

**FEBURARY 2014**

**OUR HISTORIC TIES TO OUR PRESIDENTS**

This month, we celebrate the Presidents of our United States and their meaning to our Nation and its course Past, Present, and Future. What originally was celebrated as two separate holidays for the two greatest Presidents, (in most opinions) George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, has been turned into one Holiday for all those who have served the Nation as our Chief Executive. Most Americans (I daresay hope) know of these two great men. Some may not, but it is our duty to pass on their stories and History to oncoming generations yet to come.

The "Art of History" as I call it, is something we cannot take for granted. We must tell friends, neighbors and even strangers the triumphs and tragedies of all these people and what they mean for our Country and its place in the world. The Unfailing determination of George Washington, The brilliant mind of Thomas Jefferson, The Strong Leadership of Abraham Lincoln and The Steel Courage of Theodore Roosevelt are just some ideas and examples to discuss and think about. Many other Presidents are very worthy of studying, but I would say we need to remember them all even if we may disagree on how to do so. While we certainly know that some of our Leaders are more fondly remembered than others, I think we can all find something of a good quality in all of them.

If you look at our Coinage, we have Abraham Lincoln on the cent (incorrectly called the penny) Thomas Jefferson on the Nickel, Franklin D Roosevelt on the dime, George Washington on The Quarter Dollar, And John F Kennedy on the (rarely seen) Half Dollar. Also, all our Presidents are being honored on their own Dollar coins, although they are not seen as often. These daily used coinage remind us of who they were and why they are remembered. The same of course can be said of our paper currency, with only Alexander Hamilton and Benjamin Franklin being the only non-Presidents whose image appears on our money. It is important to recall and pass on that no matter the party or political affiliation, all of these men had something in common. They all wanted to lead our Nation and its people to a better place and a brighter future. This is an essential part of our Democratic Republic: The Courage to put the needs of the Nation before all else. Let us always keep that thought in mind and Spirit. This is what the Citizens of The United States Believe and Deserve. Let us all work together to make this always be our Minds and in our Hearts! Lest we Forget.

In Fraternity ,Charity, and Loyalty

John W. Bates

National Patriotic Instructor