

Greetings Friends and Fellow Republicans,

As we have for 14 years now, this month we observed the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on our nation. It was a time for Americans to stop and reflect on the terrible truths of those attacks. For most Americans the horrific images of those events and their aftermath still burn brightly in our minds...and hearts. So many innocents loss their lives, so many who did not perish still live with the wounds acquired that day, both physical and emotional. I pray earnestly for peace and comfort of those who still suffer from the effects of those hateful attacks.

It is hard to believe that our young students on the crest of their high school years have no memory of these events. Obviously, they may have seen the video footage, had access to the personal memories of family or friends who lost loved ones that day. But they did not experience it, they did not feel the horror, experience the fear or the burning desire to help those in harm's way and to seek retribution. Nor did they experience its aftermath. They will never really understand how the world around us changed forever more. But they also never experienced the unity and collective patriotism the nation felt in the months that followed. The sense that, come what may, we were fellow American's first and all other differences were secondary was pervasive.

For those reasons I was deeply saddened to read a Letter to the Editor that appeared this past week in the Journal. Written by Dillon Smith who is a Jefferson County High School Student, the letter details what happened when a moment of silence was observed at his school to remember 9/11 and to honor those who passed away. Apparently, while he and a few other students attempted to observe the moment of silence they were interrupted by many other students who were being disrespectfully loud, acting unruly and even mocking the event. According to his letter, as far as he is aware little to nothing was done by the education professionals to correct the situation. His letter is a frightening indicator of the level of crassness in our society, a sad epitaph of how quickly we allow our memories to become dim or worse yet stand quietly by while those with specific agendas attempt to twist the narrative of historic of events of our Nation's past. It takes constant struggle to stay true to the history and culture that has made this country the greatest nation that has ever existed on planet Earth. Constant unyielding vigilance and care of the gifts given to us by our forefathers is the price of the liberty and prosperity we hope to enjoy ourselves and to pass to upcoming generations.

As we stand on the precipice of another election year, we are reminded that few aspects of the aforementioned vigilance and struggle are as important as the need to be involved in the election process. We owe a debt of obligation to those who have gone before us to be involved in the Nation's election process. As a committee we strongly urge the citizens of our great county to get involved, study the candidates, volunteer to help those you support, consider running for office yourself and most of all **VOTE** for candidates you believe will best represent

you and protect the history and culture of our great nation.

This month the responsibility falls to me to report on some of the great things the Jefferson County Republican Executive Committee (JCREC) has been up to of late:

- This month we were honored to be invited and to take part in this year's African American Heritage Parade. This has become something of a tradition for the committee and an event we look forward to. We were grateful to be joined this year by The West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey and a number of other candidates.
- We also had a significant presence at the Great Jefferson County Fair. The JCREC Fair Booth is always a great experience. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk with the citizens of this county and to promote Republican values. This year we ran a "Penny Poll" to give residents an opportunity to "vote" for their Republican Presidential Candidate. Much like the current national sentiment Donald Trump won the poll hands down. This year's gun raffle drawing was won by Bob Adams, candidate for the WV House of Delegates (66<sup>th</sup> District).
- The JCREC hosted the successful Reagan Ranch Picnic. This event is one of a number of events we host annually to give candidates and citizens time to spend together and to help raise funds in support of the committee's efforts to support our candidates.
- Last but certainly not least the JCREC took part in the Charles Town Heritage Festival.

So you can see the JCREC has had a very busy month. It takes constant effort to keep the lamps of Freedom burning! With that in mind here is a list of upcoming events:

- October 4<sup>th</sup> – Eisenhower Dinner @ Bavarian Inn
- October 10<sup>th</sup> - JCREC Meeting
- October 10<sup>th</sup> – Middleway Days

Best wishes,  
Brett Stone – Harpers Ferry District, JCREC

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