

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

July 4. Independence Day. American flags waving. Red, white, and blue everywhere. Clothing made of flag material – flag hats, flag shirts, flag socks, even flag shoes. Parades and fireworks. Picnics and barbecues at the park. Family get-togethers.

Sounds like fun, huh? Sounds like the plans you have for the upcoming four-day weekend? Go to the river or four-wheeling with your friends and family, sitting around the campfire enjoying the soft summer evening. Or even just a barbecue in your back yard, kids running around screaming and playing, and maybe even splashing around in the swimming pool. What makes it all even better is that underlying feeling of peace and security that we Americans have been blessed with, thanks to the foundations of our great nation.

That's certainly the atmosphere in which I grew up. We had deep appreciation for our country. We felt chills when we saw our flag flying proudly atop the flagpole or in a parade. We watched movies that unashamedly told of our soldiers' bravery and our country's rescuing entire nations from tyranny and oppression. We were the good guys, and those whom we freed enthusiastically applauded and cheered as our troops rolled through their towns.

In school, we read the Declaration of Independence, memorized the Preamble to the Constitution, and learned the provisions of the Constitution that protected us and set us apart from most other countries. We were taught American history so we knew the foundations of all the wonderful freedoms that we enjoyed. Of course we could say anything, or express any opinion, without fear of that knock on the door by the Gestapo! Of course we knew there were unspoken rules of civil discourse that provided guidance on those things we should NOT say, or how best to express ourselves in a civil manner.

What has happened to all of that? It seems like we go through the motions each July, but that they are increasingly an empty shell, formed by our habitual practices, but with no content, no heart inside. How many of us actually spend any significant time thanking God for the privilege of being American? What do our younger generations know of our founding, of God's role in it, of how exceptional our nation is when compared with the rest of the world? ("Exceptional" here does not mean "better than"; it means an exception to the rule that almost all nations are ruled from the top, not governed by the people.)

Often we watch as Americans are asked obvious questions and can't answer them. For example, who was George Washington or Abraham Lincoln? Or when was the Civil War fought, or World War II? Who was John F. Kennedy or Ronald Reagan? What is the Bill of Rights?

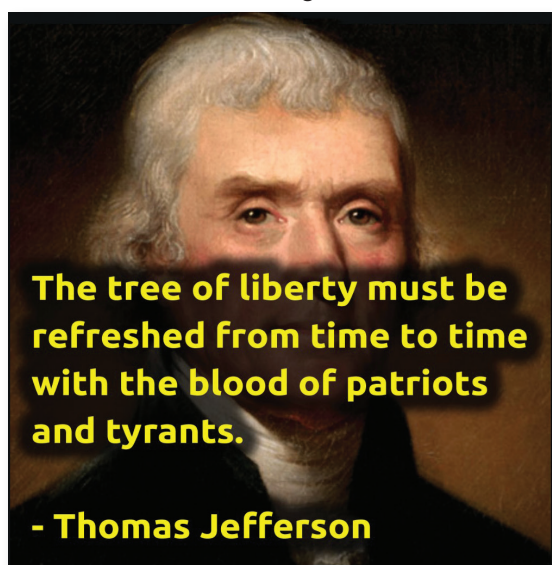
When we recite the Pledge of Allegiance (if we do anymore), do we know or care what we are saying? Can our younger

people even recite it from memory? Do they know the story of the Star Spangled Banner? Do they know the story of D Day, June 6, 1944, just passed on our calendar, and the horrific battle to secure the beaches of Normandy and keep going across Europe?

If for one can barely recite the Pledge now, because it has turned into empty words that we say by rote, without meaning them. If we did actually pay attention to those words, how could we say "one nation, under God", and how could we say with a straight face, "with liberty and justice for all"? Whether you like or hate Donald Trump, can you seriously say he is experiencing true Justice? How about those people languishing in prison who were present on January 6, 2021, who may have entered the Capitol Building at the invitation of the police, and who have not had speedy trials and who are receiving outrageously long jail sentences. They never burned a building or tore down cities as did Antifa, Black Lives Matter, and others. At worst, they committed misdemeanors.

I apologize for all the negative above. Unfortunately, it's not "negative" so much as it's reality. Our nation has been in serious decline for about 100 years, planned and executed by committed communists and God-haters. Some commentators say that it's our own fault because we've let it happen, and maybe we have, by becoming too comfortable to participate in the affairs of our schools and governments at all levels. I plead guilty.

Can we save it? Turn it around? Good question. I dunno. Do we have enough men of the quality and dedication of our Founding Fathers who can and will lead us in a turnaround, whatever form that may take? Be assured, that the Leftists (Communists and radicals) won't easily surrender and go quietly into the night. Remember the words of Thomas Jefferson: "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants." He foresaw what we are experiencing today. He knew that extricating ourselves from



governmental tyranny would not be pretty. We are there, folks. Our governments are corrupt. There is no true "justice for all", but only justice for the select few. We are being subjected to the rule of insane and looney politicians who, whether they know it or not, are being led by God's enemy, Satan himself. Up is down and down is up. Good is evil and evil is now good, and if you don't see what used to be evil as good, you are a hater and to be targeted for persecution. Sorry, but I won't pledge my allegiance to whatever this country has become. If I



say that pledge, it's to the United States that was, not this mess we are forced to live in now.

Turn to God! He's our only answer! He's the only Way we will be able to enjoy true Justice and true Liberty! God, help us, please!

Linda Gommel

The Lucerne Valley Fireworks Committee presents

FIREWORKS SHOW

AT PIONEER PARK

SAT, JUNE 29

5 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Catch a FREE bus or hay ride from the store. Fireworks committee members will help you park.

FIREWORKS 9 P.M.

ENJOY A FUN DAY OF FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT!

- MUSIC
- FOOD
- GAMES
- VENDORS
- BEER GARDEN

JULY 4 PARADE

THURSDAY 9 A.M.

ROUTE STARTS AT TRADE POST ROAD AND ENDS AT PIONEER PARK

Ring of the Liberty Bell and presentation of Trophies at 11 A.M. Bring your pop-ups, coolers, BBQ and kids!

Sponsored by Lucerne Valley Chamber of Commerce • 760-223-7164
Lucernevalleychamber@gmail.com

Lucerne Valley Residents:

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

June 29, 2024
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Behind Lucerne Valley Fire Station
33269 Old Woman Springs Rd.
(Enter through gate on Ladera Rd.)

CAN ONLY TAKE:

- Antifreeze
- Batteries
- Fluorescents
- Medical Needles
- Latex and Oil based paint
- All Electronic Wastes (E-Waste)
- Oil and Filters (max. 5 gallon containers)

NO TRASH NOTHING ELSE

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

