



Is the Flag Still There?

During the unsuccessful bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British warships (Sept. 13-14, 1814), Francis Scott Key was inspired by the sight of the **American Flag** still flying. He wrote the words that were later set to music to become our National Anthem: "O say does that **star-spangled banner still wave**, over the land of the free, and the home of the brave."

Our flag and National Anthem represent our **Declaration of Independence** and our **Constitution**. **Failure to honor and to understand this relationship makes for and encourages** the present movement **towards socialism**, etc. When people seek to work out their problems or grievances **by attacking the structure of the ship they are on** out in the ocean, **such is destructive folly**. Doing so **ignorantly or willfully** makes for **personal and public loss**.

REMEMBER THE 31-WORD PLEDGE:

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE... I am **RESPONSIBLE** as an **INDIVIDUAL** not to take our freedom for granted and thus to risk losing it.

...AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS... Not a **DEMOCRACY** (Rule by the Ruled) but a **REPUBLIC** (a Constitutional Republic governed by law where I am represented). The word **DEMOCRACY** does not appear in our documents of **LIBERTY** (The Declaration of Independence, The Articles of Confederation, the Constitution or the Bill of Rights).

...ONE NATION, UNDER GOD... our right to know that **LIFE** and **LIBERTY** are **GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS**, not the **GRANT** of **GOVERNMENT**. Our Constitution gives us a government limited to the delegated authority that "**WE THE PEOPLE**" allotted to each branch of civil government.

...WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL... **LIBERTY** is the love of individual independence, being free from tyrannical rule and control— a **LIBERTY** that does not degenerate into license. The Liberty Bell and the Statue of Liberty are fitting symbols. **JUSTICE** is "the virtue which consists in **GIVING TO EVERYONE WHAT IS HIS DUE**." Thus justice calls for law and equity, right rules and fair play for all. This explains the once prevailing concept in America— **PUNISHMENT TO FIT THE CRIME**.

To lose the meaning of **OUR FLAG** is to encourage the loss of our Republican form of government and our God-given, responsible pursuit of **LIFE** and **LIBERTY**.

"REMEMBER, O LORD, Thy tender mercies and Thy loving kindnesses; for they have been ever of old. **REMEMBER** not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to Thy mercy **REMEMBER** Thou me for Thy goodness' sake, O LORD." (Psalm 25:6-7). "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him. For he knoweth our frame; **HE REMEMBERETH** that we are dust" (Psalm 103:13,14). "**REMEMBER ME**, O LORD, with the favour that Thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with Thy salvation" (Psalm 106:4).

May you be **BOTHERED** to the point of being **BLESSED**. May our **GRAND OLD FLAG** remind us of our great American **HERITAGE**, "one nation **under God**" without Whose grace we cannot survive the erosion and corrosion of our day. May you look to the **GOD OF TRUTH** in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (who said, "I am **THE TRUTH**"— John 14:6), so that you might **REST** in the **TRUTH** of God's Word ("the **TRUTH** shall make you free"— John 8:32) and the **TRUTH** of God's Son ("the **SON** shall make you free"—John 8:36). To **RECEIVE HIM** is to receive the **LIFE** and **LIBERTY** He alone can give (John 1:12).

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