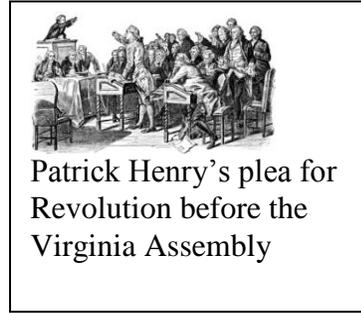


Patrick Henry (1736-1799)



Key Designation:

- ◆ The Voice of the Revolution: "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death!"

Key Background Information:

- ◆ Observed the prosecution of three Baptist preachers in Anglican Virginia 1768
- ◆ Was instrumental in writing the Constitution of Virginia
- ◆ Served in numerous positions in Virginia, then later in the federal government
- ◆ Only Governor in America's history to be reelected five times

Key Ideas:

- ◆ The nation was founded on the Christian faith: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here."
- ◆ Liberty is a divine right worth dying for. "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

Key Works:

- ◆ *Last Will and Testament* (1798): "This is all the inheritance I give to my dear family. The religion of Christ will give them one which will make them rich indeed."
- ◆ *Article 16 of the Virginia Bill of Rights*: "That religion... can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience, and that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love and charity towards each other."

Key Results:

There were none more generally respected for their leadership and Christian spirit than Patrick Henry. A passionate voice for the revolution, he was also a sincere believer who focused on unifying Christians.