

Freedom is Never More than a Generation Away...

Could this great nation lose the very freedom on which it stands? Could America ever end up on the trash heap of history? Let us take a look at her current health. The symptoms of a diseased culture are everywhere. Our public schools have been grossly inept at teaching our children the very basics of why and how this great nation was formed. So much effort has been exhausted in teaching politically correct and inaccurate information that we have produced young people who possess an inability to be critical thinkers. We elect our leaders based on a cult of personality rather than on merit and ability. Ronald Reagan's warning about losing our freedoms sounds hollow to a generation who did not seize opportunity and momentum. I recall his election very clearly. As my career began to advance during his presidency, I felt like President Reagan reminded all of America of who we were as a nation and why we lived in the greatest county in the history of the entire world.

When my children gaze at the Statue of Liberty, they know that their ancestors came to America to work, to build a new life and did not ask what this country could do for them. They brought dreams, values of family, courage, ambition, peace and a desire for freedom. They built factories and farms, bridges and buildings, and all they asked was for freedom to live their lives in liberty. Ronald Reagan sought to revitalize the dreams of my ancestors, to restore the greatness of America. Reagan's dream to restore the American Dream required more than a good economy, which he bequeathed to us. He also sought to return to the moral and spiritual values so deeply held by the people who built this nation. Over the history of this nation, each generation was shown not how high the cost of freedom is, but how much freedom is worth its price. Everyone gave something, but many gave everything to preserve American freedom. Does Lady Liberty still lift her lamp beside the golden door, and will my grandchildren keep that light shining? Will America be the best hope of man on earth and not perish, will she hold economic opportunity for all and will she continue to be the great beacon of freedom she was when my ancestors were inspired to immigrate? That depends upon the next generation, and we should all do our part to fight for it, protect it and hand it down to them to preserve. I have lived long enough and seen enough of history to properly appreciate the miracle of freedom. I have seen an ever growing, encroaching government bind this economy. If we allow the founding principles upon which this country was built to be lost, there will be no more "we the people".

Our path is clear, though not an easy one. It requires a citizenry that is informed. It requires a citizenry that is self-reliant and of good moral character. We must give our children and grandchildren an American Dream worth passing on to the next generation. It begins in the home and in the classroom, where founding principles are taught, celebrated and embraced!