

PATRIOT

PRESS

MARCHING TO THE DRUMBEAT OF FREEDOM

NOVEMBER 1, 2009

VOL. 2, ISSUE 20

FROM THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

As a freshman to Patriot Academy 2009, I wasn't sure what to expect upon arrival at the Texas State Capitol. I expected a week filled with policy discussions, tools equipping Christian conservatives for the betterment of our country, and debates on the House floor. Upon leaving, I didn't realize this would change how I analyzed current events and my decision-making process.

Raised in the church by Godly parents, I consider myself a true conservative. I've attended numerous political and leadership conferences, but none have given me a foundation like Patriot Academy. Foundation is the key word. My spiritual eyes see more clearly because of the lessons learned at PA. I was given a stronger foundation on searching Scripture to make decisions with discernment. For example, my brother recently started working at Applebee's Restaurant to earn extra money. He explained how servers have tip share. All the servers divide their tips with other employees rather than pocketing their own. Instead of individual servers working on their own merit, the tips they earn are for all servers. Sounds like a form of socialism Mama Seay was always preaching against! I'm not advocating anyone stop eating there, but before Patriot Academy I would most likely not have been opposed to or thought about the effects of tip share. There have been many instances in the past months where I've had to make decisions or assess a certain policy and I feel I've made better decisions and arguments due to what I learned from Patriot Academy and viewing the situation from a biblical perspective.

An Academy is a school for special instruction or training. Patriot Academy certainly accomplishes that definition. Patriot teaches young people how to change our nation through biblical principles. It says in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." The Bible is useful to us in *everything* - for every good work so we can be thoroughly equipped! I'm so thankful I now have a stronger foundation and am better equipped to effectively look at decisions I make through a biblical view. It's been exciting to practice what I learned to make wiser decisions about finances, time management, effective speaking, and to make stronger arguments on certain topics and policies.

I'm excited to know that there have been many Patriot Academy graduates before me and many to come so that there will be a growing army of Christians thoroughly equipped in the political process and in God's Word to make decisions for our nation. It's encouraging that our generation is taking a stand to return our country back to its Godly foundation. We must look at solving our nation's problems through a biblical view and heed what the Bible says in Proverbs 11:14 "Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls, but in the multitude of counselors there is victory." I thank the Lord for Patriot Academy and that it equips and provides wisdom to many. Remember victory is in sight for our Lord and our nation!

THE TORCH OF FREEDOM FOUNDATION
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FOUNDING FATHERS

We hold it our indispensable duty to resist such force at every hazard to defend the rights and liberties of America.

Though little is known about James Smith's early childhood, it is known he was born in Ireland in the early 1700s. His family immigrated to Pennsylvania when he was around ten years old. His father provided him with a classical education by a local minister. Later he was educated at the College of Philadelphia and studied law at his brother's office in Lancaster. He was admitted to the Bar at the age of twenty-six, however he did not solely practice law until he moved to York where he was the sole lawyer in the town.

Smith was not involved in politics. He was known for his humor, his successful law practice, and caring for his family. It took the act of the British closing the port after the Boston Tea Party for him to become involved. From that point, he was one of the earliest and strongest supporters of independence.

He organized a militia company in York and was elected Captain. When it grew to be a battalion he deferred leadership to younger men, an act that would be repeated when he was elected to Congress in 1785. It would appear he put an emphasis not only on being a strong leader, but also raising up leaders.

Though he was not one of the foremost men at the Continental Congress, he was one of the first to strongly push a severing from Britain. He added humor to the Continental Congress. Unfortunately, a fire destroyed his offices and papers so there is much about this founding father that has been lost. He took many things to his grave in July of 1806.

IN THEIR WORDS

There is an Arabian proverb that says, '*Trust in Allah, but tie up your camel.*' It raises thoughts in a multitude of areas, not just the area of faith.

Faith, whether in a belief system, a person, or a government, is a wonderful thing to have, but it will never eliminate the need for personal responsibility.

The United States of America is a government founded of the people, by the people, and for the people. There is faith in the government because *we the people* are responsible for putting elected officials into office.

Responsibility does not stop simply at becoming involved on Election Day. Knowing the character and the history of the candidates is important because that is the character they will take into office. Involvement in ongoing issues matters because the people in office make decisions that change the public's everyday life. Becoming educated on the process means individuals will be able to effect change.

'Tying up your camel' means taking part in the process, being cautious even where there is trust because there is always the threat of something taking away the basic rights. Take into consideration the issue of eminent domain. If the government decides it is more profitable for someone else to make use of what an individual owns, they can take it and make it happen.

Or they could until it happened and the uproar from *we the people* started the ball rolling and laws began to pass about exactly what 'public use' was.

The people's involvement changed what would have been a course in history of legal plunder.

Tie up your camel and become involved in the process that affects every aspect of life.

OVEREXTENDING

Have you ever woken up in the morning with an overwhelming feeling of dread because you know the To Do List on your desk/computer/sticky note/phone is longer than what you could accomplish with two people and three days?

It's not a great feeling. I know. I've both been there and done that. At the time, I truly thought I enjoyed the pressure and the struggle to accomplish everything. Looking back, I realize (and this was a very hard lesson for me to accept) it was killing me. Sadly, that's not an exaggeration, though I wish it were.

So what am I trying to say? Not to get involved? Not to reach out?

Not at all. Quite the opposite.

Be involved in the causes and the jobs you are called to. Take part in the campaigns and ministries that you are drawn to. Just be cautious. Because there is a need does not mean you are to fill it.

There is a point where you become overextended. Your fingers wind up in too many pies and you can't give them all the attention they deserve. The time necessary to do something with excellence just isn't there and quality slips. It sneaks up on you and by the time you realize it you're just a little bit too far in to easily extricate yourself.

Eventually the spinning plates have to come down.

You can learn the lesson the easy way and get help getting all your plates under control. Or, you can just keep going until everything spins out of control and crashes around your feet.

Choose wisely.

KATHI'S QUOTES

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant, they too have their story.

Max Ehrman

CONTACT INFORMATION

If there is any information you would like to see in the Patriot Press or if you would like to stop receiving the newsletter, contact us at tof.patriotpress@gmail.com.

We would love to hear your suggestion, stories, opinions, and notable achievements throughout the year.