

# FROM ONE HILL TO ANOTHER

Corvallis, Montana

March 2017

## The Real

### “March Madness”

By Gary and Joan Carlson

**M**arch has often been thought of as the month that transitions between the dreary days of winter and the reawakening of spring. The sports world gets in the act and hosts championship games throughout the country. Individuals, churches, community groups and political organizations make this a time to plan for the future and "set their agendas" for the coming year. Even the IRS gets in the act forcing us to prepare for one of the "two inevitables." This year, March has set the stage for political factions that enormously influence both the national and local agendas.

We now have a new president and administration creating a definite change in direction for our country. From all indications the outgoing "losers" of the 2016 elections are refusing to accept the results, even to the point of obstructing the process to confirm cabinet appointees and creating false narratives to undermine any positive action on the part of the new administration. At the state level, including our home state of Montana, there are similar political differences between the two major parties. Unfortunately, the divisiveness doesn't end there. It can also be found within the Republican Party. In an effort to resolve this dilemma, let us do our part to make a positive difference to change the status quo. Let's commit to begin this March to move forward... a time to assess the current situation and then move "full steam ahead" in a positive and united direction.

When Ronald Reagan became President in 1980, the morale of the nation

was in dire straits. After eight years of the Obama presidency, we can safely say we face similar frustrations. For instance, What should we do about "Sanctuary Cities"? Let's look to the US Constitution to find an answer.

After declaring its independence, America served from 1781 to 1789 under the Articles of Confederation. During those years the "states" did not truly comprise a united country. Each colony was autonomic, functioning independently one from the other. Like sanctuary cities, they decided their own laws without consideration for the greater good of the nation as a whole.

Under the new confederation, the "states" (former colonies) remained sovereign and independent. The new federal Congress was given few responsibilities such as making treaties, keeping armed forces, and coining money. The new states could even print their own paper money. The federal government held little authority over the day-to-day management of the

states and could not force them to obey laws. Each state could charge tariffs on the trade between other states. The government had no power to tax, establish a national army or navy, establish a system of national courts, and lacked any authority to develop strong and steady leadership.

"So what?" we might say, that was then and this is now. The problem was solved decades ago and only belongs in the history books. What does that have to do with sanctuary cities? We find ourselves right back in the same situation that existed before the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The Federal Constitution became a binding document for all the states in 1788 when New Hampshire became the 9th state to vote for ratification. When that vote was taken, the "Supremacy Clause" became the law of the land. It reads:

"This Constitution, and the laws of the United States, which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the



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authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding."

Furthermore, James Madison wrote in Federalist 44:

"...having the federal government subservient to various state governments would be an inversion of the principles of government, concluding that if supremacy were not established it would have seen the authority of the whole society everywhere subordinate to the authority of the parts; it would have seen a monster, in which the head was under the direction of the members." (Emphasis added.)

So now let's fast forward to the present. Under the U.S. Constitution "sanctuary cities" defy the Supremacy Clause and should not exist, period! Therefore, state and city leaders and elected officials who sponsor sanctuary cities are in violation of federal law and should be charged. This is but one problem we face.

It is now March, and we find ourselves facing the "Political Madness" of 2017. Conservatives, the majority of Republicans, many Independents, pro-lifers and Christians must recognize that the "political losers" of 2016 have declared "war" on everyone who opposes their liberal agenda. They have no qualms using whatever tactics they deem necessary to accomplish their goals and regain the power they have lost. Much to their surprise and definite chagrin, Hillary Clinton did not become the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States; they did not regain

control of the Senate, they remained the minority party in the House, and now they control only a handful of state governments. They didn't get their way! Consequently, they don't hesitate to encourage rioting and unlawful protesting. Their intent is to destroy the Trump Administration and ultimately dramatically change America. We should also recognize that this political war would be waged no matter who would have won on the Republican ticket. Didn't America know that the presidency belonged to Hillary Clinton?! Right!

So what can we do? First of all, like it or not, it is imperative that we recognize "political war" has been declared! Knowing that, we must begin to think **bigger** and **smarter**. Liberal Democrats are determined to accomplish their goals. Why aren't we? Our priorities are really very simple. What is best for America, and what is best for Americans...under the authority of the US Constitution and current laws? Don't we owe it to our children and grandchildren to be as dedicated to protecting their future as were those who came before us?

It must not be "business as usual"...not for us and definitely not for members of Congress and other elected officials. Let's "put their feet to the fire"; call them out when it's obvious their only concern is the next election or the use of one political office as a stepping stone to something bigger. We really do have more influence than we often think...so don't hesitate to use it. Write letters, call political offices, organize your neighbors, and think POSITIVE. As you know, "there's power in positive

thinking."

We can begin right now! With the confirmation of Congressman Ryan Zinke to the position of Secretary of the Interior, Montana faces a special election to replace him in the US House of Representatives. Several candidates are vying for the GOP slot. Unfortunately, we only have the one representative, so if Republicans hope to keep control of the one seat, we had better get our ducks in a row and make sure we are **united** behind whoever is selected by the delegates at the upcoming convention on Monday. If that does not occur don't be surprised to see a win for the Democrats. That should encourage every Republican to make **unity** a priority.

In America, however, unity should apply to much more than just political parties. President Reagan expressed it well in the following quotes: "The dreams of people may differ, but everybody wants their dreams to come true. And America, above all places, gives us the freedom to do that." also..."If we ever forget that we are 'One Nation under God', then we will be a nation gone under."

So let's turn the "political madness" of March 2017 into a "political movement" to UNITE! We can't let the Democrats win the "political war" they are waging. Let us be even more dedicated, more determined and more tenacious than those who work against the freedoms and liberties we hold dear 🇺🇸

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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