

## **In God We Still Trust: Remembering Our Foundation as We Celebrate 250 Years!**

As our nation celebrates its historic 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we find ourselves surrounded by parades, fireworks, and deep patriotism. It is a joyful season for our community here in Lillian, Alabama. Yet, this great milestone also gives us the needed opportunity to pause and look back. To understand where we are going, we must remember the foundation that was laid for us. That foundation was built on a deep faith in God.

Our Founding Fathers knew that a free nation could not survive without a strong spiritual anchor. They did not just rely on their own wisdom. Instead, they constantly looked to God for guidance, strength, and blessing. Look at the words of our very first president, George Washington. In his famous Farewell Address, he made it clear that faith is necessary for a country to succeed. He said: "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports." This echoes the Biblical wisdom found in Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people." Washington knew that laws alone cannot keep or make people good. We need faith to guide our hearts. John Adams, our second president, believed this just as deeply. He pointed directly to the source of our independence. He wrote: "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity." Adams also warned that our system of government only works when people follow God. He noted that our Constitution was made "only for moral and religious people." This aligns perfectly with Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Two Hundred and Fifty Years later, those truths have not changed. The same faith that carried our founders through dark, uncertain times is what will carry us into the future. We face our own modern challenges, but we do not face them alone. As we look ahead to the next chapter of the American story, let us renew our trust in the Almighty. I want to challenge each of us today to do more than just remember our history. We must return to it. I challenge our community to stand firm once again on our biblical convictions. Let us bring God's truth back into our homes, our conversations, and our daily actions. Most importantly, we must become a people of prayer. Our nation needs our prayers now more than ever. I urge you to pray daily for our leaders, our community, and the future of our country. Let us claim the beautiful promise found in 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." If we keep God at the center of our lives, we can move forward with confidence, knowing that His blessing will continue to guide our steps. Ultimately, we must remember that more than just asking God to bless our nation, we must strive every day to be a blessing to God and to others. If we keep God at the center of our lives and love our neighbors well, we can move forward with confidence, knowing that His blessing will continue to guide our steps.