**Renewing American Patriotism**

To President Donald Trump’s credit, one of his first official acts after his inauguration was to sign a **National Day of Patriotic Devotion Proclamation**. It stated:

“A new national pride stirs the American soul and inspires the American heart. We are one people, united by a common destiny and a shared purpose.

“Freedom is the birthright of all Americans, and to preserve that freedom we must maintain faith in our sacred values and heritage.

“Our Constitution is written on parchment, but it lives in the hearts of the American people. There is no freedom where the people do not believe in it; no law where the people do not follow it; and no peace where the people do not pray for it.

“There are no greater people than the American citizenry, and as long as we believe in ourselves, and our country, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

“NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 20, 2017, as National Day of Patriotic Devotion, in order to strengthen our bonds to each other and to our country – and to renew the duties of Government to the people.”\*

This proclamation pointedly signaled a significant departure from the attitude of the President’s immediate predecessor, who always seemed uncomfortable with the concept of American patriotism. Unfortunately, events in our country since President Trump took office have shown all too clearly how eight years of the previous Chief Executive’s negative, divisive influence have damaged the sense of patriotism in far too many Americans.

The annual observance of **Patriot Day on September 11**, should be a time to not only remember the heroic acts in response to the tragic events of that day in 2001, but also to focus attention on the virtue of patriotism and its vital importance to the strength and future of our nation.

To quote the NFRW Americanism Committee, “Federation members and friends have an opportunity to inspire others to become passionate, patriotic Americans and to instill a renewed spirit of patriotism in the souls of others.” We now have a U.S. President who recognizes the necessity of a devotion to patriotism, and the strengthening of “our bonds to each other and to our country” if America is to be made great again. It will take more than a proclamation, or a day, to restore patriotism, but turning the optimistic and inspiring words of President Trump into a nation-wide reality should be a goal for Republican Women and all patriotic Americans.

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\*www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/24/2017-01798