

I AM THE NATION

I WAS BORN ON THE 4TH OF JULY 1776 AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE IS MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE. THE BLOOD-LINES OF THE WORLD RUN IN MY VEINS BECAUSE I GAVE FREEDOM TO THE OPPRESSED.

I AM MANY THINGS AND MANY PEOPLE. I AM THE NATION.
I AM 270 MILLION SOULS AND THE GHOST OF MILLIONS WHO HAVE LIVED AND DIED FOR ME.
I AM NATHAN HALE AND
PAUL REVERE. I STOOD AT LEXINGTON AND FIRED THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD.
I AM WASHINGTON, JEFFERSON, AND PATRICK HENRY.
I AM INDEPENDENCE HALL, THE MONITOR AND THE MERIMAC.
I AM LEE, GRANT, AND ABE LINCOLN.

I REMEMBER THE ALAMO, THE MAIN, AND PEARL HARBOR.
I AM JOHN F KENNEDY AND MARTIN LUTHER KING.
WHEN FREEDOM CALLED I ANSWERED AND STAYED UNTIL IT WAS OVER, OVER THERE. I LEFT HEROIC DEAD IN FLANDERS FIELD, ON THE ROCK OF CORREGIDOR, ON THE BLOODY HILLS OF KOREA, IN THE STEAMING JUNGLES OF VIETNAM AND PLACES LIKE BERUIT, LEBANON, GRENADA, SAUDI ARABIA, THE SANDS OF KUWAIT, AFGANISTAN, AND IRAQ.
I AM THE WHEAT FIELDS OF NEBRASKA, AND THE BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA.
I AM THE COAL FIELDS OF THE VIRGINIAS AND PENNSYLVANIA.

I AM THE GOLDEN GATE AND THE GRAND CANYON.
I AM FORREST, FIELD, MOUNTAIN, AND DESERT.
I AM THE QUIET VILLAGES AND THE CITIES THAT NEVER SLEEP.

I AM THE BALLOT DROPPED IN THE BOX, THE ROAR OF THE CROWDS, AND A VOICE OF A CHOIR IN A CATHEDRAL. YOU SEE THE LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS IN ME AND HEAR THE STRAINS OF OLD LANG SYNE AS THE CALENDAR TURNS.
YES I AM THE NATION AND THESE ARE THE THINGS I AM.

I WAS CONCEIVED IN FREEDOM AND GOD WILLING IN FREEDOM WILL SPEND THE REST OF MY DAYS. MAY I POSSESS ALWAYS, THE INTEGRITY, THE COURAGE, AND THE STRENGTH TO KEEP MYSELF UNSHACKLED. TO REMAIN A CITADEL OF FREEDOM AND BEACON OF STRENGTH TO THE WORLD. THIS IS MY WISH, MY GOAL, MY PRAYER, 235 YRS AFTER MY BIRTH.

I AM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.