

- Rev. Grant Mangold, Riverside Evangelical Free Church, [www.RiversideChurchIowa.com](http://www.RiversideChurchIowa.com)

## IN MEMORY OF

On Memorial Day, we solemnly remember all who lost their lives in the conflicts and wars of our nation. We rightly honor them, in light of the freedoms Americans enjoy, so that we do not lose our liberties from threats - without or within our borders.

We also consider the living, ~21.2 million veterans and the active ~1.4 million ready to lay down their lives. Informed Americans are rightly concerned about their well-being. You might have to seek out alternative resources, such as MilitaryFreedom.org and FreeRepublic.com and FRC.org - to get wide-ranging perspective on the plight of people in and out of armed services. It might make you wonder whether our government is repressing rather than respecting them.

Veteran Sam Clovis flew fighter planes, served at the Pentagon and Aerospace Command. A retired Colonel and college professor, he is on the Iowa ballot for U.S. Senate. As a constitutional scholar, Clovis observes, "*As our Founders warned, too much power visited in the national government will eventually lead to a soft tyranny. Unfortunately this appears to be the current situation. The liberty of every individual is protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. The Congress and the Administration would do well to pay heed to the Constitution and think first of the citizens and less about power.*"

The 1st Amendment says, "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*" The 2nd Amendment assures "*the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.*" The 14th Amendment says in part "*nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.*"

In John 15:13, Jesus said, "**greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.**" Hours after He uttered these words, He gave His life to pay for the sins of mankind and give abundant eternal life to all who receive Him as Savior and Lord.

The Framers of our republic tell us in their own words how they built America on God's Word, as a beacon of light for the kingdom of Christ. Even our unique three branches of government come from Isaiah 33:22, "**The LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our King, He will save us.**" Indeed, may the Lord save us from our own government!

On Memorial Day, let us pray to Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer, in the name of Jesus, who gives ultimate freedom. On behalf of those who gave their lives for our liberties, we ask God's healing grace, comfort and peace, for those who mourn their loss.

On behalf of veterans, we ask for the respect and jobs they deserve, the rights of arms, and the best healthcare anywhere. We pray those who serve today will truly protect our God-given freedoms for future generations. Protect them from evil and immorality in the ranks. May they enjoy all the rights of the Constitution they have sworn to uphold - including the freedom of religion, so the good news about Jesus can be freely shared by soldiers and chaplains everywhere. May our military do only good in the world, for lasting peace. Protect them from dishonorable people and dishonorable ends.

May WE whose freedoms have been protected, make sure they have not died nor sacrificed in vain. May we rightly honor them and make sure they receive all the rights and opportunities due them. May we be informed and concerned, and elect officials who uphold our Constitution, and serve according to the eternal principles of the Bible, upon which our nation was founded.

In a world in which mankind is at war with God and His Word, may we the living, in the armor of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, likewise lay down our lives. For the benefit of others, like our Founders, may we personally send forth the light and liberty of the gospel of Christ throughout our community, our country, and our world, so that more and more people, in and out of uniform, will find true life and liberty through Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior, in whose mighty and powerful and glorious name we pray, Amen!