

New Year's resolve 2021

Time was when we all stepped back and took a long hard look at ourselves and then vowed to be better people in the New Year. How positive that initiative was. It was like a performance evaluation from our own personal HR Department, and we were not alone. Millions of our fellow citizens were promising themselves to stop smoking, lose weight, eat more healthy foods, play with their children more and be kind to each other...even those of the other political party.

That was before we discovered that the nobility of those resolutions didn't match their likelihood of achieving success. Oh, we did manage to drop a few of those nasty clinging holiday pounds, but we gained them back again when we needed the comfort of a chocolate bar or a good stiff drink. And yes, we were able to throw out the cigarettes and replace them with Nicorette, the patch, meditation or a nagging relative. Creature comforts are hard to forego especially when the creatures are under attack by a pandemic or the results of a highly questionable election outcome.

This last year we tightened our belts while our 'betters' told us to stay away from each other, wear a face mask, wash our hands several times a day and don't gather in our churches or synagogues. We told ourselves, "surely the experts know more than we do" and we bowed to their wisdom. Then we stood in lines in the freezing cold outside of a Walmart to buy toilet paper and hand sanitizer that was nowhere to be found. Because our favorite eateries were in lockdown mode we migrated to the microwave and nuked our meals and sat in front of the tube and watched while our most vibrant cities turned into war zones or desert wastelands. We became observers of life instead of active participants while our mayors and governors took on the trappings of tin pot dictators that lorded over us and then had the gall to remind us of their power with new age 'fireside chat' press conferences where they announced suspensions of our liberties, the de-funding of our police forces and capitulation to the demands of radical groups like 'Black Lives Matter.'

If that wasn't enough, we saw roaming bands of violent protesters take to the streets and proceed to destroy our businesses and public property and even pulled down historical edifices in the public square. Switching channels didn't help. Everywhere we tuned we saw confrontation and anger replace law and order. Calm was nowhere to be found. Hypocrisy ruled the day as we were told that "by and large the protests were peaceful" as reporters stood in front of burning buildings and repeated the lie. No one was immune from criticism, especially our President who was castigated from morning to night for trying to persuade local officials to 'do the right thing' and establish the rule of law.

Early in 2020, at the State of the Union address, we witnessed the Speaker of the House rip up the President's speech in front of the TV cameras, effectively sticking it to Mr. Trump and expressed her rage by a childish act in full view of all Americans. It was at that point that I knew we had crossed the Rubicon and that our country would never be the same. Gone was any semblance of decorum and propriety...and historical precedent. We had become what we had feared, a nation of temper tantrum-ridden spoiled children, led by a group of demolition derbyites, the Democrats. There was no longer any pretense to be found, only outright defiance. It was clear that we had reached a tipping point and that the election of November was going to reveal the worst of America, not the best.

After four years of incessant and unrelenting attacks on the President and his attempts to make good on his promises to "Make America Great Again," the Left showed that it would stop at nothing to re-make America into its own perverse idea of what the founding fathers envisioned for us which was a country of free unfettered speech, of measured dissent and enlightened opposition, of comity and decency. The pursuit of a 'more perfect union' was replaced by a destructive idea of national coerced conformity, of the subordination of individual expression, all promoted by a handful of unscrupulous ideologues, media companies, big donors and even bigger tech companies.

As we sit here on the other side of 2020 and take stock of and bemoan what we've lost there is a temptation to retreat, to cash in our chips and check out. And no one could blame us if we did, except all those millions of patriots who gave their lives in defense of our freedoms. Their ghosts will not let us wallow in self-pity or countenance our hand-wringing. We need only look to our deceased relatives who fought in America's wars to keep our country strong to see that we cannot back down from those who would turn our nation on its head and convince us that we are unjust, racist and hegemonic.

All that's necessary, it is said, for evil to triumph is for good men (and women) to do nothing. So this year, in this first week in part of the first month, I would suggest that we make some really achievable New Year's resolutions. Here are a few...

- I resolve to stand up for my beliefs and not back down even when the so-called 'conventional wisdom' suggests that I should.
- I resolve to decide who my friends really are and support them.
- I resolve to take an active part in my country's future by remembering the past.
- I resolve to be my own arbiter of what is the truth and follow it to its logical conclusion.
- I resolve to call out hypocrisy whether it resides in my own party or the other fellow's.
- I resolve to keep faith in God and to live my faith each and every day.
- I resolve to avoid the company of those who would destroy my faith in my fellow man.
- I resolve to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.
- I resolve to remember the proud history of America and oppose those who would corrupt it by attempting to revise it.
- I resolve to stay engaged in the lives of my children and grandchildren, to talk to them and to support their curiosity and convince them that the greatest threat to them is a closed mind.

You can probably think of a few more on your own, and I encourage you to do. Remember. We are responsible for our own happiness, but there is no law that says we have to pursue it alone.

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