

What Is Worth Fighting For?

By: Robert Buckner

Having just passed through another *Memorial Day* holiday, and considering that its inception dates back to just after the *War Between the States*, in 1868, have Americans – generally – lost the sense of an understanding and appreciation for the reason and purpose of *Memorial Day*?

Originally called, *Decoration Day*, it was not made a federal holiday until 1971. However, if we can recall Abraham Lincoln's speech at Gettysburg, we can observe that Memorial Day has a different and greater importance than other nation's holidays marking the remembrance of their fallen soldiers.

I believe that most Americans have forgotten or perhaps never even knew, that America is the first and only nation to ever profess that their people's Rights are endowed to them by the God of Creation!

This makes us, America, unique in all of the history of nations!

Abraham Lincoln made *Decoration Day* so important because of the compelling circumstances of the time [for America] which he realized needed to be addressed. At the time he delivered his, "Gettysburg Address", November 19, 1863, the War Between the States (most times erringly referred to as: the, Civil War.), was at a pivotal point.

Lincoln knew that the continued structural-integrity of this "experiment" (as our Founding Fathers had frequently referred to the establishment of the American, Representative Republican form of government) could be severely stressed and challenged by this dreadful war.

In his Gettysburg Address, and in remarkably few words, Lincoln reassured America, by way of recalling the nature of *America* and *her* unique form of government!

After such numbers of dead and wounded – was there any *real* sense of legitimacy for America to continue? Where now was a validation for the sense of *uniqueness* and *exceptional qualities* that had heretofore been so apparent in this young nation?

Let us consider President Lincoln's Speech:

Gettysburg Address

Abraham Lincoln

November 19, 1863

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

Essentially, President Lincoln assured America – and indeed, the world – that there was no need to change or alter the American government which had been implemented by our Founding Fathers. Americans had fought, bled and died, but the American government was STILL: **of, by, and for** – “**The People**” – and well worth dying for to preserve!

President Lincoln believed that, individual American citizens whom had been endowed with their liberty and freedom - **By God** – could still – **Self-Govern!**

Whenever and where ever an American soldier dies in battle protecting America's ability to continue – they protect the *individual's Rights* – granted to them by God, to be able to enjoy and exercise the liberty to have the freedom of those Rights!

Is that worth fighting for?

Is that worth remembering and honoring?



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