

**Chaplain:**

We gather to recall the men and women who imperiled their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to form these United States of America.

**All:**

Let us always remember.

**Chaplain:**

We recognize their boldness, their courage, their character. We honor their vision, their selflessness, their resolve.

**All:**

Let us forever respect.

**Chaplain:**

As the descendants of ordinary men and women who achieved extraordinary things, we salute their determination to forge a democracy within a republic, and we recommit to our fundamental responsibility to fulfill our obligations as active, engaged citizens.

**All:**

Let us pledge our patriotism.

**Chaplain:**

Let us then, each in turn, speak aloud the name of one Patriot whom we wish to honor today, *e.g.* "Patrick Henry," "Nathan Hale," "Margaret Corbin," or "Agrippa Hull."

**All:**

*Each member cites the name of a single Patriot (their own ancestor or any man or woman who aided the cause), citing service if known.*

**Chaplain:**

"E Pluribus Unum." From many one – let us remember that just as our ancestors united to found a nation, so must we strive to both serve and unite our beloved country in order to fulfill its perpetual destiny as a beacon for freedom-loving people everywhere on earth.

Our closing words were composed by the Father of our Country. Please bow your heads for "Washington's Prayer for our Nation."

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have the United States in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all, to do Justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the Characteristicks (*sic*) of the Devine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation. Amen."