

the separation of church and state, often treats religion as so much a private matter that it should have little to say in the public realm. It is an overstatement, but not much of one, to say that one community, the Jeffersonian tradition, holds as an unexamined doctrine that religion is entirely a private matter, while the other tradition of evangelical piety, affirms that America is a Christian nation whose values should be those of the Bible, interpreted in the most conservative light.

Both traditions have held on to one dimension of personal values shaped by Judeo-Christian standards. Virginia has a powerful and priceless tradition of expecting high standards of personal honor among its leaders. When Robert E. Lee was President of Washington College in Lexington, the institution that now bears his name along with Washington's, General Lee was asked by a student for a book of rules. He responded, famously, "We have but one rule: our students are gentlemen and a gentleman does not lie, cheat or steal." That rule, adapted to the happy reality of coeducation, and spread from a 19th Century elite to the whole of the Commonwealth, reflects the heritage of personal honor that is still a cherished value of all Virginians.

Contemporary Virginia needs to offer the rest of the nation an example of joining its twin legacies of faith and freedom, which includes its respect for personal honor and public virtue.

Faith is nurtured in a climate of freedom. We have learned that faith imposed by state authority is corrupting and oppressive. The French philosopher Pascal once wrote that "people never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction." Religious zealots from the great religions of the world who deny the freedom of others betray the highest values of their own creeds. Faith and freedom may be in tension but they need not be in conflict.

We are in danger in America, and even across the world, of dismissing serious commitment to religious faith as irrelevant to public virtue or even dangerous to civic peace. The crisis surrounding the President of the United States is in part the inevitable result of the rupture between personal faith and public life, between faith and freedom, the break between personal honor and political values.

As this most violent century draws to an end, as race and ethnicity and religion continue to divide people and to lead to their slaughter, the world needs people of faith who honor freedom; people committed to freedom who respect the integrity of faith, people who can build societies that value personal honor and public virtue.

The great religions of the world have much to say about our life together. They cannot be relegated simply to the realm of private preference. In the lesson from the Hebrew scriptures today,<sup>1</sup> the prophet Amos condemns those who take shortcuts with the law that forbids commerce on the Sabbath. The behavior condemned by the prophet may be "legally accurate," but those who engage in behavior that oppresses the poor are corrupt. Paul, in his first letter to Timothy,<sup>1</sup> insists that the Christians hold their rulers in their prayers—assuming that the public good requires leaders of personal honor but since they are flawed human beings like the rest of us, they need the support of our prayers. And in the parable of the dishonest steward,<sup>1</sup> Jesus warns that the distinction between private and public virtue is artificial. The one who is dishonest in very little things will also be dishonest in much. The ancient Bible stories are right on target for the issues of today.

This cathedral stands on the highest hill in the District of Columbia. Its towers domi-

nate the Washington skyline, not with the power to oppress, but with the powers to inspire and to call a people to personal integrity and public virtue. That does not mean our leaders must be saints. Many of us know our senators, other leaders, and our bishops well enough to know that sainthood has eluded all of us. We are all flawed, fallible persons, but that does not suggest that our quest for private and public virtue is in vain. We need to reaffirm the integrity of faith, faith in God who empowers each one of us to become the person God intends us to be; the God who lifts us up when we fall, and who redeems our failures with new hope. We need to recover a personal faith that sustains both private honor and public virtue. We need to bridge the gap between the sacred and the secular, not by a diminution of freedom, but with an expansion of faith that respects freedom and the freedom that protects the nurture of faith and the privacy of individuals.

This nation is engaged in a great public conversation about the crisis in the Presidency. President Clinton's moral authority is severely compromised. Whether this crisis ends with resignation, impeachment, or censure and a crippled presidency for the remaining two years of the term, it is important for the well being of the nation to consider what we can learn about ourselves in this crisis. That in no way absolves the President from his responsibility. But have we separated personal, private morality from public life so extensively that this was a crisis waiting to happen? Do we have a system of raising up leaders in public life that encourages and rewards honor, integrity, and personal commitment to our shared values? Or, do we separate faith and freedom, personal honor and public virtue, so extensively that our moral life together is imperiled? Our moral life is now endangered by excessive public intrusion into private life and dishonorable private behavior that erodes public trust. With our traditions, Virginians can make a difference in the national conversation.

Virginia is a Commonwealth where faith and freedom have competed but have flourished; we are a commonwealth that demands of our leaders personal honor and service to public virtue. Let those great traditions come together again in a new and mutually respectfully union so that our people may be strengthened.

In his farewell address in 1796, our first President, George Washington, said, "Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports . . . a volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity . . . let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion . . . reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

Virginia is the birthplace of English speaking Christian faith in America. Virginia is the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson's statute for religious freedom. We are a community that offers to a nation the union of personal honor serving public virtue, of personal faith in a climate of freedom that restricts intrusive government.

In New Testament Greek, the word "crisis" means a time of judgment, a time of separation, a time of clarification. A crisis in the view of the Bible is often created by the word of God, proclaimed by the prophets, exposing the gap between where people are and where they ought to be. We are living at such a time and that time, the Bible teaches us, can be one of hope and of new beginning. May the traditions of Virginia, of faith and freedom, of private piety and public virtue,

of personal honor and public service, come together again in this great nation so that future generations will look back on our day as a time of moral renewal and refreshing new hope, a time when God called this nation to a rebirth of our spiritual strength. ●  
<sup>1</sup>Amos 8:4-7, I Timothy 2:1-8, and Luke 16:1-13.

#### ACC'S NEW DETROIT HEAD- QUARTERS AND OFFICIAL DEDICATION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an important event which is taking place in the state of Michigan. On September 25, 1998, the Arab-American Chaldean Council and Henry Ford Health System will celebrate the official dedication of the ACC and Henry Ford Medical/Social Services Center.

The Center will create a fully comprehensive Medical/Social Services facility and will become the ACC's new Detroit Headquarters. With an organization as successful as the ACC, supported by the excellent reputation and resources of the Henry Ford Health System, the future looks bright.

I extend my best wishes and congratulations to Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, the President and CEO, and everyone involved with making the ACC and Henry Ford Medical/Social Services Center possible. I am confident their partnership will be a success. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO GUIDE DOGS AND WORKING DOGS

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the fine work of Guide Dogs and Working Dogs who, through demonstrated intelligence and dependability, have made life so much easier for their owners.

Today Guide Dogs and Working Dogs assist not only individuals suffering vision loss, but also those suffering hearing loss and those with orthopedic problems. The intense training program that Guide Dogs and Working Dogs endure enables them to assist their owners with courtesy and confidence.

These well-trained dogs have not only won the respect of their owners but the public as well. They have allowed countless individuals to enjoy freedom and independence and lead richer lives.

I would like to mention that the City of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Legislature have also recognized these exceptional animals.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to these remarkable dogs who have afforded their owners a better life in their community. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES MAITLAND "JIMMY" STEWART

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an award-winning Alabama journalist and author