

Home

About Us

Features

News

Contact Us

[Home](#) >> [The News](#) >> High Holy Days of Patriotism

Main Menu

- [Why I belong](#)
- [New Blog](#)
- [More about the Party](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [The News](#)
- [Web Links](#)
- [News Feeds](#)

## High Holy Days of Patriotism



Written by Tom Phulery

Tuesday, 26 May 2009 09:36

This Saturday is Memorial Day and while it is a day set aside to honor the men and women of the military, it is the beginning of what some refer to as the high holy days of patriotism. The month of June not only is Flag Day, it holds the birthdays of Nathan Hale and Martha Washington as well as a myriad of dates that mark different events in writing the Declaration of Independence and the constitution plus a wide array of events that resulted in the establishment the

country now known as the United States of America.



Some may take exception to the reference to "holy days" when referring to patriotism, but it needs to be noted that throughout the Bible

we are encouraged to remember the old days and how good God has been to us.

Moreover, it is equally, if not more important to realize the amount of Christian ideals infused in our governmental system and the reliance the founding fathers had in developing our system of laws and governance.

Indeed, for better than a hundred years after achieving independence, the Fourth of July was observed as a religious holiday on the same par with Christmas.

John Quincy Adams in 1837 expressed the idea best when he first asked why we celebrate Independence Day as we do, he answered saying,

"Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the corner stone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity, and gave to the world the first irrevocable pledge of the fulfillment of the prophecies, announced directly from Heaven at the birth of the Savior and

predicted by the greatest of the Hebrew prophets six hundred years before?

Adams quotes from the Bible again when he talks about how the nation was created "in a day" through a single declaration -- The Declaration of Independence;

"And, by this paper, this One People did notify the world of mankind that they thereby did assume among the powers of the earth the separate and equal station, to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitled them.

"This was indeed a great and solemn event. The sublimest of the prophets of antiquity with the voice of inspiration had exclaimed, 'Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once?' [Isaiah 66:8]. In the two thousand five hundred years, that had elapsed since the days of that prophecy, no such event had occurred. It had never been seen before. In the annals of the human race, then, for the first time, did one People announce themselves as a member of that great community of the powers of the earth, acknowledging the obligations and claiming the rights of the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God. The earth was made to bring forth in one day! A nation was born at once!

When we discuss the Christian underpinnings of our freedom, one thing not taught in schools today is that the Revolutionary War was known in England as the Presbyterian Rebellion." Presbyterians after all, were considered most responsible for convincing the colonists to

revolt even though, prior to the war, about 40% of the population was pro-British.

Prime Minister Horace Walpole told his constituents in Parliament, "There is no use crying about it. Cousin America has eloped with a Presbyterian parson," referring to John Witherspoon, president of Princeton University -- which was popularly known in England as "the "seminary of sedition" -- and the only minister to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Witherspoon was not only one of the founding fathers, he was the instructor of the founding fathers. Nine of the 55 delegates at the Constitutional Convention had been students of Witherspoon's. In fact, 87 of the 243 founding fathers graduated from Presbyterian Princeton, so it is hardly surprising that the founders created a republic.

Over the next few weeks, we intend to bring information to you about the actions and events of a resolute people to establish a new form of government by, of and for the people in the hopes that it will inspire the citizens to re-examine the events of today, and not to let it perrish from the earth.

Last Updated on Friday, 29 May 2009 00:48



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