



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Our Heritage
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Do you know the heritage of your family?

When I came to Minnesota from Southern California in 1972 as one with a Jewish/Greek/Mediterranean-mutt bloodline from a heavily Hispanic-influenced culture, I was introduced to a culture full of Swedes, Norwegians and Finns. The stereotype of my background is a people that are loud (sometimes obnoxiously so!), animated and very emotionally expressive. I learned quickly that the Scandinavian culture was stereotyped as quiet, stoic and emotionally closed. Don't read too much into this; they are stereotypes!

We did share at least one commonality and it was the bedrock of our existence. It tied us together stronger than geography or culture. It was the foundation stone laid by our Founding Fathers. It was the basis for the Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and the laws that framed our Republic. It gave us Freedom. It gave us our free market economic system. It was at the heart of our public schools. On September 12, 1782, it was one of the first publications authorized by the newly elected Congress of the United States.

What was "it"? It was the Bible, the Word of God.

In the front of that first American-published Bible is a congressional endorsement declaring:

"Whereupon, Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled . . . recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States." (See *Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XXIII, p.574, September 12, 1782)

Did you know that the Bible is the vital foundation stone to the heritage of our country? Is it a vital foundation stone in your life?

"THE BIBLE IS THE BEST GIFT GOD HAS GIVEN TO MEN. ALL THE GOOD THE SAVIOR GAVE TO THE WORLD WAS COMMUNICATED THROUGH THIS BOOK. BUT FOR IT, WE COULD NOT KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG."

- PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

* Capitol Commission Minnesota is a non-partisan, non-political pastoral ministry to the political leaders, their families, staffs and political networks in the State of Minnesota. Dale Witherington is the State Director and can be reached at 651.785.3647 and at dale.witherington@capitolcom.org. We can be viewed on the web at www.capitolcom.org.