

I pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all. Students say this pledge every day in schools across America. This pledge, or promise, shows a commitment to this nation and what it represents. Likewise, men and woman across America make a promise when they undertake the duties of a government office. When this oath of office is taken, eternal vigilance must be kept in order to preserve national freedom.

The oath of office is an extremely sacred and important oath. Although its words have seen changes, it still has the same meaning it had since the founding fathers first established it as a part of our country. The oath of office demonstrates a link between the individual, God, and the people being represented. The person taking the oath, depending on position, swears to 'defend', 'support', 'preserve' and 'protect' the Constitution and defend this great country's invitation for freedom. Taking an oath of such worth is a great honor, but also a huge responsibility.

When one picks up one side of a stick then the other end will also be lifted. One cannot choose to pick up the beginning of a stick, but leave the end. Likewise each decision one makes has a consequence, whether good or bad. To have good consequences corresponds to also having true freedom. And in order to have true freedom one must exercise eternal vigilance in choice. This quote puts Eternal Vigilance into perspective, "The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt." This means that if people want true liberty all their lives then they need to be responsible and watchful with their decisions. A simple example is if I am not vigilant about how long I hold a match then I get burned. Another one is if I am not vigilant or watchful about a scrape or cut then it will get infected.

The oath of office taken by government representatives and maintaining eternal vigilance by all will insure freedoms. One may be more public than the other, but that does not lessen the importance of personal integrity or eternal vigilance. We must all commit to eternal vigilance, the discipline to make good choices, to increase our liberty and uphold the Constitution which represents freedom available to all through correct choices.