



JULY 2019

Together in Scripture Reading:
This month: the book of II Kings

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Friendship
BAPTIST
CHURCH



Free Indeed: World Turned Upside-Down

Colonel Steve Martin

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I well remember the year 1976 and all the celebrations and festivities that came along with our country celebrating its 200th year of independence. It was an amazing time when our whole nation came together - men, women and children; republicans and democrats; every race and ethnic group; religious and agnostic alike, to celebrate the founding of our country. There was a fervor of patriotic feeling among everyone. Towns and communities got together for picnics and fireworks. People dressed in colonial period costumes for parades and other events. Television shows, movies, and special documentaries were made to commemorate and celebrate our founding fathers. History lessons in schools across the nation zeroed in on educating our nation's school children about the cost of freedom and the rich heritage that each citizen of our country enjoys.

As a teenager, I attended and participated in many of these celebrations, but I did not fully understand the significance of what our founding fathers did all those years ago. I recognized the famous names: Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Adams and a host of other names that were mentioned during that celebratory year. As I grew older, particularly upon joining the military, I began to more fully understand what our freedom really meant. I began to understand the saying "freedom isn't free" and realized that I had signed up to help foot the bill to keep our nation free from enemies - foreign and domestic. In the years



since 1976, the patriotic fervor has occasionally returned, but seldom for extended periods of time like the year-long celebration in 1976. It's a shame that we don't live as a nation with that patriotic enthusiasm every year.

The signing of the Declaration of Independence (*depicted above, center*) is celebrated each year on the Fourth of July, as a visual and written representation of our nation's quest for

freedom. Largely written by Thomas Jefferson, it is truly a document of great historical significance, but it is also a document of great poetic vision and thought. It is rightly considered to be one of the most important documents ever written. Jefferson, along with other members of the Continental Congress, had read extensively about the concept of "natural rights" and "natural law." The classical education of that time focused on ancient societies and their governments. These representatives purposely devoted themselves to founding this nation upon the principles found in the Bible while avoiding many of the pitfalls that had felled great societies of the past. To read the writings, arguments, thoughts, and insights of our founding fathers is to appreciate the unusual talent and even genius of this collective group of men. For one period of history, this group of classically trained, thoughtful visionaries came together to lay the foundation of what is now our 50 United States.

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MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

This month's terms come from Meet the Military.

armorer: a person employed in the maintenance of small arms and weapons in a military unit (such as an artillery battery)

battalion: military unit consisting of three to five companies and 300 to 1000 soldiers (typically commanded by a Lt Colonel)

Pray for our Military Family:

- ◆ **Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family** - US Army, serving the Lord in Fort Hood, TX
- ◆ **Merry Dare Goodwin** - US Navy, serving aboard the *USS Decatur*
- ◆ **Justin & Kimberly Reece** - US Air Force, stationed at Pensacola NAS
- ◆ **Timothy & Hope Robinson** - USMC, stationed at Camp LeJeune, NC

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1



Free Indeed: The World Turned Upside-Down

Our founding fathers stepped out on faith that I believe was ordained and established by the Lord. The 13 original colonies banded together to separate and become independent from England, the greatest world power of that age. Though each of the colonies came together for a common cause, there were great and fundamental differences that had to be overcome to hold the Union together. The Continental Congress struggled not only with these fundamental and even philosophical differences, but their efforts to fund, feed, and clothe a standing army often fell far short of the need. General George Washington had to face the greatest military of that era on a shoestring budget with an army of untrained, underfed and under-resourced men from a loosely allied group of colonies. The strong and unified nation that we see today did not come into existence until the signing of the Constitution of the United States in 1789 and the Bill of Rights in 1791. Throughout our war for independence, each day was a fight for survival.

The victory achieved by General Washington and his army over British General Lord Cornwallis (pictured above right) at the battle of Yorktown, culminated in one of

Gen. Charles Cornwallis



the most unexpected victories in the history of warfare. The French army and particularly their navy were highly instrumental in victories leading up to and including the final victory at Yorktown, Virginia. The Continental Army and the Continental Congress had endured six years of war on their home soil. Many people had died; communities had been split over loyalties; many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence had suffered the loss of wealth and health during the great ordeal. Yet the army had prevailed on the field forcing the British Monarch King George III to relent in granting independence to these colonies located an ocean away from the British Isles.

The events culminating at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, were indeed astounding. King George III ruled the vast British Empire by wielding the tip of the sword. Now the fortunes of war had turned, and the British felt the tip of the sword. The British forces laid down their weapons in surrender. Many soldiers on both sides wept at the realization of what transpired. General Washington granted free passage of General Cornwallis and his army to board their ships and return to England.

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With the Continental Army organized into units on both sides of the road, the British Army marched out of Yorktown. As the army passed, many recognized an old song that was being played by the British band as they marched out - the tune was an old British song called "The World Turned Upside Down." Indeed, the events of that day had the world of that era "turned upside down."

Today as a nation, we walk in the shadow of the greatness of men and women who had the faith to step out into the unknown and proclaim freedom against overwhelming odds. Many great men and women have followed in the footsteps of our founders, contributing to the freedoms that have been passed down from generation to generation. There are many great names we remember, Lincoln, Roosevelt, MacArthur, Earhart, Eisenhower, Reagan, King, and many more. There have been many others whose contributions were vital to the success of our nation. Their names are lost to history but are remembered in the collective efforts they achieved in places such as Yorktown, Gettysburg, the Argonne Forest, Bataan, Normandy, on the plains of the west, and in the reaches of outer space. We are following in their footsteps and today, that great mantle has been passed to each of us to preserve and defend - to explore and create.

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David Nielsen, US Army & US Navy (part 2)

Editor's Note: Last month, we left off with David having been honorably discharged from the Navy, then reenlisting with the Army. And now, part two.

In January of 1977 he [David] was assigned to an artillery battalion in Bad Kissingen, Germany, about 100 miles east of Frankfurt, and his introduction to the nature of the unit was on the first Saturday morning after his arrival. The three other men assigned to his four-man room came in with a case of wine and proceeded to have a wine-and-pot party. He was told that this was the norm and he spent a year and a half putting up with it. It was somewhat fortunate for David that his high test scores precluded his assignment to a gun crew and he was chosen to be a Forward Observer (FO). The FO's job is to scout in front of the artillery batteries, frequently attached to a forward infantry unit, choose targets, and direct the howitzers' fires onto them. He worked with a radio operator and a Jeep driver and was pretty independent from the rest of the unit. It was, he said, "sort of like a big video game." David's routine, when not on patrol/FO duties, was to get off duty at 1600 hours, when the stereos in

all the barracks immediately went on full blast. He talked to his First Sergeant (1SG) several times to get it turned down, to no avail. Through his regular attendance at Chapel he had struck up a good relationship with the Squadron Commander, a Lt. Colonel, and he visited him several times about problems in the battery - "He was like a grandfather", David said. His battery had a reputation as the most disorganized unit in the battalion, and David remained totally frustrated all the time he was there.

"His battery had a reputation as the most disorganized unit in the battalion, and David remained totally frustrated all the time he was there."

Shortly after arriving in Germany, David, while playing basketball one day, chipped a bone in his ankle and was assigned temporary duty to the armory for about two months while he healed. One day David, following an improper order from the Weapons Officer, made an error in issuing out rifles and wound up missing one. Lieutenant Parks, the most difficult, disrespectful officer he had ever known, often made a complete inventory of the Arms Room while the unit was serving on the border. David said, "I was scared - for the first time ever; I feared the Lieutenant would come to the Arms Room to demand an inventory and I had no plausible reason

Article by Don King



why a weapon was missing, though I knew in my mind what had happened. I got down on my knees and prayed, and as I was praying someone came to the door for a weapon. I jumped up and demanded what he wanted." The Arms Room had a solid steel door and a cage door by which the armorer (David) could lock himself in for security reasons. "The soldier reached through the bars of the cage door, threw a weapon at me, and shouted, 'Next time give me MY weapon!' It was the missing weapon - I could have kissed the guy."



David Nielsen, US Army

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Editor's Note: I felt it appropriate for the upcoming 50th anniversary of the first moon landing to share this article by author and US Army Maj. Joe Byerly.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy visited NASA for the first time. During his tour of the facility, he met a janitor who was carrying a broom down the hallway. The President then casually asked the janitor what he did for NASA, and the janitor replied, "I'm helping put a man on the moon."

Take a moment, and reflect on this idea. The janitor knew something that most of us struggle with, the purpose of his work. He kept the building clean so that the scientists, engineers, and astronauts could focus on their mission of putting "man on the moon". They did not have to worry about spending their time on trashcans, bathrooms, or hallways. He did that for them. He saw where his contribution fit in the organization. He connected his purpose with theirs.

Too often in the military, we think that if we're not the ones kicking in doors, maneuvering a tank, or firing artillery rounds, that our job doesn't matter that much. But it does. The staff captain who works on a slide is freeing up the major to look ahead to the next problem. The administration clerk worries about processing pay and personnel actions so that the infantryman can focus on marksmanship.

The mechanic, who works late hours fixing an engine, enables that the Stryker crew to focus on maneuver. It is all connected.

Our proximity to the objective is not determined by an organizational chart or distance from the action, it is determined by our mindset. We are the ones who choose to go to work each day with the mindset of either "I sweep the floors" or "I help put a man on the moon."

While it is an individual choice to determine our proximity to the objective, leaders can either accelerate this train of thought or stand in the way of it. I have heard leaders treat their organizations as if it was made up of Soldiers with competing purposes and I have seen others foster the idea of everyone being essential to accomplishing a single purpose.

When I returned as a platoon leader from Iraq in 2008, I thought I was better than others because I spent my deployment on the streets, not behind a desk. It wasn't until I heard a command sergeant major compare the unit to apple pie that I began to see things differently. He said that every member was like an ingredient. Even if you had the apples or the crust, you still



didn't have an apple pie until you had all the ingredients. We cannot fight and win our Nation's wars without every member of the team adding their "piece of the pie." He accelerated the idea that we all contribute to the mission.

And that we should all approach our jobs that way.

Great leaders are like that Senior NCO, they make every member of their team feel like a part of the team, and that their work matters.

Imagine how much better our organizations would be, if everyone believed that their job contributed to the overall mission. Imagine how much happier we would be if at the end of the day we thought our contribution mattered. I believe it is an achievable goal, but it takes work. Leaders need to cultivate this culture and subordinates need to embrace it. As our military prepares itself to fight tonight, we all need to believe that we are ALL helping to fight and win our Nation's wars.

For more info, visit fromthegreennotebook.com

David Nielsen, US Army & US Navy (part 2)

One Saturday he returned to his barracks room and found himself locked out by the pot-smokers inside. One of them finally opened the door and David told him the pot smoking was over. The much smaller soldier threw a punch at him so David proceeded to defend himself and knocked him onto a bed where the soldier gave in and asked him to stop. David then went to the nearby MP post



and tried to prefer charges against the guys in the room. He and the soldier were placed on barracks restriction for the weekend and wound up being charged with assault and battery and threatened with court-martial.

On Monday his commanding officer told him all charges had been dropped on the soldier and himself. He was irate but decided to allow him-

self to cool off before deciding what to do. That evening the Executive Officer told him he was to move out of his barracks room because the assaulting, pot-smoking soldier had threatened his life, so he requested to see the Squadron Commander and spoke with him and the Sergeant Major (SGM), telling them that he was totally fed up, had endured illegal orders from officers, denied NCO school, among other things for a year and a half, and that he would not return to his battery.

**TO BE CONCLUDED
NEXT MONTH**

Did You Know: Origins of Navy Terminology (Part 1)

www.navy.mil

Editor's Note: Have you ever wondered why they say, "Ahoy!" in the US Navy? Over the next few months, we will feature the origins of some Navy terminology in this adaptation.

Above Board

The term today means someone who is honest, forthright. Its origin comes from the days when pirates would masquerade as honest merchantmen, hiding most of their crew behind the bulwark (side of the ship on the upper deck). They hid below the boards.

Ahoy!

This old traditional greeting for hailing other vessels was originally a Viking battle cry.

Between the Devil and the Deep

In wooden ships, the "devil" was the longest seam of the ship. It ran from the bow to the stern. When at sea and the "devil" had to be caulked, the sailor sat in a bo'sun's chair to do so. He was suspended between the "devil" and the sea -- the "deep" -- a very precarious position, especially when the ship was underway.

Chewing the Fat

"God made the vittles but the devil made the cook," was a popular saying used by seafaring men in the 19th century when salted beef was staple diet aboard ship.

This tough cured beef, suitable only for long voyages when nothing else was cheap or would keep as well (remember, there

was no refrigeration), required prolonged chewing to make it edible. Men often chewed one chunk for hours, just as it were chewing gum and referred to this practice as "chewing the fat."



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JULY BIRTHDAYS:

- Heather Folz - 7
- Brian Palmer - 11
- Pastor Vradenburgh - 13
- Nathaniel Palmer - 23

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

- Joe & Rose Wilson - 27



THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY:

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1 July 1991 - A 14th Coast Guard District LEDET, all crewmen from the CGC *Rush*, deployed on board the U.S. Navy's *USS Ingersoll*, made history when they seized the St. Vincent-registered M/V *Lucky Star* for carrying 70 tons of hashish; the largest hashish bust in Coast Guard history to date. The

team, led by LTJG Mark Eyler, made the bust 600 miles west of Midway Island.

4 July 1916 - Tokyo Rose, (Iva Toguri D'Aquino), was born in Los Angeles. She did propaganda broadcasts against the U.S. from Japan during World War II. She

was imprisoned after the war, then received a presidential pardon in 1977.

16 June 1806 - Zebulon Pike, US Army officer and explorer (of "Pike's Peak" fame, set off with a new expedition to explore the American Southwest.

Free Indeed: The World Turned Upside-Down

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As you read through the New Testament, you will find amazing details, instructions, and accounts of the early church. The disciples and other loyal believers who answered the call of our Lord Jesus Christ, who also helped to form and shepherd the early church, were truly extraordinary. Except for Paul and Luke, the men that wrote the New Testament were largely devoid of higher education; yet under the influence of the Holy Spirit, they wrote the Scriptures we still read and rely on today. We all recognize the names of Paul, John, Peter, and other key church founders mentioned in Scripture, but there were many others who

ministered in the shadows of the Scriptures, making great sacrifices even to the point of death. Though

their faith, dedication, and sacrifice. Theirs is the heritage that has been passed on to us as Christians. How successful were these early saints? Acts chapter 17 records the description given by the officials of Thessalonica - "these that have turned the world upside down."

From generation to generation, the torch of freedom is passed within our country - a sacred trust to keep our nation free - to remember, celebrate, and guard. From generation to generation, the banner of our Lord Jesus Christ is held high for the world to see - also a sacred trust passed to us by the saints and martyrs who have given all for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We as citizens of the United States have been given the gift of freedom, paid for by the generations that preceded us - we must not take it for granted. As citizens of Heaven, we have been given the ultimate gift of salvation - paid for by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Patriotic feelings can be passed from generation to generation as a heritage; however, *only* the individual can embrace it as their own. President Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." A Godly Christian heritage can be passed from generation to generation; however, each of us must personally confess our sins and accept salvation from Jesus Christ. We must make it our own and we must guard our testimony - "we must not neglect so great a salvation" (Hebrews 2:3).

As we celebrate the founding of our nation, we can have the patriotic enthusiasm to celebrate our freedom, our heritage, and the accomplishments of our nation. As an American Christian, we can celebrate our freedom as "one nation under God." But more than that, we can celebrate the freedom that we have in Christ Jesus - "if the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). Celebrate being free - and being free indeed!



unknown to us today, the Gospel could not have spread without their faith, dedication, and sacri-



Quote of the Month: "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Benjamin Franklin



Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please pray for Missionaries Brian and Ivey Palmer at Fort Hood, Texas (son-in-law and daughter of Albert and Becky Watkins). Remember Merry Dare Goodwin serving aboard the USS Decatur (Granddaughter of Dale and Dixie Ulmer and niece of Rachel Vradenburgh). Justin and Kimberly Reece stationed at Pensacola NAS (Son and Daughter-in-law of Dan and Becky Reece) would also appreciate your prayers. Pray also for Timothy and Hope Robinson station at Camp LeJune, NC (Son-in-Law and Daughter of Bran and Michele Kennon, Granddaughter of Jerry and Lynn Kennon). Please continue to

pray for Dr. John and Dorothy Halsey as they recover from a car accident. Please keep Shirley Owens in your prayers for recent health issues, and for Dixie Ulmer as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.

~ Colonel Martin

Coming Up Next Month:

- Origins of Navy Terminology (Part 2)
- Conclusion of David Nielsen's story
- Improved Hot Weather ACU's



The Brian Palmer Family

