

OUR FREEDOM IS NOT FREE! Foreword by Jim Bice

As we prepare to celebrate the 4th of July holiday, more properly called Independence Day, the following article should serve as a reminder that our sovereignty as a nation and our individual freedoms were purchased with a price. It should also serve as a warning that if we, as a people, forget the lessons of the past and allow our own selfishness and apathy to guide our actions and particularly our voting habits, the precious gift of freedom that was bought with the blood of patriots can and will be lost. Our nation has a great and enviable history of protecting the weak and oppressed world-wide. Yet here at home, we seem bent upon a course

of reverting to the very oppression our forefathers fought against.

We now have a media that is more interested in sensationalism and agendas than in reporting the truth. We have an education system that no longer teaches civics or history. We have elected representatives who have taken the mantle of royalty, ignoring the best interests of the people and the country in favor of advancing their own agendas and ignoring the tenets of our founding fathers. And we the people, in our ignorance and apathy, are more interested in obtaining whatever freebies we can convince the government to provide rather than the preservation

of the greatest and most unique nation in the history of mankind.

As Americans, our freedoms set us apart from the rest of the world. Some foreign countries, and even some people here at home, despise us for the great nation we've created. In the case of foreigners, in most cases it's envy. As for those here who deplore America, one can only assume that they must hate themselves. Please don't forget the purpose of Independence Day and the many people who have given their lives and fortunes that we may be free. Celebrate our freedom. Celebrate our virtues. Celebrate our history. Celebrate America!



WILL THEY NEVER QUIT? By Tom Hanson

This country was christened with the blood of patriots - men who knew first hand the firm grip of servitude and bondage, men who had firsthand knowledge of everything being chattel, belonging to a Baron, Lord, or the Crown. These were men who were proud, men who saw there was only a slim chance of victory, men who took up arms against the tyranny of an oppressive Government. This tyrannical government believed the land, water, their children, wives and themselves were subjects.

Most people would think these men had everything to lose. They knew in their hearts and minds

they had nothing to lose and everything to gain. To lose would mean death or imprisonment. To emerge victorious would mean freedom - freedom to own the land over which they toiled each day from first light until dark. Freedom would mean enough to eat for their families and themselves. Freedom means no soldiers would accompany an agent of the King to take the Crown's share of the harvest. And so they fought. They fought like no one had ever seen before. They fought for freedom. They fought and they died. Survivors fought on knowing that there was no retreat, knowing that to quit was to

end the only chance for their children and grandchildren to ever be free from oppression and to smell the sweet clean air that is only known to a free people.

Men who had fortunes and power pledged everything to the battle and joined the fray. They led this army of farmers, store clerks and merchants. They fought because even with all their wealth and power they were not free. This rag tag army suffered frostbite, starvation, festering wounds and more. But armed with little more than guts and determination, they fought. And in the end, the British Army was defeated and put to rout. Thus from a boiling

cauldron brimming with discontent, our nation was born. And because of the vision known only to a free people, this nation rose and grew to become the greatest and most powerful on earth.

Yet with over two hundred thirty years of history and heroes, battles fought and won, peoples freed from oppressive rulers, American lives lost and blood let on foreign shores, we, the American people are still fighting for our freedom. Are we moving backwards in time? Have we moved past the glorious days of Nation building, beyond the taming of these lands? Are we becoming what our forefathers fought so hard and died to save us from? As a Nation are we destined to digress back three hundred or four hundred years to a world where the Government dictates everything in our lives? Are we there already? What happened to "a man's word was his bond"? What happened to "a man's home is his castle"? What happened to us? We used to be able to cut down

a tree in our yard, now we need a permit. If we want to put in a little cement sidewalk, we need a permit. We used to own property, now we pay for it and then rent it by paying taxes. Have we slept while the Lilliputians tied us up? Are the Tories dressed in liberal clothing?

The Founding Fathers wrote wonderful documents based on the Bible. Now the Ten Commandments have been removed from public viewing in public places all across the country. We have over two hundred years of laws and ordinances that restrict our daily lives. Will it end when Government has total control? NO it will never end! If we lose our freedoms to an oppressive Government, somewhere down the road when the leaders are bloated and drunk with power, a band of rebels will rise up and history will repeat itself. I know this in my heart because "WE ARE AMERICANS AND NO ONE WILL DOMINATE US - EVER!"

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