



Our National Motto: IN GOD WE TRUST

Rev. Peter R. Hook, Past State Chaplain

On July 30, 2024, the United States will proudly commemorate the 68th anniversary of our national motto, "In God we Trust." These four words resonate deeply with the foundational principles upon which our nation was built. From the Declaration of Independence to the halls of Congress, the acknowledgment of a Supreme Being has been woven into the fabric of American identity.

Our national motto, "In God we Trust," officially became part of our currency during the Civil War era, a period marked by profound national challenges. In 1864, amid the strife and division of war, Congress authorized the minting of coins bearing this inscription, symbolizing a unifying affirmation of faith and hope in God's providence during a tumultuous time. Then, on July 30, 1956, "In God We Trust" was established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and the U.S. Congress as the official motto of the United States of America.

As a Nation we believe there is one eternal supreme being. Not every individual believes that, but as a Nation, we are one Nation under God.

As a diverse nation, not all individuals share the same beliefs, yet collectively, we stand united under the recognition that there is an eternal supreme being. Our forefathers, inspired by their faith as expressed in the Sacred Scriptures, established a nation where the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are seen as endowed, not by government, but by God Himself.

For 248 years, the United States of America has upheld these principles, becoming a beacon of freedom and opportunity. President George Washington aptly noted, *"It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favors."* These words continue to resonate as we reflect on our history and look toward the future, guided by the belief that our liberties are rooted in divine providence.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to the values that have made America a land of promise and resilience, where "In God we Trust" remains more than a motto--it is a testament to our enduring faith and unity as a nation.

Blessings as you serve,



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