

Ordinary Heroes

The "shot heard 'round the world," fired in 1775 at Concord, may have ignited the war for liberty—but it was the concept of religious liberty that unified the colonies into one force. Though the colonies differed in theology and practice, their shared yearning for religious freedom helped bridge divides. It offered a moral foundation for independence and a vision of unity that transcended sectarian lines.

Liberty was defined as self-governance, an inalienable right, religious freedom, economic opportunity, and a communal duty. Liberty in 1775 was not yet the fully formed democratic ideal we know today—but it was a powerful rallying cry that united farmers, merchants, ministers, and radicals in a common cause.

These ordinary people were willing to risk their lives and livelihoods to ensure liberty for themselves and their posterity. These ordinary heroes performed extraordinary deeds—and created America.

America—a limited constitutional republic, never before seen on the face of the earth.

America—founded on the principle of liberty.

America—with the first right guaranteed in the Bill of Rights being freedom of religion.

From its inception, there have been those who opposed America and its liberties. Some have waged war to defeat her. Each time American liberty was attacked, ordinary men and women stepped up—leaving jobs, family, and home to take up arms and defend this country. These ordinary heroes performed extraordinary deeds and protected America. Each time America was tested, it grew stronger in its commitment to liberty.

It is fitting and proper that every November we pause to thank those who have worn the uniform of military service for our country. Without these ordinary heroes, the sacrifices of 1775 would have been in vain. Thank you.

From the beginning, there have been those who sought to destroy liberty from within. They have waged war against the Constitution, seeking to weaken or dismantle its protections. Each time the Constitution was attacked, ordinary men and women stepped up to defend liberty. These ordinary heroes endured persecution, ridicule, unemployment, and worse—to protect America.

It is fitting and proper that we pause to remember and thank those who have fought for liberty and defended the Constitution. Thank you.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty advocates for religious liberty.

Let Us Pray:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

Dear Lord, we pray that You will keep these, our nation's defenders and their families, physically safe and mentally sound. We also pray that You, who gave Your life upon the cross so that we might be forgiven and saved, will protect them from the spiritual enemies of evil they cannot see. Send Your holy angels to watch over them so that the wicked foe will have no power over them. In Your name. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for the chaplains of our armed forces. We give You thanks for these undershepherds. Keep them safe, and give them the words and the wisdom which will show to all that You are the Savior who is with Your followers wherever they go. In Your name. Amen.

Let Us Encourage:

The LCRL asks that you would commit to pray for the work of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces as it ministers to our veterans and their families.

Not only do we ask that you would pray, but that you would share this prayer request with your family, friends, neighbors, and congregation.

Please see:

https://www.lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces for more information about the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces

The LCRL askes that you would commit to pray for the work of the Alliance Defending Freedom. As it works to protect those whose liberty is being threatened.

Please see:

https://adflegal.org/ for more information about the Alliance Defending Freedom

