

Memorial Day: In God We Trust

May 28, 2017—They were two elderly people. A husband and wife standing with a large crowd in front of the newly-opened World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was their first visit. If you have been there, you know how impressive and inspiring and beautiful as it depicts the global war that saved the world from tyranny, and describes the war on two fronts: the Atlantic and the Pacific.

People were happy and milling about. It was a beautiful, sunny day in D.C. as they looked at the Atlantic side of the Memorial. They saw the words of Eisenhower and Truman engraved in the panels. As they moved to the Pacific side, they saw the words of President Roosevelt announcing to the world the attack on Pearl Harbor. And the woman, holding her husband's hand—a World War II veteran—began to slowly and reverently read Roosevelt's words aloud.

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked. With confidence in our armed forces, with the abounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph." As she continued to read, she suddenly turned angry.

"Wait a minute," she said. "They left out the end of the quote. They left out the most important part. Roosevelt ended the message with "... so help us God." Her husband looked at her and said, "Maybe you are right, but I don't think we are supposed to say that anymore."

To which she said, "I know I am right. I heard it myself when he gave it." With that, the two looked at each other, shook their heads, and walked away.

She was right. Those are the precise words that the President used to end that historic speech to the nation. But, the creators of this monument to the God-fearing and brave men and women who fought and died for us, decided—in their pagan, politically correct wisdom—to exclude the reference to God from the etchings in the wall that was meant to honor them and that speech.

My friends, this weekend we celebrate Memorial Day and remember those brave men and women, our fallen heroes, who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their all for us. As a nation, the battle is on every day to maintain the presence of God in the public square, and to be sure that those who fought and died did not do so in vain.

This gospel [John 17:1-11a] we just heard gives us the words of a Risen Master, seated with His closest friends, His Apostles, about to leave us for His heavenly home, praying to the Father for them that they might be strong in the faith that He has now given them. The message to them is now a message to us in a world that will reject them, we have been chosen to live His gospel, to speak His message and to love others as he loved us. There is no greater time than now, in a society rushing toward a pagan cliff and God-less existence to be sure when the world around us wants to rewrite it, our nation was, is now, and always will be by our daily efforts, one nation under God.

We must never waiver in saying it, living it, and reminding others of the foundation upon which we stand.

You know, St. Peter in the first century church in the second reading we just heard [1 Peter 4:13-16] said it best: “If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you for the spirit of the glory and of God rests on you.”

My friends, may this Memorial Day—and every day—be a reminder of the sacred duty that falls to us so that others do not re-write our history. For we are always proud to say that, as Americans, IN GOD WE TRUST.

God love you.