



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Political Circus

The TV show about politics called *The Circus* got me thinking about the difference between man and beast. If you have too often heard politicians say that they are running for public office because they answered their "calling" okay now everyone is under the circus big top. The word public service has many meanings. In the case of service industries i.e. water service, electric service, phone and internet service, the services are vital and taken for granted. However, in the area of Public Service meaning those who hold public office, we can only hope they perform equally valuable service.

I find the words "I had a calling" very suspect. Every calling starts with a self-awareness of your ability to be helpful to others. It is said that the two most important days in a life are the day you are born and the day you realize why you were born. I guess you could say that this second day is your calling. Many of my team mates became policemen. Of my children, five of them or their spouse are teachers. My brother-in-law is a fireman. My uncles were all in the military and my closest friends were also military, policemen, and firemen as well as football coaches. I have many memories of these who answered their calling. One common trait was the desire to make life better for those they served.

When a caveman picked up a rock and scratched stick figures on the wall, he could not have imagined the evolution to a Michelangelo painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Talent and skills in all trades have evolved beyond belief as humans answered their calling.

There is one exception. Humans have yet to learn to co-exist in harmony with their fellow neighbor. The media reports daily of hate crimes. Around the world, war has driven people from their homelands and even worse, some are killed for their belief in the "wrong God". In the animal kingdom a beast kills only to survive. With all the skill and talent humans have, how is it that we are more violent than any other creature on earth?

Nothing is more important than saving a child. It is written that "saving one human is saving the world." I know many world savers in my fortunate position with American Youth Football and Cheer. I am motivated as well by those who protect and serve our greatest natural resource - our kids. I witness so many good hearted leaders who are warriors. We need to win the war for the minds of our children.

To our political leaders of America, I suggest you look first to the local communities for the answers to evolving into a "brave new world." There you will find daily examples of unselfish giving of time and talent for the betterment of others. To serve in public office may well be your calling. We can only hope your promise to make our lives better will be a promise you keep.