



Invocation

Dan Schoeni, representative from the Billerica Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to the Bedford interfaith association and a Major in the United States Air Force

Friends and neighbors, fellow patriots, let us pray.

Dear God, it is to the God of many lands, of many tongues, of many faiths to whom we pray, to whom we raise our voices. We ask thee that thou would hear our prayer.

We offer a prayer of thanksgiving from this hallowed ground where a great revolution started, where patriots first bled and suffered for their country, and where a new birth of freedom commenced.

Here it was that a small band of rebels lit a fire that still burns in our hearts and lifted an ensign over a land where free speech would be cherished, tolerance would be encouraged, and men and women would be able to worship how, where, or what they may.

We know for those who lived then, in a land ravaged by war, much was uncertain; they fought a foe whose mighty navy ruled the seas. Victory was not a foregone conclusion. Yet against all odds triumph they did. We today are reminded of their heroism and sacrifice.

We too live in uncertain times; the path that lies before us is dark. We take hope that those who came before us overcame doubts, labored in faith, and found their way. We pray that that thou would guide us also, teach us thy ways, and help us to know what is right.

We beseech thee for wisdom, valor, strength: wisdom to know what is truly worth fighting for, valor to fight when we must, and strength to prevail when our cause is just.

As we gather in a lighthearted commemoration, we thank thee also for the simple joys of life. For the beauty of the earth and for this warm spring day. For family and friends and love ones. And for laughter and fun on a carefree Saturday morning.

We raise a hymn of grateful praise for hard won freedoms treasured down through the ages, and do so in thy holy name. Amen.