

“America must win this war, Therefore I will work, I will save. I will sacrifice. I will endure. I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone.”

~Private Martin Treptow, buried along with our Nation’s sacred war heroes at Arlington National Cemetery

Handwritten under the heading, **“My Pledge”**; the above words were written in the fly-leaf of Private Treptow’s personal diary found on his body at the time of his death on July 29, 1918.

Private Treptow served in the 42nd “Rainbow” Division as a runner where he died delivering a message between battalions in the battle of the Ourq River in France.

Today, as we honor our nation and celebrate our freedom together, we commend our nation’s great leaders and heroes. With gratitude we thank them for the dear cost of our liberty so that we might be Americans, one and all, a **“nation conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”** Gettysburg Address of President Lincoln from November 1863

103 years later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered another of the nation’s most iconic speeches in front of the Lincoln Memorial, charging Americans with *his* dreams: ***“...even though we face difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’”***

Americans, dare to pledge like Private Martin Treptow, dare dream like Dr. King, and dare to lead Like Lincoln.

As President Reagan admonished adversaries of freedom in his 1981 inaugural address, ***“Peace is the highest aspiration of the American People. We will negotiate for it; sacrifice for it; we will NOT surrender for it now or ever. We are Americans.”***

We are grateful to our founding fathers who sacrificed and brought forth the greatest nation the world has ever seen. We are protected by our county’s heroes: our military, veterans, police and first responders. The City of Mason, its Mayor, Vice Mayor, council and city staff care about you and your welfare. We know that through diligence, thoughtfulness and responsible conduct we will together overcome the challenges we now face.

On behalf of Mason City Council, we wish you the happiest Independence Day and look forward to celebrating it with you in person in 2021!

Mayor Kathy Grossmann and Vice Mayor Mike Gilb

