



Focus on Religious Freedom

www.cffor.org

National Day of Prayer: Sunday, May 17, 2026

Rededication of "One Nation Under God"

"The Man must be bad indeed who can look upon the events of the American Revolution without feeling the warmest gratitude towards the great Author of the Universe whose divine interposition was so frequently manifested in our behalf."

Washington's letter to Samuel Langdon, September 28, 1789

In 1954, Pres. Dwight Eisenhower added the phrase "One Nation Under God" to the pledge of allegiance. Many American groups, including the Knights of Columbus, had asked for the addition to increase awareness of our foundational tenet that each man received inalienable rights from our Creator. They believed the phrase would encourage patriotism and serve to teach foreign born Americans about the primacy of God in the success of our nation.

Unfortunately, too many Americans still believe the propaganda that the phrase "separation of church and state" prevents the mention of God in our national pledge. In fact, Pres. Thomas Jefferson's use of that phrase was in a letter assuring the Danbury Baptists the state had no right to dictate their beliefs nor their practice. He explained that the 1st Amendment was the will of the entire people of America on behalf of the rights of conscience and therefore established a wall of separation between church and state, protecting conscience rights and churches from interference by the state. It also encouraged the free exercise of faith.

"Rededicate 250" to "One Nation Under God" is a basis for the celebration of the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. The rededication ceremony and celebration will take place on May 17 on the National Mall in Washington D.C. Americans are invited by Pres. Trump and his administration to join in petition, prayer and thanksgiving on the National Mall and in churches and communities across the nation.

Benjamin Franklin urged and lead our founders, as they deliberated over the conduct of the revolution and the creation of our founding documents, to pray daily for "divine protection." Franklin said, "If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without his aid?"