

## *Lyrics That Stir the Soul*

The Pledge of Allegiance “to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands” is always inspirational to me. I am honored each time I lead it for annual meetings, the Life Care Journey or for other occasions at Life Care. When the *Star Spangled Banner* is performed, chills come down my spine. It is a beautiful song, stirring a patriotic fervor for our country.

Recently, someone shared the lyrics of a Welsh anthem with me. It is a hymn of rare beauty. It, too, although written about another nation, should stir some feelings deep within us. The anthem was sung at both Princess Diana’s wedding and her funeral. Here are the lyrics, all but unknown in our country:

*I vow to thee my country, all earthly things above. Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love. The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test. That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best. The love that never falters, the love that pays the price. The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice. And there’s another country, I’ve heard of long ago, most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know. We may not count her armies, we may not see her King, her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering. And soul by soul and silently, her shining bounds increase, and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.*

The words of this song provide a rich vocabulary for contemplating what it means to give our lives to God and His kingdom. And the love that is described is the kind displayed by associates of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home every day.

--Beecher Hunter