

KAVANAH FOR THE UNITED STATES

RESPONSIVE READING

Our God and God of our ancestors:

We ask Your blessings for our country, for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority.

Teach them insights from your Torah that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

May this land under Your Providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom and helping them fulfill the vision of Your prophet:

“Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war any more.”

Master of the universe, we invoke your blessings upon the members of our American military forces, those brave men and women whose courage and commitment to that for which this country stands protects us all.

Whether by air, land or sea, in the mountains of Afghanistan, the cities and deserts of Iraq, or wherever their orders take them, we ask, dear God, that they be protected within your sheltering presence.

Shield them from harm and from pain, comfort their loneliness, and sustain their faith in the face of the enemies that they confront on a daily basis.

Most of all, we pray what for all soldiers is the ultimate prayer: that they be privileged to return to the loving arms of their families and a grateful country safely, speedily, and in good health.

Adapted from Siddur Sim Shalom