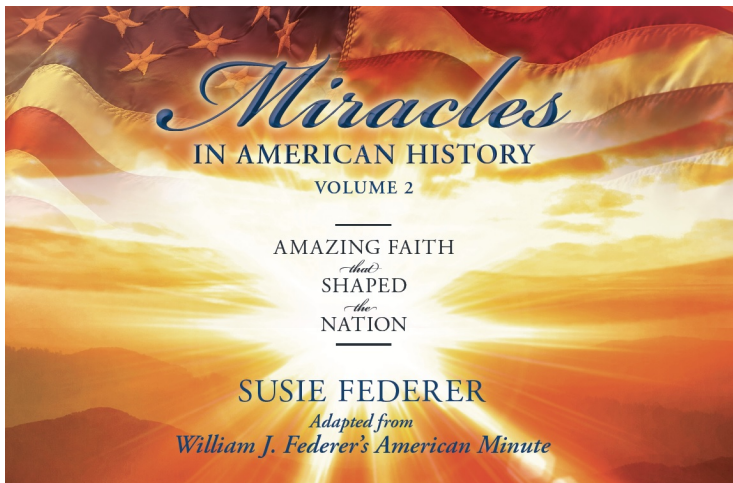


## American Minute with Bill Federer Veterans Day "In time of test & trial, we instinctively turn to God for new courage"-Eisenhower

The 11th hour of the  
11TH DAY OF THE 11TH  
MONTH of 1918, World  
War I ended.

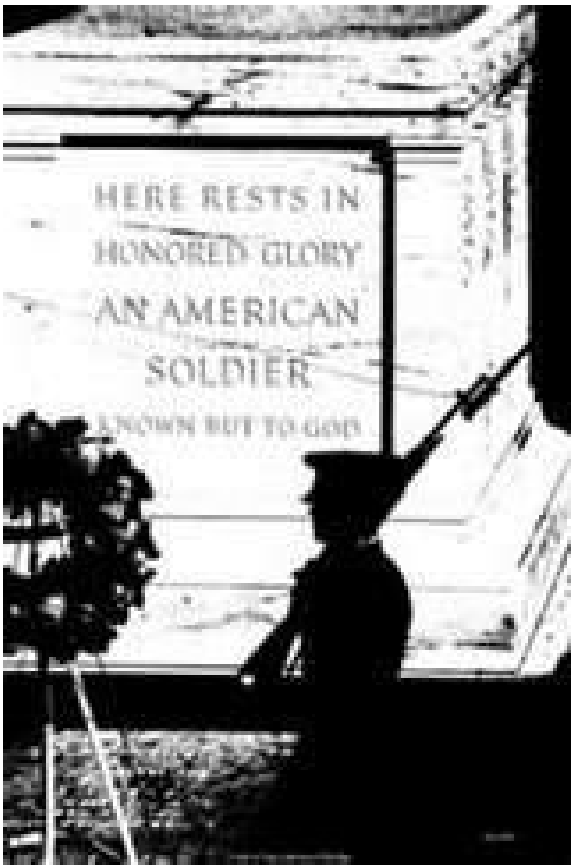
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Though the  
**Armistice** was  
signed at **5:00 AM**  
on **NOVEMBER**  
**11, 1918**, the  
fighting continued  
till **11:00 AM**,  
killing nearly

11,000 more men.



In 1921, **President Warren Harding** had the remains of an unknown soldier killed in France buried in the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** at Arlington Cemetery.

Inscribed on the **Tomb** are the words:

**"Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God."**

On October 4, 1924, at the dedication of the **Monument to the American Expeditionary Forces** in Washington, D.C., **President Calvin Coolidge** stated:

"They did not regard it as a national or personal opportunity for gain or fame or glory, but as a call to **sacrifice** for the support of humane principles and **spiritual ideals** ...



If anyone doubts the depth and sincerity of the attachment of the American people to their institutions and Government, if anyone doubts the **sacrifices** which they have been **willing to make in behalf of**



**those institutions** and for what they believe to be the welfare of other nations,

let them gaze upon this monument and other like memorials that have been reared in every quarter of our broad land.

Let them look upon the representative gatherings of our **VETERANS**, and let them remember that **America has dedicated itself to the service of God and man.**"

**General Douglas MacArthur** told West Point cadets, May 1962:





"The soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training - **sacrifice.**

In battle and in the face of danger and death, he discloses those **Divine attributes** which his **Maker**

gave when **He created man in His own image ...**

No physical courage and no brute instinct can take the place of **Divine help** which alone can sustain him.

However horrible the incidents of war may be, the **soldier** who is called upon to offer and **to give his life for his country** is the **noblest development of mankind."**

**Armistice Day** was changed to **VETERANS DAY** in 1954 to honor all who have served defending the United States.

In 1958, **President Eisenhower** placed soldiers in the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** from **WWII** and the

**Korean War.**



In 1984, **President Ronald Reagan** placed a soldier from the **Vietnam War** in the tomb.

DNA test later identified him as pilot **Michael Blassie**, a graduate of St. Louis University

High School, 1966, and the U.S. Air Force Academy, 1970.

Flying an A-37B Dragonfly, he was shot down near An Loc, South Vietnam.

In 1998, **Michael**

**Blassie** was reburied at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.



On NOVEMBER 11, 1921, **President Warren G. Harding** stated:

"On the threshold of eternity, many a soldier, I can well believe, wondered how his ebbing blood would color the stream of

human life, flowing on **after his sacrifice** ...

Standing today on hallowed ground ... it is fitting to say that **his sacrifice**, and that of the millions dead, shall not be in vain ...

I can sense **the prayers of our people**, of all peoples, that this **Armistice Day** shall mark the beginning of a new and lasting era of peace on earth, good will among

men. Let me join in that **prayer**.

**'Our Father** who are in heaven, hallowed be **Thy name**.  
**Thy kingdom** come, **Thy will** be done on earth, as it is in  
heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our  
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
**for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the  
glory, forever. Amen."**

**Charles Michael  
Province**, U.S.  
Army, wrote the  
poem:

It is the **Soldier**, not  
the minister  
Who has given us  
freedom of religion.

It is the **Soldier**, not  
the reporter  
Who has given us  
freedom of the  
press.

It is the **Soldier**, not the poet  
Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the **Soldier**, not the campus organizer  
Who has given us freedom to protest.

It is the **Soldier**, not the lawyer  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the **Soldier**, not the politician



Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the **Soldier** who salutes the flag,  
Who serves beneath the flag,  
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.



**President Dwight 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 and peace of mind.**

All the history of America bears witness to this truth. Out of **faith in God**, and through faith in themselves as His children, our forefathers designed and built this Republic ..."

**Eisenhower**  
continued:

"We remember the picture of **the Father of our Country, on his knees at Valley Forge seeking divine guidance**



in the cold gloom  
of a bitter winter.

Thus **Washington**  
gained strength to  
lead to  
independence a  
nation dedicated  
to the belief that  
each of us is  
divinely endowed  
with indestructible  
rights.



We remember, too, that three-fourths of a century later,  
on the battle-torn field of Gettysburg, and in the silence of  
many a wartime night, Abraham Lincoln recognized that  
**only under God could this Nation win a new birth of  
freedom ..."**

**Eisenhower**  
continued:

"Today as then,  
there is need for  
positive acts of  
renewed  
recognition that



faith is our surest strength, our greatest resource. This  
**'Back to God' movement** is such a positive act.

As we take part in it, I hope that we shall prize this  
thought:

Whatever our individual church, whatever our personal  
creed, **our common faith in God is a common bond  
among us.** In our fundamental faith, we are all one.

Together **we thank the Power** that has made and

preserved us a nation.

By the millions, we speak prayers, we sing hymns-and no matter what their words may be, their spirit is the same-  
**"In God is our trust."**



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

"The Founding Fathers expressed in words for all to read the ideal of Government based upon the

dignity of the individual.

That ideal previously had existed only in the hearts and minds of men.

They produced the timeless documents upon which the Nation is grounded and has grown great.

They, recognizing **God** as the **author of individual rights**, declared that the purpose of Government is to secure those rights.

To you and to me this ideal of Government is a self-evident truth.

But in many lands the State claims to be the author of human rights ..."

**Eisenhower**

continued:

"The tragedy of that claim runs through all history and, indeed, dominates our own times.

**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.

It is significant, I believe, that the American Legion - an organization of war VETERANS - has seen fit to conduct a '**Back to God'**

**movement** as part of its Americanism program.



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

And they can appreciate, through personal experience, that the really decisive battleground of American freedom is in the hearts and minds of our own people ..."

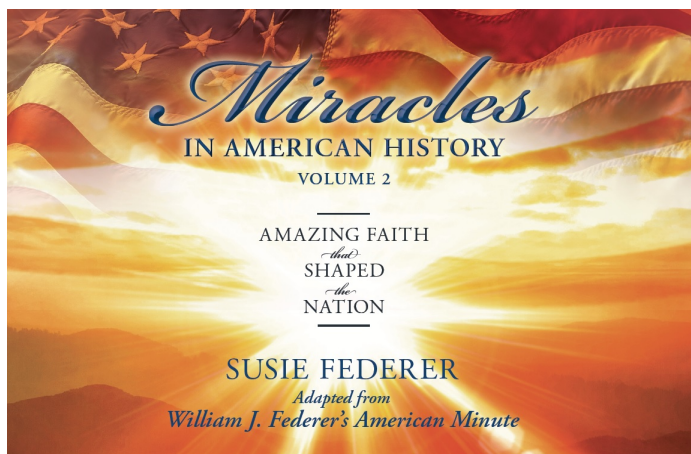
**Eisenhower**  
concluded:

"Each day we must ask that **Almighty God** will set and keep His protecting hand over us

so that we may pass on to those who come after us the heritage of a free people,



secure in their **God-given rights** and in full control of a Government dedicated to **the preservation of those rights."**



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**President Dwight Eisenhower**



addressed the National Conference on the Spiritual Foundation of American Democracy, November 9, 1954:

**"We are under tremendous attacks ...**

We are attacked **by the Communists** who

in their own documents state that capitalism - democracy - carries within itself the seeds of its own destruction ...

We are talking about the **spiritual foundations of our form of government** ...

Now Dr. Lowry said something about my having certain convictions as to **a God in Heaven and an Almighty power.**

Well, I don't think anyone needs a great deal of credit for believing in what seems to me to be **obvious** ...

It seems to me that this relationship between **a spiritual faith, a religious faith, and our form of government is so closely defined** and so obvious that we should really not need to identify a man as unusual because he recognizes it ..."

**Eisenhower** added:



"John Milton asserted that all men are born equal, because each is born in **the image of his God.**

**Our whole theory of government** finally expressed in **our Declaration**

... give the reasons to mankind why we had established such a government: **'Man is endowed by his Creator ...'**

No matter what Democracy tries to do in terms of maximum **individual liberty** ... in the economic ... in the intellectual ... in providing a system of justice, and a system of responsibility ...

when you come back to it, there is just one thing ... **man is worthwhile because he was born in the image of his God."**

**Eisenhower** concluded:

"The challenges of today ... are ... because ... our spiritual convictions as to the worth-whileness of this form of government, weakens ...



**Democracy** is nothing in the world but a **spiritual conviction**, a conviction that **each of us is enormously**

valuable, because of a certain standing before our own God.

Now, any group that binds itself together to awaken all of us to these simple things ... is, in my mind, a dedicated, patriotic group that can well **take the Bible in one hand and the a flag in the other, and march ahead."**

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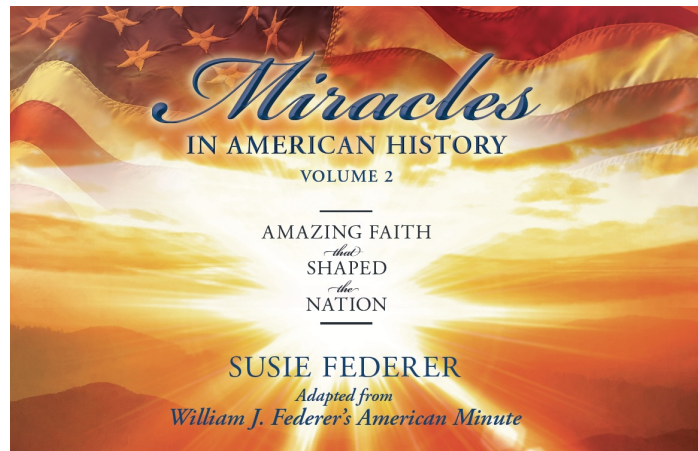
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