

## LOYALTY DAY 2008

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO CELEBRATE THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LOYALTY DAY, A DAY THAT ORIGINATED IN 1958 TO UNITE THE NATION IN ITS AFFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY TO COUNTER THE ANNUAL MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIST THREAT HAS ALL BUT DISAPPEARED--THANKS TO THE MANY SACRIFICES OF OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM WHO HAVE RISKED SO MUCH--LOYALTY DAY CONTINUES TO BE A VITAL COMPONENT OF AMERICANISM AND A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR DEMOCRATIC VALUES.

AS WE GATHER TO DEMONSTRATE OUR LOYALTY TO THE NATION WE NEED TO TAKE SOME TIME TO GIVE THANKS TO ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE PROTECTED OUR WAY OF LIFE AND

TO RECOGNIZE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE SERVING IN  
OUR ARMED FORCES TODAY.

ON THIS DAY, PATRIOTIC AMERICANS ACROSS THE NATION  
ARE REMEMBERING THE PAST AND THE MANY LONG  
STRUGGLES OF MAINTAINING FREEDOM. LOYALTY DAY  
GIVES OPPORTUNITY TO ALSO CONSIDER THE COST  
ATTACHED TO THE VICTORIES OVER TYRANNY, WHILE WE  
RALLY TOGETHER IN HOPES FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

TODAY IS A DAY TO COMMEMORATE AND CONFIRM THE  
VALUES UPON WHICH OUR NATION WAS CONCEIVED —  
AMERICA, THE LAND OF THE FREE AND A PLACE WHERE  
HUMAN DIGNITY IS CHERISHED ABOVE ALL ELSE.

IN CELEBRATING LOYALTY DAY, WE HONOR THE GUIDING  
PRINCIPLES OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THIS NATION —  
WE LOOK TO THE PAST AND CONTEMPLATE THE COURAGE  
OF THE RELATIVE FEW, WHO DECIDED THE DAY HAD COME

ON WHICH AMERICANS TOOK DESTINY BY THE HAND AND DECLARED THAT WE WERE A NATION READY TO GOVERN OURSELVES. AMONGST THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IS OUR FREEDOM, WHICH THEY HELPED US WIN.

AS CITIZENS, IT IS RIGHT THAT WE SHOULD TAKE STOCK OF HOW FAR WE HAVE EVOLVED AS A NATION OF FREE PEOPLE, AND HOW WE HAVE FULFILLED THE MANDATE LEFT TO US. AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND AND TAKE PRIDE IN KNOWING THAT THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ALL OVER THE EARTH HAVE BEEN CHANGED AND HAVE BEGUN TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. WE MARK THESE ACHIEVEMENTS KNOWING THAT AMERICA HAS DONE ALL THAT IT COULD DO TO PASS THE LEGACY OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM ON TO THE OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR MILITARY HAVE SACRIFICED SO THAT LIBERTY

BECOMES A REALITY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THOSE NATIONS. BECAUSE OF THEIR EFFORTS, ELECTIONS WERE HELD AND NEW, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN FORMED. THOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE ONLY MADE A START IN ADDRESSING THE IMMENSE NEEDS OF THEIR PEOPLE. THE LEGACY OF A HISTORY OF EVIL WILL NOT BE UNDONE IMMEDIATELY. IT WILL TAKE TIME TO COMPLETE THE TASK, BUT THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN LAID.

TODAY, WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOT ONLY PAUSE AND REFLECT, BUT TO REMEMBER AND HONOR THE MEMORY OF OUR VETERANS WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR FREEDOM'S SAKE.

WE ALSO NEED TO USE THIS OCCASION TO HONOR AND REMEMBER ALL VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED THIS NATION. BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS OF VETERANS, THE FLAME OF FREEDOM BURNS BRIGHTER TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE TRADITION OF SERVICE

DEMONSTRATED BY THOSE WHO SERVED PROVIDES LASTING TESTIMONY TO THE INDOMITABLE AND TENACIOUS SPIRIT THAT RESIDES IN THE HEARTS OF OUR VETERANS.

THE FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY WE ENJOY TODAY IS IN LARGE PART, GUARANTEED BY ALL OF THOSE WHO SERVED SO HONORABLY. ALL OF US NEED TO BE FOREVER THANKFUL TO ALL OF THEM FOR THEIR UNSELFISH DEVOTION AND FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS WILLINGNESS TO PUT THEIR LIVES AT RISK.

TO OUR LISTENING AUDIENCE, I URGE YOU TO PAUSE A MOMENT AND REFLECT UPON THE FREEDOMS THAT WE HAVE TODAY AND THINK ABOUT THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF THOSE — THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES -- WHO FOR OVER 200 YEARS HAVE PROVIDED OUR NATION WITH THE SECURITY SO WE CAN BUILD UPON THOSE FREEDOMS.

WITH TERRORISM EMERGING AS AMERICA'S NEW ENEMY,  
TREMENDOUS SACRIFICES WILL BE REQUIRED FROM OUR  
NATION FOR YEARS TO COME. THE ROAD AHEAD WILL BE  
DIFFICULT, BUT BY STANDING UNITED IN OUR QUEST IN  
PRESERVING DEMOCRACY, WE WILL PROVIDE COMFORT TO  
THOSE WHO GIVE SO MUCH ON OUR BEHALF AND LET THEM  
KNOW THAT AMERICA STANDS BEHIND THEM AND WILL  
FOREVER BE INDEBTED TO THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE.

GOD BLESS OUR MILITARY FORCES AND GOD BLESS  
AMERICA.

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