

## AzFRW Americanism: Winter Meeting, February, 2016

Submitted by Priscilla Poese, Americanism Chair

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### *One Nation, under God...with Liberty and Justice for all.*

These last few phrases in the Pledge of Allegiance are reminders of the concepts and ideals which characterize the uniquely American Spirit.

**Abraham Lincoln** eloquently expressed the importance of preserving the American Spirit of Liberty in a speech he delivered in 1858, 2 years before he was elected as the nation's 1<sup>st</sup> Republican President. Lincoln said:

*“What constitutes the bulwark of our own liberty and independence? It is not our...battlements,...the guns of our war [ships], or the strength of our gallant and disciplined army. These are not our reliance against a resumption of tyranny in our fair land...*

*Our reliance is in the love of liberty which God has planted in us.*

*Our defense is in the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men...Destroy this spirit, and you have planted the seeds of despotism around your own doors.”*

As Republican Women, we are an important part of the effort to keep those seeds of despotism from taking root and spreading any further than they have in the last 7 years.

And we have the privilege of helping to preserve the American Spirit and our God-given, inalienable right to liberty.

