

## AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

7/9/2017

We have discovered in the last many week that America was indeed founded on a Christian belief system. That truth was very evident in the life of our founding father.

### I. THE EARLY YEARS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

- A. George Washington was born on February 22, 1732
- B. His father died in 1743 when George was 11 years old
- C. Most of his education was through home schooling and tutoring.
- D. He attended William and Mary College;
  - 1. In 1749 he received his surveyor's license.
  - 2. From 1788 until his death, he was the college's chancellor.
- E. At the age of 15 George Washington copied in his own handwriting 110 rules of civility and decent behavior in company and conversation. Here are three;
  - 1. When you speak of God, or His attributes, let it be seriously and with reverence. Honor and obey your natural parents although they be poor.
  - 2. Let your recreations be manful and not sinful.
  - 3. Labour to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience.
- F. When George Washington was leaving home to begin what would be his lifelong service for his country, he recorded the parting words of his mother; "Remember that God is our only sure trust. To Him I commend you...My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer."

## II. HIS CONTRUBITIONS TO AMERICA ARE BEYOND MARVELOUS

### A. Washington was so much to so many;

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> President of the United States from 1789-1797
2. He was Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.
3. He was a Surveyor.
4. Washington was a soldier.
5. He was a statesman
6. Washington was the chairman of the Constitutional Convention

### B. With all of his accolades he could have become king of the United States;

1. King George III asked his American painter, Benjamin West, what Washington would do after winning independence.
2. West replied, "They say he will return to his farm."
3. King George replied; "If he does that, he will be the greatest man in the world."

## III. THE MARVELOUS PROTECTION OF GOD WAS UPON WASHINGTON'S LIFE

### A. A Divine miracle during the French and Indian war occurred.

1. George Washington fought alongside the British General Edward Braddock.
2. On July 9, 1755 the French surprised them in an ambush attack.
3. Washington rode back and forth across the battle field delivering the orders of General Braddock.
4. Every other officer on horseback except Washington was shot down.

5. General Braddock was killed in the battle.
  6. On July 18, 1755 after the battle Washington wrote to his brother, John A. Washington; "But by the all-powerful dispensations of Providence, I have been protected beyond all human probability or expectation; for I had four bullets through my coat, and two horses shot under me, yet escaped unhurt, although death was leveling my companions on every side of me."
- B. Fifteen years later Washington and a close friend were traveling through the same woods when they met an old Indian chief, who addressed Washington through an interpreter:

"I am a chief, and ruler over my tribes. My influence extends to the waters of the great lakes, and to the far blue mountains. I have traveled a long and weary path, that I might see the young warrior (George Washington, from the day he had horses shot out from underneath him) of the Great Battle.

It was on the day when the white man's blood mixed with the streams of our forest, that I first beheld this chief. I called to my young men and said, mark yon tall and daring warrior? He is not of the red-coat tribe — he hath an Indian's wisdom, and his warriors fight as we do — himself is alone exposed.

Quick, let your aim be certain, and he dies. Our rifles were leveled, rifles which, but for him, knew not how to miss 'twas all in vain, a power mightier far than we, shielded him from harm. He cannot die in battle. I am old, and soon shall be gathered to the great council fire of my fathers in the land of shades, but ere I go, there is something bids me speak in the voice of prophecy. Listen! The Great Spirit protects that man, and guides his destinies — he will become the chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him as the founder of a mighty empire. I am come to pay homage to the man who is the particular favorite of Heaven, and who can never die in battle."

- C. A famous Indian warrior, who likewise was in that battle, said; "Washington was never born to be killed by a bullet! I had seventeen fair fires at him with my rifle, and after all could not bring him to the ground."

#### IV. WASHINGTON CONSTANTLY SOUGHT GODS LEADERSHIP IN WAR

- A. On July 4, 1775 General George Washington gave his General Orders from the Headquarters at Cambridge stating in part;

“The General most earnestly requires, and expects, a due observance of those articles of war, established for the Government of the army, which forbid profane cursing, swearing and drunkenness; And in like manner requires and expects, of all Officers, and Soldiers, not engaged on actual duty, a punctual attendance on divine Service, to implore the blessings of heaven upon the means used for our safety and defence.”

- B. On July 20, 1775 another order came from General Washington stating;

“The General orders this day to be religiously observed by the forces under his command, exactly in manner directed by the Continental Congress. It is therefore strictly enjoined on all officers and soldiers to attend Divine service. And it is expected that all those who go to worship do take their arms, ammunition and accoutrements, (additional items of dress or equipment) and are prepared for immediate action, if called upon.”

- C. General Washington was an avid supporter of Chaplains;

1. August 15, 1775 - Washington reported that fifteen chaplains were in service for twenty-three regiments and that twenty-nine regiments were without any.
2. Washington met daily with his Chaplain for prayer and Bible study.

- D. In a Manuscript book written by Washington the following prayer was found; “ O most glorious God, in Jesus Christ my merciful and loving Father, remember that I am but dust, and remit my transgressions, negligences, & ignorances, and cover them all with the absolute obedience of thy dear Son, that those sacrifices which I have offered may be accepted by thee, in and for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ offered upon the cross for me; for his sake, ease the burden of my sins, and give me grace that by the call of the Gospel I may rise from the slumber of sin into the newness of life. . . . These weak petitions I humbly implore thee to hear accept and answer for the sake of thy Dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”