

# Oath and Allegiance

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In the US military, **Duty** and **Honor** are fundamental concepts that involve obligations that go beyond an individual's personal interests. However, duty and honor are not concepts limited to only military personnel. They are concepts that should be integral to every American citizen. But what do these words mean?

The concept of **duty** is not new and can be traced back thousands of years. While we may simply define duty as our expected responsibilities to family, work, and community, it is much more. Duty is an obligation to do what is required, expected, or morally binding. From a biblical perspective, it encompasses obedience, faithfulness to one's responsibilities, and respect for others.

Honor concerns how a person regards and conducts themselves in carrying out their duties. Typically, honor is thought of as giving someone or something the respect, regard, or recognition that is properly due. It encompasses both attitude and conduct, and recognizes what is worthy of respect and then act in a manner consistent with that recognition.

Essentially, duty concerns what we are obligated to do, while honor concerns how we regard and fulfill those obligations. Both require a person to look beyond personal interests and consider what is right, proper, and worthy of respect.

While most Americans probably view duty and honor as part of the ethos of the military and law enforcement, they are also the bedrock for American **allegiance and oaths**. Duty establishes the obligations that accompany an oath or allegiance, while honor reflects the character and conduct with which those obligations are fulfilled.

Both oaths and allegiances are commitments that people make. They are also legally binding according to the US Constitution and federal statutes.

Allegiances are generally considered to be lifelong bonds, generally between individuals and their nation or leaders. They are the giving of one's loyalty.

Oaths are usually temporary in nature and are bound to specific services being provided, position, or short-term roles, and time limits. They are a formal promise or commitment that a person states.

While duty and honor are two sides of the same coin, allegiance and oaths can also be viewed as two sides of a larger coin that encompasses duty and honor. Together, they connect the abstract principles of morality with the tangible expression of public service, providing a framework for Americans who serve our nation and for those who exercise the responsibilities of American citizenship.

Duty, honor, allegiance and oath are foundational promises that are demonstrated through daily character and conduct. Unfortunately, many politicians and Americans seem to forget those promises.

We stand up for our National Anthem, place our hand over our heart while reciting out Pledge of Allegiance, and bow our heads as prayers are said, all the while thinking of other things not related to these commitments.

The ***Pledge of Allegiance*** and ***Oath of Allegiance*** are lifetime commitments. However, breaking the commitments have different consequences.

There are 19 members of Congress (17 Representatives, 2 Senators) who are naturalized citizens. Breaking their ***Oath of Allegiance*** has serious consequences because these naturalized citizens have sworn to:

- support the Constitution;
- renounce prior foreign allegiance;
- support and defend the Constitution and laws against foreign and domestic enemies;
- bear true faith and allegiance to the United States; and
- perform specified national service when legally required

Given the socialist and far-left progressive agendas to change, eliminate, or replace the US Constitution, the following support many of the ideas expressed in these agendas:

- Shri Thanedar
- Ilhan Omar
- Pramila Jayapal
- Raja Krishnamoorthi
- Robert Garcia

The problem is that all of them are looking to change the Constitution via amendments, which is allowed under Article 5. Morally and ethically, the public needs to examine the specific conduct and principles that these members exhibit. For example, both Omar

and Jayapal advocate for packing the Supreme Court (SCOTUS). Although the Constitution does not specify the number of justices to serve on SCOTUS, the number was established when the “Judiciary Act of 1869” was enacted. This advocacy demonstrates Omar’s and Jayapal’s willingness to violate sections of the ***Oath of Allegiance***, and should, at the very least, be considered cause for their expulsion from Congress.

The ***Oath of Allegiance*** and the ***Congressional Oath***, parallel each other. This gives further credence to the call for removal from office of both Omar and Jayapal.

| <b>Naturalization oath</b>               | <b>Congressional oath</b>             |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Support the Constitution                 | Support and defend the Constitution   |
| Support and defend Constitution and laws | Support and defend Constitution       |
| Against foreign and domestic enemies     | Against foreign and domestic enemies  |
| Bear true faith and allegiance           | Bear true faith and allegiance        |
| National-service obligations             | Faithfully discharge duties of office |
| Renounce foreign allegiance              | —                                     |

Aside from the ***Oath of Allegiance***, there is one other oath that is also a lifetime commitment – it is the ***Presidential Oath of Office***. All other oaths are considered temporary while the oath taker is a federal employee or holds an elective office. However, a situation has arisen in the past couple of decades that may change the nature of oaths taken by military personnel.

In an effort to institutionalize the concept that a person remains connected to the military after active-duty, the Army implemented its “Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier” program in 1997. Since then, the other military branches have instituted similar programs. Perhaps the most recognizable one is “Once a Marine, Always a Marine.”

This institutional ethos lays the groundwork for military oaths to extend beyond active-duty, and enlistment and officer contracts. This ethos can, and has, spread to professions both in and outside of federal government. These areas include:

- Teaching
- Firefighting
- Law enforcement and legal fields
- Medical and related fields
- State and local political positions
- Scouting

Although the “For Life” ethos has not yet been challenged in court, it is fundamentally about values, duty, allegiance, honor, and service, and is typically grounded in oaths. Such an ethos provides the foundation for oaths that bind individuals to support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Every oath at the federal level should start with:

“I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office or position on which I am about to enter.”

Additional wording could be added to address specific duties, responsibilities, or obligations required by different federal offices, positions, or forms of service. This first sentence of all oaths provides a consistent foundation of allegiance, duty, and faithfulness.