| "We are firmly convinced, and we act on that conviction, that with nations as with individuals, our interests soundly calculated will ever be found inseparable from our moral duties."  -Thomas Jefferson | "Citizens by birth or choice, of a common country, that country has a right to concentrate your affections. The name of American, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local discriminations."  -George Washington |
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| We are, of course, a nation of differences. Those differences don’t make us weak. They’re the source of our strength.  -Jimmy Carter | “We must support our rights or lose our character, and with it, perhaps, our liberties. A people who fail to do it can scarcely be said to hold a place among independent nations. National honor is national property of the highest value. The sentiment in the mind of every citizen is national strength. It ought, therefore, to be cherished.”  -James Monroe |
| “The virtue and fortitude of the people have sometimes been greatly tried; yet our system, purified and enhanced in value by all it has encountered, still preserves its spirit of free and fearless discussion, blended with unimpaired fraternal feeling.”.  -Martin Van Buren | “No citizen of our country should permit himself to forget that he is a part of its Government and entitled to be heard in the determination of its policy and its measures, and that therefore the highest considerations of personal honor and patriotism require him to maintain by whatever of power or influence he may possess the integrity of the laws of the Republic”.  -Franklin Pierce |
| “But be this as it may, it is the imperative and indispensable duty of the Government of the United States to secure to every resident inhabitant the free and independent expression of his opinion by his vote. This sacred right of each individual must be preserved.”  -James Buchanan | “It is not necessary for me on this occasion to recapitulate, or to rehearse the argument that I have made in your behalf and in behalf of those great principles which lie at the foundation of free government, and which should be maintained and preserved by all people calling themselves free, patriotic, and intelligent.”  -Andrew Johnson |
| “The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened.”  -John F. Kennedy | “It calls upon a citizen to not only be able to demand his rights, but also to know what they are.”  -Richard Nixon |

| “There are some principles that cannot be compromised. Either we shall have a society based upon ordered liberty and the initiative of the individual, or we shall have a planned society that means dictation no matter what you call it or who does it. There is no half-way ground. They cannot be mixed.”  -Herbert Hoover | “Since the beginning of our American history, we have been engaged in change -- in a perpetual peaceful revolution -- a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly adjusting itself to changing conditions.”  -Franklin Delano Roosevelt |
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| "We must scrupulously guard the civil rights and civil liberties of all our citizens, whatever their background. We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization."  -Franklin Delano Roosevelt | "The general limits of your freedom are merely these: that you do not trespass upon the equal rights of others."  -Dwight D. Eisenhower |
| “It is the right direction because it follows the truly revolutionary American concept of 1776, which holds that in a free society the making of public policy and successful problem solving involves much more than government. It involves a full partnership among all branches and all levels of government, private institutions, and individual citizens.”  -Gerald Ford | “Ours was the first revolution in the history of mankind that truly reversed the course of government, and with three little words: ``We the People.'' ``We the People'' tell the government what to do; it doesn't tell us. ``We the People'' are the driver; the government is the car. And we decide where it should go, and by what route, and how fast.”  -Ronald Reagan |
| “It is citizens -- ordinary men and women, determined to forge their own future -- who throughout history have sparked all the great change and progress."  -Barack Obama | “Recognizing and confronting our history is important. Transcending our history is essential. We are not limited by what we have done or what we have left undone. We are limited only by what we are willing to do.”  -George W. Bush |
| “Now more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature. If the next centennial does not find us a great nation... it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces.”  -James A. Garfield | “Loyalty to the principles upon which our Government rests positively demands that the equality before the law which it guarantees to every citizen should be justly and in good faith conceded in all parts of the land. The enjoyment of this right follows the badge of citizenship wherever found, and, unimpaired by race or color, it appeals for recognition to American manliness and fairness.”  -Grover Cleveland |