

## Notable Signers of The Declaration of Independence

**John Witherspoon** – ordained minister of the Gospel, published several books of sermons, played major roles in two American editions of the Bible, wrote the introduction for one (1791), “The Holy Bible”. (it wouldn’t have the king’s name...)

**Charles Thomson** – responsible for another American edition of the Bible – called Thomson’s Bible, first Bible translated from the Greek Septuagint into English. It took 25 years to complete and is still considered one of the more scholarly American translations.

**Charles Carroll** – on his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday he declared, “On the mercy of my Redeemer I rely for salvation, and on His merits; not on works I have done in obedience to His precepts.” He built and personally funded a Christian house of worship.

**Benjamin Rush** – leading educator helping start five colleges. He is called the “Father of American Medicine” personally training 3,000 students for their medical degrees. In 1791, Dr. Rush founded “The First Day Society” which grew into today’s Sunday Schools. He also started America’s first Bible Society: The Bible Society of Philadelphia. Rush stated that if every individual owned a Bible – and would study and obey it – that all of our social problems, including crime, slavery, etc., would diminish.

**Francis Hopkinson** – a church music director and editor of a music work from 1767 – one of the first hymnals printed in America. His work took the 150 Psalms and set them to music so that all could be sung much as David did over 2,000 years before.

**Richard Stockton** – one of nine signers of the Declaration of Independence who did not survive the American Revolution. Note his last words to his children, “I think it proper here not only to subscribe to the entire belief of the great and leading doctrines of the Christian religion, such as the being of God;

the universal defection and depravity of human nature; the Divinity of the person and the completeness of the redemption purchased by the blessed Savior; the necessity of the operations of the Divine Spirit; of Divine faith accompanied with a habitual virtuous life; and the universality of the Divine Providence, but also, in the bowels of a father’s affection, to exhort and charge [my children] that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom...”

**Thomas McKean** - Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He offered these words of wisdom to a man just sentenced to death, “You will probably have but a short time to live. Before you launch into eternity...it behooves you to reflect upon your past conduct; to repent of your evil deeds; to be incessant in prayers to the great and merciful God...to rely on the merit and passion of a dear Redeemer...and may you be qualified to enter into the joys of Heaven – joys unspeakable and full of glory.”

**John Hancock** – on Oct. 15, 1791 Hancock closes a proclamation calling the citizens to prayer with these words, “And pray especially that universal happiness may be established in the world; that all may bow to the scepter of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the whole earth be filled with His glory.”

**Samuel Adams** – in a 1797 proclamation for prayer he asked the people to pray for “speedily bringing on that holy and happy period when the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ may be everywhere established, and all the people willingly bow to the scepter of Him who is the Prince of Peace.”

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**George Washington** – although **not** a signer of the Declaration of Independence (he was Commander-in-Chief and therefore on the battlefield), when victory in the Revolutionary War had been won, Washington informs Congress of his resignation, and as part of a prayer he offers at that time he prays “that He [God] would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to

demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and [peaceful] temper of mind which were characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.” (The final thing George Washington reminds the governors and States is that if they don’t imitate Jesus, America won’t be a happy nation.)



General George Washington Resigning His Commission (1783)  
(A Painting in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol)

From Columbus, to the Jamestown settlement in Virginia, to the Pilgrims on the Mayflower, through the language contained in the charters and constitutions of the colonies, and by the lives and examples of the signers of the Declaration of Independence – we can see without a doubt that many of our forefathers were men of faith and fortitude. The historical record only gets more convincing as our timeline continues – documents prove that Christianity and faith were major influences in the development of our great nation. (Some of the most impressive documentation is yet to be shared!)

We are indeed thankful for the  
FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

## For God And Country The Birth of America



The Declaration of Independence In 1776  
(A Painting in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol)

### IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

#### The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the **Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them**, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that **all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...