

Jesse Belnap and Eunice Hall Monument Dedication and Historic Commemoration
Dedicatory Prayer
Saturday, 27 June 2026; Phillips Cemetery, North East Township, Erie County, PA
Brent J. Belnap

Our Dear Father in Heaven, we have assembled as relatives and friends near the shores of Lake Erie in Phillips Cemetery, North East Township, Erie County, Pennsylvania—exactly one week before the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America—to honor the lives of American Revolutionary War soldier Jesse Belnap, his wife Eunice Hall, and their children. With deep gratitude for all who have helped make this moment possible through generous donations of time and means, we thank Thee that so many have traveled here safely to participate in this historic event, and pray for Thy continued protective care over each of us during our activities.

We gratefully recognize and honor the legacy of service of Jesse Belnap, Eunice Hall, and others to the cause of America's Independence that brought us, their posterity, the precious gift of freedom enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. As grateful descendants, we thank Thee for all that unites as citizens of this blessed nation and for our country's bounteous goodness. Please continue to bless us as a nation and as a family.

Now, by the authority of the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood, we dedicate this beautiful granite monument as a lasting, loving memorial to Jesse Belnap and Eunice Hall and their family. Let it serve as a tangible reminder to all who stop to visit in years to come of their service to country, faith in God, and commitment to family. May this monument stand as a lasting tribute to our shared family heritage. Bless it to weather the elements well. Protect it from damage and desecration.

We also take this unique opportunity while gathered as family to dedicate and consecrate each burial site in this cemetery that holds the earthly remains of our forebears, including our great grandfather Jesse Belnap; our great grandmother Eunice Hall; their children David Belnap, Jesse Belnap, Jr., Eunice Belnap Phillips, Laura Belnap Alexander, and Hiram Belnap, together with their spouses and posterity. We also invoke Thy blessings on the burial sites of Jesse and Eunice's ten other children buried elsewhere: Ira Belnap, Ansel Belnap, Rosel Belnap, Elem Belnap, Anna Belnap, Gilbert Belnap, Sarah or "Sally" Belnap, Mary or "Polly" Belnap, Betsy Belnap, and Isabel Belnap, together with their spouses and posterity.

Bless this ground, that it might be hallowed and protected until the Resurrection. May those who visit here be privileged to feel, according to their faith and righteous desires, if it be Thy will, the very presence of their forebears—and may we be privileged to have them think of us and, where possible, assist and encourage us from beyond the veil in our own individual earthly sojourns.

May Jesse Belnap's service as an artificer in the Continental Army, which included helping construct the "Great Chain" across the Hudson River to stop the British in dividing the American Colonies, remind us that the most meaningful moments of life often pivot on seemingly small or even insignificant actions. May each of us, as President Gordon B. Hinckley, counseled, "never permit [ourselves] to become a weak link in the chain of [our] generations." (Hinckley, Gordon B., "Keep the Chain Unbroken," *Brigham Young University 1999–2000 Speeches* (2000), 108–9.)

We love Thee, Father, and Thy Beloved Son. Strengthen our resolve to walk acceptably before Thee continually. Increase our resolve to do Thy will. Bless this day to be a lasting, special memory, we humbly pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

#####