

***Liberty Pole Capping Commemoration
Bedford, Massachusetts
12 April 2025
Invocation by Rev. John Gibbons
Chaplain to the Bedford Company of Minutemen***

Thank God there are no summer soldiers or sunshine patriots here among us!

CITIZENS!!

Before Nature's God and this stalwart company, that we may break the chains of tyranny, hear these words of American scripture, these being among the grievances that provoke today's muster and our sacred cause:

"...Let Facts be submitted to a candid world."

"(The King) has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good."

"(The King) has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them."

"(The King) has endeavored to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands."

"(The King has deprived) us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury...transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offenses."

"(The King has obstructed) the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers."

"(The King) has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries."

"(The King) has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance."

"(The King) has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power."

"(The King) has excited domestic insurrections among us...protecting those for any (Crimes) which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States."

"(The King) has imposed taxes on us without our Consent, and (cut) off our Trade with all parts of the world."

“(The King) has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation.”

(The King has taken) away our Charters, (abolished) our most valuable Laws, and (altered) fundamentally the Forms of our Governments.”

O God, may we keep faith with our complex but aspirational past, our calamitous present, and our unknown future that we - by submission or resistance - will determine. Knowing that we are now in the fight of our lives, may we redress these grievances and be true to our revolutionary ideals of human liberation. A king is not a king until we bow.

“And with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, may we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

**OUR LIVES!! OUR FORTUNES!! OUR SACRED HONOR!!
OUR LIVES!! OUR FORTUNES! OUR SACRED HONOR!!**

Citizens, may we prayerfully say AMEN. And let us shout **HUZZAH!!!**

(Note: All quotations are verbatim from the Declaration of Independence, approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. For brevity and relevance the grievances cited here were chosen and reordered from the 27 grievances cited in the Declaration. Items in parentheses or ellipsis were edited for clarity, grammar, and coherence.)