



JOINT TASK FORCE CIVIL SUPPORT **CHAPLAIN'S RESILIENCY MESSAGE / 3 JUL 2015**

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Resiliency is Navigating through the Storm

The words “through the perilous fight” is a phrase from the first verse of the “Star Spangled Banner” and penned by Francis S. Key during the battle in defense of Fort McHenry in the War of 1812. Francis Key, lawyer and amateur poet, wrote the poem which would become our United States of America National Anthem after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British Navy Warships. But, the flag remained intact throughout the night and was still flying the next morning, after the bombardment had ceased. This “perilous fight,” endured at Fort McHenry, was also a “perilous night.” However, the flag remained as the dawn of morning broke forth.

In our individual lives, we often face perilous fights and perilous nights which try our souls. Life is filled with joys and sorrows, evil and good, tragedy and triumph. To expect our lives to be free from suffering, tragedy and hardship is not realistic. Jesus Christ, the only perfect One to ever walk this earth chose the suffering of the cross as the means to achieve his greatest glory. We know that “paradise lost” will be restored but until God finally redeems all of creation and humanity, every day is a cosmic battle between good and evil and the reality of living in an imperfect world. Even as growth and maturity occurs, many encounter “the dark night of the soul.” Though we face evil and brokenness in our lives and all around, we far more enthusiastically embrace and welcome into our lives the Light and Goodness of the God we know and serve. We have the choice to make good decisions and do what is right. Ephesians 6:13-18 exhorts us to put on the whole Armor of God in order to remain standing after the fight. 2 Corinthians 4:6, 17-18 frames our vision and perspective.

As we practice our respective branch of service values, each seem especially applicable as we reflect upon the sacrifice and service of so many from the inception of our humble nation and its fight for independence to our present July 4, 2015. Happy Independence Day!

Pro Deo et Patria,

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