

Trump: 'America is a Nation of Believers'

Monday evening's celebration at the White House was nothing short of a state dinner—only President Donald Trump wasn't honoring a foreign head of state but evangelical leaders.

"America is a nation of believers and tonight we are joined by faith leaders from around the country," Trump declared.

Among the faith leaders being honored were Rev. Franklin Graham and Pastor Paula White.

The president also took a moment to publicly express thanks for the late Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) service to America.

"Our hearts and prayers are going to the family of Sen. John McCain ... and we very much appreciate everything Sen. McCain has done for our country," Trump said.

The president then shifted his focus to the dinner's purpose: honoring America's faith and freedom.

"In recent years, the government tried to undermine religious freedom, but the attacks on communities of faith are over. We have ended it," Trump said.

The commander in chief drummed up applause highlighting his administration's efforts to combat religious persecution.

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