



## "REALLY, AGAIN?"



By: Jack Smith

Freedom, individual, decisions, responsibility, family, work ethic, these must again be fought for. Not with guns & bullets, but with involvement and vigilance by the People. We must again ban together and work through our American process of re-establishing all of these for our following generations. America today is so different from the America so many of us grew up in. We see the trends of government dependence getting stronger and the eroding of individualism and personal responsibility.

We have witnessed the breakdown of the family, the erosion of the work ethic, and the lack of responsibility for ones actions. Now, this is our time. Now, we must use all of our energy to restore these values if we want to preserve the America we know. Now, it is our movement that holds the key to insuring the future. It will not happen if we quit or if we fail to support one another.

Take an inward look, find the courage to step up and assume a roll of leadership and involvement. You will be proud of yourself and of the results. Together, we shall prevail.

I call on sheriffs all over this nation to add their voices to the growing numbers of faithful protectors of our freedom.

## 256 Sheriffs Say "NO" To Administration's Gun Control



Richard Mack, January 29, 2013, cscoa.org

Sheriffs have risen up all over our great nation to stand up against the unconstitutional gun control measures being taken.

Go to the website for a list of sheriffs and state sheriff's associations who have vowed to uphold and defend the Constitution against the administration's unlawful gun control measures. I applaud these public servants for their courage and conviction.

## No tanks: Senators clash over weapons sales to Egypt

By W. James Antle III, January 31, 2013, dailycaller.com

Federal lawmakers opposed to selling military aircraft and tanks to the Egyptian government pressed on Thursday, despite the defeat of an amendment that would have blocked the sale.



"I think it is a blunder of the first proportion to send sophisticated weapons to a country that allowed a mob to attack our embassy and to burn our flag," Kentucky Republican Sen. Rand Paul said on the Senate floor. "I find it objectionable to send weapons, F-16s and tanks to a country that allowed a mob chanting 'death to America' to threaten our American diplomats."

The Senate nevertheless voted 79 to 19 to table Paul's amendment to the debt ceiling bill that would have prohibited the federal government from selling F-16 fighter jets, M1 tanks and similar weaponry to Egypt. But Paul quickly reintroduced the measure as a separate bill, while Oklahoma Republican Sen. James Inhofe introduced his own legislation to suspend the sales.

"For months, I have been calling on the President and his Administration to delay F-16 deliveries to Egypt," Inhofe said in a statement. "I still am insisting the Administration suspend this transaction to Egypt."

But Inhofe didn't support Paul's amendment, which would have unconditionally banned the weapons transfer, because he wanted to make a distinction between the Egyptian government and its military.

"We need to continue to support the Egyptian military, which [Egyptian President Mohammed] Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood have currently distanced themselves from," Inhofe said. "Egypt's military is our friend — Morsi is our enemy."

The senator also claimed a blanket prohibition "would cost taxpayers \$2.2 billion and would rob the U.S. of leverage to put Egypt on the path toward true democracy."

Paul also argued that "these weapons threaten Israel's security" and "someday may be used against Israel."

## Report Suggests Solyndra-Like Problems in Federal Nuclear Power Loan Guarantee



Michael Bastasch, January 31, 2012, dailycaller.com

The Obama administration's approval of a federal loan guarantee for the construction of two Georgia nuclear reactors was met with applause from across the political spectrum, but new analysis reveals potential Solyndra-like problems facing the project.

"E-mails indicate periodic involvement by the Secretary of Energy on loans and loan terms, and by the White House and top levels of Department of the Treasury on other issues related to the Vogtle Project," reads the analysis by Earth Track and Synapse Energy Economics, which was conducted on behalf of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and Friends of the Earth.

Earth Track and Synapse Energy Economics analyzed hundreds of documents obtained through multiple

Freedom of Information Act requests. They shed light on potential problems with the loan guarantee process for the Vogtle nuclear reactors in Georgia, including indications of political involvement from the Obama administration in key financial decisions.

"We are not alleging ... any improper conduct. However, it is clear that top officials are engaged and interested in trying to make the Vogtle loan guarantee work," Max Chang, a report author and associate at Synapse Energy Economics, told reporters in a teleconference.

## DHS Announces Solicitation for 7000 Personal Defense Weapons



The Department of Homeland Security is seeking bids for up to 7000 personal defense weapons. The original solicitation no. HSCEMS-12-R-00011 was June 12, 2012, with changes as late as September 28, 2012. The weapons are to be designed to use 5.56x45mm NATO ammunition and be selectable for full-automatic operation. This purchase is above the 1.6 billion rounds of ammunition that was procured earlier.

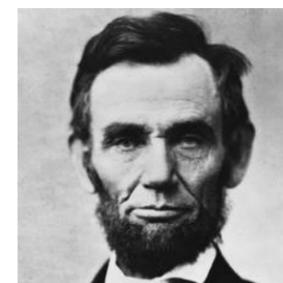
The request for bid actually reads:

*DHS and its components have a requirement for a 5.56x45mm NATO, select-fire firearm suitable for personal defense use in close quarters and / or when maximum concealment is required.*

It should be noted that when the government buys AR-15 type fully automatic weapons they are called "personal defense weapons". When we buy a semiautomatic AR-15 weapon they are called "assault rifles".

Remember the President said "AK-47s belong in the hands of soldiers, not in the hands of criminals; that they belong on the battlefield of war, not on the streets of our cities."

## Display your flag on Presidents' Day



Abraham Lincoln, 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, was born February 12, 1809. He was assassinated on Good Friday, April 14, 1865, by John Wilkes Booth, while attending a play entitled *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre. This was the first Presidential assassination in American history.

The first formal observance of his birthday took place in 1866, the year after his assassination, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. While Lincoln's Birthday did not become a federal holiday like George Washington's, it did become a legal holiday in several states. We now have Presidents' Day on the third Monday in February, which honors all Presidents, especially Lincoln and Washington.

## Birthday Celebration: Remember Andrew Breitbart

February 1, 2013, [moveamericaforward.org](http://moveamericaforward.org)

Andrew Breitbart was our friend, our colleague, and our



brother in supporting America's troops, and today we celebrate his birthday and reflect on how deeply we miss him and his influence. **Andrew was born on February 1st, 1969.**

Last year, on March 1st, we were shocked and deeply saddened to lose him. Our prayers and thoughts continue to go out to his wife Susannah, his four children, and the rest of his family. May he continue to rest in peace with God in Heaven.

We celebrate his life and efforts.

Andrew clearly understood the need to have a public expression of support for the troops. He never, ever wanted another Vietnam Syndrome to affect the United States when our troops went unappreciated and even scorned by some for their service to our country.



## How the Constitution Ended Slavery

by KrisAnne Hall, February 1, 2013, [krisannehall.com](http://krisannehall.com)

While defending the Constitution I am met often with two questions: 1) If the founders were so great and the Constitution such a great document, why did it preserve slavery? 2) Why did the Constitution treat black people as 3/5<sup>th</sup> a person? The answers to these questions are rather simple when fact and truth are employed. To understand the truth, we start with some basics...

In June of 1776 the Lee Resolution was ratified and was the legislative action that authorized the Declaration of Independence. This Resolution was a three step process to declaring independence from Great Britain and establishing a union of States:

*“Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation.”*

The Colonies knew that once they became thirteen independent and sovereign States and formed alliances with foreign nations to break free from the hold of Great Britain, the most important thing they could do would be to form a union of States. If they failed to form a union, everything that they sacrificed for independence would have been in vain. They had just bankrupted themselves, invited foreign nations onto their soil. Failure to unite could result in their servitude once more. A union would mutually protect their sovereignty from external attack.

As Thomas Jefferson correctly stated, the Constitution would have to be ratified by the “*whole American people*.” The framers needed all the States to consent. Immediately after the revolution, the victors could have very well attempted to force the other States to unite. However, they never intended to form the union by

force, as they never intended to keep it together by force. James Madison said, in a letter to Robert Walsh

(27 Nov. 1819) that “*the Constitution was ‘the result of mutual deference & Concession’.*” They knew the only way to form a lasting union, a union based upon Liberty, was to do so by consent.

Understanding that the formation of the union of States was the most important thing they could do left them with a dilemma. There were societal and cultural differences between the States. One such difference

existed in the institution of slavery and many saw it as a great evil but recognized that the successful formation of the new nation was the only way to see it abolished.

*“Great as the evil is, a dismemberment of the Union would be worse. If those States should disunite from the other States for not indulging them in the temporary continuance of this traffic, they might solicit and obtain aid from foreign powers.”* –James Madison, Virginia Ratifying Convention, 15 June 1788

Slavery was an imposition placed upon the colonists by the demand of Great Britain. Col. Mason describes this source and its problem during the Federal Convention (22 Aug. 1787):

*“This infernal traffic originated in the avarice of British Merchants. The British Govt. constantly checked the attempts of Virginia to put a stop to it.”*

This created an addiction to this labor in many states. Judge Pendleton observed during the Debate in South Carolina House of Representatives (1788) “*that only three States, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, allowed the importation of negroes. Virginia had a clause in her Constitution for this purpose, and Maryland, he believed, even before the war, prohibited them.*”

However, Madison also pointed out during the Debate in the Virginia Ratifying Convention (15 June 1788) that there were even “*a few slaves in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut: these states would, probably, oppose any attempts to annihilate*” slavery.

How could the States overcome their differences on this subject and agree on enough to form this union? The framers of this nation had an advantage. They knew a few things to be absolutely true and these things would provide the solution to their dilemma.

The framers of this nation knew their history; they had studied governments and how people interact in society throughout history and they knew the principles of Liberty. They KNEW that they could not plow new fields overnight; they understood that they could not reform society with one move. But they KNEW they were forming a REPUBLIC and NOT a democracy.

A democracy is mob rule; it is tyranny in public form. Jefferson said, “*173 despots would surely be as oppressive as one.*” With a democracy, the majority of the people would always oppress the minority. Liberty would never prosper and grow. The force of the majority would always maintain the minority in servitude. By creating a *republican government*, they were able to provide minorities with a society changing voice. This voice would ensure not only the survival of Liberty but also its expansion.

The framers’ very words prove they were pushing for an end to slavery. That bit of history has been conveniently concealed. The framers were incorporating into the Constitution, Article 1 Section 9, a provision that would provide the means to end slavery in 1808 by putting an end to the slave trade once and for all.

It’s about time we stop rewriting history and start teaching our children the truth. Revisionists have had their way too long and the value of Liberty and the importance of our Constitution have been the greatest casualties. If we want to preserve Liberty, we must know what our framers knew: We must preserve the Constitution to preserve Liberty. The destruction of the Constitution, leaves us unmoored from the anchor of truth and subjects to the whim of the sovereign.

## All My Babies' Mamas Reveals Liberals' Opinion of Blacks



Lloyd Marcus,  
Proud Unhyphenated  
American

As a teen in the 1960s, I idolized Jim, my slightly older street smart cousin who lived in a tough area of Baltimore. Murders were common at the bar on the corner from his home. I was Jim's nerdy na preacher's kid cousin who visited from suburbia. Sleepovers at Jim's home in the city were exciting. *Downtown, where all the lights are bright...* You know the song. Walking from the Yakamee joint, Casanova Jim coached, *Just say you love them.* While I wanted my experience to go beyond the stimulation of excessively close slow dancing to Marvin Gaye songs at unchaperoned dark basement parties, lying to a girl to have my way with her

did not set well. Doggone home training! I was nagged by the truth that it is wrong to use someone solely for my pleasure, not car Lloyd Marcus,

*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* (Proverbs 22:6) In college, I tried to muzzle my conscience with drugs and alcohol. Fortunately, I did not produce any children out of wedlock.

Tom, another cousin of mine, had babies all over town which destroyed his life. He was incarcerated numerous times for non payment of child support. In those days, serial impregnators were considered dishonorable men.

Today in 2013, the liberal Oxygen channel planned to celebrate dishonorable behavior as representative of the hip modern black experience with a new reality show titled, All My Babies' Mamas. Canceled due to public outcry, the star of the show was a rapper whose serial sperm donating produced eleven babies by ten women. <http://mediadecoder.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/16/oxygen-drops-plans-for-all-my-babies-mamas/>

All My Babies' Mamas is characteristic of liberals' typical bigotry of lowered expectations regarding minorities. Liberals accuse black conservatives who reject liberal racist stereotypes of being traitors to their race, trying to be white and sellouts.

Long suffering courageous black conservatives offer blacks real empowerment; liberation from crippling victim-hood and entitlement mindsets. Due to liberals' resentment/hatred for America and traditional values, they are repulsed when black conservatives encourage blacks to get an education, work hard, revive traditional black community morality and go for their dreams.

In the 1950s, most black kids grew up in two parent households. Today, most black kids grow up fatherless as a result of liberal policies that destroyed the black family. <http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewSubCategory.asp?id=1672>

Only half of black males graduate high school. <http://thegrio.com/2012/09/20/report-only-52-percent-of-black-males-graduate-from-high-school-in-4-years/>

Clearly, something is wrong in the black community and it ain't the white man's fault.

For decades, liberals (Democrats, Hollywood and the media) have been and continue serving blacks excrement while calling it filet mignon. For example: In the name of compassion, liberals routinely demean and even undermine the intellect and character of blacks. Liberals insist standards must be lowered for blacks to get the job or pass the test. Americans are required to show a photo-ID to board an airplane, cash a check and countless other situations. And yet, liberals say showing a photo-ID to vote is racist and disenfranchises blacks.

Will someone please tell me what the heck is so challenging about us blacks finding our way to acquire a photo-ID? By the way, I am black and I have one a photo-ID. I guess liberals think I am remarkable; similar to the apes in Planet of The Apes discovering that Charlton Heston, a human, could speak.

Any suggestion of blacks performing on an equal playing field with whites or blacks assuming personal responsibility for their lives and behavior is deemed racist by liberals.

I suspect Oxygen was shocked by the public outcry against, All My Babies' Mamas. Liberals think: What's up with that? Oxygen is cool showing that they be down with the hood and in-tune with authentic blackness in America. Oxygen probably considers All My Babies' Mamas to be the modern urban version of Ozzie and Harriet. Okay, so the show promotes lax-ed morals and husband-less households which breed crime, school dropouts, gangs and poverty. Only out-of-touch fuddy duddy Uncle Tom black Conservatives and racist white Conservatives would find the show objectionable.

Liberals (Democrats and the media) have been peddling crap and pimping government programs that cripple blacks for years. And yet, liberals are thought of as heroes to blacks while they beat up on black conservatives for spreading the truth that blacks are diverse, self-reliant, bright and capable of much more.

By the way, political consultants say to win elections, Republicans/Conservatives must get with the program. They say we must embrace the new amoral culture and liberal thinking that produces shows like, All My Babies' Mamas. I say, Balderdash!



## Naperville, Illinois installs “smart meters” and 2 women arrested for resisting



By Rodan, January 24, 2013, thetheblogmocracy.com and  
chicagotribune.com

Fascism is alive and well in the United States. Naperville, Illinois is now forcing homeowners to allow smart meters. These meters will regulate electricity use. This is a violation of property rights. 2 anti-meter activists were arrested trying to stop installations in their homes.

*Two vocal opponents of Naperville's initiative to install wireless electric meters on homes were arrested after interfering with the installation process, according to city officials.*

*Police are accompanying crews this week as they install smart meters at homes that previously sent away installers.*

*"The previous installation attempts were met with some resistance and we wanted to ensure our employees' safety," City Manager Doug Krieger said.*

*Naperville has installed smart meters on 57,000 homes and is about 99 percent through with the process. Officials have said the project will make the electric system more reliable and efficient and reduce costs.*

[....]

*Malia "Kim" Bendis of the 2200 block of Mercer Court, was charged with two ordinance violationa — attempted eavesdropping and resisting a peace officer.*

*Jennifer Stahl of the 1400 block of Westglen Drive, received two ordinance violation citations — interfering with a police officer and preventing access to customer premises.*



## Who is Harvey Ruvin? (A Man Involved in Your Future)

Harvey Ruvin is Miami Dade clerk of courts. This seems like a rather innocuous job, however there is much more to the story. Here is a short outline of Mr. Ruven's past:

1. Mr. Ruvin was the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee of ICLEI, which is the 15 member governing body of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). He was designated to represent local governments at all United Nation's meetings dealing with the environment and sustainability. He helped with the founding of ICLEI in 1990, has served multiple terms on its Executive Committee and as its Vice President. ICLEI, along with many other non-government organizations, implements U.N. Agenda 21 at a local level.

2. He led the CCP working group to Kyoto in 1997, where local officials demonstrated the viability of green house gas efforts. It was later learned that there were many intentionally falsified emails from scientists on global warming.
3. He served as a president of the National Association of Counties (NACo). He chaired separate (NACo) task forces on immigration, environment, and energy, as well as and the liability insurance crisis.
4. Mr. Ruvin was a delegate to the United Nation's World Conference for a Sustainable Future, representing America's counties at the first ever international attempt to coordinate environmental issues of local governments.
5. Among his many speaking engagements he was a keynote speaker at a conference of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) in Raleigh, North Carolina, on November 9th through the 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Another keynote speaker at the conference was the infamous Van Jones, the self proclaimed communist Green Jobs Czar. One of the sponsors of this event was Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) formerly called Miller Sellen.
6. He served as a member of President Clinton's Sustainable Communities Task Force of the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD).
7. He authored the famous quote "Individual rights will have to take a backseat to the collective."

...and the list goes on....

**So one would ask - "What does this all have to do with Taylor County?" Taylor County belongs to NACo and its sister organization, Florida Association of Counties (FAC). Our Vision 2060 plan was written by Miller Sellen (now VHB). Harvey Ruvin, by his connections in NACo, has a powerful influence in their operation.**

If this were just one isolated happening it probably wouldn't mean anything, but this cast of characters seems to appear over and over again.

## Agenda 21 has a New Name in Florida



John Hallman, February 1, 2013

The radical environmentalist plan to implement Agenda 21 is now moving to their next phase in Florida. To further their propaganda campaign they are now branding Agenda 21 policies as "Economic Development". Read this press release from Rick Scott and Enterprise Florida:

**Florida unveils new economic development brand**  
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) -- Florida is banking on a catchy new slogan and a logo featuring an orange necktie to attract more businesses to the state. Gov. Rick Scott and Enterprise Florida, a public-private partnership that promotes economic development, announced the state's new business brand on Thursday in Tallahassee.

The slogan is "Florida is the perfect climate for business." The logo is the word "FLORIDA" in green capital letters except for the "I," which is orange in the shape of a tie.

Enterprise Florida is seeking \$3 million from the state and \$1.5 million from private donors for a campaign based on the new brand.

It's a brand the state, though, must share with University of Miami football coach Al Golden, whose trademark is the orange tie he wears on the sidelines

The Department of Economic Opportunity along with their public-private partnership with Enterprise Florida is convinced that Florida needs to lead the way Growing Florida's Green Economy. I am not surprised; recently this quote appeared on the Enterprise Florida web site:

**"Floridians understand the undeniable link between Sustainability and the economy". (Enterprise Florida)**

This strategy has been in the works for years. In 2009, a conference was held in Orlando, hosted by an organization called Green Cities. This was on their conference banner:

**"We need to harness economic power — the strength of consumers, investors, businesses, and the marketplace — to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society."**

In 2011, Governor Rick Scott created the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO); the idea would be the DEO would focus on policies that would bring new businesses and jobs to Florida. Unfortunately the DEO is being used to advance Agenda 21 policies. Read this excerpt from a recent newspaper article:

**"A Florida Department of Economic Opportunity report on the state's business climate is calling for a statewide strategy to ensure adequate future water supplies and for a statewide energy strategy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels." "DEO calls on the Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Protection to initiate a statewide process to address economic development, land use, infrastructure and environmental stewardship over a 50-year period."**

**"Regarding energy, the Department of Economic Opportunity report says Florida can develop talent and innovation economic "clusters" that include "clean" energy. The report also says state and local governments should focus on research and development of new energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. "Policies need to ensure reliable and cost-effective sources of energy to sustain economic development while helping protect the environment," the report said."**

The Department of Economic Opportunity and Enterprise Florida have a corporate welfare program named "Qualified Target Industry". This is a state government program that will give tax refunds, tax credits, and grants to bring businesses to Florida, including a "green" business. This incentive program includes refunds on corporate income, sales, ad valorem, intangible personal property, insurance premium, and certain other taxes.

We know that government subsidizing any business or industry is wasteful use of our taxpayer dollars. Many of these subsidized businesses never create the jobs they promised, and many of these subsidized businesses have gone bankrupt. This is our money we will never get back.

For example three companies; Dayjet Corp., Digital Domain and Redpine Healthcare Technologies, went bankrupt after accepting state money. It is estimated Digital Domain's bankruptcy cost the state \$20 million.

What's worse is the Department of Economic Opportunity is using our taxpayer dollars to fund "green business". The DEO's favorite industry is what they call "CleanTech" These are Industries that specialize in things like Solar, Biofuels and Smart Grid.

We need to tell the Florida legislature to stop using our money for "green" hand-outs to advance the radical environmentalist agenda.

I will be in Tallahassee next week and I will update you on how we need to stop this endless waste of our money.

Protect Your Private Property, sign the Petition:  
<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/support-florida-s-protect-private-property-bill.html>

## Whatever Happened To Our Social Security?



Anonymous

Remember, not only did you and I contribute to Social Security, but your employer did too. It totaled 15% of your income before taxes. If you averaged only \$30K over your working life, that's close to \$220,500. Read that again. Did you see where the Government paid in one single penny? We are talking about the money you and your employer put in a Government bank to insure you and me that we would have a retirement check from the money we put in, not the Government. Now they are calling the money we put in an entitlement when we reach the age to take it back.

If you calculate the future invested value of \$4,500 per year (yours & your employer's contribution) at a simple 5% interest (less than what the govt. pays on the money that it borrows), after 49 years of working you'd have \$892,919.98.

If you took out only 3% per year, you'd receive \$26,787.60 per year and it would last better than 30 years (until you're 95 if you retire at age 65) and that's with no interest paid on that final amount on deposit! If you bought an annuity and it paid 4% per year, you'd have a lifetime income of \$2,976.40 per month.

Another thing with me.... I have two deceased husbands who died in their 50's, (one was 51 and the other one was 59) before one percent of their social security could be drawn. I worked all my life and am drawing 100% on my own social security. Their S.S. money will never have one cent drawn from what they paid into S.S. all their lives.

THE FOLKS IN WASHINGTON HAVE PULLED OFF A BIGGER PONZI SCHEME THAN BERNIE MADOFF EVER DID.

Entitlement my foot! I paid cash for my social security insurance! Just because they borrowed the money for other government spending doesn't make my benefits some kind of charity or handout!!

Remember Congressional benefits? --- free healthcare, outrageous retirement packages, 67 paid holidays, three weeks paid vacation, unlimited paid sick days. Now that's welfare, and they have the nerve to call my social security retirement payments entitlements?

We're "broke" and we can't help our own Seniors, Veterans, Orphans, or Homeless. Yet in the last few months we have provided aid to Haiti, Chile and Turkey. And now Pakistan.....home of Bin Laden. Literally, BILLIONS of DOLLARS!!!

Our retired seniors living on a 'fixed S.S. income' receive no additional federal aid nor do they get any financial breaks, while our government and religious organizations pour hundreds of billions of dollars and tons of food to foreign countries!

They call Social Security and Medicare an entitlement even though most of us have been paying for it all our working lives, and now, when it's time for us to collect, the government is running out of money. Why did the government borrow from it in the first place? It was supposed to be in a locked box, not part of the general fund. Sad, isn't it?

## Prepper's Corner



Get prepared, planting season is coming. There are many locations to purchase heirloom survival seeds. One of the best locations we have found to purchase your seeds is [mypatriotssupply.com](http://mypatriotssupply.com).

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade History Teacher: Stop the Common Core

January 21, 2013,  
[truthinamericaneducation.com](http://truthinamericaneducation.com)



by C.E. White

This week, President Obama will be sworn into office as the 45th President of the United States of America. As a history teacher, I was elated to learn he would be placing his hand on two Bibles, one belonging to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the other belonging to President Abraham Lincoln, when he takes the oath of office to lead our great nation. Dr. King and President Lincoln helped define civil rights for America...historical heroes who transformed the idea of justice and equality.

As jubilant as I am that President Obama is symbolically using the Bibles of two of the greatest Americans in our nation's history, I am saddened that this administration seems to have forgotten what Dr. King and President Lincoln promoted regarding education..

In Dr. King's "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," he stated "the goal of America is freedom." As a teacher, it is such an honor to teach America's children about freedom and patriotism. However, over the past few years, I began to learn about a new education reform initiative called Common Core Standards. A few years ago, when I first heard of Common Core, I began doing my own research. My students represent the future of the United States of America, and what they learn is of utmost importance to me. I care about their future, and the future of our country.

My research of Common Core Standards kept me awake at night, because what I discovered was so shocking. I discovered that Common Core Standards is about so much more than educational standards. I wanted so badly to believe these changes would be good for our children. How can "common" standards be a bad thing? After all, isn't it nice to have students learning the same exceptional standards from Alabama to Alaska, from Minnesota to Massachusetts?

As a teacher, I began to spend nights, weekends, summers, even Christmas Day, researching Common Core because these reforms were so massive and were happening so quickly, it was hard to keep up with how American education was being transformed. I quickly began to realize that the American education system under Common Core goes against everything great Americans like Dr. King and President Lincoln ever taught. The very freedoms we celebrate and hold dear are in question when I think of what Common Core means for the United States.

One of my favorite writings about education from Dr. King is a paper entitled "The Purpose of Education." In it he wrote "To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction."

When I sit in faculty meetings about Common Core, I hear "curriculum specialists" tell me that Common Core is here to stay and I must "embrace change." I am forced to drink the kool-aid. These specialists don't tell us to search for facts about Common Core on our own, they simply tell us what the people paid to promote Common Core want us to know. Didn't Dr. King want us to separate facts from fiction? Why are we only given information from sources paid to say Common Core is a good thing? Isn't that the exact same type of propaganda Dr. King discussed in his writings about education? Shouldn't we discuss why thousands of Americans are calling for a repeal of the standards?

I am told that I must embrace Common Core and I infer that resisting the changes associated with Common Core will label me "resistant to change." As a teacher, I definitely believe our classrooms are changing with the times and I am not afraid of change. Teachers across America are hearing similar stories about how they should "feel" about Common Core. This is a brainwashing bully tactic. It reminds me of my 8th graders' lesson on bullying, when I teach them to have an opinion of their own. Just because "everyone's doing it," doesn't make it right. In regards to Common Core, I am not afraid of change. I am just not going to sell-out my students' education so that Pearson, the Gates Foundation, David Coleman, Sir Michael Barber, Marc Tucker and others can experiment on our children.

I agree with Dr. King, which is why I am so saddened at how propaganda from an elite few is literally changing the face of America's future with nothing more than a grand experiment called Common Core Standards. Our children deserve more. Our teachers deserve more. Our country deserves more. Education reform is the civil rights issue of our generation, and sadly, parents, teachers, and students have been left out of the process.

President Lincoln once said "the philosophy of the classroom today, will be the philosophy of government tomorrow." With Common Core, new standardized tests have inundated classrooms with problems of their own. Teachers find themselves "teaching to the test" more and more. These tests violate our states' rights. I wonder if parents realized that all states aren't created equal in Common Core tests? Shouldn't all states, under "common" standards for everyone have everyone's equal input on how students are tested?

What about privacy under Common Core? Why didn't local boards of education tell parents about the changes to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act? Do parents realize their child's data, including biometric data such as fingerprints and retinal scans, is being placed in a state longitudinal data system and shared with others?

If our philosophy of the classroom is to violate states' rights, use children and teachers as guinea pigs, and hide from parents the fact that their child's data is no longer private, it can only be inferred that the philosophy of government tomorrow will do the same. What is America becoming?

As I watched President Obama place his hand on the Bibles of Dr. King and President Lincoln, the history teacher in me was overjoyed to watch such a patriotic moment in U.S. history. And yet, I was crushed at the realization that if we do not stop Common Core and preserve the United States educational system, the philosophy of our government tomorrow will not be the America we know and love.

## Grandmommy's Chicken Casserole

*serving generations of pleased family members*

4 chicken breasts (boneless, skinless) (salt and peppered)  
1 can Cream of Chicken soup  
8 oz. sour cream  
1 tall sleeve Ritz crackers  
1 stick butter  
1 small can chopped water chestnuts (optional)



Boil chicken until tender. Chop into bite size pieces and put in casserole dish. Mix soup and sour cream. Pour over chicken. Break 1 stack Ritz crackers into 1 stick butter. Spread over chicken and bake at 350° for 30 minutes.  
m-m-m-m-m! *Servings: 6-8*

## New Restaurant in Town



A restaurant has opened in downtown Perry at 121 South Washington Street called SHG Gallery & Cafe. It is open everyday serving home style and cajun foods. SHG also offers daily specials, catering, a banquet room, and a live band on Friday nights. Sandy Hall, proprietor, is originally from Perry and has returned home to share her culinary expertise and artistic talents.

We encourage everyone to shop locally at the many fine businesses in our area. Remember, the savings in gas alone will be from \$15-\$30.

Correction: In our January 7<sup>th</sup> edition we had a story about the military absentee ballots. Two people contacted us about the accuracy of the story written on [dufflebag.com](http://dufflebag.com). Although after researching the article we found the claims about handling of the military ballots to be verifiable, the claim that there were enough military ballots not counted to change the Presidential election outcome to be unlikely.

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