingersoll wrote: "It is the glory of Lincoln that, having almost absolute power, he never abused it, except on the side of mercy. Wealth could not purchase, power could not awe, this divine, this loving man. He knew no fear except the fear of doing wrong."

Calvin Coolidge said of Lincoln: "In wisdom great, but in humanity greater; in justice strong, but in compassion stronger; he became a leader of men by being a follower of truth."

O Beautiful, our country!
 Round thee in love we draw;
 Thine is the grace of freedom,
 The majesty of law.
 Be righteousness thy scepter,
 Justice thy diadem,
 And on thy shining forehead
 Be peace the crowning gem!

America has furnished to the world the character of Washington. And if our American institutions had done nothing else, that alone would have entitled them to the respect of mankind.

—*Daniel Webster*

God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to guard and defend it.

—*Daniel Webster*

The man who kindles the fire on the hearthstone of an honest and righteous home burns the best incense to liberty. He does not love mankind less who loves his neighbor more. Exalt the citizen. As the State is the unit of government, he is the unit of the State. Teach him that his home is his castle and his sovereignty rests beneath his hat. Make him self-respecting, self-reliant and responsible. Let him lean on the State for nothing that his own arm can do, and on the Government for nothing that his State can do. Let him cultivate independence to the point of sacrifice and learn that humble things, with unbartered liberty, are better than splendors bought with a price.

—*Henry W. Grady*

Our Flag: The only bond that unites every American to every other regardless of race, creed or condition in life.

The symbol of a nation is its flag. It represents the living country and is itself considered a living thing. When we uphold and honor our country's flag we are supporting our country itself and all that it means to us.

There were several different flags in Colonial times but the first real American flag—our Stars and Stripes—had its origin in the following resolution adopted by the American Congress June 14, 1777: "Resolved: That the union be 13 stars, white on a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

On recommendation a committee composed of Washington, Robert Morris and Col. George Ross designed the flag and it was made by Col. Ross' wife, Betsy, who was an expert and professional needlewoman. Washington said of this flag: "We take the star from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."

—*Annie Schneider*

Let us remember as we look at our flag, the symbol of our nation, that its red represents human sacrifices; its white, the shining purity of great lives which have been woven into it; and the stars, the hope in the hearts of all for a greater, nobler, holier America. The Star and Stripes are our crystallized hopes and fears—the symbol of our nation's glory. Those who made it, lived for it and died for it and are our nation's heroes. They have passed into the silence of history but by their devotion and courage and the splendor of their lives they

ask us to be the flag-makers of today, making its red a little deeper by our sacrifices, its white more gleaming by the purity of our lives, its blue more like the blue of heaven because of our loyalty, and its stars brighter by our devotion to their highest hopes.

So let us work and live that this flag will never fly over injustice, tyranny, and oppression, but ever and always over righteousness, over a people made happy by kindness, love and goodness.

—*Annie Schneider*

God give us men; the time demands
 Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and willing hands;
 Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
 Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
 Men who possess opinions and a will;
 Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
 Men who can stand before a demagogue
 And damn his treacherous flatteries without shrinking;
 Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
 In public duty and in private thinking—
 God give us men!

—*J. G. Holland*

O, beautiful Flag! We love thee, we adore thee, we honor thee; the sound of thy name, the very sight of thee, thrills the heart of every true American.

Thy red—symbolical of the blood shed by thy sons and daughters to keep thee afloat and save thee from disgrace.

Thy white—symbolizing the purity of purpose with which you have entered every combat, making it possible for God to bring you through victorious.

Thy blue—symbolical of the fidelity of thy people to the laws and constitution of the land over which you float.

O, beautiful Flag, we love thee! May the gleam of thy bars and the light of thy stars forever thrill the hearts of thy people.

North, South, East and West,
 Rise and join your hands—
 Native born and brothers drawn
 From many fatherlands.
 Rise, ye nation of the morn,
 Land where liberty was born;
 Ye who fear no ruler's nod—
 Ye who only kneel to God—
 Rise! Salute the flag!

As our Star leads us to the Star of Bethlehem, so the stars in our flag lead us to the sanctuary where liberty, light and happiness are enjoyed.

Whene'er I see the flag go by
 It thrills me through and through;
 I stand "attention" and salute
 The red, the white, the blue.

God bless the land o'er which it waves,
 Its men and women, too,
 And may it always be their pride,
 The red, the white, the blue.

Then, God of Nations, hear us now
 While we our pledge renew—
 Allegiance to that Flag of Flags,
 The red, the white, the blue.

Our Flag!

Here's to the red of it—
 There's not a thread of it,
 Nor a shred of it,
 In all the spread of it
 From foot to head,
 But heroes have died for it,
 Faced steel and lead for it,
 Precious blood shed for it,
 Bathing it red.

Here's to the white of it—
 Thrilled by the sight of it,
 Who knows the right of it
 But feels the might of it,
 Through day and night?
 Womanhood's care for it
 Made manhood dare for it;
 Purity's prayer for it
 Keeps it so white.

Here's to the blue of it—
 Heavenly view of it,
 Star-spangled hne of it,
 Honesty's due of it,
 Constant and true.
 Here's to the whole of it—
 Stars, stripes and pole of it,—
 Here's to the soul of it—
 Red, white and Blue.
 —*John J. Daly*

"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."
 —*Abraham Lincoln*

Our Flag, with your folds of white and scarlet and your silvery stars. Fond eyes welcome you, warm hearts cherish you, and dying lips give you their blessing. Ours by inheritance, ours by allegiance, ours by affection. Emblem of liberty! Hope of the world! Long may you float on the free winds of heaven.

Flag of the United States of America—the Stars and Stripes! What does it mean today? The exact details of its origin may be unknown but the story of its accomplishments and virtues will live as long as the mind of man continues to function.

What is it? It is the emblem of true democracy. Its history in war is glorious. From the time of its first struggles for freedom down to the Second World War it paid no tribute, yielded no territory. The world today is torn with war. Nation is attacking nation; empire giving battle to empire; yet we, over whom that flag flies, are maintaining our balance and sanity, working steadily for universal peace although doing our part to crush forever those who would banish freedom and democracy from the world.

In the world crisis of today, in our hopes for peace, for right thinking, for justice between nations as between men, our flag is destined to continue as one of the dominant forces of the world. This must be. The standard on which it floats is so high that if it ever falls—which God forbid!—civilization itself is liable to fall with it.

Therefore, let us consecrate ourselves anew, as Americans,

to defend it in the conflict of war as in the tranquillity of peace, in the combined spirit of Americanism and Freemasonry, which stand for one and the same thing.

We salute the Banner of Peace—Old Glory!

Our beloved country is now actively engaged in war against nations who seek to ruthlessly eliminate from this world all the things that we hold dear, and without which life, for us, would not be worth living. This world-wide conflict has already had a vital effect upon each of us and as time passes there is no doubt but that its effect will increase many fold. There can be but one answer from every Eastern Star member, young and old, and that is to do our utmost at whatever sacrifice, both as individuals and as an organization, to the end that man's right to liberty, justice and the pursuit of happiness shall not perish from the earth.

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and their private fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

—*William Tyler Page*

As an American I am confident that no living citizen, no matter how exalted his position, no matter how intelligent he may be, and no matter how fervent his patriotism, is competent to deliver an adequate tribute to Old Glory—to Americans the most beautiful of all flags and symbolic of the power, the glory, and the freedom of a great nation. The only proper tribute to our flag is the silent, yet eloquent, homage of those who heroically made the supreme sacrifice in its defense. Yet we, who are living, should and must, even though our attempts be woefully feeble, pay homage to our flag whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Today when chaos, greed and unrest permeate the whole world we should give thanks to God that we live under the protection of our glorious flag. Fraternal orders are being persecuted and suppressed in many countries of the world today; so let us be eternally grateful that we are privileged to meet together and carry on the activities of our Order with the freedom that is our heritage.

What a privilege is ours in these days of world chaos to be able to utter those magic words—I am an American. Never was there a time when there was such necessity to put one's best thought and emotions to work on the problems of defense and peace as now. One needs to use all the native ingenuity and training one can acquire to keep democracy safe and alive.

We are only commencing to realize the seriousness of the world's greatest problem of all, the problem of government and reconstruction when this great strife is over. We must realize more than ever before the great need of our support in the cause of national defense. We must stand back of our boys who are called into the service of our country. Let us determine to broaden the horizon of our daily lives. Life is an immense problem—live it to its fullest. Greet each day with the cheer that comes from a heart filled with courage and kindness. Meet each new experience, pleasant or trying, with the determination to give of our best. Each day of life is an opportunity, a test, a duty, and as we sow so shall we reap. In ourselves lies all power of life, hence the future depends upon our individual acts. Let us make the most of every opportunity. On this depends our reward. It is blessed to rejoice in the past but even more to plan for the future. Let us profit by our mistakes and look to the future with a heart full of courage and cheer.

Over one hundred and sixty years ago our forefathers fought for and won their liberty, independence and right to live as free men. It is our birthright—bitterly fought for and won—preserved and protected by their lifeblood. It is this birthright of freedom and liberty that is now so sinisterly threatened and which we must insure as a heritage for posterity.

The gauntlet has again been thrown down and we, a united people, have answered the challenge with the determination of freemen. Our internal differences have been forgotten in a common cause—the defense and preservation of the sacred principles upon which this great nation is founded. It is with this purpose that we have again taken up arms.

The Eastern Star symbolizes the strongest bond of a free people—fraternalism. Were we to dissociate the meaning of the word "fraternalism" from within the bounds of the Chapter room and apply its meaning literally to our every day lives, to all with whom we come in contact, we of the Eastern Star, as individuals, would be contributing more toward the building of a strong citizen morale to carry this country through the dark days ahead, than any other factor.

Let us think of this nation as one great fraternity through which we are all striving to preserve the birthright of our children and the children of generations to come. Let us forget petty grievances and work together, coordinating our efforts into one gigantic endeavor symbolic of true fraternalism. Let us, through the teachings of our Order, insure the perpetuation of the Great Fraternity of these United States that "this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

—*Marjorie Cain Childress.*