THE EPOCH TIMES LIFE TRADITION



 $Our \ rights \ as \ Americans-which \ were \ hard-won \ time \ and \ again \ throughout \ history-come \ with \ great \ responsibility.$

'Earn This'

Our Rights and Liberties as Americans

Reflections on our nation's heritage and how to pass on its principles to our young people

JEFF MINICK

In the movie "Saving Private Ryan," Captain Miller and a squad of soldiers are sent to find and extract from combat a D-Day paratrooper, Private James Ryan, whose three brothers had died that week in military engagements. After a long search, they finally locate the private, but must then join other Americans to fight the attacking Germans. They win the battle, but only two men from the patrol survive this rescue of Ryan.

As Miller lies dying, he pulls Ryan close to him and whispers of his men's sacrifice, "James, earn this." Sagging backward, with his last breath he says again: "Earn it."

This request is as old as our country. From the books, speeches, and letters left behind by the Founding Fathers, we hear those words, "Earn this." On battle-fields from Cowpens to Antietam, from Château-Thierry to Iwo Jima to Khe Sanh, the voices of those who fell murmur to us, "Earn this." From the countless inventors,

We need to show our young people what it means to live as an American. farmers, miners, teachers, and millions of others who have helped shape the American Dream, if we listen closely, we hear the words, "Earn this."

Our Lives, Our Fortunes, and Our Sacred Honor

July Fourth is here once again, meaning that 246 years have passed since the United States declared its independence from Great Britain.

Continued on Page 2



In the day to day, it is important that our children and grandchildren see adults involved in family and community life.

'Earn This'

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Continued from Page 1

That declaration was unlike any other in the history of humankind, revolutionary in this don't do this, then you and I may well spend proclamation alone: "We hold these truths our sunset years telling our children and to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their like in America when men were free." Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." The men who signed that document pledged "to Each Other Our Lives, Our Fortunes and Our Sacred Honor." In other words, they signed their death warrants in their opposition to tyranny.

Since that momentous day, many men, women, and even children have made that same pledge in their hearts. They were the ones who gave us "amber waves of grain" and struggled to bring "brotherhood from sea to shining sea." From famous patriots such as Daniel Webster and Theodore Roosevelt to the countless Americans who paid with their sweat, blood, and tears to build this country, all knew in their bones that they were heirs to rights and liberties that allowed them to follow their dreams. Monarchs and dictators might rule other countries, but here, every man was a king and every woman a queen, individuals governed by laws, not by the dictates of tyrants.

And by word and deed, our ancestors passed along to their offspring the responsibilities and blessings of living in such a land. As the immigrant grandmother says of America in the film "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn":

"Here in this place, each one is free to go as far as he's good to make of himself. This way, the child can be better than the parent, and this is the true way things grow better."

That heritage of freedom was taught in our homes and schools and embraced by politicians and newspaper editors. Until now.

A Warning

Ronald Reagan spoke frequently about the fragility of liberty and the importance of its preservation. Long before he assumed the presidency, he delivered these remarks

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream. The only way they can inherit the freedom we have known is if we fight for it, protect it, gard the flag as a "controversial symbol."

defend it, and then hand it to them with the well-taught lessons of how they in their lifetime must do the same. And if you and I

Here Reagan reminds us that we ourselves are responsible for the safekeeping of our liberties and the pursuit of happiness, that we are the ones who must impart an appreciation and gratitude for these gifts to the young. In this passage, he implicitly asks this question: Are we keeping faith with those who came before us, honoring their love for "liberty and justice for all" by passing that torch to our children?

If the answer is no, then surely this Fourth of July is the perfect time to reignite this firebrand and bequeath it to the

A Sample Lesson

To hand over the ideas of rights and liberty to the young, we probably need to start with

Sean Salai reported in The Washington Times in "Flag Day Fades From Public Schools Amid Culture Wars," a recent informal survey revealed that 30 percent of school-age children didn't know the U.S. flag had 50 stars. Only 45 percent knew the original flag had 13 stars, and less than 20 percent knew that red, white, and blue stand for valor, purity, and justice. (Though I'm not a betting man, I would wager many adults don't know this last fact either.)

Independence Day provides the perfect teaching moment when we can share such information with the next generation. And if we lack that knowledge, we have hundreds of online sites at our fingertips to

Just a study of the flag, for example, can drop us straight into our country's past. What were the original 13 states? Who was Betsy Ross? Why are the colors of our flag red, white, and blue? What songs celebrate the flag? (Here we can choose from "The Star-Spangled Banner" to Johnny Cash's "Ragged Old Flag.") What were the last two states to join the Union and gain stars of

On this Independence Day, we might even consider hanging a flag from a pillar on our porch or apartment deck, although as Salai points out, some people today re-

deed, our passed along to their off– spring the responsibili

ties and bless-

ings of living

By word and

in such a land.

Daniel Webster defended the Union passionately: "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!"



"It is unpatriotic not to tell the truth, whether about the president or anyone else," Theodore Roosevelt said.



President Ronald Reagan often spoke about the

Teach Them the Truth The more we learn about the core docu-

ments of our country—the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, various Supreme Court decisions—and the more we study its story, the more we discover that democracy is messy. We learn, for example, about Jim Crow laws, which made blacks second-class citizens; about the internment of Japanese citizens during World War II; or about the deceptions practiced by our government on Native Americans. More recently, some politicians and corporate heads have become entangled with the Chinese Communist Party, in some cases abetting its policies of forced labor and oppression.

However, as we look at these wrongs, we also learn that, over the years, America has shown a remarkable ability to self-correct when it goes off-course. Self-criticism is innate in a republic such as ours.

But teaching history is only half the battle.

Making Every Day the Fourth of July

Just as importantly, we need to show our young people what it means to live as an American. They need to understand the importance of voting and bringing reason to public debates. They need to reject ideology as un-American. They need to see Mom and Dad involved in the family, going to work, and volunteering in the community. They need to spurn those politicians who promise benefits in exchange for freedom. In short, they need to learn to think and act like Americans.

July Fourth brings fireworks displays, backyard barbecues, vacations to the beach, and a day free from the office. For many, it's a great day of family, friendship, and fun. While we enjoy these festivities and enjoy them we should—let's be sure to remember those words of Ronald Reagan, and endeavor every day of the year to preserve and earn those rights and liberties bestowed on us by our ancestors.

Jeff Minick has four children and a growing platoon of grandchildren. For 20 years, he taught history, literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust on Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning as I Go" and "Movies Make the Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See JeffMinick.com to follow his blog.

PROVERBS TO CHERISH

'An Ounce of Prevention'

Ben Franklin is to thank for this time-honored proverb, which applies to so many aspects of life

ANGELICA REIS

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is one of those proverbs that many only half-know. In fact, probably most people can only recite, "An ounce of prevention."

The story behind this proverb and its potential for diverse application are fascinating. In my first piece on proverbs, I talked about proverbs as a sort of dying art. They are something that the generations before us have preserved—in some cases for a millennium or two.

And they contain so much wisdom that can help guide our lives. Some may feel that scripture alone can serve that function. Yes, for sure. But the neat thing about proverbs is that many originate from scripture. They are pithy encapsulations of truth that are meant to be incorporated into daily speech. They are a way of keeping these truths alive in our thoughts and words, and especially a way of educating the next generation.

So from that perspective, they are well worth reflecting on and, even more, using. Otherwise, they may disappear, along with many of the other treasures of our culture that are being expunged.

And now for the story behind how this proverb came to be.

In 1733, at the time, had visited and was impressed with one of its features: fire

preparedness.

Franklin, a Philadelphian Boston

min Franklin, and an anonymous letter he sent to a newspaper.

But though the letter was initially signed with a simple "A.A.," Franklin was ultimately credited with it.

In 1733, Franklin, a Philadelphian at the time, had visited Boston and was impressed with one of its features: fire preparedness. So the original use of the proverb wasn't about disease prevention, but about fire.

Franklin, being a reflective person who wanted the best for his then-city of residence, observed the methods of fire prevention that Boston had developed, and hoped that Philadelphia could adopt the same. So he wrote his letter to a newspaper he owned, The Pennsylvania Gazette.

One of America's most prominent papers at the time, the Gazette had been bought by Franklin and a partner when it was floundering, and they turned it into a success.

His letter, published on Feb. 4, 1735, was titled "Protection of Towns from Fire." It admonished that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" and then went into the ways the city should prepare for fire.

Here is an interesting excerpt of his letter, oozing with the humble charm of the day. Note that the "city in a neighboring province" refers to Boston.

"As to our Conduct in the Affair of Extinguishing Fires, tho' we do not want Hands or Good-will, yet we seem to want Order and Method, and therefore I believe I cannot do better than to offer for our Imitation, the Example of a City in a Neighbouring Province. There is, as I am well inform'd, a Club or Society of active Men belonging to each Fire Engine; whose Business is to pen; and to work it once a Quarter, and see it kept in order."

Father of firefighting, as his recommendations led to the founding of a fire company—

It traces back to Founding Father Benja- Philadelphia's Union Fire Co.—that became the standard for volunteer fire company organization.

So for yet another reason, we owe this founding father a debt of gratitude. (And of course also the firefighters that have our backs today wherever we may live!)

Thinking about how prevention plays a role in life, there is of course fire, and the use of "cure" in the proverb naturally calls to mind illness—like those annual checkups with your doctor—but prevention also comes into play in so many other areas

When you're brushing your teeth, isn't that an ounce of prevention? And changing your car's oil or attending to that peeling exterior paint before the rain gets through to the wood, and so on.

But, as in my last piece, I once again can't help but think about the importance of this proverb in guiding the next generation. There is the restricting of kids' use of technology, educating them about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, or even limiting who they get to spend time with, and the list goes on.

Those little moments of discomfort where you apply an ounce of prevention, in terms of their upbringing, are just so incredibly worth it in the end. If it's too little, too late, the situation can be hard to turn around.

Just like Franklin was getting at, it's better to prevent fires than spend time and effort putting them out. Much less clean up and repair after a disaster. So the next time you're wondering whether to take that awkward step and draw that awkward line with the little ones—or teens—in your life, think of Franklin's words of wisdom, and you may find you have the strength to do so.

attend all Fires with it whenever they hap- Angelica Reis loves nature, volunteer work, her family, and her faith. She is an English teacher with a background in classical music, and enjoys uncovering hidden Some have termed Franklin the Founding gems, shining them up, and sharing them with readers. She makes her home in New York state.





A fire engine purchased by George Washington in 1775 in Philadelphia, at the Friendship Fire Co. in Alexandria, Va.



Benjamin Franklin has been called the Founding Father of Firefighting.

person, pulling in the same direction, help-

ing the other when he or she struggles, or

humbly admitting when you yourself fail.

And you can't know if you can do life with

that person unless you move away from

the screen and spend time with each other,

face to face and side by side in the everyday

In that sense, it's encouraging to hear

Cavendish report that more singles are

ditching the dating apps and choosing

in-person meetups instead. And hearing

that those singles want to meet face to face

should give us one more idea regarding

what we can do to help rebuild the culture.

should "try online dating," why not help

them out in other ways? Hold backyard

BBQs and invite singles you know to partic-

ipate, mixing in married couples with chil-

dren at the event as well, both to smooth

the awkwardness and provide a model for

the singles to follow. Or if you don't have the

bandwidth to host singles in your home,

invite them to church or concerts or sport-

Get to know them yourself, asking them

what they are looking for in a mate and

Instead of simply suggesting that singles

matters of life.

Beyond Online Dating, Back to Basics

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

The wedding industry is booming in the post-COVID world. Yet the fuss over wedding flowers, gowns, and photographers can't cover up an ever-growing reality: A large portion of the American adult population is single.

Philadelphia Fire Department, Engine Co. No. 21, circa 1875.

Nearly half of Americans over the age of 18 land in this category, according to the Census Bureau, and 62 percent of that group have never been married at all. That means there's a high chance every one of us has a friend or two still in the dating market. And, of course, being the helpful friends that we are, we've probably asked them some form of the following question: "Have you tried online dating?"

Online dating—which 15 to 20 years ago was viewed as the last resort for those who couldn't find a mate in the real world—has now become a standard way to meet a significant other. But while the acceptability of online dating has soared, interest in it may be souring. Indeed, it seems possible that "the days of online matchmaking are numbered," according to Lucy Cavendish at The Guardian.

Cavendish, herself a middle-aged divorcee, decided to dip her toe into the online dating world, but found to her surprise that many singles view the apps with skepticism.

"People are jaded and fed up," she wrote. "No one seems to know what they want and trying to meet anyone has proved nigh impossible." Part of the problem is that, as Cavendish put it, "no one really knows how to date—what to say, where to meet or recognize if there's chemistry—so we give up, leaving us baffled and frustrated." Why such confusion and frustration? One

answer lies in Neil Postman's book, "Amusing Ourselves to Death."

Writing in 1985, Postman couldn't foresee the huge role the internet and smartphones would play in our everyday lives and relationships. But he did see the problems that television caused in those same areas, and therein lie some important revelations for

"Television is our culture's principal mode of knowing about itself," Postman wrote. "Therefore—and this is the critical point—how television stages the world becomes the model for how the world is properly to be staged."

Put another way, what we see through our phones and screens today becomes our model for how to stage ourselves in dating or other social media profiles. Instagram influencer X poses with duck lips and is constantly jumping from boyfriend to boyfriend? We do the same. Public figure Y wears a man-bun and tight jeans and waxes eloquent on how it's important to recognize his white male privilege? We follow suit.

Postman continues:

"It is not merely that on the television screen entertainment is the metaphor for all discourse. It is that off the screen the same metaphor prevails. ... In courtrooms, classrooms, operating rooms, board rooms, churches and even airplanes, Americans no longer talk to each other, they entertain each other. They do not exchange ideas; they exchange images. They do not argue with propositions; they argue with good looks, celebrities and commercials. For the message of television as metaphor is not only that all the world is a stage but that

the stage is located in Las Vegas, Nevada." The reality is, when we live in the world of the screen—when everyone tries to portray themselves like Kim Kardashian or Justin Bieber or some other public figure—everything is a sham. Real life is not like what's portrayed on the screen. And sham is the last thing that must happen in a dating relationship.

In dating, it's not a matter so much of whether the other person is pretty or handsome, smart, and checks every box on your list of must-haves for a spouse. Rather, it's a matter of whether you can do life with that

where they

online dating to singles, why not invite them to in-person events might meet

then keeping an eye out for those qualities in other singles of the opposite sex. Strong, intact families make up the core of culture. But those families will never start unless our young people can get over the hurdle of figuring out how to meet each other and bond over something other than a screen. Why not start smoothing the way for that to happen?

ing events.

Annie Holmquist is the editor of Intellectual Takeout and the online editor of Chronicles Magazine, both projects of the Charlemagne İnstitute.

When they first met in 2016, Derek Julian (L) and Connor developed an immediate bond, which only strengthened over the years.

Boy, 11, Shares Journey of Being Adopted by Stepfather

ANNA MASON

or an 11-year-old boy from Cincinnati who was officially adopted by his stepdad into their forever family, that special day meant the world to him.

"I'd been waiting for it for a long time," Connor Julian told The Epoch Times. "When the judge said I was officially adopted, I burst into tears because I was just

so happy and relieved that it happened." There's no doubt that the preteen shares a great bond with his adoptive father, Derek Julian, 43; the story of how they became a family is a touching one.

Derek met his wife, Sarah, now 34, for the first time 14 years ago, when he was working at a college and she was enrolled in a medical program. They soon became friends and eventually dated for a period of time. Although they separated, the two of them continued to remain friends over

When Derek's grandmother, whom he was close to, died because of brain cancer and Sarah's father died in a motorcycle accident, the two became closer after having faced tragedies of their own.

While Derek had spoken to Connor, then 6, on the phone and on FaceTime, he only met him in person for the first time on



Week 26, 2022 THE EPOCH TIMES

and Connor.

"It was Christmas Eve, and Connor knocked on my door," Derek said. "We ended up spending a couple hours together, me, him, and Sarah."

After playing games and watching a movie, it was time to leave, as Sarah and Connor had another family event to attend that day. "We had so much fun together," Connor

said. "And when we were leaving, I was very upset."

Despite only just having met each other for the first time, Derek and Connor had bonded so much that Sarah had to turn the car around because Connor wanted to give Derek another goodbye hug.

From then on, the trio started spending more time together, and Derek and Connor's relationship only grew stronger. When Sarah and Derek went out on dates, Connor would join them, too.

"He was always a really good kid to take out to dinner," Derek said. "If we would spend an hour and a half or so in the restaurant, he'd sit there and color or play and really give Sarah and I time to talk to each other and reconnect. We just kind of became an instant family, the three of us."

Derek also began coaching Connor in baseball; something they bonded further over. One day, as they were going out, Connor asked Derek an unexpected question: Could he call him Dad?

"I felt like I'd known him a lot longer than I actually had," Connor said. "We shared so many memories that I just wanted to call him Dad."

Derek said, "I, too, really wanted it, but I couldn't say yes without talking to his mom first."

We shared so

many memories

to call him Dad.

Connor Julian

As Derek spoke to Sarah that day, she explained to him that she was OK with it, but didn't want to pres-

that I just wanted Derek and Sarah didn't tell Connor anything for a week, but Connor couldn't seem to let the matter go and asked Derek again.

That's when he began calling Derek "Dad." "I feel like it makes our relationship 10 times stronger," Connor said.

A few months later, on Oct. 13, 2017, Sarah and Derek tied the knot in a picturesque setting—a Christmas tree farm—with Con-

nor playing an important role. "We called Connor my best son," Derek said. "So he was kind of one of the best men

at my wedding as well." Connor recollects this special day as be-

ing emotional for all involved. "We were all just so happy," he said. "And every day from that point on, our family just got happier and happier every single day."

As soon as the couple got married, Derek knew he wanted to adopt Connor officially; Connor wanted the same as well.

However, the process couldn't happen overnight, Derek said, although Connor

Connor had already begun using Derek's last name in school on all his papers. When the teacher questioned him, he told her that he wanted to change his last name to Derek's and wanted to be adopted.

The couple also spoke to Connor at length about adoption and made sure that he understood what it was. The entire process took at least four years.

"I had to contact the biological father," Derek said. "He and I sat down for a couple of hours, and I told him how much I love Connor and how much this would mean to him and our family.

Connor's biological father then called Connor to ask if that was what he really wanted, and he signed over his rights to

> Derek. Once he had agreed, the process sped up, and Connor's adoption became official on April 5, 2021.

As the day arrived, the family was really excited, according to Derek.

"In fact, the first words that Connor said was, 'I get adopted today," he said. Because of COVID-19 re-

strictions, the procedure didn't happen in a courtroom, but in the

lawyer's office. "The judge was asking us questions, and neither of us had it together; we were a complete mess, with tears streaming down our

faces," Derek said. For Connor, the adoption meant so much to him, as he had waited for it for so long. The family has also grown since welcom-

ing baby Everly in April 2020, and Connor helps in caring for his baby sister. "Sometimes, if she's crying, I just walk

around the restaurant with her," said Connor, who adores being a big brother. Apart from being a really happy family,

Connor and Derek also make funny TikTok videos together and have a massive following on social media. Seeing the father-son duo together, people are surprised upon learning that they aren't biologically related, Derek said. "They don't believe it a whole lot of times.



Detroit Tigers baseball game.



baseball

A lot of people think Connor looks like me, especially the eyes," he said. "At baseball, we would tell people and they'd say, 'We

would never have guessed that." Sharing more about each other's personalities, Derek said, "Connor is very outgo-

ing, and he can talk to just about anyone." He also noted that Connor is a very kindhearted kid and doesn't possess a mean bone in his body.

Connor said he's extremely lucky to have such a great dad who's both loving and kindhearted.

The little boy also has advice for those in a similar situation as him: "You shouldn't try to rush adoption ... The more you try to push, the longer it'll feel like it's taking. So just let it happen on its own."

Derek said, "You're gonna have the ups, you're gonna have the downs, and the challenges and the wins. But it is worth every single tear and frustration you have. The end result is definitely worth

Alexandra was always well equipped to han-

dle the droughts and snow storms that threat-

ened her homestead in her youth, as she ages,

the conflicting desires of those around her

and the reappearance of a childhood friend

pose challenges that she feels less confident

This novel brings together many elements

of American culture worth celebrating. Alex-

andra is a heroine admirable for her industry

and determination, belief in innovation, and unshakeable moral compass. "O Pioneers!

provides readers with a glimpse into Ameri-

ca's diverse roots. The plains of Nebraska that

Cather describes are populated by Norwegians,

Bohemians, and the French; the different com-

munities, although characterized by unique

Willa Cather's "O Pioneers!" is a fresh-

feeling, engaging read that needn't be ap-

proached with apprehension just because

of its status as a classic. Teenage girls will be

most likely to enjoy the work because of its

strong female main character and the book's

Arianna Rudorf recently graduated from

the University of Dallas with a degree in

English. Although originally from Illinois,

she now lives in the Dallas area, where she

is pursuing certification to teach English at

romantic elements.

the high school level.

traits, all seem to complement each other.

in overcoming.

18-Year-Old Wins Mom's \$1,800 Challenge After Staying Off Social Media for 6 Years

Having been 'spared the drama' of social media, he invested his time in becoming a great student and athlete

E. S. ARMSTRONG

One Minnesota mother challenged her 12-year-old son to stay off social media until his 18th birthday, promising him a prize of \$1,800 if he accomplished the task.

Lorna Klefsaas, 52, a mother of four and a travel agent from Motley, Minnesota, heard on the radio about a "16X16 Challenge," where someone was given \$1,600 for doing something until they were 16 years old, and her attention was sparked. She and her husband had watched their three older girls struggle with social media to varying degrees as teenagers. One of their daughters even dealt with depression and anxiety as a result. Lorna wanted something different for her fourth child, Sivert.

"I just wanted to keep Sivert off of it as long as I could," she told The Epoch Times. So one day, popping into the kitchen, Lorna

casually threw out the challenge.

"I said, 'Siv, would you ever consider staying off social media until you were 18 if I paid you \$1,800?" she said.

Sivert, then 12 years old, immediately accepted the offer.

Now, at age 18 and a senior at Staples-Motley High School, Sivert said, "I accepted it because it was so much money! I probably hadn't had more than \$10 ever in my life. So, \$1,800 sounded like a fortune. I remember thinking I would have enough money to buy a house and a car."

Having never been on social media to begin with, he initially believed the challenge would be easy.

"It wasn't like I had to give something up—I just had to not start," Sivert said.

Motivated by the promise of the money, the challenge proved easy at first. However, by the time he reached his junior and senior years in high school, it became more difficult. As he grew older, he realized \$1,800 wasn't as large a sum as he first thought. But then, there were also the social inconveniences that came along with staying off social media.

"It was especially hard when I would meet new people. Everyone would ask for they didn't really know how else to stay in



Sivert Klefsaas (third from L) and his family. After his sisters struggled with social media as teens, their mother Lorna Klefsaas decided to do something different with Sivert.



Klefsaas, completing the challenge was "a matter of

For Sivert

touch with me," Sivert said.

Although perhaps some connections were missed during that time, he stuck with it. He had friends who knew about the challenge and kept him updated on the things he missed online. In the end, his determination to champion his goal "was a matter of pride."

"And a matter of how much time I had invested," Sivert said. "I didn't want to give up when I had already stayed off for four to five years! I really just wanted to win."

Lorna looks back and thinks the impact of his commitment has been "tremendous." Not only was he "spared the drama" of social media during his formative years, but it afmy Snapchat. When I said I didn't have one, forded him extra time that his friends were spending staring at computer and phone

Motivated by the promise of the money, the challenge proved easy at first. However, by the time he reached his junior and senior years in high school, it became more

difficult.

screens. He used his time for things that

"Sivert is a great student and a great athlete. He has invested his time in becoming the best high school student he can be, and it has paid off. I also think it has given tremendous

in person' skills," she said. "He is a good conversationalist, makes eve contact, and is engaged with the people around him. He has poured hours into his academic and athletics, and he is starting to see the rewards. He is going to be No. 1 in his class. He scored his 1,000th point in basketball this year, and he rushed for over 2,000 yards in his football career. I am extremely proud of him."

On the morning of Sivert's 18th birthday, Lorna walked into his room with the longawaited check for \$1,800. He won-he had stuck to the challenge.

"We both laughed about it, as we knew it wasn't anywhere near the amount of money I thought it was when I was 12. But mostly I felt proud of myself," Sivert said.

He plans to buy things for his dorm room with the money.

That very day, Sivert downloaded Instagram and Snapchat for the first time. The high school senior, who will be attending the University of Northwestern in St. Paul this fall to study business administration, said he likes social media for keeping up with his friends and family.

Lorna said her son is enjoying using social media, but he "isn't addicted to them."

"I know he will not allow social media to dictate how he feels about himself or his worth," she said.

One comment that Lorna has received from

many people is that she should have paid her son a lot more money to complete the challenge. And Lorna agrees. The outcome has been far more valuable than the expense. "At the time, I thought it was just a cute challenge—\$1,800 for 18 years. In retrospect,

I would have paid a lot more for the results

we got," she said.

Share your stories with us at emg.inspired@epochtimes.com, and get your daily dose of inspiration by signing up for the Inspired newsletter at TheEpochTimes.com/newsletter

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Great Reads to Celebrate the American Pioneer Spirit

ARIANNA RUDORF

The American frontier and the pioneers who it. From east to west, our country brought determined people of all backgrounds together in pursuit of the American dream. In showing how past generations of Americans shaped the land and how the land shaped them, the tale of Paul Bunyan, "Sarah, Plain and Tall," and "O Pioneers!" will foster in young readers an appreciation for our country. These books are great to introduce to your children this Fourth of July.

'Paul Bunyan' by Steven Kellogg

Pass on the story of a beloved figure of American folklore, with Steven Kellogg's entertaining picture book, "Paul Bunyan." The book provides readers with a biography of the lumberjack, beginning with his youth as a larger-thanlife baby with a dream of helping in his family's logging business. As Paul Bunyan grows (and grows) his adventures include grappling with grizzly bears and adopting Babe, his faithful blue ox. Paul Bunyan moves west taking a logging camp and Babe with him. His travels take him all over America, introducing readers to the Appalachian Mountains, the plains of the Midwest, and the heat of Texas and Arizona.

Kellogg's book depicts Paul Bunyan as an American hero who loves flapjacks and helping early American settlers. Special highlights of the story are the explanations of how the Great Lakes and the Grand Canyon came to be, and as it turns out, Paul Bunyan is responsible for both! With action-packed illustrations that make the tall tale come alive, this silly book will be a hit with readers aged 4 to 8.

Although 'Sarah, Plain and Tall' touches on themes of loss, the story abounds with love.

The Pioneer Family statue, sculpted by Avard Fairbanks, stands outside the North Dakota Capitol in Bismarck.

PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAROL M. HIGHSMITH'S AMERICA PROJECT IN THE CAROL M. HIGHSMITH ARCHIVE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

Another classic children's story, which features a character leaving Maine and going west, is

'Sarah Plain and Tall'

by Patricia MacLachlan

"Sarah, Plain and Tall" by Patricia MacLachlan. Charming in its gentle simplicity, this book tells the story of Anna and Caleb, two children growing up on a prairie homestead, as they come to love a newcomer in their lives, Sarah. A mail-order bride who might marry their Papa, Sarah arrives with an independent spirit, a cat named Seal, and stories of the sea. Sarah's affection for her old home is clear and the landscape she describes is so different from Anna and Caleb's home, that the children worry that she may miss the sea too much to ever be content with living amid endless hav fields.

Although "Sarah, Plain and Tall" touches on themes of loss, the story abounds with love, both within Anna and Caleb's family and in the way the prairie and coast are described. MacLachlan's writing poignantly communicates Sarah's love of the sea and also shows the beauty of the prairie as if seen through eyes as fresh and honest as Sarah's.

Love and affection are also emphasized between Anna and Caleb and their father, and the hopeful attitude with which they look forward to Sarah's arrival is a refreshing alternative to the meanness often present in stories that feature a possible stepmother.

A well-written, heartwarming chapter book for young readers, this book will appeal to both girls and boys aged 7 to 10.

'O Pioneers!' by Willa Cather Set on the Nebraska prairie, the narrative of

Willa Cather's novel "O Pioneers!" stretches over decades to show the hardships and successes of Alexandra Bergson, who, as a teenager, was charged with working the land her immigrant father sacrificed for.

Although the novel starts slowly, readers will soon become invested in Alexandra's story and the stories of those around her. While practical-minded

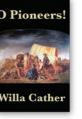
'Paul Bunyan' **Author** Steven Kellogg

> **Publisher** HarperCollins, 2004



'Sarah Plain and Tall'

Patricia MacLachlan **Publisher** HarperCollins, 2015 **Pages**



'O Pioneers!'

Author Willa Cather **Publisher** SMK Books, 2009 **Pages**

WHEN THE

SHOOTING

STOPPED

Shooting Stopped:

August 1945

Barrett Tillman

Osprey Publishing, April

When the

Author

Publisher

12,2022

Pages

A List for Every Day

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

came across it when my mother died Going through the obligatory paperwork, letters, and odds and ends, L I found a list scrawled on a creased envelope among old bills and receipts. I held it in my hand, transported back to the day, many years ago, when I was young. I had given my mom an article from the Reader's Digest that had caught my fancy entitled "Bloom Where You Are Planted." It was a reader's true story of her Aunt Rose, I believe was her name, a maiden aunt who created a daily list to keep her going after her true love died in World War I. My eyes glistened with tears as I read aloud my mom's own interpretation in her handwriting of what to do



A muscular conversation with someone who has opposing opinions, now that's a mental exercise!

Nancy Jane Smeets

1. Do Something for Someone Else

Well, this seems easy enough. Even if it's a compliment to the checkout clerk at the grocery store, or a smile to a stranger. Even better, holding a door open for someone, or taking a deep breath and allowing the cranky driver to cut impatiently in front of you on a busy trafficky afternoon when you yourself are in a hurry. Putting the dishes in the sink for a family member. ... OK, done.



The note found by reader Nancy Jane Smeets.

American morality is in decline, and the

population is starting to take note. Half

of Americans—a record high number—

now rate U.S. morals as "poor," according

"Consideration of others" is the leading

indicator of this moral decline, Americans

say, followed by "racism/discrimination."

Yet we really didn't need a poll to tell us

about this decline in morality. The increase

in carjackings and violent crimes tells us

that, as does society's fixation on deviant

sexual practices and on self-absorption in

general. The decaying morality of culture

is enough to make any person who is just

ANNIE HOLMQUIST

to a recent Gallup poll.

2. Do Something for **Yourself**

This will be hard for many of us. Stressed-out parents, teachers, and health care workers are by nature those who give give give, with little or no thought of taking time out for a relaxing walk, a nap, a massage, or even a treat. Shakespeare wrote [in "Henry V"], "Self-love, my liege, is not so vile a sin as self-neglecting," and if we do for ourselves, love ourselves, we can better serve others. Charity really begins with loving and taking care of ourselves.

3. Do Something That Needs to Be Done That You Don't Want to Do

A tough one for me! Picking up the dog poop, laundry, taxes, dishes, the list is endless. Homework, housework, answering emails or texts or letters. We can procrastinate all we want, and those chores will still stubbornly exist. It's amazing that once you get up and "get it done," the next thing doesn't seem so hard.

4. Physical Exercise

I admit I enjoy combining No. 2 and No. 4! Riding my horse ticks off both those boxes, as it is extremely strenuous and super fun. Moving your precious body God gave you should be a joy! Of course, a trip to the gym may be more like maintenance, but lots of us really like going to the gym as well. A little stroll around the block will suffice and get you outside. Dance! Yoga, tennis, golf, soccer, pickleball, you name it!

5. Mental Exercise

Hmmm ... does Facebook or Instagram or any social media count? No, that's really entertainment, isn't it? How about picking up a really good book. Checking out a phrase or two in a foreign language just for the heck of it; learn how to say "thank you" in Portuguese. Crosswords, puzzles, a game of cards. A muscular conversation with someone who has opposing opinions—now that's a mental exercise!

6. Original Prayer

In the lovely Reader's Digest story, the author was surprised to find out that



most misfortunate and going through

children, our leaders, our planet ... give

thanks for my blessings ... You get the

the roughest time; our country, our

idea. This prayer will come from your heart, and God will always listen. My mother's birthday was just the other day, and I cherish this little scrap of envelope from her. I'm so grateful it found its way into my hand and wasn't resigned to the dustbin, but lingers here now—to be able to share this simple recipe for a happy, productive life with this generation, the next generation and, hopefully, many more to come.

Yes, put God first in your life. He made you and knows all about you, knows your thoughts, even when you don't think

pitch, even the best constitution will be

Many in America may well wonder if we

have gone beyond that certain pitch, for

ineffectual, and slavery must ensue."

some elements of slavery—or a lack

of freedom-seem to prolifer-

ate across our nation through

the laws that are passed,

through the speech that is

hindered, and through the

ideologies that are forced

upon us. Likewise, en-

emies threaten to oppress

us, whether they are abroad

in countries such as China or

ern border, or even in our lo-

cal neighborhoods, where

inflation eats our earnings

and threatens to starve us

closer to home at the open South-

—Nancy Jane Smeets, California

the important things that need to be done each day, from doing something for someone to chores to getting outside.

A daily list, such as the one that

used, can remind us to prioritize

Nancy Jane Smeets's mother

thing beautiful to see! Listen for sounds speaks to your heart.

Appreciate your friends and family before it's too late.

—David Harrell

What advice would you like to give to this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral foundation can future generations thrive.

name, state, and contact information to NextGeneration@epochtimes.com 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

them. His love is greater than any love we experience on earth! Be thankful for the air you can breathe,

the fact that you're alive! Strike the words, "I'm bored" from your vocabulary! Look for beauty, there's always some-

that are calming: a friend's voice, a loved one's voice, a child's laughter, music that

the younger generations? We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch, if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned experience. We feel that the passing down of

Send your advice, along with your full or mail it to: Next Generation. The Epoch Times. **BOOK REVIEW**

How the War in the Pacific Theater Ended

DUSTIN BASS

Few subjects have been more dissected in article, essay, and book form than World War II. It is more than fitting that this should be the case for the largest conflict in world history.

Renowned historian Barrett Tillman has provided another dissection of the war. In his new book "When the Shooting Stopped: August 1945," he presents what took place in the Pacific Theater during the final days of the war and shortly after Japan surren-

The Bomb and More

When it comes to the end of the war in the Pacific, one moment stands out (two, really): the dropping of the atomic bomb. Although there were many other events surrounding this major one, they've gotten shrouded in the debris and destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

While the Manhattan Project was ongoing, pilots, sailors, and soldiers were mopping up an enemy that was for all intents and purposes defeated. Bombers flew missions over Tokyo, demolishing the massive city and home of Emperor Hirohito. Carriers were on the move toward mainland Japan, along with other ships.

And with the European Theater ending, more soldiers were being shipped over to fight the final leg of the war. All of this was taking place while Japanese military and political leaders debated over how to surrender or whether to persevere to the bitter end, even to the point of national annihilation. Tillman places all of these perspectives in plain view of the reader.

Along with presenting all of the bigger pictures, he introduces smaller events, like sorties and dogfights of American pilots, and conversations and correspondences from the U.S. Army brass, such as Gens. Douglas MacArthur and Curtis Lemay, and Adm. Chester Nimitz.

Tillman ushers in all the rumors about the war's end, or its impending end, that swirled around those still fighting. The author demonstrates the polar opposite feelings pilots had concerning their missions: for some, the distress of risking a mission when the war seemed all but over, and for others, especially for new pilots, the distress of missing a chance to fly a mission at all.

Aside From the US

As World War II's final chapter was coming to a close, there were countless mov-



Buckner Bay, Okinawa, on Aug. 12, 1945.

ing parts across the globe, but specifically in East Asia. There were still Japanese troops in China, where Americans were still fighting, and the Russians were attacking through Manchuria. Tillman clearly displays the noose tightening around the neck of the Empire of Japan.

As World War II's final chapter was coming to a close, there were countless moving parts across the globe.

As the noose tightened, the leaders of the Empire could hardly see eye-to-eye on matters of immense urgency. As the country was burning, literally, there was hesitance, indecisiveness, and hubris. Tillman discusses the warnings issued to Japanese citizens of numerous cities that were on the list of targets and the aftermath on the ground of the two devastated cities. The author proves that the Japanese leaders were preparing their citizens to fight to the death and that the citizens were prepared to follow through with the suicidal act.

Theories have progressed over the decades that the war could have been won, that the Japanese would have surrendered, without the dropping of the two atomic bombs. But importantly, Tillman informs the reader that these theories arose between the 25 years from the war's end and the release of classified intelligence documents. These documents show that the Japanese did intend to continue fighting. These theories still remain despite evidence proving the bombs necessary to spare not only American lives, but millions of Japanese lives as well.

The Aftermath of the War

A good section of the book discusses Hirohito's acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration, the dramatic coup that was attempted to stop him from doing so, and the suicides of various military and political leaders who agreed and disagreed with the emperor's decision.

The author ties in the many political and economic issues at play regarding the rise of both communism and democracy across the globe and how that played a role in setting up America as Japan's overseer to ensure they abided by the peace treaty terms Dustin Bass is the host of Epoch TV's and, as protector, to ensure they did not fall prey to Joseph Stalin and the USSR.

on the global stage was MacArthur, in a Sons of History podcast.

role that was both military and political. Along with Stalin rose Mao Zedong, as the Chinese civil war between the Communists and the Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, came to an end, with Kai-shek escaping to Formosa, now Taiwan.

Tillman also shows that despite the world finally absolving itself of a global war, some regions remained in conflict, specifically in Asia, primarily Korea and Vietnam. The former soon consumed the career of MacArthur, and ultimately President Harry S. Truman, as well as the lives of more than 30,000 U.S. soldiers.

Incredible Detail and War Stories

"When the Shooting Stopped: August 1945" is rich in the details of stories rarely if ever presented. Naval and Air Corps heroes of the United States, Britain, and other allies are discussed in full, shining a spotlight on those perhaps overlooked due to their proximation to the atomic bombings.

For readers who wish to know the details of events that took place early- to mid-August, 1945, this is a wonderful addition to the World War II discussion.

"About the Book: A Show about New Books With the Authors Who Wrote Among the leaders who found their place Them." He is an author and co-host of The

BOOK REVIEW

'The War on the West': Ringing Response to Denying a Positive Western Tradition

STEPHEN OLES

"In recent years it has become clear that there is a war going on: a war on the West, a cultural war, being waged remorselessly against all the roots of the Western tradition and against everything good that the Western tradition has produced."—Douglas Murray

In his previous book, "The Madness of Crowds: Gender, Race, and Identity" (2019), Murray compared himself to a machine that explodes land mines so that soldiers

may follow more safely behind. The British author, only 43, who has written for National Review and the Spectator, may be the most valuable and articulate critic of everything that ails Western society today. He bravely and forcefully takes on subjects that most of us are afraid to even bring up.

His "The Strange Death of Europe" (2018) details the impact of that continent's welcoming in millions of Third World migrants. "The Madness of Crowds" exposes the destructive insanity of identity politics. Now Murray completes the trilogy with "The War on the West" (2022), an appropriately infuriating but ultimately moving and inspiring defense of Western civilization against the cultural vandals who seek to destroy it from within.

Poisonous Flowers

The book is divided into four sections: "Race," "History," "Religion," and "Culture." Murray marshals an army of facts against those who see nothing in the Judeo-Christian West but racism and oppression.

He traces this trend back to the 18th century, showing how Enlightenment self-criticism brought forth in the 20th century the poisonous flowers of nihilism and Marxism.



The advent of prosperity in the West came from trade. "Gdansk in the 17th century, a port of the Hanseatic League," 1865, by Wojciech Gerson. National Museum in Poznan.

Pages This was followed in the 21st century by

that dismiss our civilization as evil and exploitive while celebrating everything non-Western as blameless and morally perfect. Conservatives have long believed that the worst, most extreme ideas of the Left, born in the academy, would stay there. Once students graduated, got jobs, and had families they would wise up. This hope turned out to be false. Since the 1960s, young people have carried the radical notions that they acquired in college into nearly every insti-

Patriotism, marriage, religion, and tradition became dirty words and several generations were taught to hate or at least be embarrassed by their country and the civilization that gave rise to it. (I remember a course, when I was in college, that

tution and corporation in America.

"critical race theory" and other movements

boiled down American history to exactly four events: slavery, the Salem witch trials. segregation, and McCarthyism.)

Author

Publisher

Douglas Murray

Broadside Books

(HarperCollins), April 202

'The War on the West'

Murray says that since every decent American knows and laments the history of slavery and racism in this country, decades ago "racist" became the worst thing one American could call another. Two years ago, when the George Floyd video shocked the nation, the left jumped at the chance to seize power by weaponizing racial division. Although no evidence was ever produced that Floyd's killing by a rogue cop had anything to do with skin color, extreme leftists were off to the races, denouncing everything and everyone who got in their way as racist and "white supremacist."

A Ringing Defense

Murray chronicles the resulting hysteria

from the Black Lives Matter riots to the Journal of the American Medical Association encouraging doctors to "level the playing field" by "letting more white people die." All this self-loathing has given the Chinese Communist Party the perfect excuse for China's miserable human rights record.

With even our current president declaring the United States a hotbed of "systemic racism," a Chinese ambassador could confidently deny the United States the right to "get on a high horse and tell other countries what to do."

This may all sound depressing, but Murray's dry sense of humor makes it hilarious as well. His conclusion is a ringing defense of the civilization that developed universal human rights and banned slavery, and that gave people of all races and nationalities modern science, medicine, and free markets, along with the cultural gifts bequeathed by Shakespeare, Beethoven, and Michelangelo.

While he never denies the West's imperfect moral record, he asks why only its sins are dwelt upon, while all non-Western cultures are celebrated, and their sins glossed over or blamed on Western influence.

In his indispensable trio of books, Murray gives us the factual ammunition to see clearly where we are and how we got here, and to push back against malicious "cancel culture." Through it all, he remains optimistic:

"We in the West need to transform our societies from societies of resentment into societies of gratitude, to recognize that what we have is highly unusual, and to have some gratitude for that. [...] And if we feel grateful for that, then to add to that inheritance as well."

Stephen Oles has worked as an inner city school teacher, a writer, actor, singer, and a playwright. His plays have been performed in London, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Long Beach, Calif. He lives in Seattle and is currently working on his



From conducting business honestly to raising children well, how we live our lives influences others.

from Britain.

trying to live a decent, honest life throw in the towel and say, "That's it, it's gone, there's nothing I can do about it!"

To Gain More Freedom, American Morality Must Increase

But such a response gives up far too easily and before the fight is over. There is a solution to the decay of our nation, and it was laid out by one of our Founding Fathers in the first year of our independence

Declaration signer John Witherspoon, speaking in his 1776 sermon "The Dominion of Providence Over the Passions of Men," said, "Nothing is more certain than that a general profligacy and corruption of manners make a people ripe for destruction." Such destruction may be prevented if a good government is in place, he said,

> into submission to those who create the inflation in the first But there is a way to thwart such enemies and escape slavery, Witherspoon told us. "When the manners of a nation are pure, when true religion and internal principles maintain their vigour, the attempts of the most powerful enemies to oppress them are commonly baffled and disappointed." This is not some simpleton religious mantra or naivete, Witherspoon assures us; rather,

Witherspoon maps out the path: "He is the best friend to American liberty, who is most sincere and active in promoting true and undefiled religion, and who sets himself with the greatest firmness to bear down profanity and immorality of every kind. Whoever is an avowed enemy to God, I scruple not to call him an enemy

it is something that nature itself confirms.

but only for a time, for "beyond a certain" to his country. ... It is therefore your duty in this important and critical season to exert yourselves, every one in his proper sphere, to stem the tide of prevailing vice, to promote the knowledge of God, the reverence of his name and worship, and obedience to his laws."

> ligion stinks and that those who follow God and his laws of morality are prudes and bigots who must be disposed of as quickly as possible. But as Witherspoon told us, it is those who stand firm on following God's laws—teaching them to others as well—who have the power to save a nation about to slip into the abyss. Witherspoon, circa

Simply living in a right way

ourselves—going to church,

Our culture tells us that re-

walking in right relation with God, being honest in our business practices, raising our children to be kind and respectful—and then encouraging others to do the same will go a long way toward "stem[ming] the tide of prevailing

A portrait of John

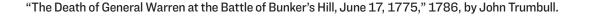
1790, by an unidentified

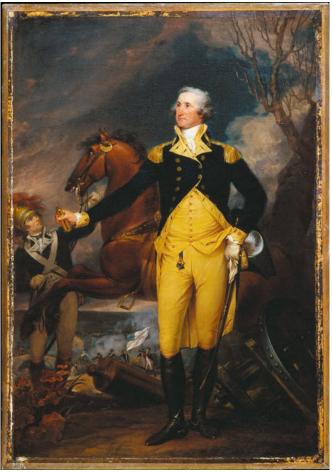
American artist.

The solution to reversing America's moral depravity is simple: Start with ourselves. When each of us personally holds to good and high morals, walking in God's ways, those ways can't help but spread to others.

This article was originally published on Intellectual Takeout

*Annie Holmquist is the editor of Intel*lectual Takeout and the online editor of Chronicles Magazine, both projects of the Charlemagne Institute.





"George Washington Before the Battle of Trenton," 1792, by John Trumbull.

ART EXPLORATION FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART

The Picture of American Independence

ANDREA NUTT FALCE

"The establishment of our new Government seemed to be the last great experiment, for promoting human happiness, by reasonable compact, in civil Society."

—George Washington, in a letter to Catharine Sawbridge Macaulay Graham, Jan. 9, 1790

e're living in the Great Experiment. Established less than 250 years ago, the United States is founded on the revolutionary conviction that independence, hard work, and honor can bear great fruit. Americans benefit from a prosperous legacy of faith, hope, and grit. The treasures of our heritage are a gift that each generation has the power to squander or save.

On July 2, 1776, more than a year into the Congress first approved a resolution declaring U.S. independence from Great Britain. The document, which came to be titled the Declaration of Independence, was drafted and presented by the Committee of Five, which included its primary author, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, as well as Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert R. Livingston of New York, and John Adams of Massachusetts.

In honor of its drafting, Adams sent a letter to his wife Abigail. He wrote: "I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more."

July 4 is the date emblazoned at the top of the Declaration of Independence because that day marked the final revision of the extraordinary document. Adams's predictions proved correct. The first commemorative festivities for freedom began in the following year, 1777. In Boston, on the first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration, there were fancy dinners, fireworks, and songs. In Philadelphia, ships pulled up and blasted their cannons 13 times for the original colonies to honor independence. There were military displays, small arms fired, fine patriotic colors donned, bells wrung, and more fireworks blasted. It was reported that "the face of joy and gladness was universal."

U.S. history recounts the trials, celebrations, and hopes of men and women for freedom. Though in truth, all history is a story of the human struggle for freedom, American history remains exceptional for its courageous success. The United States was created to stand firm against the ageold and inevitable overreach of avaricious government. We're the land promised to men and women of conscience, individuals devoted to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Along with our freedom and prosperity, the spirit of honorable people who blazed a trail to American liberty and independence is rightly commemorated on the Fourth of July. Deep thought and true action are a great portion of our inheritance. Lessons taught by freedom fighters are emblazoned in our minds and on our hearts. Letters, archives, art, and artifacts help us recall what we're made of and what we were made for.

John Trumbull

The work of one Early American artist serves to preserve history particularly well. While vou'll certainly recognize his commemorative work, have you ever been introduced to the character of John Trumbull?

Born in Rhode Island in 1756, Trumbull lost the use of one eye in a childhood accident. Perhaps the accident contributed to his unique perspective. He was a soldier arms battle for sovereignty, the Continental in the American Revolutionary War and an aide-de-camp to Gen. George Washington. He was at the Battle of Bunker Hill, and he painted it! While serving in Boston, he sketched plans of the British and American battle lines to help his budding nation.

Though he earned a less creative degree from Harvard and spent the first years of his adult career as a soldier, Trumbull proved so passionate about art that after serving in the U.S. Continental Army, he sailed to England to pursue painting. Trumbull took a serious risk entering the nation he'd fought against, in order to study traditional methods of painting, and, while in London, his anti-British sentiments gained attention.

On Nov. 20, 1780, in reprisal for the hanging of a British major by Americans for spying, Trumbull was arrested by British authorities on the charges of high treason. He was held in prison until June 1781. When the influence of powerful friends finally effected his release, Trumbull was given 30 days to leave England.

Trumbull returned to Connecticut, where his father had served as governor between 1776 and 1784. While a painter's profession was less than favorable in the eyes of the prominent Trumbull family, Trumbull pursued his chosen path with American determination. He became the portrait artist of American history.



A portrait of Alexander Hamilton, 1792, by John Trumbull.



A self-portrait, 1802, by John Trumbull.



"Declaration of Independence," 1817-1819, by John Trumbull.

Today, the artist is better remembered than any politician among his once-pow-The treasures erful relatives. Do you know what Alexander Hamilton looked like? Think of the \$10 bill. of our heritage That iconic image hails from a Trumbull are a gift portrait. When one envisions the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it's likely that each the imagination drafts in part from Trumbull's most famous work, accordingly titled generation has "Declaration of Independence." the power to It took the artist almost five years and

many meetings with American leaders, especially Jefferson, to gather working sketches of the signers. He completed the large painting in 1819. Though some believe his smaller images of the signing were better, Trumbull's "Declaration" remains a monumentally significant historical work of art.

If history is the story of the events, ideas, and actions that have affected people in times past, art comprises the pictures and soundtracks of their tales. Trumbull was a soldier, secretary to statesmen, and a prisoner of war, but the most lasting contribution he made to his nation came in the form of art memorializing the American spirit. As Adams pointed out, the way we com-

memorate—how we remember—matters. The only part Adams seemed to mistake about American Independence was the date we'd celebrate. Adams believed Independence Day should be honored on July 2. So staunch was he in that opinion that he would refuse invitations to celebrations held on July Fourth! Still, the Fourth was a powerful day in his life and death.

Adams, signer and great defender of the Declaration of Independence, and second president of the United States of America, died on July 4, 1826-50 years to the day from the first American Fourth of July. Jefferson, primary author of the Declaration of Independence, and third president of the United States, also died on Independence Day, five hours before Adams.

The two leaders had major differences and disagreements, but they were united in writing, hoping, and striving for a great nation. Perhaps divine providence pulled them together.

Jefferson once wrote to Adams: "The simultaneous movements in our correspondence have been really remarkable on several occasions. It would seem as if the state of the air, or state of the times, or some other unknown cause produced a sympathetic effect on our mutual recollections."

Adams's last words were, "Thomas Jefferson survives."

He was right in the essentials. In Trumbull's work, the two giants can still be seen standing together with strong early Americans. Fine works memorialize fine lives. Through both, the vision of American independence survives. It falls to us whether we strip or invest the incredible inheritance of American freedom and prosperity.

Andrea Nutt Falce is a happy wife and mother of four. She is also a Florentinetrained classical realist artist and author of the children's book, "It's a Jungle Out There." Her work can be found at AndreaNutt.com







66 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. ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865), 16TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED S



DRAFT A



n July 2, 1776, the group of American colonists known as "the committee of five" submitted their draft of what came to be the Declaration of Independence. The authors were: John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson, who composed the majority of the work. The Second Continental Congress

then took two days making edits

to the document. On July 4, it was unanimously approved by the Con-

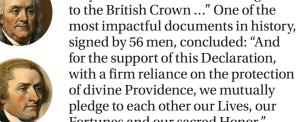
gress and stated "that these United

Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that

they are Absolved from all Allegiance

ALL PHOTOS BY SHUTTERSTOC





pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

By Aidan Danza

THE ROBIN'S NEST



WHY DIDN'T

KING GEORGE

LIKE THE

COLONISTS?

Nesting begins with spring migration, when robins return from their wintering grounds to their summer residences. Males will choose and mark their territories by singing, which serves the double purpose of marking the territory and attracting a mate. Though I can't enter the robin's mind to verify this, I suspect that robins, and birds generally, feel happy when they sing.

vary in size, much like human residences. Whereas some men live on farms, ranches, and estates, some robins have larger territories. The smaller territories are usually concentrated in dense vegetation, like an apartment building or city. Robins will fight intruders, especially in the beginning of the nesting season, when property lines are still being established. Robin

to the participants, with the worst injuries usually being confined to the loss of a few feathers.

Most robins build their nests in trees, but in areas where there are no trees, the are forced to make do with buildings or the ground. While males and females often build together, the female seems to take the lead, with the male bringing material or not helping at all. Nests are built first with an outer foundation of grass and small twigs, which is filled with mud that dries into a brick-like structure. Then, the nest is lined with finer material, usually dead, brown grass. However, sometimes other materials, like bits of string and horsehair are used. Now, the nest is ready for eggs.



2 This state had four signers of the

4th U.S. President (5,7)

field of ____ (4)

10 Certain bell (7)

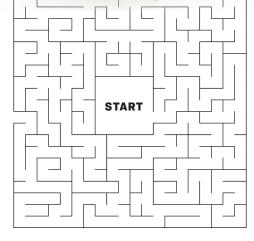
Declaration of Independence (11)

Thirteen stars were originally on a

5 Originally there were 13 _____ (8)

8 First colony to declare independence

from England on May 4th, 1776 (5,6)



USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, - AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: $6 + (7 \times 3) + 1 = 28$ and $1 + (7 \times 3) + 6 = 28$



Solution For Easy 1

1×(6-8×6)



Solution for Medium 1 14+13+1-11

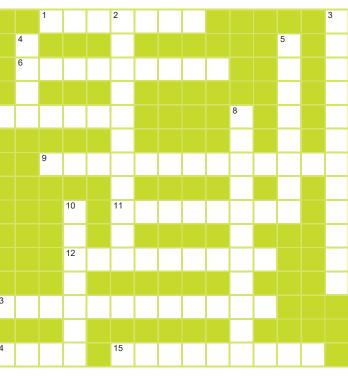




- Battle on April 19, 1775 (9)

11 Body with a House & Senate (8)

Independence (4,5)



1 "Shot heard 'round the world" Kind of seat (6) Eighth State to ratify the U.S.

Constitution (5,8)

- - 12 Famous for her flag! (5,4) **13** "Glorious" sight (8,4)
 - 14 Month of Independence Day (4)
 - 15 Signer of the Declaration of

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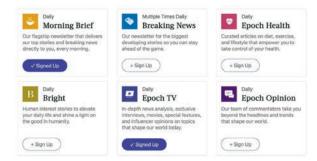
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