We Are Guided by Simple Virtues

By Edward M. Byrd

Let's set the record straight on two counts: (1) The comments which follow express the thinking of the writer, not necessarily of this magazine in which they appear, and, (2) are not to be construed as an endorsement of any person or party.

"I hope my decisions as president would be guided by the religious principles in which I believe." This quote is attributable to President-elect Jimmy Carter. The spirit of the quotation is echoed by millions of Americans whose daily routines are guided by their faith in the Divinity, and whose daily functions conform as nearly as possible to the dictates of simple virtues.

Freedom of worship — religion as one wants it — uninhibited by political labels, or other restrictions, was one item behind the motivation that sent Pilgrims to Plymouth.

Two of America's great presidents whose contributions remain eternal made no secret of their faith in God:

Washington, kneeling at Valley Forge, making the sign of the cross an item of his Episcopal ritual, sought spiritual guidance in rescuing a new nation from the grasp of a foreign power.

Lincoln, not known to wear a denominational label, but a deeply religious person, kneeling in prayer at the White House, sought spiritual strength in his ordeal to save the Union and deliver men from the chains of human bondage.

After Watergate the executive branch of our government needs a voice which by the exercise of simple virtues can restore to the American people faith in themselves and give them the assurance that their government rescued by Washington at Valley Forge and saved by Lincoln at Gettysburg, shall not perish from the earth.

We are a nation of a three religious cultures— Catholic, Protestant and Jewish. They differ in their practices and rituals but their ultimacies are in common. Prior to the Kennedy administration (and even now to a lesser extent) Americans backed away from Catholicism in the White House.

In fact, the religion of Gov. Alfred E. Smith of New York was in many areas an open issue in the presidential campaign of 1928. He was a Roman Catholic; that alone was reason enough to vote for Herbert Hoover, instead. But the American presidency has included ten different religious denominations and the government "of the people" still survives as a Christian nation.

It remains only for the executive branch of the government, headed by the Jewish faith, to convince the American people that there is no conflict between the teaching of the Ten Commandments and the spirit of the constitutional preamble.

No matter what may be the religious tag of the President, the heritage of separation of church and state must remain inviolate. The adherence to one's religion must not negate his duty to his country nor soften his obligation to defend and uphold the constitutional rights of his fellowmen.

Ours is a democracy with faith in its God, living under a constitution pledged to the equality of all men, and it will survive as long as those who chart the ship of state are willing to follow the moral and spiritual guidelines laid down by the Holy Writ. The religious label of the White House is not an issue.

Freedom of worship sent the Pilgrims to Plymouth and highlights democracy which pledges equality to all regardless of the religion of the White House head

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HAWAII

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cient presence of "Negroids," Negritos and Australoids throughout much of Japan, China, Southeast Asia, Australia and the South Sea islands.

The Hawaiian islands, on which we are focusing in this article, were probably the last habitable areas of the globe to be occupied by man. Swarthy Melanesians, descendants of ancient Africans who migrated to Southeast Asia over several millennia, appear to have come to Hawaii (c. 400 A.D.) by way of the Malay peninsula, Java and numerous Pacific islands.

Thereafter, prior to the coming of Europeans, the people who settled Hawaii were essentially of black or brown complexion with wavy or close-curled hair, broad facial features and fine physiques. As among many other black people throughout the world, the ruling classes tended to inbreed; polygamy and polyandry were practiced, especially among the chiefs; and rank descended through the mother.

The Hawaiian people, having a soft and musical language, were fond of oratory, poetry, history, chants, riddles, story-telling, conundrums and proverbs and paid much attention to the proper use and pronuniciation of words. They were also an industrious people who made implements, weapons and utensils of stone, wood, shell, teeth and bone; built wood frame and thatched houses; had remarkable knowledge of animals and plants; and were great warriors, athletes and men of the sea.

In 1782 Kamehameha I (The Great) came to the throne of one of the then four kingdoms of Hawaii and, equipping himself better than his foes with vessels, firearms and foreign and native assistants, succeeded by 1795 in conquering all the islands except Kauai and Niihau, and in securing these two by cession in 1810.

As the first king to unify all the islands, Kamehameha I organized the government , encouraged industry, checked oppression and suppressed crime.

Several rulers followed Hawaii's first king; none, however, was so great as Kamehameha I and most fell victim to the powerful influence of recently settled American and European missionaries and the unscrupulous traders who overran the islands after the missionaries led the way.

The last native ruler of Hawaii was the well known Queen Liliuokalani. Following the queen's ascension to the throne on January 29, 1891, a Chicago newspaper woman, Mary H. Krout, described Liliuokalani's face as "strong and resolute. The features were irregular, the complexion quite dark; the hair was streaked with gray, and she had the large, dark eyes of her race."

Liliuokalani was a brilliant writer, poet and musical composer who worked tirelessly for the welfare of her people. In 1893, however, she was deposed and a provisional government set up with an eye toward annexation of Hawaii to the United States.

Thereafter, Hawaii became a territory of the United States in 1900 and the 50th state in 1959.

Few Americans, even today, realize that the first occupants of the 50th state were black people and that what modern Hawaiian's call "America's only monarchy" was composed essentially of black and near-black kings and queens.

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For those who refuse to accept these facts, the Hawaiians themselves eagerly recount the story of how in 1849 two young Hawaiian princes (one of whom, Alexander Liholiho, was the heir to the throne), while visiting the United States, were ordered out of a Pullman car in one incident and later refused dining-room service on a Hudson River boat because of their dark skins. These incidents had a profound impact on early Hawaiian opinion of the United States.

Ironically, today the few native Hawaiians remaining on the islands — now largely populated by Japanese, Chinese, Polynesian, Filipino and Caucasian types — are subject to many of the same forms of discrimination — which were nonexistent prior to the great influx of foreign peoples into the islands — against which their African-American brothers are fighting in the other 49 states.

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