

# **PATRIOTISM**

## **America's Pledge Of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance, perhaps the third most ceremonial of patriotic acts (behind saluting the flag and singing the anthem) had its beginnings back in 1892.

President Benjamin Harrison, a Hoosier, had called for patriotic exercises in the schools to mark the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America. A pledge, written by Francis Bellamy of Boston for "The Youth's Companion," was adopted for the purpose and schoolchildren across the nation began to pledge their allegiance to the flag. It became a national tradition.

After World War I, the National Flag Conferences of the American Legion expanded on the original wording. In 1942, Congress made the pledge part of its code for use of the flag, and as late as 1954 expanded the wording to include "under God."

Of course, Independence Day is our major day of patriotism and was celebrated first in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. In succeeding years, it was celebrated on July 4, (the date of signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776).

—*Indianapolis Star*

## **Prayer And Our Nation**

Prayer in 1620 safely guided the Mayflower with the Pilgrims to a new world.

Prayer in 1623 saved the Pilgrim fathers from starvation.

Prayer in 1777 at Valley Forge saved the Continental Army and won the war for American Independence.

Prayer at Philadelphia saved the Constitutional Convention and gave birth to the American Way of Life.

Prayer in 1857 saved America from economic destruction.

Prayer in 1918 ended World War I and lack of prayer started World War II.

Prayer saved England at Dunkirk. Myriads of fliers and servicemen of all nations lost at sea were saved through prayer.

—*Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations*