



NEWSLETTER

April 2026 ISSUE#: HV026

Mercer We the People of Hopewell Valley is a steady source of news to heal the accelerating erosion of our fundamental freedoms nationally and locally.

Embrace our First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Source: <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/primary-sources/bill-of-rights>

Kind regards,
Publius Bonhomme Richard, Publisher & Co-Editors

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Email us at: info@mercervethepeople.com

Please email us to be included for future newsletters.

Printed copies of the newsletter will be made available at Rosedale Mills and local library. Any other suggested location(s) please let us know.

Call for Contributors!

MercerWe the People of Hopewell Valley is looking for contributors to write articles, especially informing the community about what is happening at local meetings. If you're interested in writing for us about that or any other topic, whether it is monthly or as needed, please reach out to us at info@mercervethepeople.com

"Give Me Liberty, Or Give Me Death!"

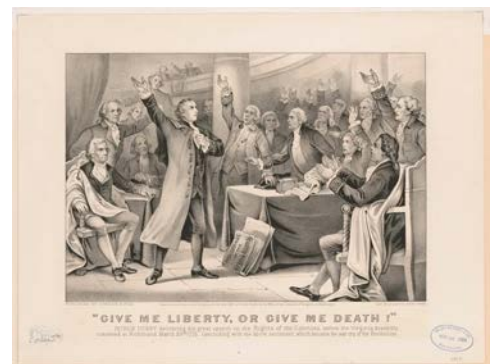
Publisher's Note: We lead our newsletter with the closing line from a speech made by Patrick Henry to the Second Virginia Convention on 23 March 1775, in which he argued that war with Britain was inevitable and a militia should be raised to defend American liberties. It is among the most famous speeches of the American Revolution (c. 1765-1789).

Presidential Message On The Anniversary Of Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty, Or Give Me Death!" Speech

By The White House originally published in The White House (March 23 2026)

Two hundred and fifty-one years ago, as the 13 Colonies stood on the precipice of revolution, the great Patrick Henry rose to address the Second Virginia Convention to declare words that have echoed throughout the halls of history: "Give me liberty, or give me death!" Henry's epic speech rang out at a decisive hour in our Nation's journey, stirring his fellow Virginians to cast off the heavy hand of British tyranny and take up arms in pursuit of the righteous cause of American independence.

In the spring of 1775, more than 100 of Virginia's most devoted patriots gathered at Henrico Parish Church united by a solemn purpose—to debate Henry's resolutions to arm their local militias and organize a defense of their



Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death! Library of Congress (Public Domain)

homes against the British Empire. As tensions between colonists and their imperial rulers continued to rise, many delegates still harbored great doubts as to whether armed conflict was the best course of action.

On March 23, 1775, the third day of the convention, Patrick Henry heroically answered that doubt: "If we wish to be free ... we must fight!" His oration ended in a call for freedom that would become a rallying cry for all Americans in every age: "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!" His resolutions passed, and America took a step toward forging her own destiny. Little more than one month later, the first shots of the Revolutionary War rang out at Lexington and Concord.

Henry's defiant stand ignited a movement that would later give birth to our Nation. As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of American independence, we are reminded that the blessings we inherit were secured by those early patriots who refused to surrender the cause of freedom at its most perilous hour. Their bravery built a Republic grounded in the conviction that liberty is a sacred, God-given right—and it must always be safeguarded by a resolute people ready and willing to fight and die for it.

Through the words of Patrick Henry, the earliest Americans found their voice and realized the strength of their resolve. More than two and a half centuries later, his words still call us to live with bold and faithful vision, to cherish the freedom entrusted to our care, and to carry forward the work of preserving the proud heritage of this great country. As we mark the 251st anniversary of this legendary speech, we honor the enduring patriotic spirit he set in motion—and as we begin the next two and a half centuries of our national story, we renew our devotion to advancing a brighter, more radiant, and more glorious American future.

Access the Presidential Message: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2026/03/presidential-message-on-the-anniversary-of-patrick-henrys-give-me-liberty-or-give-me-death-speech/>

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Local News

Pennington Republican Committee Hosts Meet & Greet

By American Anonymous

"We Believe Words Have Power"

This powerful statement kicked off the February 2026 open public meeting held by the Pennington Republican Committee at Mercer County Library (Hopewell Township branch). Since I was attending because of interest generated by my campaign to remove political propaganda from road signs in Hopewell, these were welcome words indeed.

The host of the meeting, Sylvia Kocsis, opened by welcoming everyone and drawing attention to slides, a handout packet, and recommended books she had organized for the evening. The emphasis of all the materials was on civil political discourse:

why it's important, how to engage in it, how to create more of it in our world. While she shared information on commonly held Republican values, the majority of her and the other speakers' content was about civility, creating open dialogue, and engaging with community members who feel differently.

"If you could help ease the divisions in our country, would you do it?"

Kocses has a way with words. She reminded the crowd of the weight words carry, and the quiet power of engaging in healthy debate by staying "curious rather than furious." Pointers were shared on how to civilly discuss even hot-button issues by seeking to understand the other person. The kindness of everyone in the room and the gentleness of Sylvia's approach was a contrast to the fact that the social media advertisement for this meeting was met with such numerous vitriolic comments like "Nazis" and "will you be wearing white hoods," that organizers thought it wise to notify Hopewell Township police of the meeting's time and location, just in case.

The well-attended meeting featured conversations about the political climate in Hopewell Valley, local and national elections, and civics education (or lack thereof) in public schools. According to Kocses, an emphasis on standardized testing and other pressures in our educational system since the 1960s have led to an unfortunate reduction of middle/high school classes in civics. As a result, many Americans do not know even the most basic information on how our government is structured. A 2024 U.S. Chamber of Commerce study found that more than 70% of Americans failed a basic U.S. civic literacy quiz. One in three quiz respondents didn't even know there are three branches of government.

(I suppose that explains the "No Kings" protests?)

Ooops.. sorry Sylvia, here I am already using divisive language. Softening our tone, on both sides of the aisle, may be a difficult task for some of us who were born and raised in Jersey. Complaining, arguing, and making sarcastic remarks is part of our cultural heritage.

The good news is, there are many ways to get involved and be a part of the solution rather than part of the problem. Republican candidates are needed to fill positions on borough, township, and county councils and committees. Getting involved as a Republican Committee member, which helps advance Republican candidates and interests in Mercer County, is strongly encouraged. There is also a need for Republican poll workers, which are paid positions and a great way to dip one's toe in the water of civic engagement, just for a day.

I left the meeting filled with hope. An easy \$25 membership fee to the Hopewell Valley Republican Association, attending meetings here and there, meeting people, having conversations, carving out some time to become involved in my community's government... I can do this! So can you. It takes many individual raindrops to create a rainstorm, and that may be what is needed to create more political diversity in Hopewell Valley.

INAUGURAL Courageous Conversations Book Discussion Group Event - Monday, April 13

By HVRA

People in our community and nationwide are very concerned that political polarization, lack of civil discourse, and conflict entrepreneurs are dividing Americans in ways that foster dysfunctional governance and threaten the future of our nation. We all have felt it: fighting over politics with family members, avoiding discussion of certain topics that are controversial, or reacting disrespectfully to posts on social media that may differ with our view of the world.

Braver Angels (<https://braverangels.org/>), one of many groups that encourage the transformation of the attitude and discourse of our nation's citizens - one person and community at a time - recognizes that spirited and constructive differences of opinion about issues, policies, values and election outcomes are not new in our country. But today, normal political competition has degraded into acts of dehumanizing and demonizing our opponents, and even worse with political violence.

How did we get here? There are many forces pushing us towards this politics of contempt. Binary thinking or the "us versus them" mindset has led us to become blind to alternative moral worlds. Unregulated political fundraising and general election choices often dominated by candidates on the extremes make political parties less accountable to everyday citizens. Conflict entrepreneurs exploit conflict and manufacture outrage for profit, attention and power.

Courageous Conversations
BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Read books written by reasonable people and engage with others across differences with meaningful civil discourse.

The United States is experiencing a crisis of political polarization, incivility, and distrust that many fear is tearing our country apart. This complex problem is driven by political, psychological, and technological forces and the crisis impacts individuals, our community and our nation.

WHAT CAN ORDINARY PEOPLE DO?

The Hopewell Valley Republican Association invites you to a book discussion group designed to connect people across the political divide and to help build a culture of kindness, respect, dignity, and hope.

IF YOU COULD HELP EASE THE DIVISIONS IN OUR COUNTRY, WOULD YOU DO IT?

Monday, April 13th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

BEYOND the POLITICS of CONTEMPT:
Practical Steps to Build Positive Relationships in Divided Times
Doug Techner, Beth Mallow, & Becky Robinson (BraverAngels.org)

Community Room at Mercer County Library / Hopewell
245 Pennington-Titusville Road, Pennington
(MCL has copies of the book available to check-out)

Other Books for Future Discussions
How to Raise a Citizen • Lindsey Cormack
The Righteous Mind • Jonathan Haidt
The Two-Parent Privilege • Melissa S. Kearney

HVRA Hopewell Valley Republican Association

For more information, please contact us at hvragop.org

Paid for by the Hopewell Valley Republican Association, PO Box 332, Titusville, NJ 08590

RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/HVRABook>

Social media algorithms manipulate our thinking and reinforce our beliefs by playing on emotions and fears and we are not shown information that challenges our opinions. Sorting and siloing are powerful forces that drive us to align with people who think the same way we do and make it harder to hear any other perspectives. Twenty-four hour partisan news media also feeds this division.

The decline in civics education in public schools is also a factor. We are not preparing young people to become effective in their future citizenship roles. Activism is stressed without providing students with sufficient knowledge about our history, how our country works, and each person's responsibility in a democratic republic. In 2022, only 13% of eighth-grade students scored proficient in history and 22% scored proficient in civics on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Toxic polarization makes it difficult for schools to even come to an agreement on what such a civics curriculum should contain.

How can we best confront this polarization challenge? A better future pictures American political institutions operating in the spirit of citizenship and common purpose, with vigorous policy debates and people treating each other with dignity and respect, even if they disagree on how to solve the complex problems we face as a nation. A better future for America means learning the skills we, our children, and our children's children can use to engage in civil discourse and courageous conversations. A better future for America means addressing this social dilemma with a collective action response.

All movements for change start local. Our country needs as many of us as possible in Hopewell Valley to join together to help diminish the politics of contempt. Author Jonathan Haidt calls this approach a "collective action response". We can voluntarily support each other in efforts to transcend the forces that paint our fellow citizens as the enemy. We can voluntarily help build a national culture of kindness, dignity, respect, hope, togetherness, community, civility and meaningful dialogue. We can be activists to build bridges across differences as we engage in healthy disagreement about ideas and policy positions based on facts and merit.

Seeking to initiate a "collective action response" for positive change in our political discourse the Hopewell Valley Republican Association (HVRA) is sponsoring a **Courageous Conversation Book Discussion Group**. This book group is for liberals, conservatives, progressives and all community members who want to reverse the troubling trend of the Red-Blue divide.

Our first selection is foundational to understanding how we can achieve a better future for America. Authors Doug, Beth and Becky, through their work with Braver Angels, have written a book that is a roadmap to bring us out of the chaos and into a better political environment that will benefit us all. This book is about learning the skills to engage each other across differences. It is intentionally bipartisan. The book discussion group will follow a clear code of conduct (respectful dialogue, active listening, evidence-based discussion, inclusivity and safety, shared time, constructive disagreement) and operational norms (come prepared having read the material, stay on topic).

The Hopewell Branch of the Mercer County Library has multiple copies of all the book selections available for checkout.

"May our children and our children's children to a thousand generations, continue to enjoy the benefits conferred upon us by a united country" – Abraham Lincoln

Trivia Night At Needle Creek Farm Brewery - Wednesday, April 15

Join the Hopewell Valley Republican Association (HVRA) as we test Hopewell's knowledge in America's 250th year. Locally, we are looking to build our membership so that we can Make Hopewell Great Again! Come join us to get involved and find out what the HVRA is doing to help in your community.

**Have some fun on Tax Day Wednesday April 15th
with Trivia Night at Needle Creek Farm Brewery, 91
Titus Mill Rd, Pennington NJ.**

HAVE SOME FUN ON TAX DAY!

U.S. HISTORY
by Jack Furlong

Trivia
NIGHT

Doors open
6:00 pm

Trivia starts
7:00 pm

Trivia runs
60-90 minutes

*The Founding
Fathers will
be there!*

*** Wednesday, April 15th ***

**NEEDLE CREEK
FARM BREWERY**
91 Titus Mill Road, Pennington, NJ

Join the Hopewell Valley Republican Association (HVRA) as we test Hopewell's knowledge in America's 250th year. Locally, we are looking to build our membership so that we can Make Hopewell Great Again! Come join us to get involved and find out what the HVRA is doing to help in your community.

Light snacks provided along with purchase of beer and pretzels

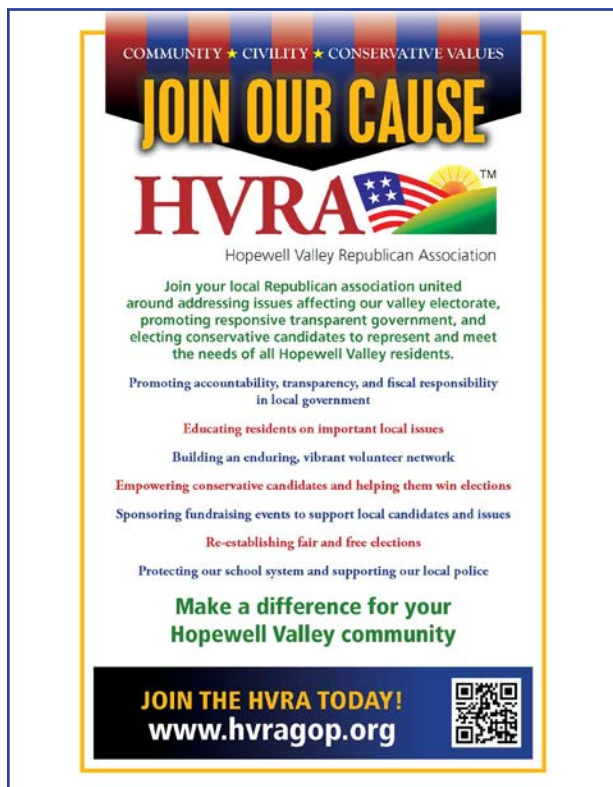
Sponsored by
HVRA
Hopewell Valley Republican Association

Visit us in the web at hvrageop.org

Printed for by the Hopewell Valley Republican Association, PO Box 332, Trenton, NJ 08640

RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/HVRATrivia>

JOIN OUR CAUSE!



COMMUNITY ★ CIVILITY ★ CONSERVATIVE VALUES

JOIN OUR CAUSE

HVRA™


Hopewell Valley Republican Association

Join your local Republican association united around addressing issues affecting our valley electorate, promoting responsive transparent government, and electing conservative candidates to represent and meet the needs of all Hopewell Valley residents.

- Promoting accountability, transparency, and fiscal responsibility in local government
- Educating residents on important local issues
- Building an enduring, vibrant volunteer network
- Empowering conservative candidates and helping them win elections
- Sponsoring fundraising events to support local candidates and issues
- Re-establishing fair and free elections
- Protecting our school system and supporting our local police

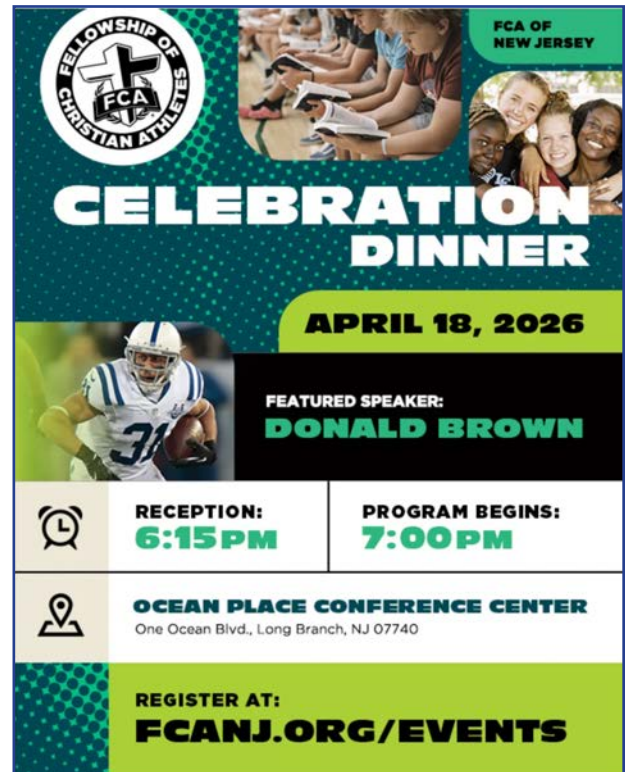
Make a difference for your Hopewell Valley community

JOIN THE HVRA TODAY!
www.hvragop.org



JOIN OUR CAUSE at:
<https://hvragop.org/hvra-membership/>

Fellowship Of Christian Athletes Celebration Dinner - Saturday, April 18



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
FCA
CELEBRATION DINNER

FCA OF NEW JERSEY

APRIL 18, 2026

FEATURED SPEAKER:
DONALD BROWN

RECEPTION: 6:15 PM

PROGRAM BEGINS: 7:00 PM

OCEAN PLACE CONFERENCE CENTER
One Ocean Blvd., Long Branch, NJ 07740

REGISTER AT:
FCANJ.ORG/EVENTS

Register at: <https://fcanj.org/events>

Education

What's Happening In HVRSD Schools?

HVRSD Board Of Education Meeting March 23, 2026

By The Wall of Ed

Agenda: <https://go.boarddocs.com/nj/hvrsd/Board.nsf/Public#tab-meetings>

Meeting Recording: https://www.youtube.com/live/dGPK-_tHJSs?si=4m2MJxxceh7xg4Y4

Next Meeting April 27, 2026 (Budget Public Hearing) at the HVRSD Board Office, 425 Main St, Pennington, NJ

VOC Student Essay Contest

By VOC Staff originally published in Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (February 19, 2026)

The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) will honor the legacy of the Declaration of Independence with an essay contest that will teach students about freedom movements that directly cited or paraphrased the Declaration of Independence. This will demonstrate to citizens and students the exceptional nature of the American "experiment" in self-government and ordered liberty.

Essay Prompt: Explain how the U.S. Declaration of Independence inspired a key liberty champion and/or freedom movement in a foreign context.

Scholar David Armitage suggested that nearly 200 countries and overseas political movements have cited the Declaration, from Haiti to Kosovo. For example, Mahatma Gandhi used the language of the Declaration in 1930. Czech anti-communist,



dissident, playwright, and later president of free Czechoslovakia, Vaclav Havel asserted the transcendent nature of the Declaration: "The Declaration of Independence ... states that the Creator gave man the right to liberty. It seems man can realize that liberty only if he does not forget the One who endowed him with it."

The Foundation will recognize up to 52 outstanding student essays that focus attention on how the Declaration of Independence influenced declarations, speeches, and other political writing in foreign contexts during the 20th century. We are especially interested in short essays that focus on those seeking freedom from communist and Marxist systems.

The contest is **open to grades 9-12 and college students** from across the United States. Essays should be between **750-1000 words** and utilize the **Chicago Manual of Style** with endnotes for any citations. Students must agree in writing at the time of submission that they avoided plagiarism or the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in drafting the text of the essay. Students will send their essays via attachment to **1776@victimsofcommunism.org** and clearly specify their name, hometown, school, phone number, and email address. **The contest closes on May 1, 2026.**

The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation will electronically publish up to one high quality essay per week during 2026. Each winner will be recognized with a \$100 Amazon Gift Card. In addition, the Foundation will recognize overall prizes of first (\$1,000), second (\$500), and third place (\$250) for university students and overall prizes of first (\$1,000), second (\$500), and third place (\$250) for high school students.

Access the article: <https://victimsofcommunism.org/voc-launches-student-essay-contest/>

The Silent Prescription: A Neurologist's Journey From The Hippocratic Oath To The American Classroom

Whether it is lowering the bar for a medical degree or removing honors math for eighth graders, the result is the same: the sacrifice of excellence at the altar of ideology.

By Diana Blum originally published in Fair For All (March 18 2026)

As a physician, my world was defined by the sanctity of the individual: the quiet, sacred space between a doctor and a patient where human dignity and the preservation of life reigned supreme. My professional life was governed by a singular, sacred commitment: the Hippocratic Oath. This wasn't just a formality; it was a prescription for a healthy society, rooted in the primacy of the individual and the objective pursuit of scientific truth. I believed that by defending ethical standards in my beloved profession, I was holding the line for Western civilization.



But then the world changed in 2020. The pandemic didn't just bring a virus; it brought a mirror. As I watched the medical establishment succumb to a suffocating groupthink and a "mob-like" dismissal of heterodox thought, I realized that the rot wasn't just in the clinics. It was in the marrow of our society. The same ideological forces destroying the sanctity of medicine were already hard at work destroying the minds of the next generation in our K-12 schools.

I realized I could no longer just be a doctor. As a mom, I had to become an advocate for the very foundation of our future: our children.

The Echoes of a Soviet Past

My perspective is not merely academic; it is ancestral. I am a Soviet Jew. My DNA carries the memory of what happens when a society abandons the individual in favor of the collective, and when "the greater good" becomes a justification for dehumanization and violence.

To me, Jewish values are not separate from Western civilization; they are the pillars of it. The emphasis on questioning, the pursuit of objective truth, and the infinite value of a single human life are what built the modern world. When I see the terrifying rise of Jew-hatred in our streets and our schools today, I don't see a random flare-up of bigotry. I see a direct, coordinated attack on American values. History has shown us that Jews are the "canary in the coal mine" when a society begins to hunt the Jew, it has already begun to eat itself.

From the Nazi Era to the Modern Classroom

The turning point in my transformation from medical advocate to education defender occurred during a webinar I hosted for **FAIR** titled "Health Professionals in the Nazi Era." Preparing for that presentation was a chilling experience. I saw with terrifying clarity how the most "educated" professionals of the 1930s, doctors and teachers, were the first to succumb to ideological capture. They didn't wake up one day as monsters; they were slowly conditioned to prioritize activism over their professional oaths.

I looked at our current K-12 landscape and saw the same patterns. As depicted in the documentary Killing America by Eli Steele, the erosion of merit and the introduction of “social justice” frameworks in schools like those in the San Francisco Bay Area, where I grew up and raised my own kids, mirrored the lowering of medical standards I had fought against. Whether it is lowering the bar for a medical degree or removing honors math for eighth graders, the result is the same: the sacrifice of excellence at the altar of ideology. Unnecessary suffering inevitably follows.

The Neurology of Hate

When my grandfather, Srul, passed away in 2022, just 4 months shy of 101, something broke and reset within me. He was a man who survived the unimaginable, a living link to a world that tried to erase him. After his death, I knew I couldn't stay silent. I realized that while I was treating patients for neurological disorders, a different kind of pathology was being wired into the brains of millions of children.

As a neurologist, I understand how the brain learns. I know that the neuroplasticity of a child is a gift that can be easily exploited. When schools replace actual education with social justice activism, they are quite literally wiring tribalism and resentment into the developing mind. They are teaching children to see color before character, and power dynamics before humanity. This isn't just bad teaching; it is unintentional neurological injury to a generation of humans.

A New Oath

I am often asked why a Parkinson's Disease doctor is so involved in school board battles and curriculum transparency activism. My answer is simple: I am still practicing medicine.

In medicine, we say *Primum non nocere* - First, do no harm. By allowing our education system to replace the pursuit of truth with ideological indoctrination, we are doing profound, perhaps irreversible, harm to the individual and, inevitably, to society at large.

I have moved from defending the Hippocratic Oath to defending the classroom because the battle is the same. It is a battle for the soul of the West. It is a battle to ensure that no child is ever taught that their worth is defined by their group identity, and that no doctor is ever forced to choose a narrative over a patient. For my grandfather, for my children, and for the country that gave my family refuge, I will not be silent.

Access the article: https://news.fairforall.org/p/the-silent-prescription-a-neurologists?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=415200&post_id=191309732&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=v5y4h&triedRedirect=true&utm_medium=email

Election Integrity

US Attorney General Sues NJ Over Access To Full Voter Roll

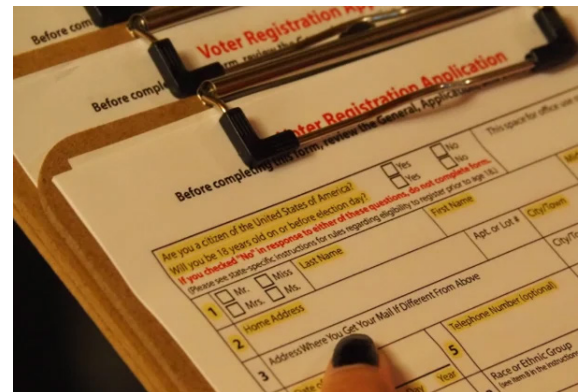
By Mark Demo

The U.S. Attorney General is suing New Jersey's chief election official (Dr. Dale G. Caldwell) for allegedly violating **Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1960** (52 U.S.C. § 20703). This law requires state election officials to retain and preserve records related to federal elections (including voter registration materials) for 22 months after an election and to make them available for inspection, copying, and reproduction upon a written demand from the Attorney General that states the basis and purpose.

The core allegation is that New Jersey has repeatedly refused to produce the **statewide voter registration list (SVRL)** in full (with all fields, including full name, date of birth, address, driver's license number, last four digits of Social Security number, or other unique identifiers), as well as other related federal election records.

Key background facts cited:

- The demands began with a July 15, 2025, letter from the Attorney General, followed by an August 14, 2025, renewal under the CRA.
- The purpose is to investigate New Jersey's compliance with federal election laws, specifically the **National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)** (requiring accurate voter list maintenance and removal of ineligible voters) and the **Help America Vote Act (HAVA)** (requiring a centralized, accurate voter registration database).



- The DOJ highlighted statistical discrepancies from the 2024 Election Assistance Commission survey, such as New Jersey's unusually high voter registration rate (94.8% of voting-age population), low rates of confirmation notices sent to voters (6.9%), and lower-than-average removal rates for duplicates, deceased, or ineligible registrants compared to national averages.
- New Jersey acknowledged the demands but denied them (e.g., in letters dated August 21, 2025; December 8, 2025; January 9, 2026), citing state privacy laws and seeking more clarification. The DOJ proposed a Memorandum of Understanding to address concerns and asserted that federal law preempts privacy objections for these investigative purposes.
- Despite further communications (including January 30, 2026, confirmation of non-compliance), the state has not provided the records.

The complaint contains one count: Violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (52 U.S.C. § 20703) due to the refusal to comply with a valid written demand.

Relief sought:

- A court declaration that the refusal violates federal law.
- An order compelling production of the current electronic SVRL with all fields (unredacted) within 5 days of any order.
- Production of other demanded federal election records.
- Any additional relief the court deems just.

This is not an allegation of voter discrimination, suppression, fraud, or specific election misconduct. It's an enforcement action focused solely on compelling access to records for an ongoing federal investigation into state compliance with voter list maintenance and accuracy requirements under NVRA and HAVA. The case was filed February 26, 2026.

About Citizens for NJ Election Integrity

Citizens for NJ Election Integrity is a non-partisan organization dedicated to ensuring fair and transparent elections in New Jersey. The group advocates for electoral reforms, improved voter verification processes, and public education on election integrity. For more information, please visit <http://www.citizens4njei.org/>.

Media Contact: Mark Flaherty, Communications Director, Citizens for NJ Election Integrity
914-473-2038 • Mark.Flaherty@citizens4njei.org

For further inquiries or to schedule an interview, please contact C4NJEI at the information provided above.

ICYMI

How The Upcoming Moon Mission Transcends Anti-Scientific Climate Activism

Commentary by Kevin Mooney originally published in The Daily Signal (March 18 2026)

The U.S. is poised to return to the moon this coming April as part of a reenergized manned space program that is emboldened rather than deterred by the risks and challenges irrevocably attached to the mission.

By pressing ahead, NASA and its many public and private sector partners are allowing scientific evidence rather than speculation to guide their decisions. They are also making a clean break with a concept known as the "precautionary principle" that has deep roots in the United Nations climate conferences that date back to the early 1990s.

As I explain in my new book "Climate Porn: How and Why Anti-Population Zealots Fabricate Science, while Targeting American Capitalism, Freedom, and Independence," the precautionary principle as it is defined by climate activists is antithetical to what makes America tick.

The basic idea behind the concept is that when an activity is viewed as being potentially harmful to human health or the environment then precautionary steps should be taken even if the cause-and-effect relationship between the activity and theorized harmful results are not scientifically established.



Shawn Quinn and Norm Knight in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on March 12, 2026. (Gregg Newton / AFP via Getty Images)

In other words, there should not even be a risk of a risk. Under this scenario, hysteria, fear, and misinformation could grind all meaningful human activity to a halt.

Imagine how different American history would have been if the precautionary principle had held sway with policymakers when the nation first attempted venturing into space. Alan Shephard's famous line "Why don't you fix your little problem and light this candle?" would not have found a receptive audience back in mission control during his 1961 spaceflight.

President John F. Kennedy's patriotic march to the moon would not have materialized either. His comment, "We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard," would not have expression in a world where fear of failure trumped exploratory efforts.

In fact, there may not have been a free United States of America at all. George Washington would not have crossed the Delaware River on Christmas night in 1776 to launch a surprise attack on the Hessians in Trenton, New Jersey since the effort was risky and—and, well, it might not have worked at all.

The four astronauts (three Americans and one Canadian) who are part of the Artemis II crew will travel further into space than any human has ever traveled before and glimpse a side of the moon that has never been seen before, before splashing down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California.

It takes a special kind of courage to be part of the upcoming 10-day mission, as it does with any human spaceflight. From the time of the launch at Cape Canaveral to the splashdown in the Pacific, there are risks that can never be completely eradicated. But they can be curtailed.

Like Apollo before it, Artemis is relying upon vigorous testing and scientific observations rather than mere modeling exercises that became a dominant part of what passes for "climate science."

But times are changing and the wheel is turning. During a May 2025 energy symposium at The Heritage Foundation, scientists and economists dissected the numerous false assumptions behind climate models that have given rise to burdensome regulations.

Former NASA engineers, who are part of a group called The Right Climate Stuff have also taken a hatchet to what some call a "garbage in, garbage out" approach to modeling designed to produce desired policy outcomes.

"Climate Porn" goes into some detail about the climate movement's assault on the scientific method and the corrective actions now underway. Independent, privately funded outfits like the Center for Environmental Research and Earth Sciences (CERES) are providing climate realists with valuable platforms to take a hard look at what really drives warming and cooling trends on Planet Earth.

During the Heritage energy symposium, CERES scientists called attention to solar influences on climate, which the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has persistently neglected to account for in its reports. In a new study, the CERES team concludes that "total solar irradiance" estimates the U.N. omits strongly suggests most of the warming since the 19th Century could be natural.

The climate is always changing, and those changes could present challenges to humanity particularly if the planet moves back into a cooling phase. But humanity will be in a stronger position to adapt and adjust to those changes if it is richer, wealthier, and more industrialized. A reinvigorated space program is a big part of that equation.

That means taking chances and accepting risks, but that's the American way.

Access the article: <https://www.dailysignal.com/2026/03/18/how-the-upcoming-moon-mission-transcends-anti-scientific-climate-activism/>

The "Whiteness" Double Standard

The Left would like to portray white culture as a force of oppression—and deny its existence in any other context.

By Christopher F. Rufo originally published in Christopher F. Rufo Substack (February 19 2026)

To my recurring frustration, much of modern politics can be reduced to a series of language games. Political fights rarely touch the substance of the disagreement, but instead hover on the thin layer of language that merely refers to the substance—or all too often, conceals it from view.

In the modern era, the Left's coalition of liberals, progressives, and Marxists have turned these language games into an art. They deploy particular concepts when it serves their needs to do so; they deny the existence of those same concepts when it does not.

Last week's confirmation hearing for Claremont Institute fellow Jeremy Carl, nominated by President Trump as Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, neatly illustrates this phenomenon. In this case, it involved the use of one of the Left's most beloved bits of language: "whiteness."

Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy relentlessly grilled Carl about his past statements on race and his book, *The Unprotected Class*, which documents the history of DEI and “anti-white discrimination.” Murphy alternated between outrage and perplexity, accusing Carl of being a “white nationalist” for allegedly believing that “white culture” is a distinct sociological phenomenon. (The phrase does not appear in Carl’s book.) The subtext of Murphy’s performance was that he, Murphy, was befuddled by the notion of “white culture,” as if its existence were a wild fiction or conspiracy theory.

But his ignorance was purely performative. He knows exactly what “white culture” points toward. Murphy spent his formative years as the son of a corporate lawyer in Wethersfield, Connecticut, which was, at the time, almost exclusively white. He studied at Williams College, founded by Anglo-Protestants in 1793, and at the University of Oxford. As his campaign literature boasts, he is a true son of Connecticut, whose roots in the state trace back multiple generations on “[b]oth sides of Chris’s family.” This is precisely the milieu that constitutes “white culture,” which simply means the customs, manners, and habits of Americans of European descent.

Granted, it is theoretically possible that, like the water in which the proverbial fish swims, this culture was invisible to Murphy. But it is more likely that Murphy is simply playing a language game, denying the existence of the culture he grew up in to score points against a political enemy seated beneath him.

We’ve seen a lot of this game in recent years. During America’s “racial reckoning,” virtually all our prestige institutions advanced a notion of “whiteness” that sought to pathologize “white people” as inherently oppressive and “white culture” as pernicious. Now, the same people who marshaled these narratives, including the leadership of the Democratic Party, are pretending that these concepts don’t exist and that anyone who uses them is engaged in a racist conspiracy theory.

The only way to pass through the thicket of language games is first to clarify the concepts and define the terms. Only then can we begin to separate good from bad, useful from harmful.

In this case, we might begin with a short etymology of the term “white.” In the vernacular sense, everyone knows what “white” means: it is a color-coded shorthand for “Americans of European descent,” in the same way that “black” is a shorthand for Americans of African descent and “brown” is now often used as a shorthand for Americans of Latin American and Indian subcontinental descent. It is perfectly reasonable to argue that these terms are reductive, outdated, overbroad, or insensitive—I am not partial to them, for several reasons—but they are all attempts to describe the reality of continental ancestry groups.

The term “white” came into use after the discovery of the New World, when Europeans left the old continent and looked for ways to describe the different populations they encountered. While the dominant culture of England’s colonies was certainly English, there were enough Europeans of other nationalities that the colonial-era American writer Hector St. John de Crevecoeur described America’s mix of English, French, German, and Dutch frontiersmen as “a new race of men”—in short, “white people”—in contradistinction to the native tribes and African slaves who also populated the continent. (Again, we might wince at the crude use of color as a shorthand for groups, but as a historical matter, these were categories that all groups observed, including minority ones.)

Following the colonial period, America’s demographics became more complicated. New European groups arrived in the nineteenth century, and then other groups from around the world arrived in great numbers in the twentieth century, changing the demographic composition of the United States and increasing the diversity both within and between the main continental groups. Today, “white” contains Scandinavians and Sicilians, “black” contains descendants of slaves and recent African immigrants, and “brown” contains people from as far afield as Peru and Pakistan.

These terms are obviously imprecise, but most Americans can see their limitations and understand the categories as they are used in everyday life. For most people, as they survey their own experience, America is an assemblage of white, black, Latino, Asian, and Native American people, all with their own distinct cultures. At the superficial level, these can be distinguished by general patterns of ancestry, language, religion, cuisine, music, and shared history.

These cultures overlap in our freewheeling American context, and their mingling has provided a rich source of popular entertainment. The film *Rush Hour*, featuring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker, is an extended riff on the cultural discontinuity between black and Asian culture. Likewise, the film *White Chicks*, featuring Marlon and Shawn Wayans, is a romp-style comedy in which two black FBI agents disguise themselves as white women. These films work precisely because most Americans immediately understand signifier and signified: “white,” “black,” “Asian,” and the groups they describe.

Why, then, would an educated man like Senator Murphy pretend not to understand these basic categories? Because the Left would like to portray “whiteness” exclusively as a force of oppression, and deny its existence in any other context. This particular language game is the identity-based version of what Michael Anton calls the “celebration parallax.” In this case, it means that “white,” as a shorthand for Americans of European descent, can be freely used for purposes of demonization—but it cannot be used to protest discrimination against white Americans.

This “whiteness parallax” is a malicious double standard. Personally, I don’t like the term “whiteness,” which is a Marxist coinage, and would be happy to replace the current shorthand with something better. But in any case, there should be a vocabulary to identify Americans of European descent in the same way that we identify all other groups. If all cultures truly can be celebrated, then that would mean the majority culture, too.

The Carl affair is a reminder that none of us should be shamed into silence about our history. The genius of the early Americans is that they gave us a nation that, over time, yielded a shared culture capable of recognizing the contributions of various groups while building a government based on equality under the law. At our best, we can honestly discuss the realities and differences among cultural groups while insisting that, as a matter of policy, we treat all individuals as individuals.

It is perfectly reasonable to acknowledge that our founding culture should be admired for its virtues, remonstrated for its vices, and celebrated alongside the contributions from all of those who came afterward.

Access the article: https://christopherrufo.com/p/the-whiteness-double-standard?utm_source=post-email-title&publication_id=1248321&post_id=188435845&utm_campaign=email-post-title&isFreemail=true&r=v5y4h&triedRedirect=true

Our New Ungracious Immigrants

By Victor Davis Hanson originally published in The Blade of Perseus (March 17 2026)

The Traditional Immigrant

Silicon Valley was energized by legal immigrants from all over the world who founded eBay, Google, Nvidia, SpaceX, Stripe, Sun Microsystems, Tesla, Yahoo, and a host of others.

The Greek American Elia Kazan's 1963 film *America, America* is a fictional account based on the Herculean struggle of the director's uncle to immigrate to the United States from an impoverished and hostile Turkish Anatolia.

The film summed up Americans' traditional view of immigrants: They had risked everything for the chance to reach America, and once there, became hyperpatriotic in their gratitude for the magnanimity of their new hosts.

An excellent example is the recently released memoir from Encounter Books, *American Trojan*, by former University of Southern California president and Cypriot immigrant Dr. Max Nikias. It resonates with thankfulness to America for offering him opportunities undreamed of elsewhere.

He and his wife arrived in the U.S. from war-torn Cyprus nearly penniless but determined to work hard, master English, and enrich the country that welcomed them with their talents and education. What followed was an amazing American trajectory that saw Nikias become president of the University of Southern California—arguably the most successful one in recent memory.

I grew up in rural California surrounded by hard-working immigrant farm families from Armenia, India, Japan, and Mexico. Their work ethic, love of America, and productive farms were models for U.S. non-immigrants. Such immigrants explained why the San Joaquin Valley was the most productive and richest agricultural region in the nation.

My own Swedish grandfather, disabled by poison gas while fighting on the Western Front in World War I, loved all things Swedish, but not nearly as much as his beloved America.

Four Hansons fought on the front lines of World Wars I and II. One was disabled, and another was killed on Okinawa. And all felt blessed that their parents and grandparents had gotten to America.

Gratitude and Ingratitude

But recently, something has gone terribly wrong with immigration—an open border, of course, but also a change in legal immigration as well as student visitors.

During World War II, Japanese Americans fought heroically in horrific conditions in Italy in the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Infantry Battalion—even as their families were interned in the Western United States. Few native-born Americans were more loyal or patriotic than the Japanese Americans.

And now?

While America is at war with Iran and de facto with its terrorist proxies, crowds of immigrants, visitors, and foreign students in New York scream anti-American slogans as they cheer on our enemies in theocratic Iran and its terrorist proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas.

Are we surprised, then, when Islamic terrorists begin hunting down Americans on our own soil?

On campuses today, thousands of Middle Eastern international students, mostly arriving from autocratic, tribal, and failed nations, have staged often violent demonstrations in the years following the October 7, 2023, massacre. They are not shy about cheering on the Hamas slaughter of Israeli civilians.

These pro-Hamas students have not just damned Israel but also often harassed Jewish Americans. They revile their host America and expect Americans to smile and shrug.

It is hard to determine whether such zealots hate the U.S. more than they love living in America and preserving their student visas and work permits.

Hating or Loving the Great Satan?

Take Dr. Fatemeh Ardeshtir-Larijani. She is the daughter of Ali Larijani, one of the late Supreme Leader Khamenei's murderous henchmen. He sent his daughter Fatemeh to the top schools in the satanic United States. She was eventually even hired as a professor at Emory University—at least until popular outrage at the Larijani family's hypocrisy prompted her dismissal.

To our enemies in Iran, we may be the "Great Satan." But Iranian theocrats apparently prefer their children and other relatives to study and get rich in Luciferian America. So, many send their kids to universities in the USA.

Another surreal example is the case of Mahmoud Khalil, who arrived on a student visa at Columbia University and soon led the "Gaza Solidarity Encampment."

When the State Department sought to revoke his temporary visa, the Left made Khalil a veritable martyr. Apparently, his university supporters reasoned that the U.S. had an obligation to invite to its shores those who are active supporters of terrorists like Hamas.

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani, a naturalized citizen from Uganda whose parents became public figures and multimillionaires in America, in the past has had little good to say about his adopted country.

His quite public wife, Rama, whose parents were naturalized Syrian citizens, illustrated a book that was rife with antisemitism. It's no accident that after October 7, she posted "likes" of social media praise of the terrorist Hamas killers, who are sworn enemies of her own country.

Many Somali immigrants of Minneapolis repaid the kindness of Americans in welcoming them from war-torn Somalia by committing the greatest welfare fraud in U.S. history, which may reach \$9 billion in theft. Their iconic representative, Ilhan Omar, has voiced antisemitic vitriol, downplayed 9/11, claimed the U.S. has a dictatorship worse than the one she fled, and said the U.S. was turning into one of the worst countries in the world. That is the thanks she returns for entering a hospitable America under controversial circumstances and dubious legality.

Hating—or Hating to Leave—America?

Stranger still is the attitude of visitors and illegal aliens when they finally face deportation.

Joe Biden allowed 10–12 million foreign nationals to illegally enter the U.S. during his tenure, among them some 500,000 known criminals. In the years since his inauguration, not a day goes by without news that illegal aliens of that era have murdered, assaulted, been arrested for felonious acts, or caused horrific auto accidents.

One of them was Kilmar Ábrego Garcia, an illegal alien from El Salvador, who long ago was ordered to be deported for his unlawful entry and residence.

Instead, he too became an icon to the Left when he was recently and belatedly facing permanent deportation. He had clearly ignored his earlier deportation orders, and was an alleged gang member, an often violent spousal abuser, and a human trafficker.

Ábrego Garcia apparently felt he had a right to enter the U.S. illegally. He successfully made a mockery of our immigration laws. But he presciently expected that soon hundreds of thousands of dollars of free legal help would come his way, ensuring he could stay in the country for which he showed utter contempt.

And in the U.S., one of the most bizarre aspects of recent protests against ICE efforts involved episodes of Mexican nationals waving the flag of the country to which under no circumstances they wished to return, even as they burned the flag of the nation in which they insisted they had an innate right to stay.

Our New Americans Killing Americans

Yet the immigration disaster transcends student visas and illegal aliens, since it extends to many naturalized citizens as well.

Consider the terrorist acts that have transpired in just the last eight days.

On March 1, Ndiaga Diagne, a naturalized U.S. citizen originally from Senegal, shot up a beer garden in Austin, Texas. He murdered three people and wounded 14 others. Diagne wore a "Property of Allah" sweatshirt, along with an Iranian flag T-shirt.

On March 7, 2026, Emir Balat, the son of a naturalized citizen from Turkey, and Ibrahim Kayumi, the son of naturalized Afghan refugees, threw IEDs toward a conservative protest outside Gracie Mansion, the New York mayor's residence.

The media sought to cover up their Islamist motives but could not, given that the two terrorists openly boasted of their aims. Indeed, the two bragged that they wanted to achieve something "bigger than the Boston Marathon bombing."

That was a reference to Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the murderous Chechen-immigrant brothers. In 2013, they murdered three and injured hundreds at the Boston Marathon. Their aim too was apparently to further the so-called global "Islamic cause."

This same week, on March 12, Mohamed Bailor Jalloh, another naturalized U.S. citizen, this time from Sierra Leone, went into an ROTC meeting at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Once there, he murdered the instructor, Lieutenant Colonel Brandon Shah, a decorated combat veteran. Jalloh shouted "Allahu Akbar" as he fired. Jalloh had previously been convicted for attempting to support ISIS but was released before serving his full sentence.

That same March day, Ayman Muhammed Ghazali, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Lebanon, whose family in the Middle East currently has strong Hezbollah terrorist ties, drove his car rigged with explosive fireworks into Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

Ghazali was killed by security guards before he could carry out his homicidal plan. Hezbollah, remember, in the past, butchered hundreds of Americans in Lebanon.

There is an endless list of illegal aliens and naturalized citizens who have killed hundreds of Americans, both as common criminals and as would-be jihadists.

And not all the killing is intentional. Thousands of driver's licenses have been issued to both illegal aliens and legal residents from all over the world, including those who do not understand English, cannot pass a commercial driver's test, and are utterly unqualified to drive. Is it any surprise that we have recently witnessed serial horrific crashes, where incompetent drivers rammed their 80,000-pound semi-trucks into unsuspecting drivers?

What Happened to Immigration?

So what made the U.S. adopt such a suicidal immigration and visitation policy—one that welcomes in millions illegally, hundreds of thousands who are known criminals, tens of thousands of students who despise the U.S., and thousands of terrorists themselves and their sympathizers?

In the mid-1960s, amid the Great Society's dreams of transforming America, new immigration laws were passed that ended the older quota process. That traditional system tended to favor better-off immigrants from Europe and the former British Empire to reflect somewhat the founding demographics of the republic.

But the new law junked the prior merit-based system and instead admitted immigrants chiefly on the basis of family ties and the purported need of the host country for inexpensive labor—with most now arriving from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Suddenly, far less important for entry were critical skill sets, English mastery, high school diplomas, proof of self-support, and knowledge of, or familiarity with, the American system.

But in the subsequent 60 years, Democrats went even further beyond the 1965 Hart–Celler Act efforts to change the demography of the U.S. They began welcoming in anyone, legal or not, who simply crashed the border or claimed they wanted to study in the U.S. The old melting pot was banished, replaced by the "salad bowl."

Immigration was seen by the Left as the answer to why they had never been able to complete their socialist agendas amid a skeptical American public. Supposedly, by welcoming in a "diverse" demographic, poor and without English fluency, they would grow the welfare state, creating a new dependent constituency.

The new immigrants and visitors were envisioned as left-wing voters-to-be who would look to the Democratic Party as their guarantors of open borders, a new entitlement society, and a criminal justice system that saw the perpetrator as a victim—and the real criminal as a racist America itself.

Diversity, the Immigration Force Multiplier

The new "diversity" ideology peaked under Barack Obama and Joe Biden. The subtext of their open-borders nihilism was a new oppressor/oppressed binary.

It dictated that traditional America was still too white, too traditionalist, too Christian, too unfairly successful—and too hostile to the Democratic-socialist agenda of a mandated equality of result achieved through massive coercive government redistributive efforts.

Under this warped view, the criminally minded Ábrego Garcia became a victim of supposed "Gestapo" ICE "goons" (ironic, when patriotic and skilled Mexican American officers disproportionately staff ICE ranks).

The Tsarnaev Boston Marathon killers became "hot" underdog freedom fighters. So the supposedly sexy, photogenic young murderer Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was highlighted on the cover of Rolling Stone.

The more Mahmoud Khalil took on the mantle of an anti-American, pro-Hamas activist, the more the Left rallied to his cause.

When Major Nidal Hasan, the son of naturalized Palestinian immigrants, slaughtered 13 and wounded 32 fellow soldiers at Fort Hood, the Pentagon resisted efforts to tie him to the Islamic terrorist cause. That was hard to do, since he screamed "Allahu Akbar!" as he mowed down his fellow soldiers.

Then Army Chief of Staff George Casey responded to the mass murder with his lamentation on CNN that, "As great a tragedy as this was, it would be a shame if our diversity became a casualty as well." He sought to quash any speculation about Hasan's Islamic motives, in fear that the ensuing truth might endanger the Army's diversity efforts.

Then we come to the case of Eileen Gu, the recent American Winter Olympic multi-medalist skier.

She was born in San Francisco to a Chinese immigrant mother and an American father and lived her entire life in the U.S. But Gu chose to compete in the games for communist China, despite its efforts to isolate, dehumanize, and eventually vastly “reduce” its Uyghur minority population.

Dr. Frankenstein and his Monster

The final irony: Why do so many criminals believe they can enter the U.S. illegally and get away with murder?

Is it because they feel contempt for any nation that opens its borders, requires no background checks, destroys its own immigration laws, and weaponizes its criminal justice system to make the criminal the victim and the state his victimizer?

Why do so many burn the U.S. flag while waving the flag of Mexico, a country they have no intention of returning to?

Is it because they sense they might be praised for “celebrating diversity,” as the popular culture would term such abject cultural schizophrenia?

Why would the Tsarnaev brothers repay the country that took them in by killing innocent Americans?

Would it be because, in their formative years in American schools, their teachers and texts emphasized what was wrong with a supposedly exploitative U.S.?

Why, in the middle of a near-existential war with Iran to stop its efforts to obtain nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles pointed at the U.S. and its allies, would naturalized citizens feel so free to slaughter Americans for the cause of Islam?

Would it be because they sense from left-wing universities and popular culture that it is a virtual open season on Jews?

Or that any time an Islamic terrorist commits an act, a Democratic operative will warn America of “Islamophobia”—as if, say, mowing down soldiers at Fort Hood is the lesser crime?

Why would a rich, privileged Eileen Gu feel no discomfort competing for a murderous regime whose agenda is to displace her country from its global preeminence in favor of a communist dictatorship?

Is it because in our relativist modern America, Gu’s “truth” is just as meaningful as any other? And who, after all, is qualified to judge anything or anyone?

Who created our current Frankensteinian monstrosities?

We did.

We are the Dr. Frankensteins who asked nothing of immigrants, in a complete break from our nation’s past.

And we got our wish for a new, quite different class of immigrants, who treated the U.S. the very way they were taught to do by the Left: as an evil entity that deserved what it got.

And we sure have gotten it.

Access the article: <https://victorhanson.com/our-new-ungracious-immigrants/>

Public Corner

Public Local Meetings

Interested in attending public meetings? Here are a few in your area for this month.

<https://www.mercercounty.org/i-want-to/calendar-meeting-list>

HVRSD School Board Meeting

Monday April 27, 2026 (Budget Public Hearing) 6:30 PM

425 S Main St. Pennington, NJ 08534

Or Livestream on YouTube

Municipal Township Meetings

<https://www.hopewelltpw.org/calendar.aspx?CID=32>

Township Committee Regular Meeting

Monday April 13, 2026, 6:30 PM

Meetings are in hybrid format – Township Municipal Building & Zoom

Township meetings will be held at HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING 201 Washington Crossing - Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08560

In case you are unable to attend Township Committee mtgs, the recordings are available. Per the township clerk's office Kathy, they are "usually," available within a few days of the meeting.

Happy viewing click here: https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/k83q0qZsxB_6dlk4EjvYfv...

Or: <https://www.hopewelltpw.org/> select How Do I.../ bottom right View/ Video Library

Board of Elections Meeting

Tuesday April 14, 2026 at 12:00 PM

Board of Elections Meetings will be at 930 Spruce St., Lawrence, NJ 08648

Mercer County Board of County Commissioners

Meeting Schedule -- April 2026

Tuesday April 14, 2026 6:00 PM Agenda Meeting

Thursday April 16, 2026 6:00 PM Formal Meeting

Tuesday April 28, 2026 6:00 PM Agenda Meeting

Thursday April 30, 2026 6:00 PM Formal Meeting

Agenda and Formal Meetings will take place at the Mercer County Administration Building, Room 211, 640 South Broad St., Trenton, NJ unless otherwise stated.

In order to encourage full participation of these meetings, please submit any requests for accommodations of people with disabilities to the Clerk to the Board, Mercer County Administration Building, PO Box 8068, Trenton, NJ 08650 (609) 989-6584 {V/TTY} {Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 101-336}

TruthBTold



At the Movies, Bookstores

Sight & Sound Films: A Great Awakening

Before the revolution, there was a revelation.

EASTER WEEKEND April 3 2026 ONLY IN THEATERS

Genre: Drama

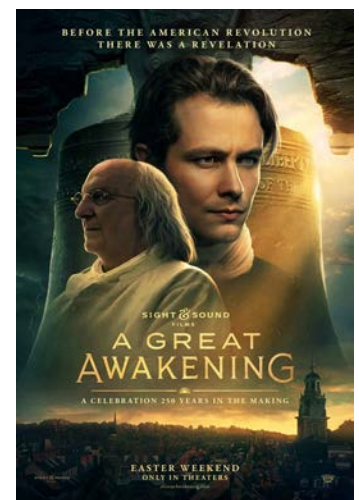
Release Date: April 3 2026

Director: Joshua Enck

Duration: 2h 9mins

Cast: Jonathan Blair, John Paul Sneed, Josh Bates

Film Synopsis: In honor of America's 250th anniversary, A GREAT AWAKENING tells the true story of an unlikely friendship that resulted in one of the most defining moments in American history.



With the colonies on the brink of collapse, the Reverend George Whitefield sparks the first Great Awakening, uniting an entire generation with his thundering proclamation of liberty in Christ. In a miraculous turn of events, one of Whitefield's closest friends and greatest promoters becomes none other than Benjamin Franklin. With the nation's freedom hanging in the balance, Franklin discovers true liberty cannot only be written into law - it must be awakened in the hearts of the people.

Watch trailer, more information: <https://www.agreatawakening.com/>

Get tickets: <https://www.agreatawakening.com/tickets/>, Fandango, AMC

Book: *When The Declaration Of Independence Was News*

Author: Emily Sneff

Publisher: Oxford University Press

Publication Date: April 15 2026

Hardcover, 272 Pages

Overview: Tracing the moments after its creation, this groundbreaking book follows how news of the Declaration of Independence spread to people throughout the thirteen United States and the Atlantic world.

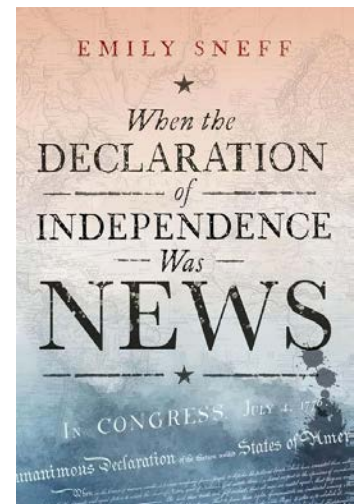
In 1776 people could hear the Declaration of Independence proclaimed in public squares and could read it in the pages of their local newspapers. Stories of the Declaration typically recount the work that took place inside the Continental Congress, focusing on the men tasked with drafting the text. Although Congress declared independence, the work of spreading the news involved printers, post riders, ship captains, civic leaders, soldiers, clerks, orators, preachers, diplomats, and translators.

When the Declaration of Independence Was News reveals the stories behind how the Declaration was communicated in the United States and around the Atlantic. Tracing the travels of the founding document of the United States from Philadelphia to New York, Boston, Charleston, London, Leiden, Paris, and beyond, Emily Sneff shows how people both celebrated the Declaration and critiqued it. In the weeks after the document was penned, it was printed in the columns of newspapers, translated into German and French, and shared with Native American allies. The document induced some people to make public their privately held beliefs about whether they wanted the United States to be independent or to reconcile with King George III. The Declaration was met with unique circumstances everywhere it went, and people modified the text along the way. The questions of who experienced the news of independence, when, and how reveal an expansive and complex history of a critical moment in the American Revolution.

Published for the 250th anniversary of American independence, *When the Declaration of Independence Was News* returns to a time before the legacy of these words and the outcome of the war against Great Britain were known to reconsider what the founding of the United States meant to the people who were living through it.

To purchase: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Bookshop

About the author: <https://www.emilysneff.com/>

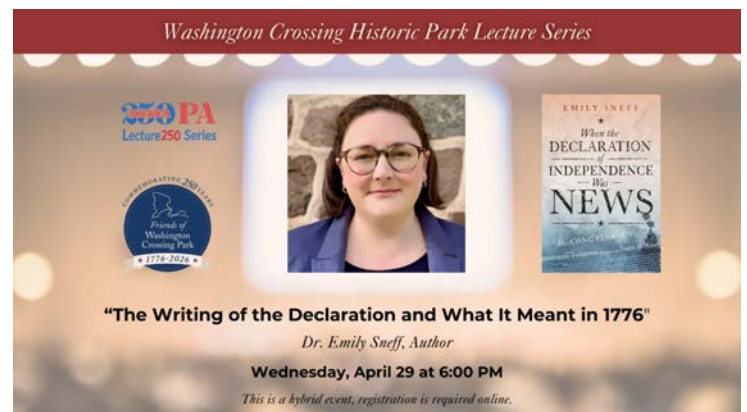


Lecture: "The Writing Of The Declaration And What It Meant In 1776"

Wednesday, April 29 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Friends of Washington Crossing Park (FWCP) has been awarded a \$15,000 grant through America250PA's Lecture250 Series to support their upcoming presentation, "**The Writing of the Declaration and What It Meant in 1776**". The funding will help Washington Crossing Historic Park offer this signature lecture and support the other free public lectures presented at the park throughout the year, exploring the people, ideas, and events that shaped our Commonwealth and the nation.

Dr. Emily Sneff's new book, *When the Declaration of Independence Was News*, examines how the Declaration was disseminated, interpreted, and remembered in Pennsylvania and across the Atlantic world in 1776. Sneff, a consulting curator for national exhibitions commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, holds a Ph.D. in History from William & Mary and will be on a national book tour in advance of the 2026 anniversary.



Rather than viewing the Declaration through the lens of hindsight, this program examines the document at the moment of its creation in 1776, when its legacy was uncertain and the outcome of the war against Great Britain remained unknown. Dr. Sneff explores how the Declaration was printed, translated, and circulated across the emerging nation and throughout the Atlantic world, highlighting the many individuals involved in declaring independence, from printers and soldiers to diplomats and translators. The lecture will also consider the Declaration's enduring relevance in civic life today.

Following the talk, a living history component featuring historical reenactors will complement the program with interactive interpretation and a moderated audience Q&A.

Attendees will receive a complimentary commemorative America250 pin and will have the opportunity to meet the author. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

This free lecture is made possible by our General Level Supporter, America250PA, through the Lecture250 Grant Program.

Access the article: <https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/event/the-writing-of-the-declaration-and-what-it-meant-in-1776/>

WATCH VIDEO: Charlie Kirk's Death And The Fight For Free Speech

FIRE Documentary

WATCH VIDEO (20mins 53secs): FIRE sits down with students who witnessed the Charlie Kirk shooting and explores a question that now confronts the nation: Is free speech the cause of political violence, or the only alternative to it?

After the murder of Charlie Kirk at a Turning Point USA campus event on September 10, 2025, students were left in shock and the country was left debating the future of free speech.

Some blamed rhetoric, some demanded limits.

Others warned that giving the government the power to decide which speech is "too dangerous" could threaten the very freedoms it claims to protect.

In this episode of 1AX, FIRE sits down with the students who witnessed the shooting and explores a question that now confronts the nation:

Is free speech the cause of political violence, or the only alternative to it?

Featuring firsthand accounts, difficult conversations, and an unflinching look at the First Amendment, 1AX asks what it really means to coexist in a country where disagreements are not small, and sometimes are life and death.

WATCH VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKO3QIM0AgU>

About FIRE: The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's mission is to defend and sustain the individual rights of all Americans to free speech and free thought — the most essential qualities of liberty. FIRE educates Americans about the importance of these inalienable rights, promotes a culture of respect for these rights, and provides the means to preserve them. <https://www.fire.org/about-us>



Hillsdale College: The Story Of America

Episode 15: The Laws Of Nature And Nature's God

By Hillsdale College. Hillsdale College President Larry Arnn introduces a new video series, "The Story of America," created in partnership with the White House.

Stories that shaped a nation. Faced with a choice between freedom and tyranny, courageous men and women risked their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to form a more perfect union—the United States of America. As our nation marks its 250th anniversary, we invite you to watch and learn from these fascinating stories that celebrate the American spirit.



Episode 15 (10mins 26secs): The Laws of Nature and Nature's God, Bishop Robert Barron, Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota

What does it mean to be an American citizen? Join Bishop Robert Barron as he explores this question and the foundational principles underlying not only the Declaration of Independence, but the very bedrock of the American dream.

Access the video (10mins 52secs): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMi_EOpovbg

Watch the series so far! https://storyofamerica.hillsdale.edu/#watch_series

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Hillsdale College is an independent institution of higher learning founded in 1844 by men and women "grateful to God for the inestimable blessings" resulting from civil and religious liberty and "believing that the diffusion of learning is essential to the perpetuity of these blessings." It pursues the stated object of the founders: "to furnish all persons who wish, irrespective of nation, color, or sex, a literary, scientific, [and] theological education" outstanding among American colleges "and to combine with this such moral and social instruction as will best develop the minds and improve the hearts of its pupils." As a nonsectarian Christian institution, Hillsdale College maintains "by precept and example" the immemorial teachings and practices of the Christian faith.

The College also considers itself a trustee of our Western philosophical and theological inheritance tracing to Athens and Jerusalem, a heritage finding its clearest expression in the American experiment of self-government under law.

By training the young in the liberal arts, Hillsdale College prepares students to become leaders worthy of that legacy. By encouraging the scholarship of its faculty, it contributes to the preservation of that legacy for future generations. By publicly defending that legacy, it enlists the aid of other friends of free civilization and thus secures the conditions of its own survival and independence.

We the People of Interest

Reflections On Lou Holtz

By Werner Graf

Lou Holtz became the coach of Notre Dame football in 1986, the year that I graduated. The Notre Dame family had suffered through a 5-year draught (at least by ND standards) under Gerry Faust, ending in a severe beat-down by Miami in my last game as a senior. It was demoralizing and Holtz was a welcome change from Faust, an eminently good man who loved the University but was overmatched.

Holtz had executed a "Notre Dame Clause" in his Minnesota contract to take the job. It was the only coaching position for which he could break his contract because, like Faust, he knew that coaching at Notre Dame meant much more than Football, it was a platform to evangelize American values.

One of the first things Holtz did was remove player names from the back of jerseys, a tradition which continues today. Players had to buy into a goal which was bigger than themselves. They were committed to each other and representing Notre Dame. The degradation in college sports that we see happening in real time with NIL is the antithesis of what Holtz was trying to teach the young men. It wasn't a strategy, it was a life-lesson on defining yourself through your goals and the success of the program. All else, including personal success, would follow.

Holtz often noted people needed four things in Life:

1. something to do,
2. someone to love,
3. someone to believe in,
4. something to hope for as "nothing motivates people more than having dreams and aspirations".

As a coach he represented not just Notre Dame, but American exceptionalism. He conducted himself with excellence and through his example, he expected his players to do the same.

Over time, Holtz became a prominent conservative figure in the Republican party. Ardent pro-life, he hated excuses and viewed much of liberalism as a bastion of ingratitude. He was fond of recounting how he was born in 1937 in the heart of the depression in the cellar of a one bedroom house in Follansby, West Virginia. Undersized with a lisp yet went on to be a linebacker at Kent State, national championship football coach, a world-renown motivational speaker and successful TV analyst and personality.

How did he accomplish this? Well in his words, attitude determines altitude.

Despite his humble beginnings, Holtz always claimed that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. Why?: because he was born in this great country to a family that taught him value of God, faith and hard work. He was taught not to blame other people for his personal condition and that a man's position in life was the outcome of the collective decisions he made.

Imagine the impact of this counsel to young men. Liberals so often unwittingly undercut young men with constant berating that the system is against them, the country is institutionally racist and other such falsehoods thereby eroding ambition and self-confidence. Why take accountability for your future when it is already a casualty of an oppressive culture? Lou Holtz would have none of that dribble.

Former Notre Dame player and Heisman Trophy winner, Tim Brown, once said, "Coach Holtz demanded excellence every day — not because he was hard on players, but because he believed they were capable of more than they believed about themselves."

Holtz, with his conservative convictions and pride of country, had a gift for convincing a diverse group of individuals they were at their best when they worked together. He articulated the goal, and how they were going to get there: Together. He made them accountable, famously suspending three starters before his Arkansas Razorbacks upset favored Oklahoma in a bowl game. He repeated the same discipline to Tony Brooks and Ricki Watters, two superstar Notre Dame players who were late to a team meeting before the 1988 Southern Cal game (again the Irish won). In so doing, Lou proved to his padawans that personal accountability was key to both team AND personal success.

The 1988 National Championship team was the last one the Irish has had. That year was an apt microcosm of the Holtz philosophy. He famously avenged the 'Canes merciless beat-down on poor Coach Faust in the famous "Catholics vs Convicts" game. The Michigan, USC and Miami games in particular that year were gritty, heart-pounding wins by a team of kids branded as hapless losers just 18 months earlier. Lou had convinced them to take personal accountability for team success and in the end that team carried Lou off the field after beating West Virginia to secure the championship in Arizona. I was at that game and, as small as he was, he was the biggest man on the field.

Donald Trump recently reflected on having given Lou the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's Highest Civilian honor for his incredible career, in mentoring young men, and for his fight for conservative values. In classic Trumpianisms, he noted Lou as an "American Patriot" for his courageous "speaking out against Democrat insanity including 'Transgender for Everybody', and the illegal invasion." Indeed, Lou was as perplexed as we all are at this left-wing lunacy, but in Lou's case as a beloved public figure, he took a much greater risk than the rest of us by becoming vocal on these issues.



Getting back to Lou's timeless wisdom, he often boiled it down to simply this: "Make good decisions". How do you do this? Lou's philosophy was to adapt 3 simple rules:

1. Do what's right (and when in doubt, consult the Bible),
2. do everything to the best of your ability even when no one is looking, and, most important,
3. let people know you generally care about them.

I had met Lou several times over the years at various Notre Dame functions and my observation was that he certainly lived by #3. I had the pleasure of playing a few holes of golf with him in West Palm Beach Florida some years ago. He was always gracious with me given my clear lack of credentials to be keeping with such accomplished company. My final meeting with Lou was in October before a Notre Dame dinner party for Supreme Court Justice Amy Coney Barrett attended with my daughter Alexandra. We sat on a bench together looking at the Golden Dome and talked briefly about how he was doing. I thanked him one last time for all his good works. He was gracious despite that we interrupted his quiet moment when no one else had yet noticed him. Alex had no idea that she was talking to royalty and came away saying "what a nice old guy". Yes he was. God Speed Lou Holtz.

Our New Jersey Signers Of The Declaration Of Independence

Publishers note: As we near July 2026, our 250th Semiquincentennial, we wanted to encourage getting to know our esteemed New Jersey Signers of the Declaration of Independence. From November 2025 through March 2026 we featured our five heroic NJ Signers. They truly did pledge their Lives, their Fortunes and their Sacred Honor. They all deserve our utmost gratitude and we should all take the time to learn, remember and pass on the stories and legacy of these unsung heroes of American history.

Abraham Clark (January 2026: <https://mercerwethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/0126-MercerWe-revised.pdf>)

John Hart (November 2025: <https://mercerwethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/1125-MercerWe.pdf>)

Francis Hopkinson (February 2026: <https://mercerwethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/0226-MercerWe-revised.pdf>)

Richard Stockton (March 2026: <https://mercerwethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/0326-MercerWe.pdf>)

John Witherspoon (December 2025: <https://mercerwethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/1225-MercerWe.pdf>)

Freedom 250: Signers Of The Declaration Of Independence

Celebrating the Triumph of the American Spirit

On July 4, 2026, America will celebrate the most important milestone in our country's history—250 years of American Independence. "With a single sheet of parchment and 56 signatures, America began the greatest political journey in human history," said President Trump of this momentous anniversary.

Under the President's leadership, the Salute to America 250 Task Force ("Task Force 250") is executing a full year of festivities, which began on Memorial Day, 2025, and will continue through the end of 2026.

The White House is engaging all levels of government, the private sector, non-profit and educational institutions, and every citizen across the country to celebrate this historic milestone. To achieve this ambitious vision, we have created a new public-private partnership called Freedom 250.

Task Force 250 aims to inspire a renewed love for American history, encourage citizens to experience the beauty of our country, ignite a spirit of adventure and innovation to help our nation succeed for the next 250 years, and invite Americans to pray for our country and our people and rededicate ourselves as One Nation Under God.

From the Freedom 250 website watch a brief video and read a brief bio on each of the Declaration of Independence Signers: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/freedom250/founders-museum/signers/profiles/>



Painting: The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776. Artist: John Trumbull, 1817-1818. Location: Capitol Rotunda.

Closing Words On Patrick Henry

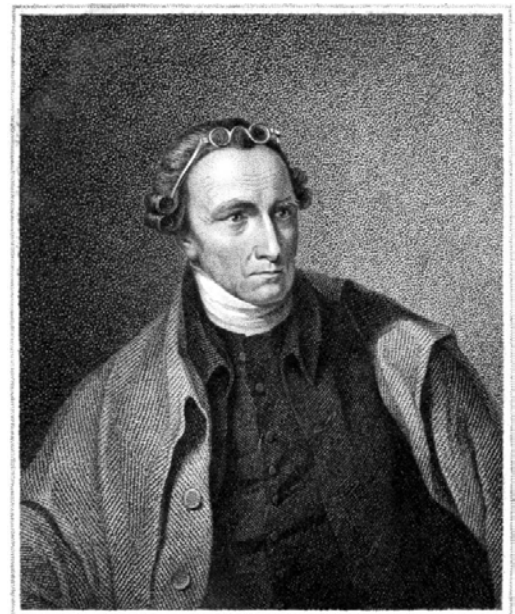
The closing words from "Life and Times of Patrick Henry" Biography originally published in **Patrick Henry's Red Hill** website:

...he died in his home at Red Hill of intussusception on June 6, 1799...

On June 14, 1799, the Virginia Gazette announced the death of Patrick Henry. "As long as our rivers flow, or mountains stand," said the Gazette, "Virginia . . . will say to rising generations, imitate my Henry." Of the many Americans who were active in the American Revolution at the state level and who generally opposed ratification of the Federal Constitution, Patrick Henry was one of the few who rank among the truly major figures of American history. Unlike most of America's political heroes, Henry never held high national office. By his oratorical prowess and his unflinching empathy with his constituents and their interests, Henry made the Revolution a more widely popular movement than it might otherwise have become. He explained the revolution to ordinary men and women in words they understood. As an eloquent spokesman for American liberty, Henry also expressed a distrust of centralized political authority that remains a persistent theme in American political culture. "It is not now easy to say what we should have done without Patrick Henry," said Thomas Jefferson. "He was before us all in maintaining the spirit of the Revolution."

Near his last will, Patrick Henry left a small envelope sealed with wax. Inside was a single sheet of paper on which he had copied his Resolutions against the Stamp Act. On the back, Patrick Henry left a message that he knew could only be read after his death. It began with a short history of his Resolutions against the Stamp Act, which had "spread throughout America with astonishing Quickness." As a result, the colonies were united in their "Resistance to British Taxation," and won "the War which finally separated the two Countries and gave Independence to ours."

Whether America's independence "will prove a Blessing or a Curse," Henry continued in his message to posterity, "will depend on the Use our people make of the blessings which a gracious God hath bestowed on us. If they are wise, they will be great and happy. If they are of a contrary character, they will be miserable. Righteousness alone



Frontispiece of William Wirt's Sketches of the Life and Character of Patrick Henry (1817). Public Domain.

can exalt them as a Nation. Reader! whoever thou art, remember this, and in thy Sphere, practice Virtue thyself, and encourage it in others. P. HENRY”

Access the biography: <https://www.redhill.org/patrick-henry/biography/>

Victory Over Death

Easter is a revolutionary act.

By Mark Tapson originally published in (April 3 2026)

As Easter dawns this weekend, Christians across the globe will gather to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ — a singular event that overthrew the dominion of death and offered instead the hope of salvation. It is the beating heart of a faith that has shaped the moral and cultural architecture of the West for two millennia.

The spiritual significance of Easter is its radical claim that Christ’s resurrection is the ultimate victory over our sin and mortality. This is not a mere metaphor or myth but an historical and metaphysical reality. The empty tomb testifies to a God who personally entered human suffering, conquered it, and continues to offer redemption to a fallen world. In our nihilistic age, when many replace real meaning with political activism and an idolization of the self, Easter’s message proclaims that our lives have purpose, that our sacrifices are not in vain, and that love triumphs over despair. It is a reorientation of the soul toward eternity.

Culturally, Easter has been a cornerstone of Western civilization, its themes of renewal and redemption woven into our art, literature, and moral imagination. From Dante’s *Divine Comedy* to Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, the resurrection infuses us with humility but has also inspired our highest aspirations. It has fueled the creation of hospitals, the abolition of slavery, the rise of charity, and the concept of inalienable human rights—ideas rooted in the revelation that every soul is made in God’s image, that all lives matter.

Yet, in our time, Easter’s message is threatened by enemies increasingly hostile to it. Christians are tested in a crucible of unprecedented persecution globally. Addressing diplomats and international officials gathered for a “Standing with Persecuted Christians: Defending the Faith and Christian Values” event at the United Nations in Geneva on March 3, Vatican representative Archbishop Ettore Balestrero said the scale of persecution of Christians was stark and ongoing, and required urgent attention from governments and international institutions responsible for protecting fundamental rights.

The numbers are staggering. “Almost 400 million Christians worldwide face persecution or violence, making them the most persecuted religious community in the world,” he said, noting that “one in seven Christians is affected.” Nearly 5,000 Christians were martyred in 2025 alone – roughly 13 deaths every day. The Open Doors organization notes that that number has already been surpassed so far in 2026. In Nigeria, Boko Haram and Fulani militants slaughter Christian villagers with impunity, their churches reduced to ash. In China, the Communist Party demolishes crosses and jails pastors, replacing the Gospel with state-sanctioned propaganda. In the Middle East, ancient Christian communities—descendants of the faith’s earliest witnesses—are being erased by jihadist violence and systemic discrimination.

This persecution is ideological as well as corporeal. In the West, cultural Marxists have waged a relentless and largely successful campaign to secularize the public square, purging Christian symbols and values from cultural institutions. The neo-Marxist aim is a society unmoored from transcendence, in which the State, not God, defines morality. The Left understands that to remake society, it must dismantle its spiritual foundations. By marginalizing Christianity, they aim to sever the West from this moral compass, leaving it adrift in a sea of relativism.

This secularizing zeal has birthed a culture of grievance and division, in which identity politics intentionally negates the universal brotherhood that Easter affirms. The result is a civilization in decline: spiritually hollow, culturally fragmented, and increasingly authoritarian. Schools, once grounded in Judeo-Christian ethics, now inculcate ideologies that promote moral relativism over the True, the Good, and the Beautiful. Universities, media, and even many churches have embraced a progressive orthodoxy that recasts Christian virtues as relics of oppression and intolerance. The rise of cancel culture, the suppression of free speech, and the weaponization of institutions against dissenters are symptoms of a society that has rejected Easter’s call to truth and grace.

Easter, with its humble yet glorious affirmation of divine authority, is an affront to the Left’s worldly designs. It reminds us that no earthly power can command our ultimate allegiance. The resurrection is both a personal promise and a cosmic one, a hope that has sustained the West through its darkest hours — Roman persecution, barbarian invasions, world wars. It is a rallying cry for those of us who refuse to submit to the spirit of our decadent age. It calls Christians to stand firm with the courage of conviction.



This means defending the faith in the public square. It means rebuilding cultural institutions — schools, churches, families — that reflect the values of truth, beauty, and sacrifice. It means bearing witness to the Gospel in a world that despises it, knowing that the God who raised Christ from the dead can also raise a civilization from its ashes.

Easter assures us that no persecution, no ideology, no earthly power can extinguish the truth. This is not blind optimism; history is replete with examples of Christianity's resilience, from the early martyrs to the medieval monks who nurtured civilization for a thousand years after the collapse of Rome, to the dissidents who defied communist tyranny with the cross. Today's persecuted, from Nigerian villagers to Chinese house churches, embody this same indomitable spirit. Their witness shames the complacency of the comfortable West.

This weekend, as churches fill with hymns of triumph, let us remember what is at stake. Historically, spiritually, and civilizationally, Easter is a revolutionary act. It declares that death is not the end, that evil will not have the last word, and that a broken world can be made whole. In a time of chaos and re-paganizing decay, this is the message the West desperately needs. The question is whether we will have the courage to carry it. Will we return to the faith that birthed our greatness, or will we surrender to a secular dystopia where power, not principle, reigns?

The tomb is empty. Christ is risen. And the future belongs to those who dare to believe it.

Access the article: <https://www.frontpagemag.com/victory-over-death/>

Romans 10:9

“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

HAPPY EASTER! – CHRIST IS KING!

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Access previous issues at: <https://hvrageop.org/mercero-we-the-people/>

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Mercer We the People

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