

# PATRICK HENRY

1736 - 1799

**A King by disallowing Acts of a salutary nature . . . degenerates into a Tyrant and forfeits all right to his subjects' obedience. 1763 ● Caesar had his Brutus, Charles I his Cromwell, and George III . . . may profit by their example. 1765 ● The distinctions between Virginians, Pennsylvanians, New Yorkers, and New Englanders are no more. I am not a Virginian but an American. 1774 ● I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death! 1775 ● Fetter not commerce, sir – let her be as free as the air – she will range the whole creation . . . and bless the land with plenty. 1783 ● Liberty the greatest of all earthly blessings – give us that precious jewel, and you may take everything else. 1788 ● The necessity of a Bill of Rights appears to me to be greater in this Government, then ever it was in any Government before. 1788 ● Whether [Independence] will prove a blessing or a curse, will depend upon the use our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed upon us. 1799**

**His fame his best epitaph.**

*Inscription on Patrick Henry's grave at*

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