

that we know the real meaning of unity. We will remember, and we will understand. the solemn pledge made in the concluding sentence of our Declaration of Independence:

“...with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor. ”

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REMARKS AT VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS  
LOYALTY DAY CELEBRATION

CAMBRIDGE

April 29, 1961

We have met here today to reaffirm our pledge of loyalty to the United States of America and to rededicate our lives to the principles of democracy. This post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is to be commended most highly for staging this celebration in which we give recognition to the American way of life, our government and its high principles.

There is no nobler attribute or characteristic of man than loyalty to his country.

Much has been written and said about patriotism, and there have been some grave misconceptions about it. Patriotism is not just marching behind a band, with chest thrown out in ceremonies such as this. Patriotism is not a flash of fireworks exploded one day in the year. Patriotism is not just joining a whooping crowd, with maudlin flag-waving and other surface sentimentalities. Patriotism is rather the sum of the three cardinal virtues—faith, hope and charity. It is faith in our principles of government. It is hope in the future of democracy. It is charity toward all and malice toward none.

Patriotism is loving one's country, respecting its traditions and honoring its people, high or low, rich or poor. It is standing firm and unselfish for the right, for the common good, for the peace and well-being of all, sacrificing self, if need be, and unafraid of all opposition.

And so, on this loyalty day, in 1961, let us express our gratitude to almighty God for this nation and for the principles of freedom and liberty on which it was founded. And let us renew our pledge that we will make any sacrifice we may be called upon to make to sustain our government, our freedom and our American way of life.