

American Minute with Bill Federer

U.S. Military Generals & Commanders proclaim reliance on God; "The way forward for America is a return to the morality & values of the past" -Major General Patrick Brady, Medal of Honor recipient

[Read American Minute here](#)

The U.S. Military has a long heritage of faith in God and the Bible.

Yale President Ezra Stiles

addressed Connecticut's General Assembly, May 8, 1783, regarding **General George Washington** being **commander of the Continental Army**:



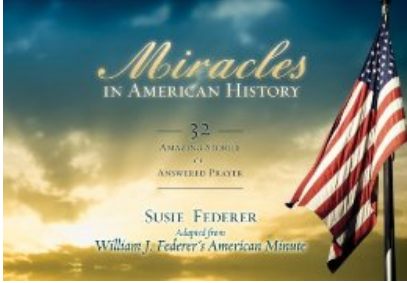
"The memorable battle of Bunker Hill. (June 17, 1775) ... convinced us ... that Americans both would and could fight with great effect.

... Whereupon Congress put at the head of this spirited army, **the only man (Washington)**, on whom the eyes of all Israel were placed ...

This American JOSHUA was raised up by God, and divinely formed by a peculiar influence of the **Sovereign of the Universe**, for the great work of **leading the armies ... to liberty and independence**" ... [continue reading American Minute here ...](#)

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Prayer

Stiles continued:

"And while we render our supreme honors to **the Most High, the God of armies**; let us recollect, with affectionate honor, **the bold and brave sons of freedom**, who willingly offered themselves, and bled in the defense of their country ...

The **officers and soldiers of the patriot army** ... and ... gallant **commanders and brave seamen of the American navy**, have heroically fought the war by sea and by land ...

... Never was the profession of arms used with more glory, in a better cause, **since the days of JOSHUA, the son of Nun.**"

After having the Declaration of Independence read to his troops, **General George Washington** issued the order, July 9, 1776:

"Commanding officers of each regiment are directed to procure **Chaplains** ... persons of good Characters and exemplary lives -

To see that all inferior officers and soldiers pay them a suitable respect and attend carefully upon **religious exercises.**

The **blessing and protection of Heaven** are at all times necessary but especially so in times of public distress and danger -

... **The General** hopes and trusts, that every officer and

man, will endeavor so to **live, and act, as becomes a Christian Soldier**, defending the dearest Rights and Liberties of his country ...

The peace and safety of his Country depends, **under God**, solely on the success of our arms."

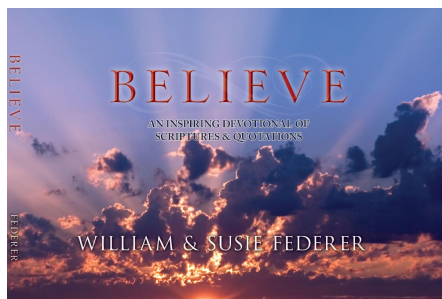
On May 2, 1778, **General George Washington** issued the order to his troops at Valley Forge:

"The Commander-in-Chief directs that **Divine service** be performed every Sunday at 11 o'clock, in each Brigade which has a **Chaplain**.

Those Brigades which have none will **attend the places of worship** nearest to them. It is expected that officers of all ranks will, by their attendance, **set an example for their men**.

While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to **the higher duties of religion**.

To the distinguished character of **Patriot**, it should be **our highest Glory** to laud **the more distinguished Character of Christian**."



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President Ulysses S. Grant, who was the first to hold the rank of **General of the Army** and wear the four silver star insignia, wrote during his illness in 1884:

"I believe in the **Holy Scriptures**, and whoso lives by them will be benefited thereby.
Men may differ as to the interpretation, which is human,

but **the Scriptures are man's best guide ...**

I did not go riding yesterday, although invited and permitted by my physicians, because **it was the Lord's day**, and because I felt that if a relapse should set in, **the people who are praying for me** would feel that I was not helping their faith by riding out on Sunday ...

Yes, I know, and **I feel very grateful to the Christian people of the land for their prayers in my behalf.**

There is no sect or religion, as shown in the **Old or New Testament**, to which this does not apply."

On November 15, 1862, **President Abraham Lincoln** ordered:

"The discipline and character of the national forces **should not** suffer nor the cause they defend be imperiled by the **profanation of the day or name of the Most High ...**

'At this time of public distress,' adopting **the words of Washington in 1776**, 'men may find enough to do in the service of **God** and their country **without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality ...**'"

Lincoln added:

"... **The first general order issued by the Father of his Country after the Declaration of Independence** indicates the spirit in which our institutions were founded and should ever be defended:

'**The General** hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a **Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.**'"

President Benjamin Harrison ordered, June 7, 1889:

"In November, 1862, **President Lincoln** quoted **the**

words of Washington to sustain his own views, and announced in a general order that -

'The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly **observance of the Sabbath** by the officers and men in the military and naval service.

The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, **the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors,** a becoming deference to the **best sentiment of a Christian people,** and a due regard for the **Divine Will** demand that **Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity ..."**

President Harrison added:

"... To recall the kindly and considerate spirit of **the orders** issued by these great men in the most trying times of our history, and to promote contentment and efficiency, the President directs that **Sunday morning** inspection will be merely of the dress and general appearance."

President Woodrow Wilson gave the order, January 20, 1918:

"The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, following the **reverent example of his predecessors,** desires and enjoins the orderly **observance of the Sabbath** by the officers and men in the military and naval service of the United States.

The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, **the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors,** a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a **Christian people,** and a due regard for the **Divine Will** demand that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity.

Such an **observance of Sunday** is dictated by the **best traditions** of our people and by the convictions of all who look to **Divine Providence** for guidance and protection,

and, in **repeating in this order the language of President Lincoln**, the President is confident that he is speaking alike to the hearts and to the consciences of those under his authority."

In 1917, **President Woodrow Wilson** wrote the foreword to a **pocket Bible** given out by the thousands to American soldiers heading to France and Belgium during World War I:

"The Bible is the Word of Life. I beg that you will read it and find this out for yourselves ...

When you have read the **Bible** you will know **it is the Word of God**, because you will have found in it the key to your own heart. --(signed) **Woodrow Wilson.**"

General John J. Pershing wrote a Preface of the **New Testament & Book of Psalms**, August 10, 1917:

"To the American Soldier aroused against a nation waging war **in violation of all Christian principles ...**

Hardships will be your lot, but trust in **God** will give you comfort; temptation will befall you, but **the teachings of our Savior will give you strength.** --(signed) Pershing, Comdg."

In 1917, former **President Theodore Roosevelt** inscribed the foreword to a **pocket New Testament & Psalms** given to World War I soldiers, published by the New York Bible Society:

"The teachings of the New Testament are foreshadowed in Micah's verse (Micah vi. 8): 'What more

does **the Lord** require of thee than to do justice, and to love mercy, and to **walk humbly with thy God?**'

Do Justice; and therefore **fight valiantly against** the armies of Germany and Turkey, for these nations in this crisis stand for the reign of **Moloch and Beelzebub** on this earth. --(signed) **Theodore Roosevelt.**"

At the beginning of World War II, on January 25, 1941, **President Franklin D. Roosevelt** wrote the prologue of a special **Gideons' edition of the New Testament & Book of Psalms** distributed to millions of soldiers:

"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. --(signed) **Franklin D. Roosevelt.**"

In December 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, **General George M. Patton** had **Chaplain Fr. James O'Neil** compose a **prayer**. It was printed on on a quarter of a million cards and distributed to the soldiers of the Third Army:

"Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. **Grant us fair weather for Battle.**

... Graciously hearken to us as **soldiers who call Thee** that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies, and **establish Thy justice among men and nations. Amen.**"

When **General Douglas MacArthur** heard about the Bataan Death March, where 10,000 Filipino and American prisoners died, he stated, April 9, 1942:

"To the weeping mothers of its dead, I can only say that

the sacrifice and halo of **Jesus of Nazareth** has descended upon their sons, and that **God** will take them unto Himself."

General Omar Bradley stated in his **Armistice Day** Address, November 10, 1948:

"Freedom: no word was ever spoken that has held out greater hope, demanded greater sacrifice, needed more to be nurtured, blessed more the giver. . . or came closer to being **God's will on earth.**"

But **General Bradley** added warning:

"America today is running on the **momentum of a godly ancestry**, and when that momentum runs down, **God help America.**"

When FDR died in office, his Vice-President, **Harry S Truman**, swore in the next President with his hand upon a **Gideon's Bible** on April 12, 1945.

Truman, who had served in the military as a captain in World War I, oversaw the end of World War II, and, with the intention of preventing future wars, the formation of the United Nations.

On August 28, 1947, **President Harry S Truman** wrote of America to Pope Pius XII:

"As the chosen leader of the people of the United States I am privileged to pledge full faith to you once again to work with Your Holiness and with every agency of good the world over for an enduring peace.

An enduring peace can be built only upon **Christian principles**. To such a consummation we dedicate all our resources, both spiritual and material, remembering always that **'except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it ...'**"

Truman continued:

"Your Holiness, **this is a Christian Nation**. More than a half century ago **that declaration was written into the decrees of the highest court in this land**.

It is not without significance that the **valiant pioneers who left Europe to establish settlements here**, at the very beginning of their colonial enterprises, **declared their faith in the Christian religion** and made ample provision for its practice and for its support.

The story of the **Christian missionaries** who in earliest days endured perils, hardship--even death itself in carrying **the message of Jesus Christ** to untutored savages is one that still moves the hearts of men ..."

He added:

"As a Christian Nation our earnest desire is to work with men of good will everywhere to banish war and the causes of war from the world whose **Creator** desired that men of every race and in every clime (region) should **live together in peace, good will and mutual trust**

I believe that the **greatest need of the world today**, fundamental to all else, is a **renewal of faith**.

I seek to encourage **renewed faith** in the **dignity and worth of the human person** in all lands, to the end that the **individual's sacred rights**, inherent in his **relationship to God and his fellows**, will be respected in every land.

We must have **faith** in the inevitable **triumph of truth and decency**; faith that mankind shall live in freedom, not in the chains of untruth **nor in the chains of a collectivist organization ..."**

Truman concluded:

"Through **faith**, the purposes of **God** shall be carried out in the hearts and deeds of Man.

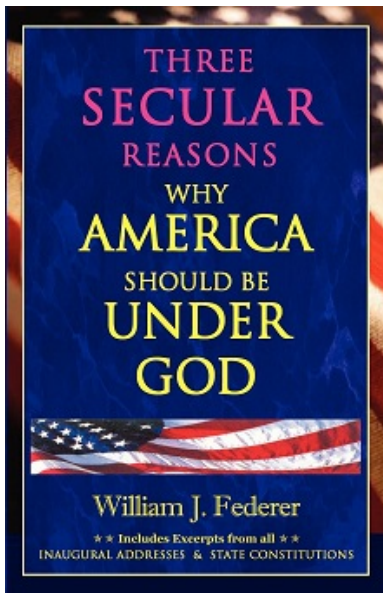
I believe with heartfelt conviction that those who do not recognize **their responsibility to Almighty God** cannot meet **their full duty toward their fellow men.**"

In 1947, during the **Truman** Administration, the **U.S. Corp of Cadets** required:

"Attendance at chapel is part of a cadet's training; no cadet will be exempted. Each cadet will receive **religious training** in one of the three particular faiths: **Protestant, Catholic or Jewish.**"

In 1949, the **U.S. Naval Academy** required:

"All Midshipmen, except those on authorized outside church parties, shall **attend Sunday services in the chapel.**"



[Three Secular Reasons Why America Should Be Under God](#)

President Dwight Eisenhower had served as Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Forces during World War II.

On August 17, 1955, he authorized the **code of conduct**

for **U.S. soldiers**, which stated:

"I serve in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense ... If captured ... I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy ...

I will never forget **I am an American fighting man**, responsible for my actions and dedicated to the principles which made my country free.

I will trust in my God and in the United States of America."

The **Missing Man Table**, or **Fallen Comrade Table**, is to remember **Prisoners of War**.

It commonly had a **Bible on it** till removed during the Obama Administration.

[The War Memorial Center \(accessed 5/28/23\) explained:](#)

"Each item on the **Missing Man Table** represents the emotions and feelings reserved for **those who did not come home** ...

All Americans should **never forget** the **brave men and women** who answered our nation's call to **serve** and **fought** for our **freedom with honor** ...

The Bible represents the **strength gained through faith** to sustain us and those lost from our country, founded as **one nation under God."**

President Eisenhower referred to four chaplains (2 Protestant, 1 Catholic, and 1 Jewish) who gave life-jackets to to save four sailors when the *U.S.A.T. Dorchester* was hit by a Nazi torpedo, February 3, 1943.

The chaplains were last seen together in **prayer** as the

ship sank.

Eisenhower stated February 7, 1954:

"And we remember that, only a decade ago, aboard the transport *Dorchester*, four chaplains ... willingly sacrificed their lives so that four others might live ... Our common faith in **God** is a common bond among us ... **'In God is Our Trust.'**"

President Eisenhower stated December 24, 1953, lighting the National Christmas Tree:

"George Washington long ago rejected exclusive dependence upon mere materialistic values.

In the bitter and critical winter at Valley Forge, when the cause of liberty was so near defeat, his recourse was sincere and earnest **prayer** ...

As **religious faith** is the foundation of free government, so is **prayer** an indispensable part of that **faith.**"

Eisenhower broadcast from the White House for the **American Legion's Back-to-God Program**, February 7, 1954:

"As a former soldier, I am delighted that **our veterans** are sponsoring a movement to **increase our awareness of God in our daily lives.**

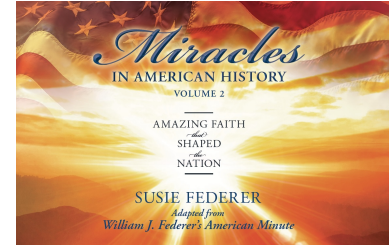
In battle, they learned a great truth - that there are no atheists in the foxholes. They know that in time of test and trial, **we instinctively turn to God for new courage.**"

President Dwight Eisenhower stated at the opening of the White House Conference of Mayors, December 14, 1953:

"I want to point out something about **fighting - about war ...** The winning of war - the effectiveness in such things - is in the heart, in the determination, **in the faith.**

It is in our beliefs in our country, **in our God**, everything that goes to make up **America."**

[Miracles in American History-Vol. TWO: Amazing Faith that Shaped the Nation](#)



President Eisenhower, February 20, 1955, stated for the **American Legion Back-To-God Program**:

"The Founding Fathers ... recognizing **God as the author of individual rights**, declared that the **purpose of Government is to secure those rights ...**

But in many lands the State claims to be the author of human rights ... **If the State gives rights, it can - and inevitably will - take away those rights.**

... **Without God, there could be no American form of Government, nor an American way of life.**

Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first - **the most basic - expression of Americanism.** Thus the Founding Fathers saw it, and thus, **with God's help, it will continue to be ...**

Veterans realize, perhaps more clearly than others, the prior **place that Almighty God holds in our national life."**

On November 18, 2016, **Major General Kurt Fuller** retired from 35 years of service, having been deputy commanding general of I Corps, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

Fuller remarked how his parents and grandparents helped him begin his military career.

"They raised my brother and I in a traditional American home where Christian values, service to others and honor was a part of our daily life."

Beginning as an Army Ranger, he faced many challenges throughout his three decades of military service, stating:

"The Lord protected me and sustained me through almost six years in combat ...

Three helicopter crashes, two combat jumps and a couple of dozen firefights that weren't just small arms, but they were also mortars, rockets, grenades and machine guns too. It has been an epic adventure and a wild and dangerous ride, but I wouldn't change much of it even if I could."

Retired Major General Kurt Fuller stated in a Memorial Day Message, May 29, 2022, at Manna Church in Newport News, Virginia:

"Just as the observance of **Passover** among the Jews reminds us of how **God delivered them from the final and devastating plague**, it also reminds us all of the **never-ending struggle of all people everywhere for freedom from tyranny and oppression ...**

I am also reminded of the **extraordinary intervention of God in the creation of the United States**. How was it that a small fragmented group of shopkeepers, farmers and blacksmiths **defeated the largest and most powerful military on earth? ...**

Its clear that **the Lord's mighty hand brought America the victory ...** And He will continue to shower us with blessings **so long as we remain humble and**

obedient."

Medal of Honor recipient **Major General Patrick Brady**, considered the **most highly decorated living veteran**, flew over 2,500 combat missions in Vietnam, rescuing over 5,000 wounded.

His book, ***Dead Men Flying***, recounted how he once rescued 51 wounded in one day, flying 3 different helicopters which were shot up with over 400 holes from enemy fire.

General Brady wrote, June 4, 2013 (WND.com):

"The greatest danger ... is the feminization, emasculation and dismantling of our military.

The two most important elements of national survival are **the media** and **the military** ...

We know **the media** are failing - God help us if **the military** does also ...

... Let's begin with Benghazi. It is incomprehensible that any commander, let alone the commander-in-chief, would go AWOL during a crisis such as Benghazi, but he was."

Major General Brady warned:

"Unprecedented rates of suicide ... Cut benefits to veterans ...

Quad-sexual military with all the health, readiness and moral issues that come with exalting sodomy ... Sexual assault ...

Women will be tasked to lead bayonet charges ... Billions of defense dollars are unaccounted for ...

Christianity is under military attack, and Bibles have

been burned to appease Muslims ...

Just as the way forward for America is a return to the morality and values of the past, so too must the military return to the readiness standards and common sense of the past."

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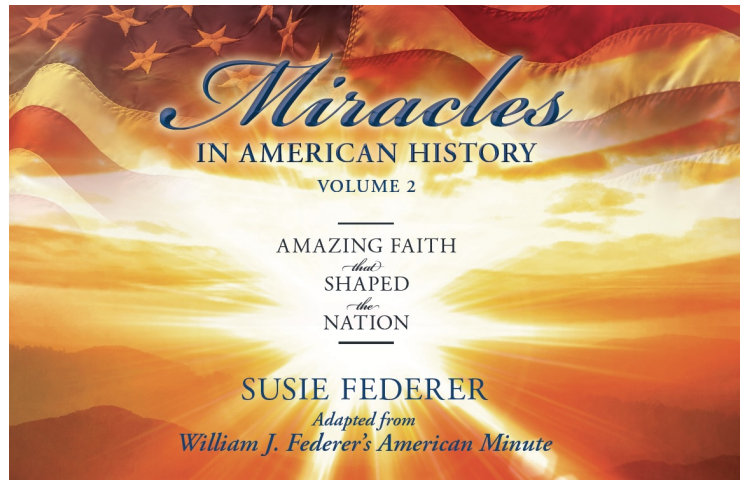


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