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### Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?

Our forefathers are the men who are credited with why this country exists. They are the pioneers and trailblazers who set the foundation for how this great nation should function. They battled through hardships, through the lowest of lows in all of human history, and found a way to prevail and form the country we have today. The United States of America is not exactly what our founding fathers envisioned. It is better than they could have ever imagined.

Our forefathers visualized a great nation where, according to the authors of the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Our forefathers believed every American held these rights and would have them for the rest of time. This still stands true today. Whether it be the immigrant fleeing from their war-torn country seeking a new life, or it be the loyal patriot who has lived here all his life. The possibility of living a life with food, water, and shelter is provided for all. The state of living without oppression is supplied. Along with the opportunity to choose a career and have a family. These are all attainable in America today just as our forefathers had envisioned.

These unalienable rights have not always been accessible to everyone, however. In the early years of this nation, not all people were granted these rights. All African Americans and women were wrongfully denied these privileges. Our nation has come a long way from where we

were 200 years ago. Women, along with people of color, are now not only allowed to run for positions in government but they are encouraged to do so. Every U.S. citizen over the age of 18 is permitted to vote regardless of skin color or gender.

Even though the forefathers laid the framework for this great nation, they could not have perfectly envisioned what the future would hold. This is why they created the Constitution with the ability to add amendments. The Constitution our forefathers created allowed our country to evolve and develop into what it is today. Benjamin Franklin once said, "Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Although the forefathers wanted the nation to stay perfect forever, they understood that things would need to change as time went on. They envisioned a nation that would make the right decisions for the betterment of the people. That is exactly what our Constitution does today.

As we look into the future of this great country, we do not know entirely what it will hold. Just as our forefathers did not know what the future would hold over 200 years ago. But we can do one thing that our forefathers envisioned. As loyal Americans, we can strive to continue the greatness of our nation. Whether it be helping your elderly neighbor with household chores. Or perhaps writing a letter to your stationed family member overseas. We are all Americans and need to strive for the greater good of our country. No matter our difference in political beliefs or the religious affiliation we possess. Whether we vote red or blue, Christian or Jew. We are faithful patriots who believe in one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all.