

THE AMERICAN DREAM

Every July we celebrate our independence as a nation. The United States of America is a country where free enterprise still creates more opportunity for its citizens than any other in history. Those who choose to be entrepreneurs and take advantage of the multiple opportunities afforded us have a special obligation to remember that our freedom comes with a price. Generations have sacrificed to be able to hand off freedom to the next generation.

It is our duty as citizens and business people to engage in all aspects of the American Dream. This means serving others, empowering those that work with us, being charitable, being faithful, and passing on these values to the next generation.

The key to generational service and personal satisfaction is in choosing to help others. Serving others can include almost unlimited activities. Join the military or the National Guard. Consider a career with the police, fire department, or other first responder group. Run for public office or be a campaign volunteer. Become a mentor, a teacher, or a community advocate. Empower those who work with you and provide opportunities for them to grow and prosper as well. Educate your staff so they become better at their craft or profession than when they started. Provide them with the tools to be successful and they will help your business grow. Provide stability so they can care for their families knowing you have their best interests at heart.

Be charitable and lead by example. Give your time and money to help those in need. Encourage a culture of philanthropy, not because you want to look good, but because it's the right thing to do. There are many organizations worthy of your support, and perhaps, with your employees, adopt one as your company's chosen charity.

Be faithful by sharing our founding fathers faith in God, adhering to the values upon which our country was founded. We need faith in our lives and sharing our faith is the highest responsibility we owe to our children and grandchildren. Without the transference of faith we are only a generation away from failure. All businesses need a perpetuation plan and so does our country. Be intentional in raising your kids to know what it has taken to get America to this point of unprecedented prosperity.

Thank God for this country and for putting freedom in the hearts of our founding fathers that provided us the opportunity to live free and prosper. May God continue to bless America every day of the year.