

President's Desk

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Shockwaves reverberated around the nation when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco declared the nation's Pledge of

Allegiance

unconstitutional. "Under God," the court said, was tantamount to an establishment of religion.

That very afternoon members of the House of Representatives stood on the Capitol steps to recite the pledge in defiance. The next morning, 99 U.S. senators did the same. Americans of all stripes balked at the notion that the name of God should be removed from the pledge. So overwhelming was the outrage that the judge responsible for this decision stayed the ruling the next day.

Outrageous Legacy

The response of Americans surprised us at CWA, because this decision was just one more example of what the courts have done for the past 40 years. In 1960, even though Americans had practiced it since the country's founding and one lone atheist stood against it, the court suddenly removed prayer from schools.

Then, in 1973, despite the fact that America was overwhelmingly pro-life, the Supreme Court decided that abortion should be "legal" and available during all nine months of pregnancy.



This radical and shocking decision literally transformed the culture.

Later decades saw court decisions ban Christmas celebrations in public schools, manger scenes and crosses on public property, and students' acknowledgement of God at graduations and football games. And Americans have seemed content to let the courts make these sweeping changes with hardly a whimper. Perhaps their lack of education in civics and American history has made them vulnerable to the radical left and impotent to stand against this bold usurpation of constitutional power.

The U.S. Constitution established three distinct branches of government to achieve a balance of power that was missing in the monarchies the Founding Fathers escaped. They wanted a nation with laws made by the

people and for the people. They charged the legislative branch with making laws and the courts with interpreting and enforcing them. But these activist judges have thrown aside that wisdom and stolen the rights of the people.

The outrageous pledge decision illustrates a problem that President Bush, with the help of organizations like CWA, is trying to fix. The president has appointed judges who understand their constitutional duty. But they have been blocked by the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Patrick Leahy. Liberals want activist judges who will force their leftist agenda on America.

We thank the 9th Circuit in San Francisco for giving us so graphic an example of judicial activism. We must stop electing senators who disrespect the Constitution and destroy the reputations of good judicial candidates.

In God We Trust


But why did this particular decision resonate so? The tragedy of September 11, when even hardened, independent Americans dared to open their souls to God, was still too fresh. As the nation sits in wait for the next attack, we need to believe that God is watching over us. This is a time when America feels an acute need to be "under God." The pledge ruling was the wrong decision at the wrong time.

But what does "under God" mean to most Americans? Is God a mere rabbit's foot or lucky charm we call upon for protection from terrorists? Like

rubbing the belly of a fat Buddha, ready to bring comfort or good luck in time of need? Heaven forbid that He should be reduced to such! If we are to acknowledge God, we must show Him the respect He is due. In order to invoke His name, we must submit to His authority.

During the Revolutionary War, George Washington was not only the general, but also the chaplain to his troops. He forbade soldiers to use God's name in a curse. His reason? They could not expect to curse God with the same lips they used to ask for His blessing.

While Americans want to accept God's protection, we must also acknowledge His boundaries. We cannot embrace all kinds of sexual deviancy; lie, steal and cheat in corporate America; ignore depravity in public officials, our neighbors and ourselves; and still claim that we are "under God."

Righteousness exalts a nation. To be "under God" is to acknowledge His ways. No court on earth can prevent that, and none can make it so. To this end, CWA pledges to continue to point the nation to God so that it will once again, in deed and not just in words, be "under God." 

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To read more about the infamous court decision on the Pledge of Allegiance, request a copy of CWA's new booklet, A Pledge to End Judicial Tyranny. \$3. Use the coupon on page 38 or call 800-323-2200 to order.