

New England Newspaper of the Year

The Standard-Times

SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST COMMUNITY

Your View: We can choose to return to the nation's roots

By Bernard P. Giroux

February 14, 2015

On Feb. 6, 1783, George Washington wrote the following to Nathanael Greene:

"If historiographers be hardy enough to fill the page of history with the advantages that have been gained with unequal numbers in the course of this contest [the Revolutionary War], and attempt to relate the distressing circumstances under which they have been obtained, it is more than probable that posterity will bestow on their labors the epithet and marks of fiction; for it will not be believed that such a force as Great Britain has employed for eight years in this country could be baffled, in their plan of subjugating it, by numbers infinitely less, composed of men oftentimes half-starved, always in rags, without pay, and experiencing, at times, every species of distress which human nature is capable of undergoing."

It is this courage, determination and persistence discussed by Washington, a belief in individual rights and freedom, a burning desire to overthrow the yoke of government, to secure the rights of free men to self-govern, rather than be subject to the tyranny of an unseen, unrepresentative master, which had led to these words, seven years earlier, in the Declaration of Independence:

"When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Then, four years later, in 1787, the U.S. Congress adopted the Constitution, the document under which the rights of the individual were declared to be paramount over those of the state, which would guide this country for more than 228 years, saying:

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

And so, amid these great events, George Washington led the tiny American Republic to victory in 1781 against the British. He served two terms as president, then, in 1796, he stepped down. David Boaz of the Cato Institute writes: "Give the last word to Washington's great adversary, King George III. The king asked his American painter, Benjamin West, what Washington would do after winning independence. West replied, 'They say he will return to his farm.' 'If he does that,' the incredulous monarch said, 'he will be the greatest man in the world.'"

Ask yourself these questions: Do you believe in constitutional government, as begun during the era of George Washington? Or, do you believe in a progressive, tyrannical government, seeking to enslave individual Americans by directing every action and ruling every moment of one's life? Do you believe it correct to callously disregard the Constitution, ignoring its framework and tenets, to re-writing history to effect a socialist agenda visible in recent laws, actions and foreign affairs of this nation? Do you agree to permit residency and comfort aliens who are not citizens? Do you want to continue to deliberately ignore common sense and the rule of law? Or, do you want to stand up and be a real American? A Patriot.