

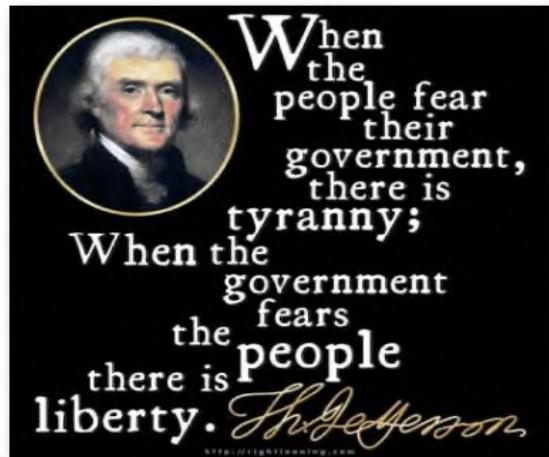


AMERICA IS PUSHING BACK!



Volume 6 Issue 11 Your Trusted Christian, Conservative and Constitutional News Publication

NOVEMBER 2021



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

By the Editorial Staff

This year it doesn't seem like there's much to celebrate or be thankful for. Friends and loved ones continue to suffer with illness and many discouraging and outrageous events have occurred that require our continued attention, action, and prayers; but our H.H. editorial staff is choosing to celebrate our American heritage of freedom this November.

Many of our countrymen have been seduced and have succumbed to a narrative pushed by a media controlled by extreme, hostile groups who expound a message of division and hostility to our American history and pursuit of individual freedom. Our present government seems to want all of us to submit to mandates, agendas and theories they promote "for our collective good," whether we agree with them or not. But guess what? The spirit of freedom in the hearts of the American people has begun to stir, manifesting itself in a public way that cannot be silenced.

When it concerns our freedom to teach our children principles and values that build their love of self, love of God and love of their nation, we reserve the right to examine and approve the final agenda and curriculum. In matters of health including orders that mandate use of experimental vaccines that we question or don't even need because of natural immunity, we are resisting tyrannical threats to force us to submit or lose our rights and livelihoods – the American people are speaking out and pushing back.

Moms and dads are showing up at school board meetings to express their goals and expectations. Civil action suits are forming to protest jobs lost because of mandates. Parents are choosing home schooling over indoctrinating education in public schools. Marches and peaceful protests are being initiated and calls to elected representatives are piling up in their voice-message boxes.

Yes, we are beginning to see the spirit of 1776 rising in the hearts of the American people. WE THE PEOPLE remain the ones with the power to determine our own destiny by standing against tyrannical threats to our freedom. Our elected representatives are supposed to govern in a way that protects our rights. They are supposed to represent our interests – to work for us. They, according to our Constitution, are elected and remain in power by the consent of the governed – not the other way around. The government is not, and never was the source of our rights. Our rights come from our Creator God. Government in America

must remain of, by and for the people. The people's voice must not be silenced!

We have this heritage recorded in written documents and we must be very thankful for that and preserve it for our posterity. Now, when that heritage is threatened, we must remind one another what we've been given, teach it to our children (or see to it that it is properly taught), use it to instruct our public servants and use it to alter public policy. And most of all, to thank the good Lord for our heritage of freedom.

WE THE PEOPLE!! We can do this!

A PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor—and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war—for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions—to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually—to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord—To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all

Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

G. Washington
Ref Hillsdale College

Don't Tread On Me and the Gadsden Flag



It's hard to miss the Gadsden Flag these days. Although it sprung back into popular American consciousness when the Tea Party first got its legs, this is a flag with a long and storied history. In fact, the flag is older than the United States itself.

Back in 1775, Benjamin Franklin designed and published America's first political cartoon. Called "Join Or Die," it featured a generic snake cut into 13 parts. The imagery was clear: join together or be destroyed by British power. But why a snake? Around this time, Great Britain was sending criminals over to the colonies. Franklin once quipped that the colonists should thank them by sending over shipments of rattlesnakes. As American identity grew, so did an affinity for American (as opposed to British) symbols. Bald eagles, Native Americans and the American timber rattlesnake – the snake depicted on the flag.

In December of 1775 Ben Franklin wrote anonymously to the Pennsylvania Journal to suggest the symbol be emblazoned on all early American battle arms. Franklin stated the reasons for his selection of the image were as follows: The rattlesnake is only found in North America, The creature has "sharp eyes" and "may therefore be esteemed an emblem of vigilance. The snake isn't known for unprovoked attacks, However, once it does attack, it doesn't stop until it wins. What's more, even before attacking, the rattlesnake gives ample

(Continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM—IT'S UP TO US

THE JANUARY 6 INSURRECTION HOAX

THE GOOD TIMES ARE OVER FOR JOE BIDEN

BUY AMERICAN FOR CHRISTMAS 2021

EDUCATIONAL FADDISM THEN AND NO

(Gadsden Flag from page 1)

warning in the form of its rattle, and finally because the snake's rattle contains 13 parts all of which cannot function independently, much like his vision for the 13 colonies.

The rattlesnake became an immensely popular symbol of America. It could be found through-out the 13 colonies on everything from buttons and badges to paper money and flags. And while Franklin didn't get his wish, the Gadsden Flag did find a place as the personal standard of Navy Commodore Hopkins. By virtue of being Hopkins' standard, it was effectively the first flag of the American Navy and Marines.

But who was Gadsden? Christopher Gadsden was the designer of the flag. He's known as "the Sam Adams of the South." Both a soldier and a statesman, Gadsden was a founding member of South Carolina's Sons of Liberty chapter. He served as a delegate to both the First and Second Continental Congresses. He left the Continental Congress in 1776 to serve as commander of the 1st South Carolina Regiment of the Continental Army.

His legislative service continued in the Provincial Congress of South Carolina. And during the war, he was captured and served 42 weeks in solitary confinement after refusing to cut a deal with British expeditionary forces. After the war, his health was in poor shape, primarily due to his time spent in an old Spanish prison.

Gadsden was elected to the position of governor of South Carolina, but declined the position due to his health. He remained in the state legislature until 1788 and voted to ratify the United States Constitution. He died in 1805 and is buried in Charlestown.

Today you can find the Gadsden Flag and its variations throughout the conservative, libertarian and patriotic movements. The Tea Party waved it during their Obamacare protests in 2009. This is what caught the government's attention.

A 2009 report from a Missouri law enforcement memorandum called it "the most common symbol displayed by right-wing terrorist organizations." That same year in Louisiana, a man was detained by police simply for having a "Don't Tread on Me" bumper sticker on his vehicle. Christopher Cantwell and other libertarians have added the rattlesnake and "Don't Tread On Me" legend to the distinctive black-and-yellow anarcho-capitalist flag.

It is still favored by the Tea Party and non-violent patriotic freedom movements. Over 250 years after its creation, the Gadsden Flag resonates because of its stark imagery and simple message. "Don't Tread on Me" with a rattlesnake poised to attack says all that needs to be said. It is not an aggressive posture, but rather a defensive one.

It says to anyone who would tread on the liberties of free people to think twice. While free people are peaceful, their patience is not endless.

Next time you hoist this flag up, don a hat with its image or throw a Gadsden Flag sticker on your car – remember that you're standing in a fine tradition that includes the first American Navy and Marines and the patriot after whom the flag is named.

The saddest epitaph which can be carved in memory of a vanished liberty is that it was lost because its possessors failed to stretch forth a saving hand while yet there was time. — George Sutherland

"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave." — Patrick Henry (1775)

A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM –

IT'S UP TO US

By Chaplain R.T. Byrum



November 19, 1893 was a cool evening in Pennsylvania when President Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous address at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg.

His closing words were: "...from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

And so it was for the next half century or so that the sacrifice of those honored dead was cherished and respected and so our blessed nation prospered.

Then along came our generation and that of our children. It was we, either by aggression or submission, who set the wheels of destruction in motion.

It is easy to blame protests and riots and other mayhem on young people, many influenced by progressive socialist professors that we allowed to make up the staffs of once Christian Universities. Teaching Critical Race Theory, Gender Dysphoria, White Supremacy and creating a hate for America, these unabashed lovers of Karl Marx have poisoned out future leaders.

More disturbing is the number of people over fifty who voted away our freedoms in four of the last five elections. Only one thing prevented our immediate collapse into a third world nation

In 2016, God gave America a breather from the insane rules and regulations forced on us by the Leftist Elites. Open borders were being closed to the flood of insurgents, all illegal, many also criminal. Domestic energy resources were freed up to unshackle the nation from hostile suppliers.

Choking regulations were removed from the necks of small business. Tax breaks and fair-trade tariffs brought American industry back home from overseas. Funds were being pulled away from abortion clinics stained with the blood of over 63 million innocent babies.

Our seriously weakened military was again restored to superpower strength, and America was respected once more around the world.

And then election 2020 happened. How could such an obviously corrupt attack on our Constitutional Republic happen? The apparent answer is stuffed ballot boxes, rigged voting machines, harvested ballots and the thousands of illegal votes that are showing up in audits.

A less obvious answer lies in the thousands of registered voters who stayed away from the voting booths for "religious" reasons or for thinking that their "one" vote didn't make that much of a difference. Somehow, they failed to know how slim the margin of victory can be.

And there is plenty of blame to be placed on the shoulders of pastors who could have at the very least given guidance to the flock on how to judge candidates by sermons on biblical values.

Behind all the finger pointing may lie the true reason why we are under the present curse of government gone rogue. Time and again, the one true Creator God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had warned His people, Israel, and, by extension, those grafted into His family, to turn from their sins and acknowledge Him as their God.

As a people, we had the opportunity in 2016-2020 to repent and join the fight to re-

store America to its founding moral principles. We failed and our punishment is upon our heads. Will God give us another chance to do it right in the 2022 and 2024 elections? Perhaps...or perhaps not.

But every American has a part in His decision: Christians can pray, pastors can give guidance, young people can study the true history of our nation and read the Constitution, seniors can remember back when they were part of the greatest generation, and leftists can decide if they really want to live under tyranny or join the fight for a free and strong America.

When the voting booths open, let your legitimate ballot be counted to prevent the possibility of another corrupt election. Only by voting in numbers that cannot be overcome with fraud can freedom be restored.

Never forget that if America is destroyed, and we did nothing to push back, we all share the blame.

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PRESIDENT BIDEN ONCE AGAIN WEAPONIZING THE IRS

as reported by Jay Sekulow
ACLJ Chief Counsel

In an official determination letter, the Biden IRS declared: *"The bible teachings are typically affiliated with the Republican party and candidates. This disqualifies you."*

As I told Congress recently, it's hard to imagine a government official writing these words, much less the official who replaced Lois Lerner. It's an outrageous expression of a viewpoint, it's discrimination, and it's unconstitutional.

Now the IRS is asking Congress to DRAS- TICALLY increase its funding. This is dangerous.

During the Obama-Biden Administration, we defeated the IRS in court after they targeted conservatives. After a massive, years-long legal battle, we secured a court order forbidding the IRS from EVER targeting someone for their beliefs again.

Now the Biden IRS could be going beyond targeting conservatives and pro-lifers – and going directly after Christians.

We've filed a MAJOR lawsuit against Biden's IRS over this targeting of Christians, and the IRS's court deadline to answer is next month.

Recently, I personally testified in Congress for a FIFTH time, before Members of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee at a roundtable to end the Biden Administration's weaponization of the IRS.

Questions, comments, letter to the editor?

Contact us by email at

ourheartlandherald@gmail.com

THE JANUARY 6TH INSURRECTION HOAX

By Roger Kimball, *Imprimis Magazine*

Notwithstanding all the hysterical rhetoric surrounding the events of January 6, 2021, two critical things stand out. The first is that what happened was much more hoax than insurrection. In my judgment, it wasn't an insurrection at all.

An "insurrection" is a violent uprising against a government or other established authority. Unlike the violent riots that swept the country in the summer of 2020—riots that caused some \$2 billion in property damage and claimed more than 20 lives—the January 6 protest at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. lasted a few hours, caused minimal damage, and one person was killed – an unarmed female Trump supporter who was shot by a Capitol Police officer. It was, as Tucker Carlson said, a political protest that "got out of hand."

To listen to the establishment media and our political masters, the January 6 protest was a dire threat to the very fabric of our nation: the worst assault on "our democracy" since 9/11, since Pearl Harbor, and even according to Joe Biden last April—since the Civil War!

Note that phrase "our democracy": Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden, and various talking heads have repeated it ad nauseam. But you do not need an advanced degree in hermeneutics to understand that what they mean by "our democracy" is their oligarchy. Similarly, when Pelosi talks about "the people's house," she doesn't mean a house that welcomes riff-raff like you and me.

In other words, to understand the January 6 insurrection hoax, you also must understand that other long-running hoax, the Russia collusion hoax, used as a pretext to create a parallel administration shadowing the elected Trump administration. It was a hoax to be sure used to deploy, illegally, the awesome coercive power of the state against a presidential candidate of whom the ruling bureaucracy and its favored candidate disapproved.

At least 74 million citizens voted for Donald Trump in 2020, which is at least 11 million more than voted for him in 2016. Many of those voters are profoundly disillusioned and increasingly angry about this entire story—the years-long Robert Mueller "investigation," the two impeachments of President Trump, the cloud of unknowing that surrounds the 2020 election, and the many questions that have emerged not only from the January 6 protest at the Capitol, but even more from the government's response to that protest.

According to the government narrative, five people, including Babbitt, died in the skirmish. Moreover, it was said, Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick was bludgeoned to death by a raging Trump supporter wielding a fire extinguisher. That gem of a story, reported in *The New York Times*, was instantly picked up by other media outlets and spread like a Chinese virus. Officer Sicknick—also a Trump supporter, as it turned out—went home, told his family he felt fine, but died a day later from, as *The Washington Post* eventually reported, "natural causes." The indisputable fact about January 6 is that although five people died at or near the Capitol on that day or soon thereafter, none of these deaths was brought about by the protesters.

Of course, it is absolutely critical to the Democratic Party narrative that the January 6 incident be made to seem as violent and crazed as possible. Only thus can pro-Trump Americans be excluded from "our democracy" if not, indeed, "domestic terrorists."



The January 6 insurrection hoax prompts lots of questions.

Why, for example, did the government mobilize 26,000 federal troops to surround "the people's house" following January 6? Why were those troops subjected to FBI vetting, with some of them sent packing?

Why is there some 14,000 hours of video footage of the event on January 6 that the government refuses to release? What are they afraid of letting the public see? Scenes of security guards opening doors and politely ushering in protesters? More pictures of FBI informants covertly salted among the crowd?

It looks as if the American constitutional republic has given way, as least temporarily, to an American oligarchy. A perfect storm of forces conspired to make 2020 election the first oligarchic installation of a president. The panic over the Chinese virus was used by the Democratic establishment, as a splendid pretext to clamp down on civil liberties; it also provided an inarguable excuse to alter the rules for elections in several key states.

One melancholy lesson of the January 6 insurrection hoax and its followup is that America is fast mutating from a republic, in which individual liberty is paramount, into a self-interested oligarchy, in which conformity is increasingly demanded and enforced by a ruling class.

Another lesson was perfectly expressed by Donald Trump when he reflected on the unremitting tsunami of hostility that he faced as President. "They're after you," he more than once told his supporters. "I'm just in the way." **Bingo.**

Are Government Roundups of Resistors in Our Future?

By John W. & Nisha Whitehead 09-28-2021

"No doubt concentration camps were a means, a menace used to keep order."
Albert Speer, Nuremberg Trials



Under the present circumstances in America today, it's no longer a question of *whether* the government will lock up Americans for defying its mandates but *when*.

This is what we know: the government has the means, the muscle and the motivation to detain individuals who resist its orders and do not comply with its mandates in a vast array of prisons, detention centers, and FEMA concentration camps paid for with taxpayer dollars.

It's just a matter of time.

It no longer matters what the hot-button issue might be (vaccine mandates, immigration, gun rights, abortion, same-sex marriage, healthcare, criticizing the government, protesting election results, etc.) or which party is wielding its power like a hammer.

The groundwork has already been laid. Under the indefinite detention provision of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the President and the military can detain and imprison American citizens with no access to friends, family or the courts if the government believes them to be a terrorist.

So, it should come as no surprise that merely criticizing the government could get you labeled as a terrorist. After all, it doesn't take much to be considered a terrorist anymore, especially given that the government likes to use the words "anti-government," "extremist," and "terrorist" interchangeably.

Military veterans returned from Iraq and Afghanistan may also be characterized as extremists and potential domestic terrorist threats by the government because they may be "disgruntled, disillusioned or suffering from the psychological effects of war."

Indeed, if you believe in and exercise your rights under the Constitution, namely, your right to speak freely, worship freely, associate with like-minded individuals who share your political views, criticize the government, own a weapon, demand a warrant before being questioned or searched, or any other activity viewed as potentially anti-government, racist, bigoted, anarchic, you could be at the top of the government's terrorism watch list.

A *New York Times* editorial warns, you may be an anti-government extremist (a.k.a. domestic terrorist) in the eyes of the police if you are afraid that the government is plotting to confiscate your firearms, if you believe the economy is about to collapse and the government will soon declare martial law, or if you display an unusual number of political and/or ideological bumper stickers on your car.

According to the FBI, you may be classified as a domestic terrorism threat if you espouse conspiracy theories or dare to subscribe to any views that are contrary to the government's.

The government also has a growing list—shared with fusion centers and law enforcement agencies—of ideologies, behaviors, affiliations and other characteristics that could flag someone as suspicious and result in their being labeled *potential* enemies of the state.

Despite what some may think, the Constitution is no magical incantation against government wrongdoing. Indeed, it's only as effective as those who abide by it.

Frankly, the courts and the police have meshed in their thinking to such an extent that, anything goes, when it's done in the name of national security. Consequently, America no longer operates under a system of justice characterized by due process, an assumption of innocence, probable cause and clear prohibitions on government overreach. Instead, our courts of justice have been transformed into courts of order, advocating for the government's interests, rather than championing the rights of the citizenry, as enshrined in the Constitution.

Consider that two decades ago we were debating whether non-citizens—for example, so-called enemy combatants being held at Guantanamo Bay and Muslim-Americans rounded up in the wake of 9/11—were entitled to protections under the Constitution, specifically as they relate to indefinite detention. Americans weren't overly concerned about the rights of non-citizens then, and now we're the ones in the unenviable position of being targeted for indefinite detention by our own government. The creation of detention camps domestically has long been part of the government's budget and operations, falling under the jurisdiction of FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

But we still have a sizeable portion of the population today unconcerned about the government's practice of spying on Americans, having been brainwashed into believing that if you're not doing anything wrong, you have nothing to worry about.

Something "illegal" (mind you, in this age of overcriminalization, could be anything from feeding the birds to growing exotic orchids).

It will only be a matter of time before they learn the hard way that in what has become a police state, it doesn't matter who you are or how righteous you claim to be, because eventually, you will be lumped in with everyone else and everything you do could be labeled "wrong" and "suspect." Indeed, it's happening already, with police relying on surveillance software, such as Shadow Dragon, to watch people's social media and other website ac-

tivity, whether or not they suspect a crime, and potentially use it against them when the need arises. Our own personal data, repossessed and repackaged could be used by corporations and the government to entrap us in prisons of our own making.

Without constitutional protections in place to guard against encroachments on our rights when power, technology and militaristic governance converge, it won't be long before we find ourselves, looking back on the past with longing, back to an age where we could speak to whom we wanted, buy what we wanted, think what we wanted, and go where we wanted without those thoughts, words and movements being tracked, processed and stored by corporate giants such as Google, sold to government agencies such as the NSA and CIA, and used against us by a militarized police force with an army of futuristic technologies.

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BUY AMERICAN FOR CHRISTMAS 2021

By Barry Foster

Due to what have been termed "problems with the supply chain," Americans have been advised it may be a sparse Christmas this year.



Setting "Grinchonomics" aside for a minute, let us point out that it's not American goods that are sitting offshore in container ships.

We have talked about the benefits of buying goods Made in the USA - and have even interviewed Don Buckner of madeinamerica.com about the plethora of items made here in the United States and available for purchase this very second.

Right now, there are products ranging from belts to water distillery systems that are made right here in the good old USA - from locally sourced raw materials - and can be purchased for holiday gift giving with a simple telephone call or a few keystrokes on a computer.

To finds some of these companies, shoppers might start with The America List, The Made in America Marketplace or The Grommet. Each one features dozens of different categories with hundreds of different products - all stamped "Made in USA." Some of them might even be made in your state.

There's clothing and apparel, cookware, musical instruments, knives, firearms, vehicles and accessories. How about tools, bakeware, flatware and yes - American flags. A quick search can hook you up with American-made decor, gadgets and accessories.

And don't forget My Pillow and Mike Lindell's ongoing product line.

In fact, if you don't know what to get - browsing these sites and others will give you some great ideas. Moreover, if you already know what you want - an internet search of "Made in America plus your product," probably will present you with choices you didn't even know existed.

The long and the short of it is this - we as Americans have been solving problems for centuries. Our whole culture is built on the ability to adapt and overcome. This whole "crisis" as it has been presented, has opened the door of opportunity to American entrepreneurs to shine through the holiday season.

Product lines are not limited to dry goods. There are plenty of regular and specialty foods that can be ordered from farms and producers across the fruited plains that put dollars in the pockets of our fellow citizens while allowing us to grace our tables with produce grown and produced right here in America.

We heartily recommend that when it comes to gifts and celebrations throughout this holiday season - look to "Made in America" products.

This has a composite effect of creating jobs and bolstering the economy while putting goods in our hands that are made to a higher standard of quality. This provides great gifts - not only for your loved ones, but for our American manufacturers and retailers.

FLORIDA'S ELECTION CODE IS FULL OF INCONSISTENCIES & LOOPHOLES - HERE'S 10 FIXES!

By Defend Florida

What needs to be done?

The Florida legislature needs to adopt 47 proposed changes "Closing Loopholes and Resolving Conflicts".

Here are the ten most important proposed changes:

- Standardize use of the uniform statewide voter registration form across the board with a wet signature. Online: Print out, sign, and mail in form.
- Eliminate all digital signatures as they cannot be used to effectively compare with the vote-by-mail wet signature on the ballot envelope.
- Require identification for all voters. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Require all voters to have an "address of legal residence" which includes the appropriate Apt/Lot/Unit number.
- Simplify and streamline the deregistration process. Voters who have been somehow improperly deregistered (a rare occurrence) can just fill out a new statewide voter registration form and re-register.
- Require identification numbers on all vote-by-mail ballot requests. A written request to send a ballot to the voter's primary registration address does not require identification numbers per SB90.
- Require that voter registrations where the identification is a driver's license have the voter's citizenship checked using the driver's license database.
- Require that digital images of the ballots be kept and made available to the public. This is already the law, but most SOEs don't follow it.
- Strike the word "manual" from the required post-election recount audits. Require the optional automatic machine recount of 20% of the precincts randomly selected in public on separate simple, tallying machines (that don't have built-in modems with VPNs).
- Establish an audit system for all 67 counties modeled after standard business accounting procedures – the way that Fortune 500 companies maintain internal controls.

EDUCATIONAL FADDISM

THEN AND NOW

by Mark Stamp, the Epoch Times

October 13, 2021

Among the many brilliant insights of the great Thomas Sowell is the following gem:

"Much of the social history of the Western world over the past three decades has involved replacing what worked with what sounded good. In area after area—crime, education, housing, race relations—the situation has gotten worse after the bright new theories were put into operation. The amazing thing is that this history of failure and disaster has neither discouraged the social engineers nor discredited them."

Here, I want to provide a brief personal history that highlights the "education" aspect of Dr. Sowell's insightful quote.

In my lifetime, I've personally experienced four education fads, each of which has, in my opinion, had a negative effect on the U.S. educational system. The first of these four is the "new math" that was popular when I was in elementary school.

Roughly speaking, the goal of the new math was to skip over tedious parts of the subject and go directly to a deeper understanding and appreciation. Apparently, the theory was that if a student first loved math, then he or she could fill in the missing details later.

The results were disastrous. Math is a subject that requires a step-by-step approach, and without the ability to efficiently perform the basics, the next rung on the mathematical ladder is beyond reach.

My father instinctively realized the folly of the new math and insisted that his kids learn the basics, such as memorizing multiplication tables. Without that push from home, the technical fields that have served as my career would surely have been off-limits to me from a very young age.

Next, we fast-forward to my graduate school years, which coincided with the era of "calculus reform." Historically, calculus is a "weeder" class that eliminates a sizable proportion of students who plan on going into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields. Again, this might sound good, but, in practice, it was largely a failure.

Calculus reform lost its way when it attempted to address the social aspects of learning.

For example, it was claimed that "cooperative learning" was crucial, as students from certain successful demographics tended to spend a higher percentage of their study time in groups compared to less successful demographics. The educational faddists conveniently overlooked the fact that success in calculus was far more strongly correlated with the number of hours spent studying, as opposed to the fraction of that studying time that was "cooperative."

My next experience with educational faddism occurred when my older son started elementary school. We were living in Maryland at the time, and that state decided to go all-in on the "whole-language" approach to teaching reading.

Whole language was essentially a recycled version of new math, but for reading. Students weren't taught phonics, and the theory was that at some point, they would magically grasp how to read by simply being read to.

The predictable problem with the whole-language fad is that many students never reach the point where the magic occurs. I would wager that most of the students who did learn to read well under the whole-language regime did so because parents ignored the school curriculum and taught their children outside of the classroom by using proven techniques.

Reading comprehension scores plummeted wherever whole language was adopted, with disadvantaged students being hit the hardest. Whole language was such an epic failure that

there was no papering over the problems that it created.

My fourth personal experience with an educational fad occurred when my younger son started middle school. We were living in California, and “Common Core” was the latest fad that was going to save U.S. education.

One of the tenets of Common Core is that virtually all students should learn at essentially the same pace. Obviously, this is a problem for students who aren’t in the middle of the pack.

As a result of Common Core, my son learned absolutely nothing in his math class during his sixth-grade year. Parents were up in arms, but nothing was done until the following year, which was too late for those students who’d had a year of their education sacrificed for a daffy egalitarian theory.

What’s the current state of educational faddism? It would be nice if the education establishment reflected upon their repeated failures and decided to henceforth focus on proven teaching strategies, emphasizing the benefits of hard work and sacrifice. Unfortunately, I can say with certainty that this hasn’t been the case.

The current effort to twist history to serve a political narrative (the “1619 Project”) is appalling, and even worse is “critical race theory,” which is little more than a bizarre, recycled version of communism.

Such examples show that the education establishment has completely gone off the rails, as these latest fads aren’t even designed to improve U.S. education—all that they could possibly claim to “improve” is the level of indoctrination students face.

It’s encouraging that many parents today sense that things are amiss and are starting to fight back by putting pressure on school boards. Hopefully there will be enough resistance to stop the education faddists before they do more harm.

BIDEN'S NEW MOTTO: "LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS"

By Mike Huckabee

The Trump Administration’s motto was “Make America Great Again.” The Biden Administration finally has one of its own (no, not “Build Back Better;” that was always just a phony label for more tax-and-spend lunacy.) The phrase that will become synonymous with the Biden (four) years is: “Lower Your Expectations!”

The Biden palace guard media aren’t even trying to finesse that message, they’re just coming right out and lecturing Americans to stop expecting success, greatness, abundance or even a baseline level of competence. That message is being sent out (likely straight off the DNC email blast) via such outlets as MSNBC and the Washington Post. Lower your expectations, America!

Stop expecting that there will be Christmas gifts or electronics or even food or toilet paper on store shelves, just like you had to stop expecting that cops might come if you called 911 in a Democrat-run city, or that the government might do something to prevent waves of illegal migrants from flowing across the border. Stop expecting that, even if you do find some product you need, you’ll be able to afford it (Procter & Gamble just warned that prices on household staples will be going up week after week, just as gas prices and home power bills already are.)

Those things are simply inevitable. There’s nothing anyone can do about them. Well, nobody who’s in office at the moment can, or will.

Unfortunately, not all Americans have gotten the message that this is the “new normal.” Some are actually upset that store shelves are thinning out while prices are skyrocketing.

If they think it’s tough buying groceries, they’d better not complain to the White House about not being able to find a treadmill. That’s the kind of “high class problem” that our bubble-dwelling “leaders” seem to think ungrateful Americans are whining about.

If it’s any comfort to them, they should know that they don’t need to urge me to lower my expectations. I lowered them severely the minute I heard the results of the 2020 election.

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Dale Pflug – Publisher
Cheryl Pflug – Editor
R.T. Byrum – Writer/Editor
Ed Baldridge – Business Development
June Wheeler – Finance/Distribution

Email us: ourheartlandherald@gmail.com

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Any law that takes hold of a man’s daily life cannot prevail in the community unless the vast majority of the community are actively in favor of it. The laws that are the most operative are the laws which protect life.

— Henry Ward Beecher

BORDER AGENTS ARE DESPERATE FOR A WALL; “\$100 MILLION WORTH OF MATERIALS SITTING HERE GOING TO WASTE”

From patriotalerts.com (video link below)

Fox News reporter Bill Melugin has been doing exceptional work at the border for months, and now he is sounding the alarm on the need for a wall at the southern border.

Not only is there a desperate need, but Melugin shows footage of \$100 million worth of border wall materials that are just going to waste.

“We’ve known for quite some time that the Biden Administration wasn’t planning to finish this border wall project, but now we want to show you what it physically looks like to not build the border wall,” Melugin began in his new video report.

“Take a look at this remarkable video our drone team shot yesterday. We were tipped off to this location. What you are looking at is one location where a bunch of the steel that was supposed to go towards the border wall has just been sitting out in the open baking in the sun and rusting ever since January,” he said.

Melugin then went to describe the vast amount of wall-building materials that are being wasted because Biden refuses to build what he considers a “racist” wall.

“I’m told there are about 10,000 of these wall panels just sitting here — this is in Pharr, Texas — each panel worth about \$5,000. You can do the math, upwards of \$50 million just sitting there going to absolute waste. Keep in mind taxpayers have already paid for this. It’s bought and paid for and nothing is happening with it. This is one of two locations. There is a second location right down the street from there where there is even more panels, over \$100 million worth of these panels just sitting there. I’m told by a federal source they bought enough steel for more than 100 miles of wall down here, only about 14 was built before President Biden halted all construction. Take a look at the second piece of video our drone team shot where we’re standing here in La Joya, Texas. This was on Saturday,” Melugin added.

“You can see more steel just sitting out here in the sun, going unused. This was ready to go into the ground. They started building the wall out here in La Joya where they really need it. We see runners coming through here all the time.”

“We’ve shown you guys video from La Joya for the past six months now, and you’ve seen how many people come through this area. Border agents tell us they really need the



wall here and they're incredibly frustrated they're not going to get it because they can't be everywhere at once and the wall would be a force multiplier for them to help create choke points," he concludes.

What is your reaction to Biden's failure on the border?

Copy and paste the following video link: <https://patriotalerts.com/2021/10/watch-fox-news-reporter-says-border-agents-are-desperate-for-a-wall-100-million-worth-of-materials-sitting-here-going-to-waste/>

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HERE'S WHY THE "GOOD TIMES" ARE OVER FOR JOE BIDEN

By patriotalerts.com 10-17-2021

"When sorrows come," said King Claudius, "they come not as single spies but in battalions." As the king found out. So, it seems with President Joe Biden, who must be asking himself the question Merle Haggard asked:

"Are the good times really over for good?"

Consider the critical issue with voters today: the state of the economy.

Inflation in September stood at 5.4% year on year.

With prices of food and fuel rising, the supply chains for goods entering the country and headed for stores, shelves and showrooms before Thanksgiving and Christmas are clogged. Container ships are backed up in ports, waiting to unload on both coasts. Many of the trucks to carry the goods to inland markets sit idle for lack of drivers.

The latest employment figures show 10.4 million U.S. jobs going begging in August as 4.3 million workers dropped out of the labor force.

How are Democrats responding to the return of inflation?

By trying to pile a \$3.5 trillion social spending package on top of a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure package on top of the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief act Biden signed in March. Coupled with an easy-money Fed policy, this hand could play out for Biden the way it played out for former President Jimmy Carter.

A second issue that appears beyond the capacity of the Biden people to solve is the invasion from across our southern border. Nightly film of border crossers and their encounters with the Border Patrol have riveted the attention of the nation.

Lately, there has been a new feature. Sporadic small arms fire at U.S. Border Patrol agents by cartel coyotes who are enriching themselves by steering migrants from all over the world to crossing points on the Rio

Grande. By year's end, some 2 million illegal immigrants will have crossed under the de facto open borders policy of the Biden administration.

Entering with them are scores of thousands of "got aways" who have avoided contact with U.S. authorities on the way into our country.

Another issue for Biden is the surge of both random and purposeful violence in liberal Democratic cities where knifings, shootings and killings are approaching new records.

With almost everyone carrying a phone camera, the daily photos of urban shootings have turned the country against the "defund the police!" crowd and the political party that is associated with them.

The George Floyd summer is over. Police departments are being refunded, and cops are being defended and demanded in neighborhoods that have suffered from their resignations, retirements and removal.

Then there is the new culture-war issue of race and education and whether America's children should be taught in their schools about the goodness and greatness of their country or about its sins and crimes.

Civic gatherings have erupted, with parents facing off against teachers and school boards in Northern Virginia communities near where historic battles of the Civil War were fought.

Former Gov. Terry McAuliffe, seeking to regain his office, may have put his campaign in peril by telling parents they have no legitimate role in decisions about what their children should be taught, and not taught, in Virginia's public schools.

"I'm not going to let parents come into schools and actually take books out and make their own decisions," said McAuliffe. "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach."

Biden's political fortunes and his party's future are likely to hinge upon the fate of his Build Back Better legislation, currently in the custody of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Capitulating to the demands of progressives, Biden and Pelosi agreed to delay passage of the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, which had easily passed in the Senate, until the \$3.5 trillion social safety net bill could catch up and travel in tandem to approval in both Houses.

Biden has wagered his presidency on passage of both the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill and as large a share of the \$3.5 trillion social safety net program as he can convince Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona to approve.

By caving to the both-or-nothing ultimatum the progressives issued to her, which caused Pelosi to hold up certain and swift passage of the infrastructure bill, she may have imperiled them both.

Meanwhile, other priority agenda items of both Democratic moderates and progressives appear headed for the boneyard.

The \$15 minimum wage is gone. A "path to citizenship" for millions of illegal immigrants seems dead. Police reform appears to have been abandoned. Federal legislation to give the Department of Justice veto power over state GOP voting reforms appears no longer viable.

With all his chips now in the middle of the table as this session of Congress winds down, Biden's hand looks weaker and weaker.

Wednesday, four polls found that half the nation — and in three of them, more than half — now disapprove of his presidency.

In the 10th month of his four-year term, are the good times really over for good — for Joe Biden? Starting to look that way.

Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined." — Patrick Henry (1788)

Biden Energy Policy: Leave No Oil Dictator Behind

By Timothy H. Lee Center for Individual Freedom 10-21-2021

Are you enjoying this historic surge in consumer product shortages and inflation, which the White House in its best Marie Antoinette impression labels a "high-class problem?"

Well, get ready, because it's about to get even worse.



The federal government warned just last week that Americans should expect significantly higher heating bills this winter. Specifically, the Energy Information Administration projects that approximately half of U.S. households that heat with natural gas will pay an average of 30% more this year than last year, which will increase to 50% higher if winter is merely 10% colder this year than last:

Compared with last winter, we forecast propane expenditures will rise by 54%, heating oil by 43%, natural gas by 30%, and electricity by 6%. We expect space heating demand to generally be higher this winter based on forecasts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that U.S. average heating degree days will be 3% higher than last winter (Winter Fuels Outlook). Altering our assumptions for a 10% colder-than-expected winter significantly increases forecast expenditures, while a 10% warmer-than-expected winter still results in increased expenditures, because of price increases.

If that sounds like bad news, well, *The Washington Post* has a message for you: Get over it, you spoiled brats. "Time for some new, more realistic expectations," Post columnist Michelene Maynard lectures, concluding that, "we'd do ourselves a favor by consciously lowering expectations."

Just three months ago, Joe Biden snapped that "no serious economist" suggested that runaway inflation was any threat. Then, his administration frantically pivoted to assuring us that the problem was merely "transitory." Now that higher gas prices and overall inflation remain stubbornly and alarmingly persistent, they're switching to mocking Americans' "high-class" expectations and Jen Psaki's "tragedy of the treadmill delayed snark."

Next thing you know, they'll be lecturing us that Soviet-style shortages and gas lines are a good thing. Oh, wait — they already have.

Although the Biden Administration rationalizes that this is all a problem of surging demand rather than any sort of Biden Administration blunder, the International Energy Agency reports that global oil demand won't reach pre-pandemic levels until next year.

Meanwhile, the production side is under assault. Between 2010 and 2015, according to Rystad Energy, global oil and gas exploration investment averaged approximately \$100 billion per year. Since 2015, however, that investment average had fallen 50% to \$50 billion per year. This year alone, aggregate investment will be down approximately 26% from pre-pandemic levels.

And why would that be otherwise? European regime continues to shut down exploration and production, while the Biden Administration has made domestic U.S. energy pro-

duction Public Enemy Number One. On his very first day as president, Biden halted the Keystone XL pipeline and subsequently imposed a moratorium on oil and gas leases on federal lands. Since that time, the administration has slashed drilling permits by 75%.

These and other innumerable Biden Administration actions have sent an unmistakable signal to our energy sector that their days are numbered.

In addition to punishing American consumers, the Biden Administration's actions only serve to empower oil-rich dictatorships like Russia and Iran.

By artificially limiting domestic energy investment and production, while Europe does the same, Biden proportionately empowers nations like Russia and Iran to fill that gap. If consumer demand remains steady but domestic production falls, we collectively place ourselves back at the mercies of those authoritarian regimes.

Keep in mind that Trump Administration sanctions had Iran's economy on the ropes, and American energy production increases had relegated Russia's Vladimir Putin to increasing irrelevancy. But then Biden arrived and canceled the Keystone XL pipeline while inexplicably lifting sanctions on Russia's Nord Stream 2 pipeline to Europe. Wasn't Trump supposed to be the one engaging in Russian "collusion"?

Now, in "You Can't Make This Stuff Up." *Politico* reports that Biden is begging oil industry leaders to help bring down rapidly rising gas prices while broader consumer inflation threatens to cripple what had been a surging economy that he inherited from Trump. This comes on the heels of Biden approaching OPEC hat-in-hand for help in boosting global oil production.

Had Biden simply done nothing upon entering office and maintained President Trump's more market-based energy policies, this rolling catastrophe might've been avoided. Under Trump we became energy independent, and prices plummeted, which finally made good on what for decades was considered a laughable pipe dream to which presidents since Nixon had rhetorically aspired but maintained no serious hope of accomplishing.

But then we actually did it.

REMEMBERING THE GLEN BECK "RESTORING HONOR" RALLY 12/28/2010 –AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL, WASHINGTON, DC

By Jeanne Parzgnat

Many ask me, "Why would you go on that long bus trip at 70 years old, with a bad back and bad knees". My question to you is, "How could I not go?"



For over forty years my generation has overlooked so many things because it was just too much trouble to act, we were too busy. We allowed them to take the word God out of our schools, then we allowed them to make fun of our men on TV. The husbands and fathers, who used to be the respected heads of households, became laughed at in disrespect. We allowed our socialist educators to teach our children how bad America is and yet we continued to send our children to their houses of education.

The morals of society began to decay rapidly when a president told the country that certain sexual acts were not sex. I then watched as children began casually having sex without any thought of morals and I was shocked when parents allowed their children to stay in their own home's bedrooms alone together.

We allowed schools to dictate that our daughters could have abortions without parents' consent or knowledge; we allowed our American flags to be removed from churches. We allowed all of it. We were just too busy going to work, going to school, raising our families, and planning for our retirement. We never listened to what was happening in Washington with those people we put in office. We would just continue to go to the polls and vote straight Republican or straight Democrat because that was how our parents always voted. We never noticed that the morals and integrity of all the people we put in office had gone south and so was the rest of the country.

Then several years ago, I began listening to a TV host called Glen Beck. At first, I thought he was a bit crazy but then I became obsessed with what he was discussing. He was like a conservative educator as he taught about how history repeats itself, and each day, showed his analogies of then and now, backing each statement with proof for us to look up for ourselves. He began telling us that we must get back to the way it used to be, about restoring honor in America. I remembered how our country used to be when there was honor, when men had integrity, when a handshake was your promise, when famous movie stars loved this country so much that they left their wealth and marched off to war to save it.

I guess you never know what you had until it is almost gone. As I listened to Glen Beck, wondering how he was staying alive with the things he was exposing, I realized that this man needed our help. He was sacrificing his life and that of his family, desperately trying to wake us up.

I became very involved in The Highlands Tea Party and was relentless in trying to get my friends and family involved. It amazed me how many people cannot be bothered. When they tell me I'm too involved in too many other things, my only response is, "We can still save this country."

When Glen Beck started to plan his "Restoring Honor Rally" in Washington DC I knew I was going, regardless of my health. When we arrived, it was the most beautiful experience I have ever had. I was so worried about my bad knees, and I saw people in wheelchairs, people with children, blind people, every color of the rainbow and all peacefully listening and watching.

I saw 240 priests, pastors, rabbi's and representatives of every religion with locked elbows as they repeated The Code of Conduct from the Constitution, "With firm reliance on divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune and our sacred honor

The Washington DC rally was a fantastic experience. I know that I was part of history, and I am hoping that everyone can catch the spirit of being a patriot and part of history we were expressing then. Get aboard the train of history to save our nation before it's too late.

Figure Out What You Stand For By Kim Gross

I've always been pro America but did not realize that I was a Patriot! It was very evident that the new administration did not care about the 74,000,000 people who voted for Donald Trump. I decided, after the election, to subject myself – uncomfortably – to some soul searching. I needed to know what was important to me. I hope this helps you understand where you stand.

Let's assume that all of us put God and Family at the top of the list. Those two points are a given to me. Third on the list is Country. That's where I concentrated most of my soul searching.

Start with the Flag. Unaltered. Have you heard that there are some new versions of the United States Flag being considered? We all need to resume saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Loudly and proudly! We have one national anthem. It's the Star-Spangled Banner. It was named our national anthem and should remain as such. We have a Constitution and a Bill of Rights. Every American should read and understand them.

The public education system needs to teach American History – the good, the bad and the ugly and not Critical Race Theory, something that I oppose.

Term Limits - Yes. We have too many people running for office that end up becoming millionaires. There are too many bills that benefit the lawmaker and or their family members. We need to limit the time a lawmaker can be in power because absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Immigration. How about legal immigration only? We need to secure the border, build the wall and reform our immigration laws. Who is coming in, why aren't they being vetted, who is paying for all of this? Are the border agents supposed to arrest and deport? I do know that the border is open on purpose. The express purpose is to change the political landscape of our country, and the administration is hoping this parlays into votes down the road. Every country needs strong borders. Wasn't one 9/11 event enough for all of us?

Honor your Police, First Responders and Military personnel. We are a country of laws, and these people should be allowed to do their jobs. Are there people serving in those capacities who are not suited to the task? I'm sure that's true, but we have all met people ill-suited for the profession they chose. They need to be weeded out. However, we should not be defunding the police and expecting that a social worker will have the same result. If anything needs to be reformed it is the court system that does not support the arresting officer.

If the 2020 election taught us anything, it is that we need to seriously look at our voting system. The only people that should have a vote are American citizens in "good standing". We need to secure the ballot and a valid photo ID should be required. Set the number of days for voting to take place and conclude on Election Day. Observers need to watch the process.

Clean up our voter rolls. Stop billionaires from swaying our elections by dropping significant dollars into the mix.

Every American citizen should take a trip to Washington, D.C. and learn about your country's history. This country is not perfect. Far from it. We are not always proud of our government and country, are we? But, if you don't believe that we have something in America worth fighting for, maybe you should consider becoming an ex-pat and see where your travels take you. So, that's my current list as of today. My journey is not over.

Kim Gross bpkmgross@gmail.com

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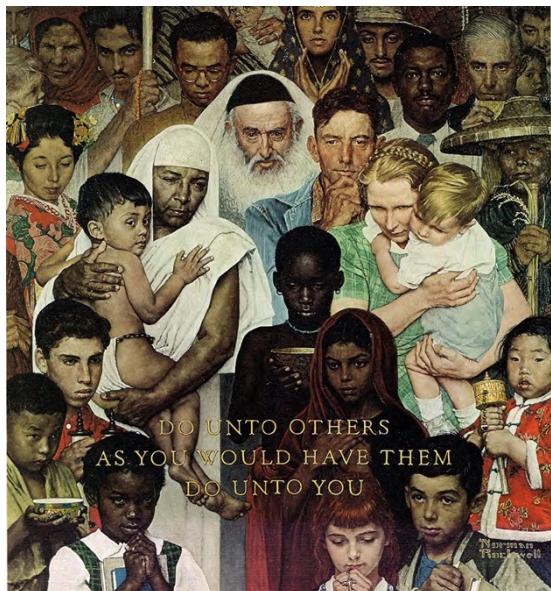
LETTER TO A NEW GENERATION

by Millie Anderson

In the Talmud (a written collection of Jewish law and tradition), there's a well-known story about Hillel, a great sage and scholar, who lived in Jerusalem during the time of King Herod.

A man came before Hillel and asked that the Torah be explained to him while he stood on one foot. Rabbi Hillel replied, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation; go and learn."

It's not difficult to see this idea begins with what many now call the Golden Rule, which



appears in other religious teachings as well.

That we *should not* do hateful things to others, and we *should* treat others as we'd like to be treated, may, at first, seem almost trite. Yet, after thousands of years, these words are as important and relevant as ever.

They apply to individuals, couples, families, groups large and small, communities, and even countries. While the words are simple on their surface, the deeper "explanation" of which Hillel spoke is where the effort and commitment come into play.

It's everyone's responsibility to "go and learn." That includes being objective fact-gatherers, attentive listeners and willing participants, all without doing harm to others. That doesn't mean we cannot disagree—quite the contrary. Respectful discussion and expression are not merely allowed, they are encouraged. Remember? *It's called working together.*

Human rights can only be assured among a virtuous people. The general government... can never be in danger of degenerating into a monarchy, an oligarchy, an aristocracy, or any despotic or oppressive form so long as there is any virtue in the body of the people. George Washington

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What is on my mind? - A more perfect Union.

And at the risk of the nasty public discourse that comes with such offerings, I write the following.

Over the course of the last several weeks I have engaged with a friend who does not agree with me politically. With the underlying assumption of mutual respect and preservation of relationship, we have engaged in friendly debate over issues of current national ire. We will not persuade one another, me thinks, on the specifics of our independent policy convictions, nor on our interpretations of current events. But the debate has been interesting, valuable and thought provoking.

As a result of this dialogue, the question of "what can a 200 year old document have to stay about today" I find myself reading the Federalist papers this weekend. These were the essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay as an appeal to the American public to ratify the new US Constitution. They were writing after the Continental Congress to a public that had the choice to remain confederate states or to join as a union, these United States. Clearly, the people ratified the Constitution.

While the Constitution does not generally explain itself within its text, preferring brevity and simplicity to excessive explanation, I am finding the Federalist papers to be highly relevant to our national discussion, and our community, today. And I am now convinced that a '200 year old document' is highly relevant. It was authored by people of varied backgrounds and passions, hotly debated by people both diverse and educated, and hard won through bloodshed, violent public discourse and an eye to the reality of human nature.

A more perfect union is not about a uniformity of thought. But about a commitment to the whole, regardless of the turmoil of debate. It is not about tolerance of a milk toast, mediocre conversation that offends no one, but about an honest debate of what is true and demonstrable with a commitment to liberty AND justice AND mutual respect for all.

Will we preserve this Union? 'We the People - in order to form a more perfect union'. It is up to us. In our local neighborhoods. In our local churches. In our own family. It is up to us to FIND A WAY to stop separating and start coming together. Not because we AGREE - but because we LOVE. Not because we DON'T talk about difficult things but because we PRACTICE talking about difficult things. And we learn that agreeing is not the goal - but understanding the OTHER and mutual respect and personal humility even with deep conviction. This is what leads to union.

No matter the name of the president - it is We The People who must preserve these United States. Let us do so. Together. *Jodi Walsh*

Vaccine Mandate Threatens Major Trucking Disruption, Industry Insiders Say

By Jackson Elliott, Cara Ding, Allan Stein, Steven Kovac, Jannis Falkenstern and Nick Ciolino

American truckers don't like taking orders. But the Biden administration has increased pressure on some of them to take the vaccine—willing or unwilling.

All through the pandemic, truckers endured hardships to keep America's infrastructure running. They waited in line for hours in sight of bathrooms they weren't allowed to use. On the road, some died alone of COVID-19.

Now, with supply chains disrupted, Americans need them more than ever. But faced with the prospect of a mandated vaccination, many drivers are considering quitting.

"I'd fight it," said veteran trucker Mike Widdins, referring to vaccine mandates. "I

think a lot of us will be quitting. Who likes to be forced to do stuff you don't want to do?"

Widdins isn't alone in his willingness to leave trucking if he is required to vaccinate. Polls by trucking publications Commercial Carrier Journal and OverDrive indicate that up to 30 percent of truckers will seriously consider quitting if required to vaccinate. If they quit, the consequences for America may be massive. US Transport estimates that 70 percent of American freight goes by truck.

"It would hurt shipping big-time," Widdins said.

Truck industry experts say that truckers with the option to quit will do so if forced to take the vaccine.

Joe Sculley, the president of Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, said that he sees a scenario playing out for those who oppose or refuse to comply with the mandate.

"Drivers will leave bigger companies and look for smaller ones that do not have to comply with the mandate, or they will quit altogether and look for another profession," he said.

Right now, the supply chain crisis, the number of drivers who oppose vaccination, and the driver shortage leave the best cards in the hands of drivers, Sculley added.

"Drivers have leverage," he said. "It won't be an empty threat. Nobody is going to be quickly replaced."

Jim Ward, president of D.M. Bowman and Chairman of the Truckload Carriers Associations, agreed that truckers are serious about quitting because of vaccine mandates.

"With driver availability already limited, any exodus due to compliance with a vaccine mandate would put our nation and its economy in an even more precarious situation," he said.

Ward added that drivers who quit can't easily be replaced. They require training.

"Our nation's professional truck drivers are the safest, most well-trained operators on the road today. Replacing any driver who leaves the industry is not an overnight process," he said.

Biden's best chance to bring in new drivers comes from a pilot program in his recent infrastructure bill that would allow 18-to-21-year-old truckers drive cargo across state lines. The program would create a "test group" of 18- to 21-year-olds who would be followed to "see how they would perform" Sculley said.

However, the American trucking industry has long faced a driver shortage. Long hours away from home and mediocre pay don't attract new drivers to the business, even when they have the right skills.

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info@RealTaxServices.net
Se Habla Español