

# AROUND THE BEND

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for

VOLUME 12 | JULY 2025

Enjoy life. Consider eternity.



## A Message of Gratitude and Hope from WVUP-TV

By Melvin Beal, General Manager

# Happy Birthday U.S.A.!

Dear Faithful Viewers and Supporters, As we celebrate Independence Day this year, our hearts are filled with profound gratitude—both for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans and for the incredible community of believers who have supported WVUP-TV for the past 23 years.

### Remembering Our Foundation

On this day when we commemorate our nation's birth, we are reminded that America was founded upon principles deeply rooted in faith. The words "In God We Trust" are not merely printed on our currency—they stand for the bedrock of our national identity. As the Psalmist declares, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). Our founders understood what we must never forget: that we are indeed "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." This sacred pledge reminds us that our unity and strength come not from political parties or human institutions, but from our shared dependence upon Almighty God.

### A Call to Return

In these challenging times, we join our voices with many across this great land in praying for America's return to its founding principles. As 2 Chronicles 7:14 promises us, "If my people, who are

called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." We believe that true healing and restoration for our nation begins with the transformation of hearts, one viewer at a time, through the power of God's Word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Our Heartfelt Appreciation

For 23 years, you have been the backbone of Big Bend CTN and WVUP-TV. Your faithful viewership, your generous support, and your constant prayers have enabled us to bring the light of Christ into homes throughout our community. We do not take this partnership lightly. The Apostle Paul's words to the Philippians resonate deeply with our feelings toward you: "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel" (Philippians 1:3-5).

### Looking Forward in Faith

As we move forward, we are still committed to our mission of proclaiming God's truth and love through Christian television. We pray that WVUP-TV will continue to be a beacon of hope, a source of encouragement, and a place where the Big Bend community can find the timeless truths of Scripture. May God continue to bless America, may He bless each of your families, and may He use us all as instruments of His peace and righteousness in these times. Thank you for 23 years of faithful partnership. Thank you for watching, for supporting, and for believing in the mission of Christian television in the Big Bend. "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Thank you for watching the Big Bend CTN, God Bless!



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# Prices Paid

By Beth Simpson, Program Director

Often it is said that we, Americans, take for granted the freedoms that have been bought for us. We often hear that freedom is not free. What prices have you paid for your freedoms?

When our Great Nation was attacked on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, I was at home. I watched from the television as the twin towers fell in New York, as the cameras zoomed in on people falling or jumping to their deaths. My heart sank and all I could do was cry for the families I never met who lost a loved one that day.

Later, we declared war on the terrorists and my brother was off to war. He was proud to serve his country, but he was scared. I prayed every day for him and his safe return home.

I've had generations of family serve. My father is a Viet Nam veteran and my grandfather served in WWII and the Korean War.

Listening to my grandfather's, father's and brother's stories, I know the prices they paid. All but one from my brother's unit returned home alive. The one that was killed had been a good friend to my brother. I knew him from school and had the honor to place flowers on his grave at Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C.

Knowing personally those who sacrificed their lives so that I could live in freedom puts a unique perspective on life and grants me a special degree of gratitude that some cannot relate to. When we are able to comprehend those prices that were paid, our freedoms are more precious, and the prices were not paid in vain.

Jesus Christ paid for our freedom from sin and death. It is free to us but bought by his blood. This Independence Day, take a moment to know that the freedoms you enjoy every day were all bought with a price.



## Donations Welcomed

WVUP-TV is a non-profit television station. We rely on donations from our viewers and partners. To make a donation, go to our website WEUP.NET and click on donate or scan the QR code below. Thank you.

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2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.



@WVUPTV

Prayer Request  
850-597-7949

WVUP is launching a Local Prayer Request Line. Call in, leave a prayer request, let us know if you want a call back and the staff at WVUP will pray over all requests.



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