

Guard the Constitution

By Joshua J. Lyons

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It is imperative to the long term survival of our Republic that we vigorously Guard our Constitution. For We the People have regrettably become complacent over the past many decades, maybe even a century. We have not acted properly, as designed, as the 4th (some may say 5th) branch of the government...and the other 3 branches took notice. We must recognize that our Constitution is not a self-enforcing document. Over time, if one or more branches neglect its responsibility of being guardians of the constitution, we find ourselves in a perpetual breaking down of the limitations defined in our Charter document. This situation is the root problem that results in the almost insurmountable challenges that we face today. As we get into our show, we'll focus on addressing one area of these challenges, which is the unbelievably broken entitlement programs (and we'll also discuss how this hits us at a local level with decreasing state revenues resulting in a need to cut programs in the local school system).

But it's important to understand the nature of how we have gotten here. We as a people, our educational system, the court system, and our elected officials have all justified extra-constitutional legislation little by little over the years and in many cases – we've outright redefined the meaning and purpose of sections of the Constitution and even the document as a whole.

It is our responsibility to demand that our elected officials stay true to the oath taken in which they solemnly swore to support and defend the Constitution regardless of the situation.

It is our elected official's responsibility whether on the floor of the Senate or House or at a campaign event to not just talk about supporting the Constitution...but for he or she to vote only on legislation which the Constitution provides them the authority to do so. Because that authority is all that We the People have consented to in our Constitution – not one bit less and not one bit more. "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

But when an elected this official chooses to not stay principled and instead take a pragmatic approach, it means that he or she (however small) is partaking in the chipping away at our Constitutional Republic. At the end of the day, the Constitution is what sets us apart from so many other nations that have come and gone. When a politician makes the choice to take part in the eroding of our most important framework, he or she has positioned themselves on a very slippery slope. Furthermore, they have then compromised themselves where they can no longer take a principled position to fight for our freedoms and liberties without being tainted by their contradictory votes. "For when Congress once begins to stretch its power beyond the limits of the Constitution, there is no limit to it, and no security for the people."¹

Simply stated - We either stand for the Constitution or we don't!

Remember that everyone in the military also swears an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Let me ask you...What if we were to ask Military officers to uphold their oath 9 out of 10 times?...and as

¹ "Not Yours To Give" – by Edward S. Ellis

long as they did that, we'd look the other way that 10th time and simply justify it that they're good officers for the most part. Would you be ok with that? Well I'm sure not! The importance of holding the officers to their oath is just as important as it is with our elected officials!

As the Proverb goes...As iron sharpens iron, one man sharpens another. It would be inaccurate to think our goal is to weaken our elected officials. It is our civic duty and must be our mission as 'Guardians of the Constitution' to make sure these men and women keep their oath...as their primary purpose for service is to protect our freedoms and liberties granted to us by our Creator, not by our government!

As Samuel Adams said so many years ago:

"It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds."

Now I'd like to speak directly to all of our elected officials humbly on behalf of all citizens determined to do our part in supporting and defending the Constitution...

To our elected officials...

We will respectfully afford to you the very same opportunity as it goes in the story. You may play the role of Colonel Davy Crockett ...and we are the simple Horatio Bunce. If you acknowledge your past extra-constitutional votes and give your word to never again stray from the Constitution (as the founders intended, which you are familiar with), we will not only vote for you, but will gather in large groups for you to address. We will become your most ardent supporters and no one will hear us talk about politics without mentioning your courage and fortitude and that you vigorously support the United States Constitution at all times.