

Author's Letter of Introduction

Dear Colleague:

“He is the Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are judgment, a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.” Deuteronomy 32: 4

Deep in California's Mojave Desert amidst cacti, Joshua trees and fire ants there stands a monument erected in 1934 by veterans of World War I to honor their fallen comrades. The monument is a simple Cross, a symbol that has marked the graves of American veterans since the founding of America. Other Crosses mark thousand of graves of fallen veterans engraved on stones at Arlington National Cemetery, rows of Crosses at the United States cemetery at Normandy Beach, and hundreds of other places across the United States. Yet today the Mojave Cross is covered by plywood by court order because it is at the center of a battle over the constitutionality of religious symbols in public places. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the plaintiff's attorney, are demanding that the Cross be torn down. The Ninth Circuit Court agrees with the ACLU. Veterans and other patriots are fighting this opinion and on October 7, 2009 the case was argued before the Supreme Court. An opinion is expected in or around July of 2010. It has been the position of the ACLU that God does not belong in the public square because of the First Amendment Establishment clause. Thus Ten Commandment plaques, prayer in schools, and even the Christmas tree have been subjected to expulsion. Is this really what our Founding Fathers and Framers of our Constitution really intended? Millions of Americans are puzzled by the action of the ACLU and the effort to blot out God from the public square. The author believes it is timely and urgent to teach our children about the origin of our laws, morality and ethics. The intent of the Founders and Framers of the Constitution are researched through their speeches, writings and public prayers. It will be seen that from the first Pilgrim through the 20th century, America's leaders have prayed for God's help in time of crisis, and set aside Thanksgiving to God when those prayers were answered. In addition to ACLU effort to remove our cultural heritage, schools are failing to teach American history accurately or sometimes at all. Dr. Diane Ravitch, an educator from Columbia University has found that textbook publishers employ "Sensitivity Review Committees" who can and do rewrite history to make the outcome more to their liking. For example, one text has an exercise that asks whether Columbus deserved a holiday in light of how poorly he treated the Indians. Columbus was portrayed in a highly unfavorable and inaccurate light for the purpose of advancing multiculturalism. Ignorance also plays a key role. The McCarville report says that only one in four high-school students can name the first president of the United States. In Oklahoma new citizens get a test in America. The pass rate is 92%. High school students in Oklahoma scored a pass rate of 3.2%.

America is a country with ancient and deep roots in Christianity, and an honest study of American history show that American political, academic, and community leaders believed and taught Christian morality and build upon Christian principles in writing the Declaration of Independence, the Federal Constitution and State Constitutions. Our Founding Fathers believed that man's liberties were rights bestowed by God, and not rewards parceled out by men. These beliefs were rooted in God's Word, and were reflected in the writings and actions of America's leadership from the beginning. John Adams stated: "We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion...Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

The course, "Rock of the Republic" provides students with an overview of how Americans developed our laws relying upon Biblical teachings, and asking God for guidance. The course is designed to be given at the middle and high schools level in eight lessons totaling 12 55 minute sessions, as a supplement to your full semester American history courses. "Rock of the Republic" contains all lesson plans, activities, reference materials and exams you need to teach the course. The brevity of eight lessons given in 12 55 minute sessions does not allow for in depth discussion of these topics, but is meant to provide students with historical perspectives. Further reading is encouraged and a bibliography is of course included. Many of the historical texts are available on the internet and the URLs are included. The strong faith you will find reflected in the words of our Founders and leaders will inspire you and be an example to your students. Through this course you will help to roll back the fog of ignorance surrounding the history of our laws. Pulitzer Prize winning author of "1776" and "John Adams" David McCullough says that Americans are so ignorant of history that it constitutes a threat to national security. When you think about it, Mr. McCullough is right. If Americans are ignorant of our history, then anyone can come along and invent a history to suit their needs. A better informed citizenry will be able to provide "salt and light" and help their family stand up to false teaching in school and in the media, and in government.

Acknowledgements

In writing any history text, the closer you are to source material the better more realistic the understanding of what took place and why it took place. *American Historical documents* as published by Harvard University Press, contain a treasure trove of American history from the eyes of the lawmakers and leaders of those times. *Blackstone's Commentaries* by British legal luminary William Blackstone were the key legal texts used by both British and American attorneys well into the 19th century and continue have durable influence in the American legal system. *Democracy in America*, by de Tocqueville provides a remarkable understanding of what Americans called liberty, and their view of American exceptionalism. Some books have been out of print for over 100 years, but thankfully are back in print and permit an unclouded perspective into school life and profiles of America's Founders, and Framers. These works include *The New England Primer*, the *American Spelling Book*, known

as the old blue back speller by Noah Webster and *The Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States* by Benjamin Morris. I am indebted to Pulitzer prize winning historian David McCullough, Author of *1776* and *John Adams*, for his excellent work and strong advocacy for teaching of history in school.

I am deeply grateful to Manning Gasch, Jr former senior partner of the Hunton and Williams law firm who reviewed key legal concepts in *Rock of the Republic* to ensure my statements were on solid ground. Colonel Dennis Runey, USA ret, Founder and former Headmaster of Portsmouth Christian Academy following an honorable career in Army Artillery encouraged me in my labor and provided invaluable commentary in his review of the MS. Mary Laney, winner of over 100 awards for journalism including 8 Emmys, in her career as writer, editorial director and reporter for CNN, and CBS and NBC affiliates gave freely of her time and guidance. I need to thank my wife Francesca for her patience and support during the past 2 years, and my son Reed for his great cover design. The award for patience, diligence and clarity goes to my publisher and friend, Doug Matthews, President of Teaching-Point.

To God be the Glory.

Book Reviews

I am very impressed by the content, packaging, and teacher support materials. The course will indeed make a fine supplement to an American History course in junior high school or upper school. I must commend you for providing much needed instrument to better inform the students, perhaps for the first time, about the seminal documents and thinking that form the basis for our (America's) worldview. God bless you!

Colonel Dennis Runey, USA (ret). Founder and former Headmaster of Portsmouth Christian Academy

I would hope that my children's schools would adopt "Rock of the Republic." It is giving a true history of the United States, its founders, its leaders through the years and its Constitution. The lesson plans for the students are clear and concise. The teacher's lesson plans are laid on in such a thorough way that the teacher need do no more than read the lessons and teach the students. It's just excellent.....The material in "Rock of the Republic" is so germane to the circumstances of today. The students are living in a time when many believe that the Constitution is a living document and therefore can be obliterated. Student need to know that the Constitution was written for their continued freedoms in a free country. It is most appropriate for all classrooms.

Mary Laney, Multi-Award winning journalist as a reporter, news director for television, radio and print. Laney has won over 100 awards including 8 Emmys, and 4 Peter Lisagor Awards over her career at CNN, NBC's WMAQ-TV Chicago and CBS WBBM-TV in Chicago.