

## *The Mayor's Corner*

June 30, 2018

### **America – at 242 years of age**

On Wednesday, we will celebrate the 242<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence from Great Britain and the founding of our Nation. As my late father might have said today; “Geez, 242 years”.

What a Wonderful Nation America continues to be! Perfect? No. (Anyone who thinks it is needs to take off the rose-colored glasses.) On the other hand, perfection only exists in Heaven.

One of the many freedoms that we enjoy in this wonderful nation is the Freedom of Speech; including dissent. (Borrowing from a speech that I delivered a few years ago); we have the freedom to criticize our government; whether federal, state, or local (Well maybe not local.) without fear of retribution. Unfortunately many people think this allows them to say whatever they want; (whether or not it's true), in whatever fashion they desire. Too many equate nastiness with strength and believe that civility is only for the weak. “The end justifies the means.” seems to be one of their guiding lights. Another is that playing the victim (whether or not you have indeed been victimized) will always give you a pass.

Query: What would our Nation's Founders think of the current political vitriol? It's no secret that there was much arguing during the Congressional Congress in Philadelphia during that overbearingly hot summer of 1776; yet civility was not abandoned. There was too much to lose.

Query #2: What must all those that have died over the years, in order to protect our freedom, be thinking; as they look down on us. “This is what I died for?” “This is how they use and appreciate the gift of Freedom?”

I have a question for those who believe that there is no place for civility in today's political arena. If the particular point/argument that you are trying to make is so correct; why do you need to resort to nastiness, vitriol, and smear tactics? First of all, emotionalism is the weakest form of argumentation. Secondly, while you are ranting and raving, your message is being lost.

Finally, you may have the right to be nasty and less than civil towards those that you don't agree with; however, those folks have the right to call you out on your behavior. After all, your behavior has now made them the victims.

I hope to see you at our Annual Fourth of July Parade. The parade begins at 11am on Main Street and finishes at Weingartner Park, where the festivities will continue (and where you'll have the opportunity to thank some of our local veterans for all of their sacrifices).

One more thing: Whether you celebrate locally or elsewhere; please stay safe (and civil).

*Greg*