

Senior Moments

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FOR BABY BOOMERS & BEYOND

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Patriotic Lessons for this July 4th

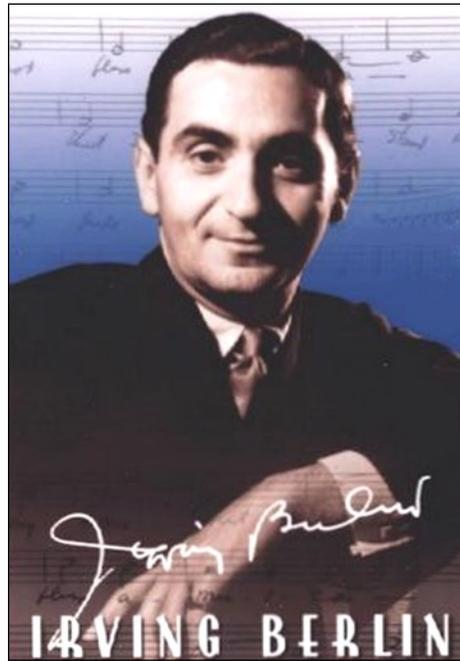
BY BOB RUSSELL

Patriotism has become passé these days. After all, it's been 241 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, so naturally, enthusiasm for July 4 celebrations has waned. And in recent years progressive educators have focused on America's flagrant flaws (slavery, greed, war, etc.) and pretty much ignored our nation's accomplishments.

No wonder when *Rolling Stone* magazine polled its readers on the question, "Is there anything that would motivate you to die for your country?" Forty percent said no. Many youth are ignorant of America's unique spiritual heritage and have little concept of what our nation was intended to be. We've slipped a long way from the founding father's willingness to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor for freedom to the cavalier spirit that permeates so many in this age.

In recent years some Christian leaders have contributed to the anti-patriotic spirit by preaching that any kind of patriotic expression in a church service is inappropriate. They argue that since we worship God alone, it's idolatry to pay honor to the nation. And since God loves people of every tongue, tribe, and nation, it's blasphemous to picture God in heaven waving an American flag.

I think we would do well to study Psalm 33. Verses 12-15 read, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth — he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do."



Irving Berlin wrote "God Bless America" in 1918 while serving the U.S. Army.

On this July 4th, Christians living in the United States of America would do well to underscore these principles from this passage:

All cultures are not spiritually equal.

Some nations honor the Lord and some don't. God chose to destroy Sodom and spare Nineveh based on each city's reaction to his authority.

Any nation that honors the Lord is promised his blessing. Since, "The Lord sees all mankind," he promises to bless every nation that will honor him as their God.

It's appropriate for the nation God blesses to give thanks. The Bible says every good and perfect gift comes from God. America is not a perfect gift but it is a really good gift. The Christians I know are not so shallow as to imagine

God waving an American flag. It's not idolatry to give thanks for the blessings of our nation any more than it's idolatrous to give God thanks for the blessings of our families on Mother's Day. We can be patriotic and unapologetically Christian at the same time.

No nation in the world has been more blessed than the United States of America. Anyone who has traveled to other continents is aware that we are uniquely blessed with incredible resources, breathtaking scenery, unprecedented freedom, and international influence. We have also been blessed with an outstanding governmental system that has served us well for over 200 years.

Why have we been so blessed? Are we more intelligent? More industrious? More deserving? No. We are blessed because God was honored in the founding of our country and he has kept his promise. The fact that this country was founded on Judeo-Christian principles is so evident in early documents and inscriptions on historic buildings and monuments that it can't be denied.

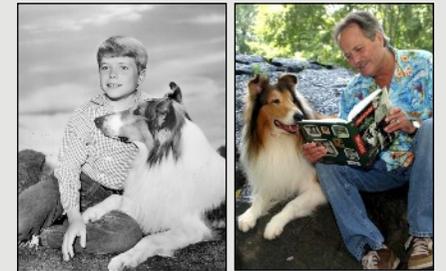
Saluting the flag, standing at attention during the national anthem, singing, "God bless America," and voting faithfully are not the only patriotic things you can do for this country. We help America most by living a Godly life.

May you and yours be blessed and enjoy a happy and abundant summer!

This article was reprinted with permission from Bob Russell Ministries. More information at www.bobrussell.org



Look Who Just Turned 67 This Year!



John Provost in 1962 and today.

Jonathan Provost (born March 12, 1950) is an American actor, best known for his role as young Timmy Martin in the CBS series *Lassie*.

In 1957, Provost won the role of Timmy Martin in the CBS television series *Lassie*. The following year, he met June Lockhart on the set, who would play his mother, Ruth Martin, on the set, and would remain close friends.

For seven seasons, 1957–1964, audiences grew to love Timmy and his adventures with *Lassie*. Timmy's canine companion was played by three dogs that were all descendants of Pal, the original *Lassie* from the MGM films. In 1964, however, Provost was 14 and chose not to renew his contract though Campbell's Soup Company, the sponsor, wanted three more years.

In 1990, Provost was honored by the Young Artist Foundation with its Former Child Star "Lifetime Achievement" Award for his role as Timmy Martin on the original *Lassie* series. In 1994, Provost received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

A check of John's Website indicate these days he's busy with personal appearances for pet events and cruise ships talking about Timmy and *Lassie*.

Text and photos by Wikipedia