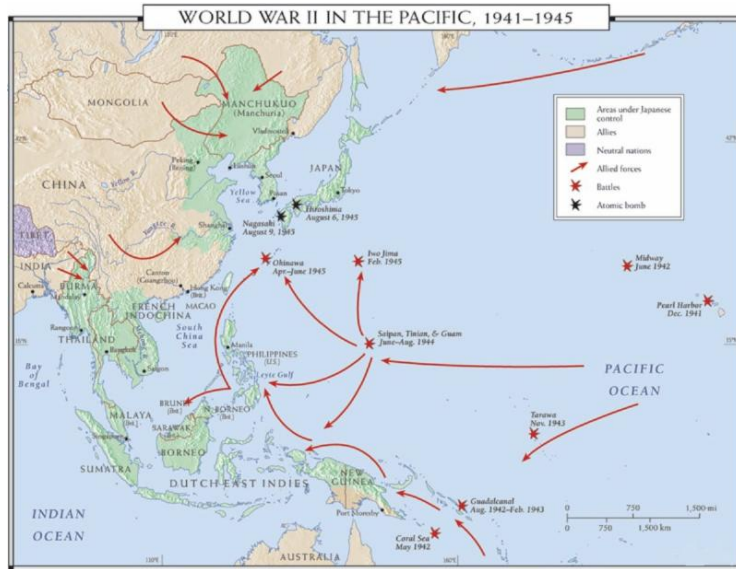


# American Minute with Bill Federer

## Pacific World War II, ramming of PT-109, & JFK's quotes on Freedom, Israel, Iran, & Faith

**World War II combat in the Pacific began when military forces of Imperial Japan invaded China, Thailand, Malaya, Singapore, Hong Kong, Hawaii, Wake Island, Guam, and the Philippines.**



The fighting that followed included some of **the largest naval battles in history.**

**Military and civilian casualties** in the Pacific War numbered around **36 million.**

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Battles included:

- **Pearl Harbor,** Dec. 7, 1941;
- **Wake Island,** Dec. 7-23, 1941;
- **Battle of**



**Bataan,  
Philippines, January 1942;**

- **Bataan Death March, April 1942;**
- **Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, April 18, 1942;**
- **Coral Sea, May 4-8, 1942;**
- **Midway, June 4-7, 1942;**
- **Guadalcanal campaign, Aug. 7, 1942-Feb. 9, 1943;**

- **Gilbert &  
Marshall  
Islands  
campaign,  
1943-44;**

- **Makin Island,  
Aug. 17-18,  
1942;**

- **Tarawa, Nov.  
20, 1943;**

- **Makin, Nov.  
20-23, 1943;**

- **Kwajalein,  
Feb. 14, 1944;**

- **Eniwetok, Feb. 17, 1944;**

- **Truk Island,  
Feb. 17-18,  
1944;**

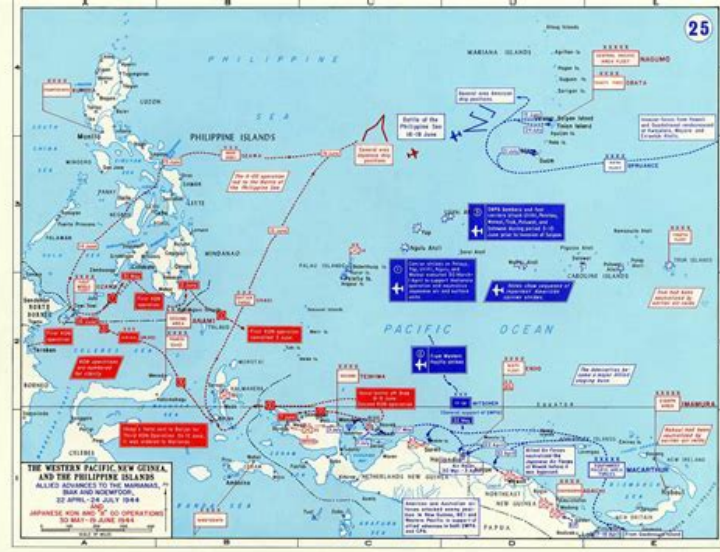
- **Mariana &  
Palau Islands**



## campaign

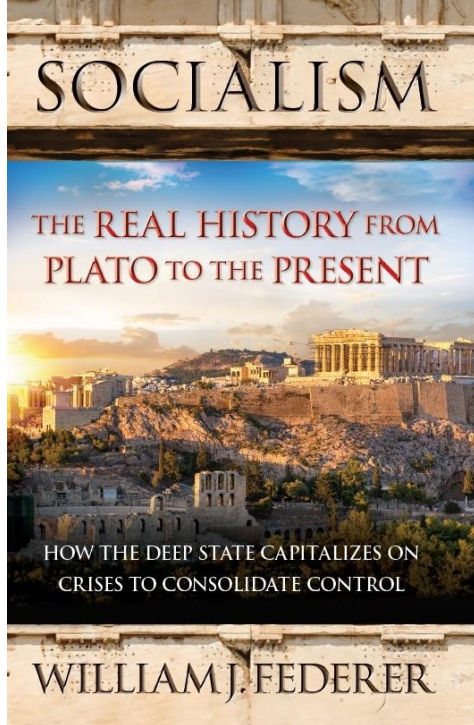
1944;

- **Saipan, June 16, 1944;**
- **Philippine Sea, June 19-20, 1944;**
- **Guam, July 21, 1944;**
- **Tinian, July 24, 1944;**
- **Peleliu, Sept. 15, 1944;**
- **Angaur, Sept. 17, 1944;**
- **Leyte & Leyte Gulf, Oct. 23-29, 1944**  
(Largest WWII naval battle and possibly largest naval battle in world history);
- **Iwo Jima, Feb. 19, 1945;**
- **Okinawa, April 1, 1945;**
- **Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 1945.**

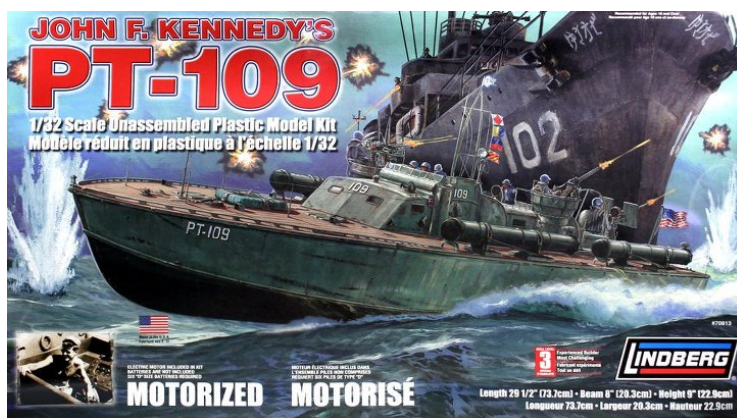


[SOCIALISM - The Real History from Plato to the Present: How the Deep State Capitalizes on Crises to Consolidate Control](#)





After the **Guadalcanal campaign**, which was the **Allied forces first major offensive**, the U.S. began island hopping, securing the **Solomon islands**.



Lieutenant John F. Kennedy commanded the **PT-109**, one of the small 80 foot-long **Navy patrol torpedo boats** used to monitor

and disrupt the **Tokyo Express** -- the shipping lanes used by Imperial Japan's destroyers through the **Ferguson and Blackett Straits**.

**PT boats** operated almost

exclusively at **night**, often in **fog** and **without reliable radar**.

They **fired their torpedoes at close range**, then sped away.



On the foggy night of August, 2, 1943, **PT-109** was idling on one engine to avoid detection while **awaiting approaching enemy destroyers**.

The crew was shocked to realize they were in the

**direct path of an oncoming speeding destroyer, the *Amagiri*.**

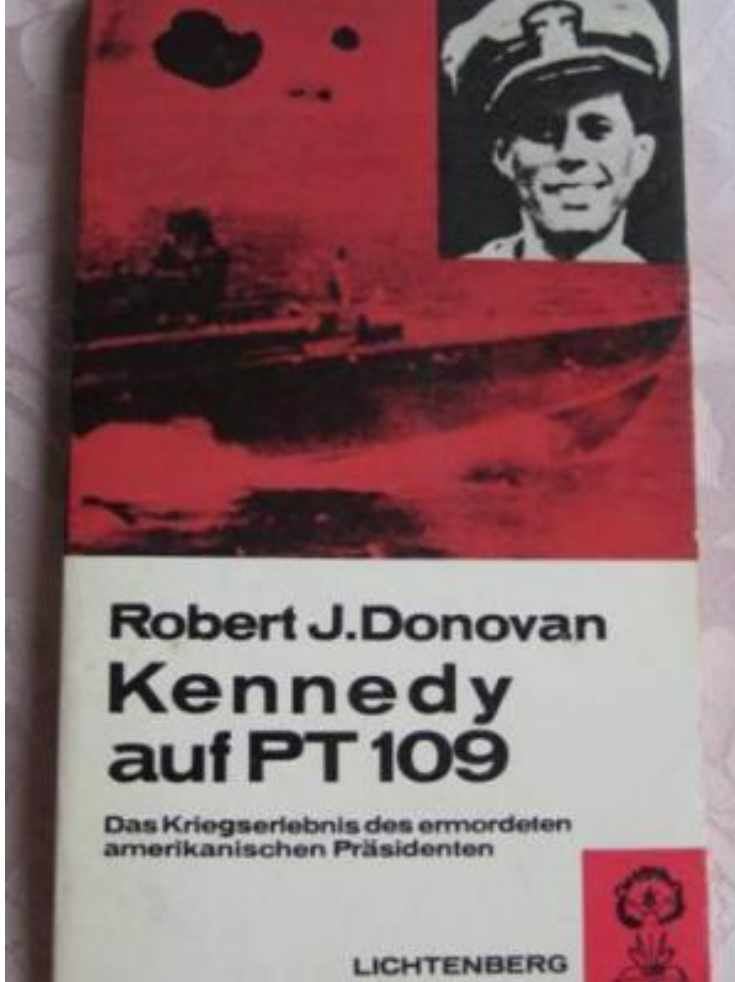
With just seconds to respond, they were unable to avoid collision.



The **PT-109** was **rammed**, broken in half, and began to sink.

After the war, author Robert Donovan interviewed crew members of the ***Amagiri*** and





concluded that **the destroyer intentionally rammed the *PT-109*.**

In May of 2002, a **National Geographic Society expedition**, headed by Robert Ballard, found the wreckage of the ***PT-109***.



Though sustaining **permanent back injuries**, **Kennedy**, who had been on Harvard's swim team, **helped the 11 survivors swim to shore.**

Since Imperial

Japanese occupied the larger islands, he chose for them to swim 3.5 miles to the **small, uninhabited Plum Pudding Island**, which was only 100 yards wide.

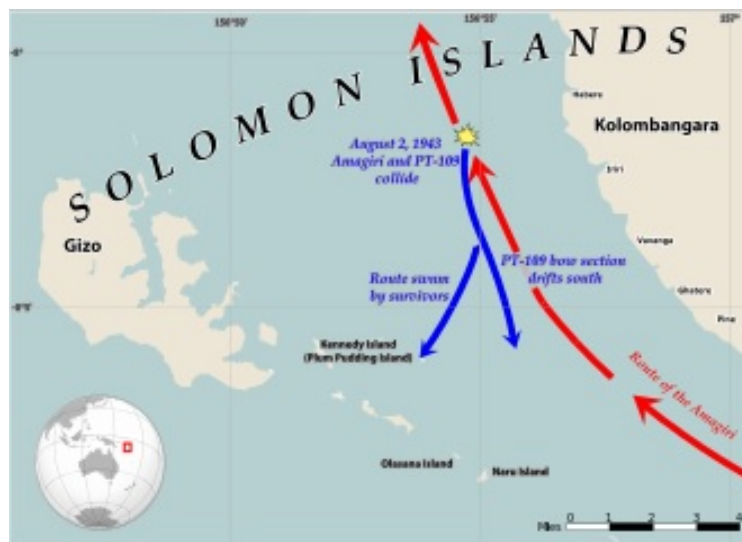


They swam for four hours, with **Kennedy** towing in his clenched teeth the life-jacket strap of the ship's injured machinist, Patrick MacMahon.

Hiding from passing Japanese barges, they realized there was no food or water on the island.

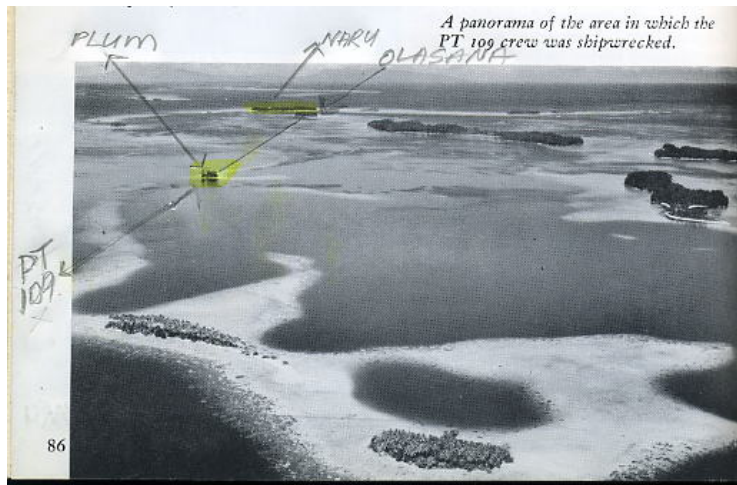
That night, **Kennedy** swam 2 miles to **Ferguson Passage** hoping to flag down a passing PT boat.

Unsuccessful, he swam to islands **Olasana**, then **Nauro**, before



Map of the events of 2 August 1943

returning to **Plum Pudding Island**.



**Kennedy** convinced his crew they had to swim to **Olasana Island**.

On August 4, **Kennedy** and **Lenny Thom** helped the

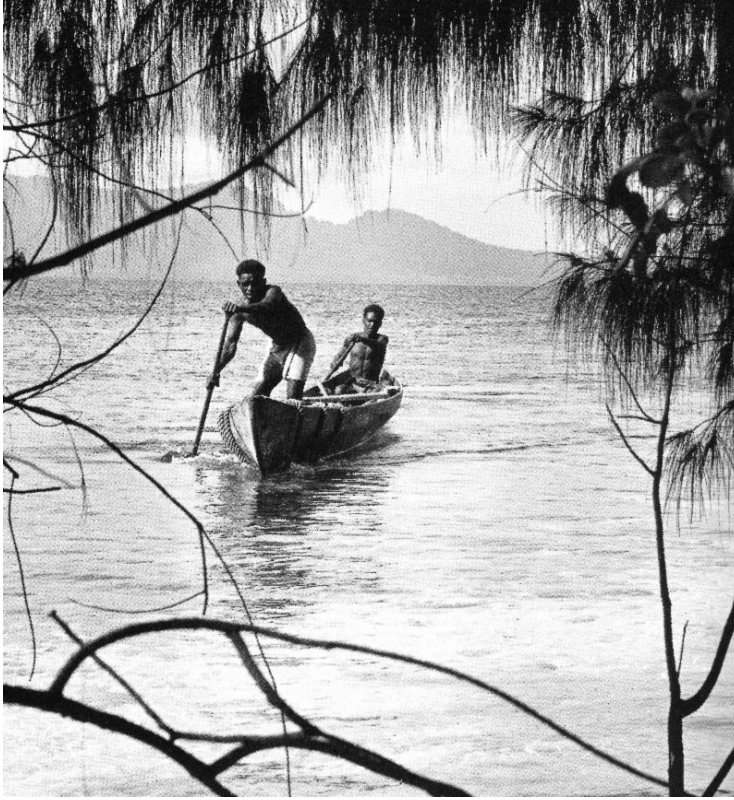
dehydrated, starving, and injured crew swim 2 miles to **Olasana Island**, where there was a small amount of water and a few coconuts.

An **Australian coastwatcher** asked some friendly **islanders** to search for them, which was a risky request, as other **islanders** who had been caught helping Americans were tortured and killed.



Initially the **islanders** mistook **Kennedy**, who had swum back to **Nauro** to





scavenge, as being **Japanese**, as the one **islander** commented

"All white people looked the same to me."

The islanders then paddled 35 miles back to the American base at Rendova Island, carrying a coconut, in which **Kennedy** carved the message:



"NAURO ISL,  
COMMANDER ... NATIVE KNOWS POS'IT ... HE CAN  
PILOT... 11 ALIVE NEED SMALL BOAT... KENNEDY."



On August 8, Lieutenant William Liebenow on the **PT-157** came to rescue them.

The arranged signal for the pick up was for Kennedy to fire four shots.



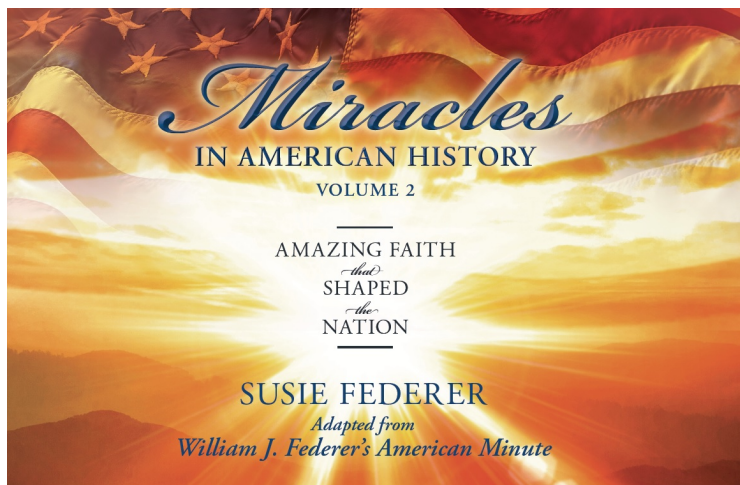
As he only had **three bullets** in his pistol, a **discarded**

**Japanese rifle** was used to shoot the **fourth**.



Once safely on the **PT-157**, the rescued crew sang "**Yes Jesus Loves Me.**"

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



For his part, **Kennedy** was awarded the **Navy and Marine Corp Medal for heroism.**





In 1963, **Cliff Robertson** starred as **Kennedy** in the movie ***PT-109***.

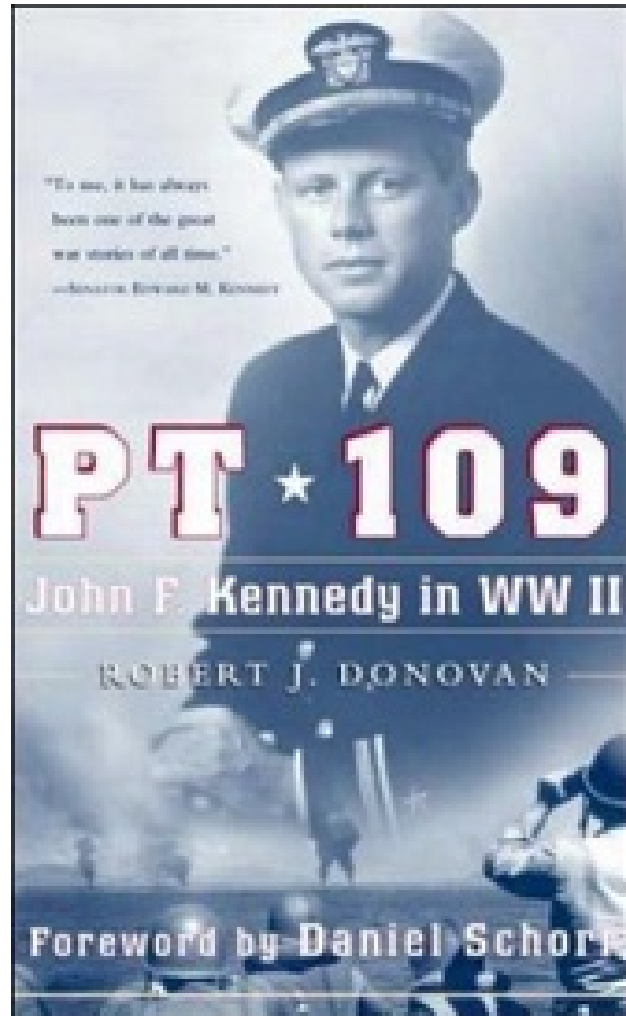


Unfortunately, one of **Kennedy's** brothers, **Joseph, Jr.**, was killed in World War II in Europe.





**John F. Kennedy** went on to become a **U.S. Congressman** and a **U.S. Senator**.



**Kennedy** defeated **Vice-President Richard Nixon** in one of the **closest Presidential elections in U.S. history** - by 0.2 percent, a mere 118,000 votes out

of 69 million.



After swearing in as the 35th **President, John F. Kennedy** stated in his Inaugural Address:



"I have sworn before you and **Almighty God** the same solemn oath our forbears prescribed nearly a century and three-quarters ago ...

yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe--the belief that **the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God ...**

Let us go forth to lead the land we love, **asking His blessing and His help**, but knowing that here on earth **God's work must truly be our own."**

In the White House Rose Garden, November 21, 1961, **John F. Kennedy** said:

**"When we all** - regardless of our particular religious convictions - **draw our guidance and**

**inspiration, and really, in a sense, moral direction, from the same general area, the Bible, the Old and the New Testaments,**

we have every reason to believe that **our various religious denominations** should live together in the **closest harmony** ..."



**Kennedy** concluded:

"The basic presumption of the **moral law, the existence of God, man's relationship to Him** - there is generally **consensus on those questions.**"

**Kennedy** told the Zionists of America Convention at the Statler Hilton Hotel in New York, August 26, 1960:

"When the first Zionist conference met in 1897,



**Palestine** was a neglected wasteland.

A few scattered **Jewish colonies** had resettled there

...

Most of the governments of the world were indifferent.

But now all is changed. Israel became a triumphant and enduring reality exactly 50 years after Theodore Herzl, the prophet of Zionism, had **proclaimed the ideal of nationhood ...**"

**Kennedy** continued:

"Herzl was then only 37 years of age ... Jewish people - ever since **David slew Goliath** - have never considered youth as a barrier to leadership ...

I first saw **Palestine** in 1939.

There the **neglect and ruin left by centuries of Ottoman misrule** were



slowly being **transformed by miracles of labor and sacrifice ...**

I returned in 1951 to see **the grandeur of Israel**. In 3 years **this new state** had opened its doors to 600,000 immigrants and refugees.

Even while fighting for its own survival, **Israel** had given **new hope** to the persecuted and **new dignity to the pattern of Jewish life**.

I left with the conviction that the **United Nations** may have conferred on **Israel** the credentials of **nationhood**; but its own **idealism** and **courage**, its own **sacrifice** and generosity, had earned the credentials of immortality ..."



**Kennedy** added:

**"Israel** is here to stay. For **Israel** was not created in order to disappear - **Israel will endure and flourish**.

It is the **child of hope** and the **home of the brave**. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the **shield of democracy** and it honors the **sword of freedom ...**

**Israel** is a cause that stands beyond the ordinary changes and chances of American public life ..."

**Kennedy** spoke further:

"There is a **special obligation on the**

**Democratic  
Party.**

It was **President Woodrow Wilson** who forecast with **prophetic wisdom** the **creation of a Jewish homeland.**



It was **President Franklin Roosevelt** who kept alive the **hopes of Jewish redemption during the Nazi terror.**

It was **President Harry Truman** who **first recognized the new State of Israel** and gave it status in world affairs.

And may I add that it would be **my hope and my pledge to continue this Democratic tradition** - and to be worthy of it ..."



**Kennedy** concluded:

"When I talked with **Prime Minister Ben-Gurion** on his most recent visit to this country, he told me of

**dangerous signs of unrest** beneath the deceptive quiet that has fallen over the **Middle East ...**

**Arab ... destructive vendetta** can come nothing but

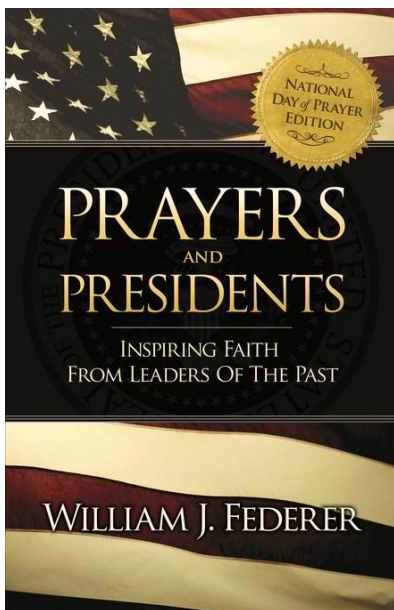


**misery and poverty** and the risk of **war**.

The **Middle East** needs water, not war; tractors, not tanks; bread, not bombs ... Ancient rivers would give their power to new industries. The desert would yield to civilization.

Disease would be eradicated, especially the disease that strikes down helpless children. The blight of poverty would be replaced by the blessings of abundance.

'Seek peace, and pursue it' commands the psalmist."



[Prayers and President: Inspiring Faith from Leaders of the Past](#)

**Iran** was considered the **most pro-American nation** in the Middle East, until Democrat **President Jimmy Carter** abandoned it to radical sharia **Muslims in 1979-1980**.



In April of 1962, **President John F. Kennedy** and **First Lady Jacqueline** hosted **Shah Reza Pahlavi** and

## Empress Farah at the White House.



**Kennedy** stated:

"**Your majesty**, I speak on behalf of all of **my fellow Americans** in welcoming you to the United States.

The interest of the both of us is the same: to maintain **our freedom**, to maintain **our peace**, and to **provide a better life for our people.**"

At the Presidential Prayer Breakfast, February 9, 1961, **President John F. Kennedy** stated:

"This country was founded by men and women ... dedicated to two propositions:



**FIRST**, a **strong religious conviction**, and

**SECONDLY** a recognition that this conviction could flourish only under a **system of freedom ...**"

**Kennedy** continued:

"The **Puritans** and the **Pilgrims** of my own section of **New England**, the **Quakers** of

**Pennsylvania,**  
the **Catholics** of  
**Maryland,**  
the **Presbyterians** of  
**North Carolina,**  
the **Methodists** and  
**Baptists** who came  
later,  
all shared these two  
great traditions which,  
like silver threads,  
**have run through the  
warp and the woof of  
American history ..."**



**Kennedy** added:

"Let us go forth to lead this  
land that we love, joining in the  
prayer of General George  
Washington in 1783,

'that **God would have you in  
His holy protection ...**

that **He** would most graciously  
be pleased to dispose us all to  
do justice, to love mercy, and  
to demean ourselves with ...  
the characteristics of **the**

**Divine Author of our blessed religion,** without an  
**humble imitation of whose example** we can never  
hope to be a **happy nation ..."**

**President Kennedy**  
concluded:

"The **guiding principle** and  
**prayer** of this Nation has  
been, is now, and ever shall



be 'In God We Trust.'"

--

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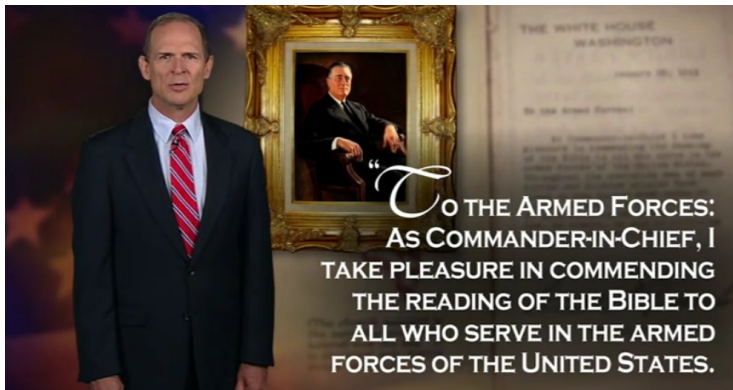
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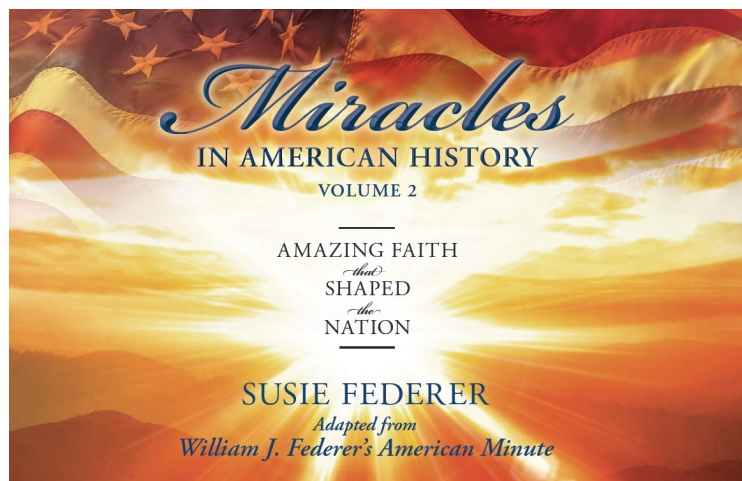


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