

FOURTH OF JULY INVOCATION

BY CHAPLAIN DAVID GROVER

Whether you, yourself, are a person of faith, or out of respect for those around you who are, please join me in exercising our 1st Amendment Right of Religious Freedom, as I pray for our world, our country, and our soldiers.

Almighty God, creator, sustainer and savior of mankind, defender of truth and righteousness and freedom, we assemble this morning before you, to acknowledge your sovereignty over the affairs of mankind. We admit, Lord, that you aren't Republican or Democrat. In this crowd there are bound to be some of each party along with a good representation of Independents and a sprinkling of anarchists. After all, this is the "Live Free or Die" state! But you, O Lord, transcend our petty politics.

This morning we assemble to remember our history. Patriots of our past immortalized their conflicts with mottos like, "Remember the Alamo," "Remember Pearl Harbor," and in our time, "Remember 9-11." Yet how quickly we forget. In our age of technology it is too easy to treat world transforming events as if they are merely sound bites. How easy it is for us to get caught up in the celebration of Independence Day and to trivialize the sacrifices of our forefathers with our parades, hot pretzels and the pursuit of happiness. Remind us this day and every day when we see our flag that it flies because **we, the people** will not tolerate tyranny. Benjamin Franklin even suggested to the patriots of his day that our nation's motto should be, "Rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God!" May it be true of our generation that wherever an oppressed people cry out "Freedom!" **we, the American people** will not turn a deaf ear, but like our God will hear and will act on behalf of the oppressed.

Watch over our soldiers today as they spread democracy and defend the freedom that we celebrate today. We pray that you would protect them from those zealots who hide behind religious fanaticism and, whether in peacetime

or in war, have historically used it as an excuse to destroy human life, regardless of age, gender, nationality, or innocence. Remind us in our vulnerability that you, O Lord, are a god who delivers; a god who saves. "You are a refuge and a fortress, our God, in whom we trust." (Ps. 91:2)

Because all life is precious and sacred, we pray also for those Afghan and Iraqi patriots and heroes whose blood, mingled with that of our own heroes, has been spilled in the streets of Baghdad and Kabul and across their lands. Humble us with the realization that we are not the only nation with patriots and heroes who have been willing to pay the cost of freedom.

We pray for our nation, the Land of the Free, because of the brave, O God, and thank you that you have instilled in the heart of the American people the value of liberty. As our great president, Abraham Lincoln declared, "Our defense is in the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands, everywhere." Deep down inside we know we are not truly free until all mankind is free. We know that we are our brother's keeper. We pray that you would strengthen the resolve of our nation to support the fledgling freedom given birth by the Afghan and Iraqi people through the labor pains of war.

Finally, we pray for peace on earth in our day. Help our race find its way back to peace so that we can lay down the weapons of war. You said through the Hebrew prophet Amos, "Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." (Amos 5:24) May **we the people** commit ourselves to that cause in our community and in our world.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, the one who holds the universe together; yet holds our lives in his hands. Amen

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Fourth from page 4

bury, New London, Sunapee, Franklin, Danbury, Wilmot, and Arthur and Richard Osborne's restored 1929 MX2X Ahrens Fox Pumper that works. At the end of the parade was the Andover Rescue Squad, ready to provide assistance if needed, followed by Uncle Sam.

Unfortunately the weather didn't hold on the Fourth, and the fireworks and Andover Service Club Ice Cream Social were held on the fifth, with the One Wheelers providing food. The fireworks provided by the Atlas Company were fantastic. I'm sure they lit up the sky for miles.

The Stevens Family Singers provided music before the fireworks.

Thanks to our Masters of Ceremony, Bill Leber and Wayne Nicoll, and all the committee members, helpers, Pro Claim, the Andover Police Department, and the people and organizations that participated. It really is a team effort.

A big thank you to Proctor Academy, who so generously allow us to use their facilities – the Field House, Carr Field, etc.

Barnyard Bingo

By Tim Norris

Andover Outing Club

Barnyard Bingo at the Andover Fourth of July celebration is played on the Village Green on a 27' by 27' grid divided into 18" squares surrounded by the Ferguson's orange snowfence. The bingo part is provided by a farm animal that walks around on the grid and poops somewhere. This year the animal

was a goat named Juliet provided by Eric Viandier.

Barnyard Bingo is a fundraiser for the Andover Outing Club's cross country skiing and ski jumping programs. Marianne Fairall was the founding genius who pulled together all the disparate elements to make Barnyard Bingo the success it has become, and her elaborate kit of gear and detailed plans have made it easy to run. It has been cheering up people at the Andover Fourth of July celebration for the last six years.

Although Marianne's Holstein motif continues to dominate our sales effort – including Holstein hats, Holstein vests, and an entire Holstein suit – the animals have changed. The first two years we had a beautiful steer, then horses, donkeys, and finally goats the last two years. Goats provide the speediest bingo!

The Barnyard Bingo adult winners for 2007 were:

- 1st place (\$125) – Tess Jewell of Wilmot
- 2nd place (\$50) – Chrissie Gorman of New London
- 2nd place (\$50) – Amanda Gross of Andover

This year's youth winners were:

- 1st place (\$15 credit at Jakes market) – Tia Hoyt of Andover
- 2nd place (\$10 credit at Jakes market) – Shannon Jolley of Andover
- 3rd place (\$5 credit at Jakes market) – Bee Chambers of Elkins

Thanks to everyone who helped and took part.

Summer: Now is the Time

Property investors study the real estate market, trying to buy at the lowest point and to sell at the highest. Homebuyers have a more difficult time to know when to sit on the sidelines or whether to enter the market. There are lots of reasons to think that now is the time to buy a new home.

One is the selection of properties available. Over the past two years the number of houses on the market has been very low. When a new attractive house came on the market, it quickly attracted buyers. Gradually, that has changed. Houses are selling, but more houses are remaining on the market longer. That means inventory is up and there are lots of good choices for the buyer.

Another is that prices have stabilized in and around Andover. That means more houses are appropriately priced in order to sell rather than being overpriced hoping to make a windfall.

Another is that mortgage rates remain low. People keep predicting that this is the last day, last week or last month that rates will stay this low. But rates are still affordably low which makes nice homes practical and affordable.

All told, now is the ideal time to be a buyer in this real estate market.

It's worth having accurate information. We've got it at Lake Farm Realty. Come in and talk to us.

Art Urie

Ed Becker



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