

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

2500 NE 78th St. Vancouver, WA 98665 ~ (360) 573-7127

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On July 4th we celebrate an event that took place in 1776: The Declaration of Independence was ratified by the thirteen colonies, marking the birth of the United States of America. This was a risky move on the part of the colonies. Challenging Great Britain, the world's super power, did not seem like a smart move to make. An eight year war ended in 1783 when the British conceded. Twenty-five thousand American soldiers died while defending that bold Declaration.

Freedom from tyranny was the reason Americans rebelled against their overlords in England, citing in the Declaration a long list of oppressive measures taken by King George III of Great Britain. Prior to this listing, the foundation was set forth: *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."*

What is freedom? An internet site defines it as, *"the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint."* Yet we know some restraint on total freedom is necessary for public protection against aggressors. Washington State has laws against murder, robbery, assault, etc. Those who violate these laws lose their freedom of movement when forcibly placed in jail/prison.

I am thankful for soldiers who protect us from external aggression, for police officers who protect us from internal law breakers, and for correctional officers who ensure confinement for convicted offenders. Without these services, we would be enslaved to tyrants.

Most of the world's inhabitants live in nations that do not grant the freedoms we have in the USA. North Korea tops the list of nations that severely persecute Christians, imprisoning and torturing thousands for the crime of worshipping the God of the Bible.

Jesus the Messiah described freedom within: *"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free"* (NAU John 8:31-32). True freedom is being a disciple of Christ and abiding in His truth. This is the only way to escape slavery to sin. Freedom is serving God who made us, and living according to His design.

As chaplains we see the face of death on many calls in the community. Jesus promised to free us from the curse of death. He said, *"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die"* (NAU John 11:25-26). In his letter to the Corinthian Church, the Apostle Paul wrote, *"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* (ESV1 Corinthians 15:54-55).

Let us give thanks to God for political freedom to live and practice our faith. Let us thank Him for freedom from sin and freedom from death's sting for all who place their trust in Christ. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Chaplain Al Walter

We are thankful for our first responders. Please continue to pray with us for their safety as they serve our county!

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