



... to preserve the
blessings of liberty...



"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." (Galatians 5:13)

As we approach the Independence Day holiday and prepare for a special national day of celebration and commemoration, I hope you will reflect with me on the idealistic human impulses that led the founders of this country to risk everything to leave us the legacy of the nation that is our home today. Those courageous men and women staked their lives and fortunes on the principle that the people of this new nation would govern themselves, be free to worship as they please, establish and preserve certain inalienable human rights, and give meaning to the principle of ordered liberty. This year, on the 225th anniversary of its ratification, we pay tribute to the Constitution that memorialized these ideals and emblazoned them onto the course of our national journey. That Constitution is the oldest surviving written constitution on the face of the Earth. Let it be so for generations to come.

It is especially fitting here at Pepperdine, where we are committed to a mission of faith and freedom, that we personally and as a community give purposeful attention to our calling and duty to "preserve the blessings of liberty" for generations to come. For ourselves, our students, and all those touched by the Pepperdine experience, we must challenge ourselves to become active bearers of the torch of liberty lifted up by those patriots who we celebrate and honor on Independence Day. In the cacophony of a divisive political year, let us see as our purpose being responsible, thoughtful, measured models of the rule of law at work. So as we experience the blessings of liberty in the time-honored tradition of picnics, family gatherings, fireworks, homemade ice cream, boating, and however we celebrate, let us rededicate ourselves to living out the Pepperdine commitment to purpose, service, and leadership as the patriots of our time.

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