

# Thoughts to Ponder

## The World Has a Dream

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### *Let Freedom Fly*

Do you hear freedom shout as our flag passes by?  
Have you noted how proudly she waves?  
But the price that we've paid for our liberty's cry  
can be seen in the thousands of graves.

Fifty states are portrayed by a cluster of stars.  
Yet each one is a part of the all.  
And their strength is the doctrine: *United We Stand,*  
And the knowledge: *Divided we Fall.*

Thirteen stripes signify all the colonies that  
first united, proclaiming their plan,  
which would guarantee justice and freedom for all,  
and protect all the rights of each man.

For the power of our nation lies in the belief  
every state is a pillar of strength.  
And together the many combined into one  
form its breadth and its depth and its length.

Yes, our flag is the banner of each man's desire,  
and the symbol of pride in our nation.  
Let us vow to rekindle our liberty's fire  
as we honor our country's creation.

This month Americans have celebrated Lincoln's Birthday, Flag Day, Presidents' Day, and Washington's Birthday. This covers a long span of American history. George Washington's presidency dates back to the start of the newly formed union that became the United States of America.

The experience of this union demonstrates that people of different nationalities, backgrounds, and races can come together in brotherhood and live together in a common bond, even though the experiment has had to overcome some rocky roads at times. It denotes the possibility that the various societies of the world can find common ground in order to live together peacefully and harmoniously while respecting individual cultures and belief systems. This is the goal for world-wide harmony and peaceful coexistence.



The challenge now is for the people of the United States and the people of other nations to view each other as members of a common brotherhood of citizens of Planet Earth, each with their own rights as a nation, maintaining their own systems and modes of living, but with a bond of brotherhood with all the peoples of the world. All must respect the different belief systems, and historical molding of each society while focusing on common concerns, needs, and goals of people all over the Earth. All must acknowledge each nation's pride in its history and accomplishments, as well as the challenges each country has met. And each must recognize the contributions and wisdom other societies have made through their various adaptations to the unique circumstances each has had to deal with.

The citizens of the United States of America take pride in the fact that they consider the natives of states other than the ones they live in to be their friends and neighbors with common goals and desires. Defending individual liberties as set forth in their constitution is perhaps the most sensitive and cherished goal in this society, yet it is one which requires constant vigilance and individual responsibility. The month of February seems to highlight this cause and to remind its citizens of the true values their nation stands for.

May the common goal for every country be to see the citizens of the world as their brothers and sisters in the family of Mother Earth.