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Stewardship Advisory Group eNews: July 2014
God Bless America: One man's way of giving back to the land he loved.

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Stewardship Advisory Group
WEALTH MANAGEMENT ESTATE PLANNING LEGACY COACHING

GOD BLESS AMERICA

One man's way of giving back to the land that he loved.



Songwriter and Russian immigrant Irving Berlin, grew up in poverty on the streets of New York and worked hard to teach himself music. He eventually enjoyed extreme success as one of the most popular songwriters of his day with songs like "White

Christmas", "There's No Business Like Show Business" and "Blue Skies." Known for their precision, cleverness, and way of reaching the heart of the average American, Berlin's songs comprise a large part of *The Great American Songbook*.

When vocalist Kate Smith asked Irving Berlin to write a song for her to sing on her nationwide CBS radio show in 1938, hers wasn't the only benefit. The entire nation benefited not only then but in years to come by the heartfelt words and simple tune of "God Bless America."

But the song was more than another song written for royalties to further grow their writer's income. Berlin intended the song to be a gift, a token of his sincere appreciation for the "land that he loved." Berlin --who



DID YOU KNOW?

The first-ever Fourth of July celebration took place in Philadelphia in 1777.

The festivities included a parade, a thirteen-shot cannon salute and fireworks.

HOW MANY HOTDOGS?

According to TIME Magazine, Americans consume nearly 155 million hotdogs every Fourth of July.

LET FREEDOM TAP

The Liberty Bell was last rung in 1846. Since then, to prevent cracking the symbol of freedom, the bell is tapped 13 times to signal bells across the country to start ringing.

normally kept a watchful eye on his copyrights -- never wanted to make a dime from "God Bless America "and instead arranged the royalties to help America become a brighter and better place to live. In the months preceding a dark chapter in America's history book, Berlin chose the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts of America to be life-long recipients of the royalties of "God Bless America." To date, the Scouts have received over \$10 million. The best part? The gift is still giving.

This holiday as we express our true appreciation for our country and the many blessings that God gives us, let's take a cue from Irving Berlin and look for ways we can give back to those we love, for the One we love and Who first loved us.

Happy Fourth of July from your friends at Stewardship Advisory Group and God bless America!



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