

# FROM ONE HILL TO ANOTHER

Corvallis, Montana

January 2018

## Leadership, Commitment and Loyalty...A Challenge!

By Gary and Joan Carlson

**O**ur founding fathers provide a great study in order for us, in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, to understand what inspired and motivated them to establish a brand new country..."The United States of America."

Although not yet an amendment to the Constitution, we know that our first president, George Washington, set the stage for future presidents to serve a maximum of two terms. We also know that the founding fathers looked upon membership in the U.S. House of Representatives

differently than the manner in

which it is perceived today. Selection of US Senators was originally the responsibility of each state legislature. That changed with the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Regarding the House of Representatives, the early discussion centered on a debate concerning whether the term of office should be one or two years. Although the two year term won out, it should be obvious to us today that their intention was to encourage the membership to turn over often and keep the House of Representatives the body closest to the people. Our framers would most assuredly be appalled at the length of time many current members of Congress stay in office. Serving in the House of Representatives was to be a temporary time of public service, not a professional political career. Each district

within the states was to choose a local citizen to take its concerns to the federal government and then report back to the people.

Unfortunately, we now have "professional politicians" whose allegiance is greater to Washington, D.C. than their home state, and their primary concern is to win the next election. "We the People" gets lost in the process. Without instituting term limits, there may be no way to restore the original intent of Congress.

During his time in office, George Washington demonstrated many character traits much needed in government today. Among them were leadership, commitment and loyalty. He was passionate in his love of country, and he was a man of faith in our Creator.

General Washington could have stayed at Mount Vernon, but chose, instead, to live with his troops in a farm house at Valley Forge for six years. The general also led his troops in many battles against the British. This included the famous victory raid across the Delaware River on the Christmas of 1776. After the victory, he was committed to providing the troops with food and supplies. For months Congress had given the troops little support, and the provisions had been slim or none at all. It should be obvious to us today that Washington was a key figure in winning the war against the mighty British military. We have many lessons to learn from him that should still apply today.

Today, leadership, or the lack of, demonstrated by elected officials, educators,



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community leaders, and even within religious institutions is often the subject of local and national discussions. But the general public gets tired of the non-stop rhetoric and constant discord perpetuated by the so-called "experts." Talk is cheap.

Where is the passion and love of country? Where is a commitment to act on behalf of something bigger than oneself or demonstrate concerns that go beyond the next campaign or promotion? Sometimes it's as simple as asking, "Whatever happened to common sense?"

Unfortunately, our problems go much deeper than simply generating responsible leadership. America is in a serious moral decline. Although, when you think about it, it's somewhat of a chicken or egg dilemma. Are we in need of dedicated leaders because we are in a moral decline, or are we in a moral decline because we lack leadership? What a conundrum!

Our founders apparently had no problem finding the right answer. Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence said it well:

"Without morals a republic cannot subsist any length of time; they who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is

so sublime and pure are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments. ( P.116, God's Promises for the American Patriot, by Dr. Richard G. Lee and Jack Countryman)

It seems apparent that, for America to go forward, it is imperative that we go back, back to the wisdom of our foundation as a nation. We need to put the God of our Declaration of Independence back into our communities...and that must include our churches. Many of our institutions are hamstrung by government regulations or caught up in "political correctness", or are dealing with social and financial problems. During our early history, America's churches played a vital role in the decisions we made as a country. Can they once again? Will our faith in God play an integral part in restoring our country? We say it must!

Let the following words from the Declaration of Independence be our challenge for 2018:

*And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.*

Therefore, as Americans, enjoying the blessings of American citizenship:

- Let us pledge to put commitment, loyalty and leadership at the top of our list of resolutions for 2018.
- As citizens, let us accept the responsibility that, restoring America belongs to all of us, not just elected officials.
- And, Let our focus be based upon our founding documents, the Declaration of Independence, US Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the belief that we are founded upon Judeo-Christian principles officially declared to be a Christian nation.

If we are grounded in our beliefs and committed to making a difference, with God's help, we will win this current battle for the heart of America.

George Washington chose to support his troops at Valley Forge. We, too, have choices. Let's get started today! 🇺🇸

God bless,  
Gary and Joan



## FYI:

Gary Carlson, Publisher of the *White Hat Express*\*, is a former Reagan Administration Political Appointee, a retired US Marine Corps Officer, and a former candidate for both the US Senate and the House of Representatives. He also teaches Political Science and the US Constitution at the Community College level.

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Both Carlson's have held GOP positions and have been involved in Republican Party activities in four states; California, Minnesota, Montana and Virginia.

The term "**White Hat**" originates from Vietnam where Gary was a member of the 26<sup>th</sup> Marines, and the good guys were referred to as "**White Hats**".

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