



NEWSLETTER

August 2026 ISSUE#: HV030

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

A Prayer: Land That We Love

Oh God, our Heavenly Father, in the same way that our founding fathers recognized that our existence and health, both as individuals and a nation, depended upon our spiritual health and belief in the Almighty God who made us, we ask that You once again draw hearts to You, and You alone. Continue to help us uphold the Truth in a continually confused society that thinks they can separate themselves from Your Word. Help us, as Christ followers, to serve You faithfully in our hearts, so that our faith naturally spills over into our relationships, our community, and this great nation, to be a light for the Gospel. Thank you for the freedoms we possess here in the United States of America that give us the ability to share our faith and Your Truth. Give us opportunities, wisdom, and boldness to be your ambassadors. Help us not to take our freedoms as citizens of this great country for granted, but to take advantage of and defend these freedoms given by Your hand. We thank you for the blessing bestowed upon us as citizens of the United States. Please continue to stay your hand of judgment, and continue to bless this great land. Strengthen your church and bring revival, we pray. God bless America! Land that we love.

- Shared by a Contributor (July 9 2026), a prayer from Lake Placid Baptist Church in Lake Placid, NY.

Watch: Full Washington Monument Light Show Celebrating America's 250th Year

Watch the full light show projected onto the Washington Monument by Freedom250. (Jan 1 2026, 18mins 6secs): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP7IGirAjdW>

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The Washington Monument is lit up during a test run of the lights that will shine on the landmark on New Year's Eve. @SecretaryBurgum/X

Election

Meet The Republican Candidates For Hopewell Township Committee

Join us at Hopewell Valley Vineyards to discuss the issues that effect Hopewell



Vote YES On November 3rd To Create A Charter Study Commission



Hopewell Township Has Changed.

Hopewell Township's Government Structure Must Change Too.

Vote YES on November 3rd to create a Charter Study Commission.



Meet the Republican Candidates for Hopewell Township Committee

John Hart **Steven Niederer**

Wednesday, Aug 19th
6:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Please join us to discuss the issues that effect Hopewell



46 Yard Road
Pennington, NJ 08534
Doors open at 6:30 and program starts at 7:15.

- ★ Stopping overdevelopment
 - The effect on school children
 - The effect on emergency services
- ★ Stopping future PILOT programs
- ★ Using PILOT funds for schools
- ★ Possible new form of government
- ★ Restoring representative government

DONATIONS APPRECIATED AT THE DOOR
Please make checks payable to: Friends of John and Steve

Paid for by Friends of John and Steve, 91 Titus Mill Road, Pennington, NJ 08534

Local News

Stay Connected With HVRA

Follow us on Facebook for updates on upcoming events and important information: <https://www.facebook.com/HVRAGOP>

Join Or Renew Your HVRA Membership

Become a part of the 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.

Sign up or renew today at: <https://hvrageop.org/hvra-membership/>

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.hvrageop.org



Courageous Conversations Book Discussion Series: September 24 2026 6:00-8:00PM

Join us for a special author talk & community book discussion!

The Hopewell Valley Courageous Conversations Book Discussion Group invites you to an evening with Professor Cormack, featuring an author talk and audience Q&A.

Together, we'll explore ideas from Prof. Cormack's thought provoking book, which envisions a future grounded in responsible citizenship, shared purpose, respectful civic dialogue, gratitude, kindness, and civic friendship—especially during these divided times.

Date: Thursday, September 24

Time: 7:00–8:30 PM

Location: 1 North Main Street, Pennington
(former Sun National Bank)

PLEASE RSVP: <https://evite.me/stmYPkugg4>

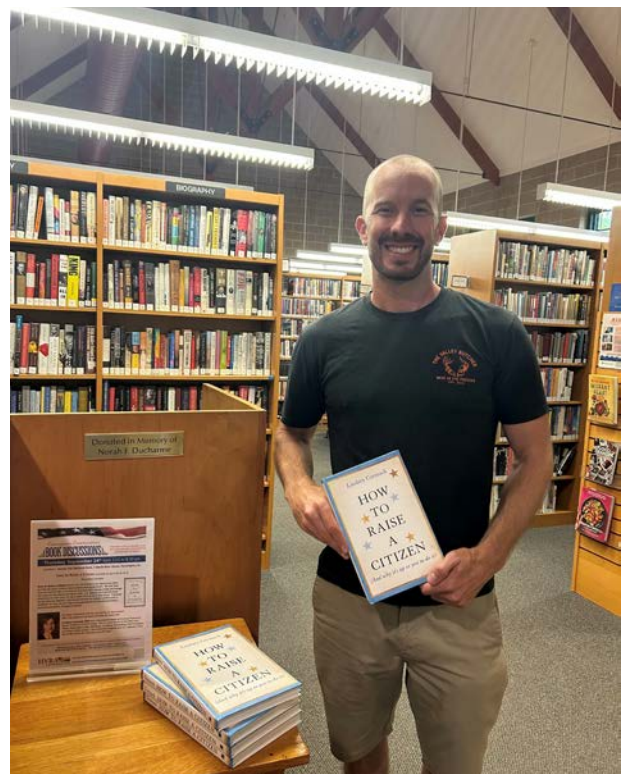
Whether you've read the book cover to cover or are simply interested in the conversation, all are welcome!

Looking for book copies? HVRA donated copies of the book to the Pennington Library located at 30 N Main St (next to the Pennington Police Department). Check one out today!

We will also be selling copies of the book at the Pennington Farmers Market located at Rosedale Town & Country (101 Rte 31, Pennington) on Saturday, August 1st from 9AM to 1PM.

Please share with friends and neighbors who may enjoy this community conversation. We hope to see you there!

More about the author and book: <https://howtoraiseacitizen.com/>



Steven Niederer, Candidate for Hopewell Township Committee, donated How to Raise a Citizen books on behalf of HVRA. Photo courtesy of Contributor.



Tuesday, AUGUST 18th 2026

Hinds Plaza, PRINCETON
4pm-8pm – speech at 7pm

Let's the REPUBLICANS show up again in this iconic plaza in Princeton!!
Join us even if you are not a Princeton resident!!



MEET THE CANDIDATES !!

ALL THE GOP CANDIDATES IN MERCER COUNTY ARE INVITED, AND JUSTIN MURPHY AND GREGG MELE HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR PRESENCE
for more information, send an email to: antonio4princeton@gmail.com



Mercer County Republican Committee
<https://mercernjgop.com/home>



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

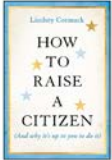
Thursday, September 24th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Location: Former Sun National Bank, 1 North Main Street, Pennington, NJ

How to Raise a Citizen (And Why It's Up to You to Do It)

By Lindsey Cormack

How to Raise a Citizen shows how the future of our democracy relies on how we teach children about politics and government. No one likes how our politics feels or functions, but that can't change unless we change the ways we talk about and teach civics. U.S. schools can't do this work effectively on their own, it's up to each of us to do a little more. This book equips parents, teachers, and anyone aiming for better politics with a roadmap for how we can raise a new generation of intentional citizens (and become better citizens ourselves).



Lindsey Cormack will be speaking at the event!
(MCL has copies of the book available to check-out)

Lindsey Cormack, PhD is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Stevens Institute of Technology. She is a contributor to the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *CBS News*, *Fox News*, *Bloomberg*, *FiveThirtyEight*, and other media outlets. She authored *Congress and U.S. Veterans: From the GI Bill to the VA Crisis* and runs DCinbox.

Future Book Discussions at the Hopewell Branch of the Mercer County Library Community Room

Wednesday, January 20th at 6:00 pm – *The Righteous Mind* • Jonathan Haidt
Wednesday, April 21st at 6:00 pm – *The Two-Parent Privilege* • Melissa S. Kearney



Space is limited, please RSVP using the QR code or by visiting hvravol.org.

Paid for by the Hopewell Valley Republican Association, PO Box 332, Titusville, NJ 08560



Other Mercer County Republican Events



250th Anniversary Era Dance

PROGRAM BOOK AD OPPORTUNITIES

Do not miss out on this opportunity to place an advertisement in the program book for the 250th Anniversary Era Dance. All attendees will receive the program book.

When submitting an ad please use the online google form. See QR code below.

Any questions regarding the online form or uploading the camera-ready artwork, please email: mercercountygopcomm@gmail.com.

ALL ads and payment are due no later than September 12, 2026.

If you are interested in purchasing the inside front (\$250), inside back (\$250) or outside back (\$300) cover (all of which will print in color) or a center page (\$200) (which will print in color), please email mercercountygopcomm@gmail.com.

Advertisement Fees and Sizes
Full Page \$150 (7.5" h x 4.5" w) (portrait layout)
Half Page \$75 (3.75" h x 4.5" w) (landscape layout)
Quarter Page \$50 (1.875" h x 4.5" w) (landscape layout) (You can supply business card)

Design Notes
Please use the sizes indicated above as a guide for sizing your desired ad. Color graphics and pictures will print in grayscale. - YOUR AD MUST BE CAMERA READY. This means, they MUST BE in JPG, PNG or PDF format. If you have a business card as your ad, complete the google form and email mercercountygopcomm@gmail.com to make arrangements to hand in the business card. We reserve the right to reject any ad that we believe is not suitable for the program.

Deadline
All artwork and payment must be received by **September 12, 2026**. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Google Form

Payment

Thank you for your participation!

PO For by MCRC, PO Box 10535, Hamilton, NJ 08650

Mercer County Republican Committee

<https://www.facebook.com/MercerGOP>
<https://www.instagram.com/realmercernjgop>
<https://x.com/realMercerGOP>

Local Events

Things to do. Check out some upcoming local events:

Hopewell Valley Vineyards (Pennington NJ) events: <https://www.hopewellvalleyvineyards.com/>

Needle Creek Farm Brewery (Pennington NJ) events: <https://www.needlecreek.com/event-page>

Washington Crossing State Park NJ events: <https://www.wcpa-nj.com/events>

Washington Crossing Historic Park PA events: <https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/events/>

And there is across the country: Celebrating the Triumph of the American Spirit. 250 years ago, America chose freedom. This year, we celebrate it in every city, every town, every stretch of American road. Discover Ways To Celebrate: <https://www.freedom250.org/celebration>

It Was A Spectacular July 4th!



4th of July fireworks on the Delaware River by Washington Crossing Historic Park PA. Photo courtesy of Publisher.



Readers of the Declaration of Independence at Princeton Battlefield State Park in Princeton NJ; Sponsored by Mercer Garden State Federated Republican Women on July 8 2026. Photo courtesy of Contributor.

Election Integrity

New Jersey's Non-Citizen Voter Registration Failure: Scale, Fallout, And Broader Questions

By Mark Demo

Earlier this month, New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill disclosed that a software error at the Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) between June 2023 and June 2024 improperly registered about 6,600 non-citizens to vote. These individuals had answered “no” to the citizenship question when applying for driver’s licenses or IDs while also answering “yes” to the question of do you want to register to vote. Roughly 400 registered non-citizens later cast ballots. While the governor blamed the mishap on vendor error, IDEMIA, the software vendor, pushed back saying there was no such error and they transmitted the data exactly as the individual entered it - and that it was the NJ Board of Elections which failed to validate the names to determine their citizenship status. Sherrill has ordered an investigation and stated that her administration would remove the names from the rolls, notify those affected, and replace the vendor.

Depth of the Problem

While the confirmed numbers are small relative to New Jersey’s 6.7 million registered voters, the mechanics exposed clear vulnerabilities in automatic voter registration. IDEMIA maintains it accurately transmitted the “no” citizenship responses and that the Division of Elections bore responsibility for final verification. Republicans, led by NJ GOP Chairwoman Christine Giordano Hanlon, report that the issue extends beyond the one-year window. Hanlon’s Election Integrity Task Force records show non-citizen registrations dating back years—some via paper forms—and cases of individuals who later self-reported and



Photo courtesy of New Jersey Monitor

requested removal, or who had voted in multiple elections. Hanlon has called the pattern systemic rather than a one-off glitch. The gap between the state's 6,600 figure and earlier DHS estimates of more than 35,000 potential non-citizen registrations remains unresolved.

Reactions

Sherrill has tried to frame her response as seeking accountability—investigate, fix, and disclose while Republicans demanded hearings with subpoena power, a full audit of the rolls, and suspension of parts of the motor-voter process. The Trump DOJ, through Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon, demanded detailed records on the 6,600 individuals and the 400 who voted, tying the request to its lawsuit for unredacted statewide voter data. DHS had already flagged 35,000 plus potential non-citizen registrations in New Jersey and more in three other states. In response, public support for the SAVE America Act requiring proof of citizenship has grown. IDEMIA limited its comments to New Jersey and has so far declined to address other states. Several states using IDEMIA reported no comparable problems after internal reviews.

Parallel Revelation from the NJ Judiciary

Compounding the concerns, the New Jersey Judiciary disclosed that on average approximately 75,000 non-citizens are summoned for jury duty each year. The figure, drawn from the same MVC, Division of Elections, and Taxation databases that feed voter rolls, accounts for roughly one-quarter of annual disqualifications. Court officials emphasize safeguards—questionnaires, videos, and judge questioning—prevent non-citizens from actually serving. Still, the volume highlights how deeply non-citizens appear in the state's core administrative records used for citizenship-restricted civic duties.

Could the Problem Be More Widespread?

The New Jersey case raises questions about whether the vulnerabilities are isolated. IDEMIA is a major national provider whose systems often feed automatic voter registration. The company's silence on other contracts, combined with NJ GOP evidence of earlier registrations and the 75,000 annual jury summonses from the same data pools, suggests data-matching shortfalls may not be unique. Federal DHS figures and the DOJ's nationwide push for voter-roll access further fuels calls for broader audits.

For more information visit www.citizens4njei.org or email info@citizens4njei.org

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.

Education

What's Happening In HVRSD Schools?

HVRSD Board Of Education Meeting July 20, 2026

By The Wall of Ed

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

Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWSMvS4UZN4>

Next Meeting August 17, 2026 at the HVRSD Board Office, 425 Main St, Pennington, NJ

More States Move To Limit Screens In Schools Ahead Of New School Year

Schools should gauge what ed-tech tools were effective and replace what tools are not with traditional pen-to-paper teaching methods, policy experts said.

By Aaron Gifford originally published in The Epoch Times (July 25 2026)

Ahead of the approaching academic year, several states are scaling back ubiquitous digital learning in public schools.

In Iowa, a 60-minute limit on screen-based instruction for elementary school students will take effect for the 2027–2028 school year. District leaders have all of this year to develop a plan before the measure is enforced.

Utah's legislation goes even further and may eventually prohibit schools from providing laptops to every student in grades K–6 while allowing parents of students in higher grades to opt out of school-issued devices.

State legislature websites indicate that similar laws were passed in Tennessee and Alabama earlier this year, requiring individual districts to develop and later enforce regulations for elementary school children, although a 60-minute time limit will not necessarily become the standard.

The Los Angeles Unified School District board of education decided on its own to implement limits across all grades and immediately ban YouTube in schools.

The Maine Legislature tasked a policy research institute with studying the harms of excessive screen-based learning and providing recommendations for alternatives.

Virginia's new law requires classroom instruction on screen time addiction.

Vermont will now require districts to vet ed-tech tools and do more to safeguard student privacy.

Parent organizations and various groups concerned with digital classroom disruptions hope that these ideas catch on across the nation in the months ahead, just as bell-to-bell phone bans did last year.

"Technology didn't provide all the benefits they thought it would," Kim Whitman, co-lead of the Distraction-Free Schools Policy Project, told The Epoch Times. "It didn't improve student outcomes.

"Nothing beats the actual teacher-student interaction."

Whitman's group and several others advocated getting phones out of classrooms before most states went on to pass related legislation. About half the states and the District of Columbia mandate bell-to-bell smartphone bans in public schools.

"We saw phone-free schools as the first step," she said, noting that in an era when professionals fear eventually being replaced by artificial intelligence, teachers might favor curbing technology in the name of job security.

Distraction-Free Schools has provided model legislation to several states and individual districts across the nation. It also tracks districts that have taken steps to remove some ed-tech products.

Ahead of these laws, experts shared research with congressional committees and education policy centers that indicated shorter attention spans, decreased academic performance, disciplinary problems, and negative outcomes associated with excessive screen-based instruction in schools, not to mention mental health issues linked to screen time addiction and youth social media use.

During a congressional committee hearing in January, Jared Cooney Horvath, a neuroscientist who specializes in adolescent brain development, told federal lawmakers that educators are designing instruction around digital tools but that the process should be the other way around.

Instead of using laptops to train novices to become experts, he said, educators should incorporate the technology to enhance, not replace, the traditional instruction that has already been applied—"when you already know how to think."

Emily Cherkin, a screen time consultant who works with schools, spoke of occupational therapists who teach toddlers how to turn pages in a book, elementary school children who fell out of their chairs because they lacked the core strength to sit for long periods of time, and a middle-school boy who watched 13,000 YouTube videos on a school-issued laptop while in school over the course of three months.

Positive findings have already emerged from states that have restricted student phone use and may be considering additional steps to bolster connections between students and teachers, said Patricia Levesque, CEO of the ExcelinEd education policy center.

In Florida alone, where some districts first implemented a ban two years ago, test scores are improving while the number of unexcused absences is decreasing.

"The kids say they have more time to complete their assignments when they're not distracted by phones," she told The Epoch Times. "It's noisy in the hallways because kids are talking to each other again."

Resistance to scaling back ed-tech tools is expected, considering that many districts are bound to vendors by multiyear contracts and that the federal government has already provided Chromebooks, software, and other technologies for every student in several states through federal COVID-19 pandemic relief grants.

By contrast, school leaders could be hesitant to take on added expenses for "analog" equipment and supplies—textbooks, paper, printers, and toner cartridges, Whitman said.

"I think they are so embedded with technology," she said. "They're not thinking about all of the infrastructure and support they'll have to upgrade later on. But those [post-COVID-19 pandemic grant] dollars are all gone, and districts need to re-evaluate the return on investment."

Levesque cautions states and school districts to proceed carefully as they consider legislation in equal measure with ed-tech purchases and contracts.

The average school district uses about 2,700 online applications, many of which put students' personal information at risk or are less effective than personal instruction from teachers or pen-and-paper assignments.

Deciding what to maintain and what to discard is a monumental task requiring guidance from state leadership.

"There are some great tools out there that are interactive and provide students the repetition they need in math and reading," she said.

"I think we need better guardrails, but we wouldn't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater."

In May, Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers union, called for a ban on digital learning environments for students in prekindergarten through second grade.

She said the change is needed to help younger children develop skills for critical thinking, problem-solving, and applying knowledge instead of allowing "cognitive offloading" when so much information is just a prompt away.

"We are at a crossroads that will define the future of work and society," she said.

Access the article: https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/more-states-move-to-limit-screens-in-schools-ahead-of-new-school-year-6067103?utm_medium=app&c=share_pos1&pid=iOS_app_share&utm_source=iOS_app_share

Recent Grads Are Underprepared For The Workplace. Here's How To Reverse The Crisis.

America needs its college graduates ready for the real world.

By Catherine Salgado originally published in Restoration News (July 9 2026)

Anecdotes, official surveys, media investigations, and employer interviews increasingly highlight a serious problem both for America's present and her future—namely, that recent grads are not prepared for the workforce. Why is that, and how can Americans change the trend?

This is especially important as one in three employers is replacing some entry-level jobs with artificial intelligence (AI), according to the 2026 report from the Graduate Management Admission Council. Now, it is quite literally impossible for AI to take over jobs in every business and become a part of every worker's life as utopians propose because America absolutely does not and will not any time soon have the electricity capacity for such a switch. But part of the issue is that human employees have become so unreliable, incompetent, and homogenized that even AI, with all its many flaws, seems a better option for employers who can use it.

Humans will beat AI in many jobs if they're skilled and original thinkers. Unfortunately, America's education system currently is the worst place to learn useful skills and to exercise original thought. It seems obvious, therefore, that we have to discuss educational reform—and parenting—if we're to find a solution to the workplace issues.

I am a member of Gen Z myself. Over the past five years since graduating college, I've had many conversations with friends about their search for jobs and workplace experiences. What's clear is there is not a one-size-fits-all for all Gen Z college grads. Several of my friends are among the hardest workers I have ever known, and exercise scrupulous integrity in the workplace. But I have also noticed some of the problematic trends that cause older employers, teachers, and supervisors to complain about my generation.

Not all of it is our fault—to some extent older generations who complain about our poor work habits are responsible for the low performance, excessive indulgence, unrealistic job goals, inefficiency, and tech device obsession that make much of Gen Z frustrating for employers.

On the other hand, young workers too often refuse to acknowledge they have a lot to learn. They must accept less-than-ideal circumstances comes with the first rung of the career ladder.

There's fault on both sides. Some sort of major cultural and educational reform is obviously in order. So what created this crisis, and how can America begin to address the crisis and solve it?

It begins in the home, which means that every American has some role to play. Most (though not all) of the young workers I know with high integrity and an intense work ethic grew up in religious homes with married parents, high expectations, and inculcated respect for seniors. Children who grow up without an engaged dad in the home are much more likely to get into drugs, crime, gun violence, and out-of-wedlock pregnancies at a young age. They are also more likely to remain in poverty and suffer depression.

These phenomena in turn impact the job hiring pool. U.S. Census Bureau data from 2025 indicates that one in four American kids are in fatherless homes. Those are the employees of the future. And even married, religious, conservative parents too often follow the modern trend of allowing their children to behave without any manners, respect, or self-denial in public and in private.

Are we really surprised that the kids who run around church or the mall screaming—or the teens who sit at family reunions watching TikTok—eventually provide poor customer service, show up late, and disrespect their bosses when they take jobs? America's workplace crisis is partly a parenting crisis. Poorly raised, over-indulged children are more likely to be lousy employees.

Failing In the Schools

There's an educational crisis also fueling the young employee crisis. Economist Gad Levanon told CNBC last year that a bachelor's degree is no longer reliably valuable for getting a job. Part of the reason for this is that many professions that never used to need a degree now do (journalism, elementary school teacher, etc.) and that countless degrees should never have been university-level majors (e.g., puppetry, social media management, kindergarten education) or should never have existed at all (e.g., gender studies, social justice, victim studies).

Who in his right mind would hire a sexuality studies major?

Plus, as college standards drop like rocks and majors proliferate into dozens of meaningless categories, more young people have college degrees. As of 2023, over six in 10 high school graduates enrolled in college by the end of the year. Not all of them will graduate, of course, but that gives perspective on why college grads don't always find their degrees are valuable in hiring scenarios. If we had higher enrollment in trade schools or encouraged kids to see manual labor as admirable, maybe we wouldn't have such a glut of college grads facing a tough job market with few to no skills to tempt employers.

The medical school graduates and licensed plumbers will find jobs. The Queer Caribbean Studies grads won't.

And sometimes even the high-level majors are unprepared for real life. A recent grad from an engineering college told me his valedictorian's speech was centered around the silly claim, "Adults are just kids with bigger backpacks." Part of that issue is that AI is allowing some students to cheat their way to grades and degrees they never earned. But kids who cheat in school are also less likely to be reliable employees.

I spoke with two teachers about how the K-12 education system is failing to prepare youth for the workforce. Mary Alicia (a pseudonym for privacy purposes) teaches at a public charter school in Texas. Rachel teaches at a private school in Virginia. They both discussed how schools are failing and how they can reform to boost students' success.

"Ultimately, schools refuse to hold students accountable," Mary Alicia reflected. "The education biz is just that—a business. Education used to be the great American equalizer. Today, the difference between public school America—the masses of Americans—and the few private school elites is accountability.

"There is no possible way for a public school kid to fail anything anymore. Public schools won't let teachers grade a kid below a 50 percent. Public schools require teachers to offer redos on any assignment at any time for any reason. Public schools require teachers to differentiate individually for their 13 SPED scholars while maintaining more rigorous instruction for all other scholars and higher-level instruction for advanced scholars. Public schools can require that teachers verify parents have received AND read all school communications."

And if the results are not what they imagined, then "administrators will still alter grade books, will still pass failed scholars along, will still graduate 18-year-olds who read at a 5th grade level." This is the reality across America, Mary Alicia emphasized.

"It teaches impressionable kids that they should never have to deal with anything difficult or challenging. It allows children to play the victim, to shift blame, to give up. It teaches kids that there are no consequences for anything, that learning and thinking are secondary to monetary benefits and that cheating and lying are acceptable."

Rachel, who teaches both freshmen and seniors in high school, observes that fewer and fewer students can "explain, apply, or even retain what they have learned," and their "soft skills" decline in "an environment of trained helplessness."

"I cannot count how many times students have complained that I 'expect them to think' . . . I have also had students complain about the expectation to retain information in the long term and draw connections from various points in the course, as well as cross-curricular information."

Their parents and past teachers have allowed these students to see challenges as unfair impositions.

Rachel sees "a constant lowering of expectations to meet the lowest common denominator rather than teaching students to rise to the expectation." Deadlines become meaningless through endless extensions and withheld penalties. One student staggeringly asserted to Rachel that "there are no late penalties in the real world." He's in for a rude awakening the first time he completes a task late at his job.

Another potential issue for future employees is the fact that students "as a collective are terrible at reading and following directions." No matter how detailed her instructions, it's never enough.

These students' "critical thinking skills and ability to apply precedent to current situations is [also] very concerning." Rachel and her colleagues frequently observe astonished students ask why they must bring their own pencils to class. They cannot even follow basic instructions.

"The biggest suggestion I would give to help prepare students is to consistently set the standard of self-reliance," Rachel said. She believes teachers sometimes go overboard in assisting kids who then don't grow, because "adversity can be very good for them." Instead of removing strict deadlines for assignments because kids get "anxious," teachers should be "teaching them skills to help them prepare for the deadline and giving them the learning opportunity that the situation is not as bad as they

built it up to be.” Even failure can be educational, and critiques can hurt feelings but help develop character. Students need clear expectations and training in critical thinking, Rachel insisted.

I believe Booker T. Washington’s model of education, combining rigorous study in the classics with manual labor and training in certain trades, would solve a great many of the issues for youth transitioning from school to the workplace. American schools need to revive that educational model, and parents should be pushing for that to happen.

Problems Coming Down the Pike

Will all this in mind, we can understand young people’s difficulties in the workplace. Sadly, some of these young employees might not ever learn their belated lessons, while some will finally receive the push in their jobs that they need to put in the work they didn’t have to in school (I know a few kids like that). Besides thinking of current young grads, we also need to think of those who are still in school and have a few more formative years before applying for jobs.

Finance Buzz lists eight reasons why employers are frustrated with Gen Z. Not all of the reasons are condemnable in principle—such as having a work-life balance—but they can hold young grads back in the corporate world.

Young people often have a different definition for what qualifies as, say, “mental health accommodations” or “reasonable vacation days.” Several notable problems: Zoomers are more likely to turn down leadership opportunities, have greater inability to work creatively without minute directions, and engage in constant job-changing for the “ideal” position while calling for unreasonable “flexibility” demands.

Notice that many of these issues overlap with bad habits that a lot of teachers and schools encourage.

Previous generations stuck with a job even if it wasn’t ideal and worked longer hours when they needed a promotion or a raise. Gen Z job-hop themselves into being unhireable, demand more money as their right, and are shocked when they must deal with a situation outside their narrow instructions.

I recently watched a young Disneyland employee announce to a crowd, “The ride is temporarily closed from technical difficulties, thank you for your patience.” She had to read a card slowly each time and stared in vacant dismay when asked questions seeking more details on the situation.

Parents, teachers, and employers need to force youth to think outside the box, accept non-ideal work situations, take pride in the quality of their work, and acknowledge that employers—like employees—have rights too.

One of the most traditionally respected American career paths heavily impacted by the low standards, laziness, and technology obsession of Gen Z is the military.

Patriotism isn’t the only thing at low ebb. In June, Health and Human Services Sec. Robert F. Kennedy Jr. reported “77% of our kids can’t qualify for military service.” Even those who do aren’t necessarily ready for the rigorous demands of military life.

Daniel served in the military for 20 years before retiring and becoming a civilian employee. He now helps train young recruits just starting off in their military careers, and he summed up the issues he has with them in one sentence: “They don’t know how to handle stress, they don’t know how to resolve problems, and they don’t know how to talk to people.” That’s deeply concerning when applied to people who are supposed to defend America from tyrants and terrorists.

We need to boost patriotism in our homes, churches, and schools, and push kids to spend time running around outdoors instead of always hunching over an iPad or TV screen. This year, when we celebrate America’s 250th birthday, is the perfect time for adults and children alike to learn more about and celebrate our history and heroes.

Teens whose idols are almost entirely celebrities and sports players need to hear about heroes like George and Martha Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, Mitchell Paige, John Callendar, Stephen Moylan, John Paul Jones, U.S. Grant, Ronald Reagan, Molly Pitcher, George Patton, James Baskett, Fr. Vincent Capodanno, Elijah Anderson, and Sam Fletcher.

The problem of grads underprepared for the workforce is a complex one with solutions that could take years of corrections. But the implications of the current crisis, and the likelihood of its continuing into the future, do necessitate action. Adults are not kids with bigger backpacks, but adults were once children who either learned how to improve, adapt, and thrive or to shift blame and shirk responsibility. The latter cannot possibly run or renew a free and prosperous nation.

Access the article: <https://restoration-news.com/why-are-recent-grads-underprepared-for-the-workplace-and-how-to-reverse-the-crisis>

Allen West: This Is The Best Program For Deporting Illegal Aliens (INTERVIEW)

By Kevin Mooney originally published in Restoration News (July 22 2026)

Wisconsin is a potential bellwether for the future of federal and state cooperative efforts to stop sanctuary cities.

Violent encounters that put federal immigration enforcement agents and civilians at risk would be less frequent if more local officials took advantage of a little-known but highly effective law enforcement program, American Constitutional Rights Union (ACRU) executive director Lt. Col Allen West told Restoration News in an exclusive interview.



The program—called 287(g) after a key provision of the 1996 Immigration and Nationality Act—authorizes state and local agencies to cooperate with federal officials to detain illegal aliens until they're transferred into U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody.

Cities and counties that enter into the agreement effectively expand ICE's reach without requiring the agency to conduct local operations directly. That makes it a crucial factor in achieving President Trump's goal of deporting huge numbers of illegal aliens, according to West, a combat veteran and former member of Congress.

He views the 287(g) program as a strong and vital counterbalance to leftist "sanctuary [city] policies" that block local police cooperation with ICE.

To expand the program's reach, ACRU launched a "Defender Initiative" program in 2025 that so far has granted 60 awards to local law enforcement participating in the program across 37 states.

But West has bigger plans. He wants to see the Trump administration apply legal pressure against sanctuary policies that prevent the 287(g) program from achieving its full potential.

Using the Supremacy Clause

"There is a very big question about the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, Article 6, Section 2," West explained. "The federal government is doing what is right by the rule of law and for states that thumb their nose and say they are not going to cooperate, I think this is a case that should be at the highest court in the land."

West points to examples in Maryland, Virginia, Illinois, and Minnesota in which state officials explicitly ordered local law enforcement not to cooperate with ICE.

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore (D) signed legislation in February that prohibited state and local law enforcement from deputizing officers for federal immigration enforcement—and terminated existing 287(g) agreements.

"The [Trump] administration needs to make this a huge sticking point," West said. "They need to be talking about some of the statistics we see in these states . . . that are declaring themselves sanctuaries." Since people entering the country illegally are violating federal immigration law, the proponents of sanctuary policies are "aiding and abetting criminal activity," West added,

"Of course," he added, "you also have individuals that are committing crimes on top of the fact that they're here illegally."

West points out that elected state officials who have implemented and supported sanctuary policies are not immune from prosecution. He recommends that the Trump administration explore potential avenues for holding these officials accountable in court.

The latest ICE figures show the agency has signed 2,126 Memorandums of Agreement for 287(g) programs covering 39 states and two U.S. territories. The federal-state partnerships include three distinct models:

- The Jail Enforcement Model enables local officers to identify and process removable aliens currently in jail who have pending or active criminal charges while those aliens are still in custody.
- The Task Force Model enables local officers to identify and detain illegal aliens encountered during routine police work. An ICE supervisor determines what happens next once this identification occurs.
- The Warrant Service Officer Model has ICE train, certify, and authorize local officers to serve and execute administrative warrants on aliens currently in a local agency's custody. Officers can serve ICE warrants while detaining and transporting illegal aliens into ICE custody.

Wisconsin as a Bellwether for the Future of 287(g)

West believes that key swing states such as Wisconsin could provide “constitutional conservatives” with an opportunity to advance state and federal cooperation on immigration throughout the country.

In Wisconsin alone, ICE identifies 23 counties operating 287(g) programs in which local officials make use of the jail enforcement and warrant service models.

Almost all of those participating are rural, conservative counties. In contrast, Wisconsin’s largest blue cities, including Madison and Milwaukee, are illegal alien sanctuaries—and that should frustrate voters, West says.

“We as constitutional conservatives should be owning this issue,” West said. “We should keep it out there. We should articulate it in the very good, concise, simplistic terms that the American people understand and not be worried about the manipulative language that leftist pollsters use.”

ACRU’s Defender Initiative is showing conservatives how to fight back.

In 2026 alone, the organization has awarded Walworth County Sheriff Dave Gerber, Marathon County Sheriff Chad Billeb, and Sauk County Sheriff Chip Meister just this year alone for what West says is their “leadership and dedication” to “preserving American citizens’ rights to safety and security.

That stands in stark contrast to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), a leftist group that backs open borders even at the cost of damaging the civil liberties of U.S. citizens.

In November 2025, the ACLU of Wisconsin attacked the Marathon County Sheriff’s Office for participating in 287(g), claiming the program enables racial profiling and “unconstitutional policing.” Now the group is suing the sheriff’s departments in Marathon, Brown, Kenosha, Sauk, and Walworth Counties over the legality of using ICE detainer requests to hold inmates past their release dates.

But for the Marxist Left, the issue goes far beyond immigration, West argues.

“You want to talk about a threat to democracy and undermining our representative democracy. They want to count these people in the [2030] census. That’s why you see misappropriations, especially in a place like California, because they’re counting these illegals to try to keep this congressional representation. You also [see] several jurisdictions where they’re trying to allow illegals to vote in local elections. For them, this is not about providing safety and security, which is a preeminent issue that should be brought out.”

Huge Opening for the American People to Expand 287(g)

In January 2025, President Donald Trump issued an executive order calling on ICE to pull in as many state and local law enforcement agencies as possible into the 287(g) program. But for this effort to achieve its maximum potential state officials need to take initiative. Some states including Georgia and Florida have passed or considering legislation that would require their law enforcement agencies to seek memorandums of agreement with ICE that leading new 287(g) programs. This is where average citizens concerned about their safety can take action. They can call on their elected officials and their local sheriffs departments and police departments to pursue these memorandums.

Any questions about initiating a new 287g program could be sent to: ERO287g@ice.dhs.gov. Americans can encourage their elected representatives to make use of this email.

Additional information about the ACRU’s “Defender Initiative” and its battle against illegal immigration can be found here. The site includes a number of action items citizens can take advantage of to help in ACRU’s efforts.

Access the article: <https://restoration-news.com/allen-west-this-is-the-best-program-for-deporting-illegal-aliens-interview>

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The Socialist Monster Awakens

OPINION by Victor Davis Hanson originally published in The Blade of Perseus (July 28 2026)

Who Caused Unaffordability?

Fear about “affordability” supposedly fueled the new, strident socialism.

Yet annual inflation during Biden’s four years averaged almost 5 percent. It peaked at over 9 percent, while prices for some key staples rose by 30 percent over his tenure—all to silence from the Left. (By contrast, annual inflation during Trump’s first term averaged 1.9 percent. In his second term, it averaged 2.6 percent in 2025—and may rise to 4.5 percent in 2026, given the war with Iran.)

The socialists were not just quiet during Biden's four years; they were themselves responsible for the rampant Biden inflation. They had implemented an inflationary de facto third Obama term, ramming through the most radical and costly agenda in decades under the veneer of that cognitively challenged waxen effigy, good ol' Joe Biden from Scranton.

So the current Jacobin takeover of the Democratic Party was not sparked by concerns about "affordability"—or at least not if by "affordability" we mean the middle-class struggle to buy a house, a car, or groceries.

Instead, the socialist moment was merely the logical culmination of years of boutique radicalism within the Democratic aristocracy—the ossified leadership of Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, and Hakeem Jeffries, along with the aging Black Caucus, the incoherent Squad, the DEI crowd, the open-border zealots, and the radical greens.

The grandees of the party also normalized the crazy mobs of BLM and Antifa long ago.

Democrats as Dr. Frankenstein

Almost every weaponized scam and national hysteria in the last two decades was amplified and spread by mainstream Democrats: the farcical claim that the Wuhan-lab-hatched COVID virus came from pangolins or bats; the Duke Lacrosse and Covington Kids hoaxes; the Jussie Smollett scam, the "Hands up, don't shoot" lie; the deification of George Floyd, often portrayed with wings and a halo; Fauxcahontas Liz Warren, touted as the first Native American Harvard law professor (thanks to her grandfather's high cheekbones); the radical diminution of in-person voting; the canonization of Trayvon Martin and Karmelo Anthony as blameless model children; and the mythology of a 1619 national founding.

Who allowed not just one, two, three, or four million border-jumpers into the country, but over ten million—illegal, unvetted, viewed as an assumed new political constituency, and instantaneously dependent on the welfare state?

Who gave us three, four, five, or even more genders and biological males showering with teenage girls or female prisoners? Who sloganeered about "defund the police" and "no cash bail"?

All this was about as radical as it gets.

The Democratic establishment's unhinged hatred of Donald Trump mainstreamed radicalism even further and helped birth the socialist-cum-communist Frankensteinian monster that is now devouring its mad-scientist creators.

"By any means necessary" was a Democratic mantra over a decade ago. By 2016, the Democratic leadership and the Clinton campaign were hatching the Steele-dossier farce to warp an election.

In 2020, the Democratic deep state—Antony Blinken, Mike Morell, John Brennan, James Clapper, Leon Panetta, and others—had fabricated the farcical claim that the Hunter Biden laptop was Russian disinformation, a hoax that, this time around, likely did alter an election.

The Democratic establishment, working with its appendages in Silicon Valley, had censored news attesting to the authenticity of Hunter's embarrassing laptop contents. (For an account of what the establishment was doing in 2020, read Molly Ball's Time essay describing the "conspiracies" and "cabals" that worked behind the scenes to change voting rules and ensure a Biden victory through mail-in, no-ID balloting.)

Then came four unhinged years of lawfare: special counsel Jack Smith's seizure of the communications of senators and congressmen, the Mar-a-Lago raid on Trump's home, the effort to de-ballot Trump, and the five civil and criminal circuses that resulted in half a billion dollars in fines.

All those perversions of the legal system were accompanied by a host of mainstream Democrats, retired generals, politicians, and athletes shouting that Trump was a Nazi, a fascist, a Mussolini, a traitor, or a Putin asset. Meanwhile, a host of loudmouth actors, Democratic activists, and celebrities competed with each other about how best to kill him—whether by shooting, stabbing, poisoning, beheading, burning him alive, or blowing him up.

Trump supporters were libeled over the years by establishment Democrats as irredeemables, deplorables, chumps, dregs, and garbage.

Even an establishment figure like Rosa Brooks, a former Obama-appointed Pentagon lawyer, called for a military coup in Foreign Policy just 10 days after Trump first took office in 2017.

Three would-be assassins got close enough to killing Trump to draw return fire from the Secret Service—near-death encounters that elicited both unapologetic applause for the attempts and lamentations that the shooters had failed from the now truly deranged social-media Left. Murderers themselves were normalized as leftist icons, as seen in the canonization of Luigi Mangione and the glee that followed in many Democratic social media circles after the murder of Charlie Kirk.

Yet did the establishment Democratic apparat calm these waters? Or did it set them boiling?

It was Chuck Schumer who threatened conservative Supreme Court justices, screaming in front of a mob outside the court's doors, "I want to tell you, Gorsuch, I want to tell you, Kavanaugh, you have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions." Schumer sounded more like a pink-haired anti-ICE street protester than a U.S. senator.

No surprise, then, that two years later a left-wing would-be assassin turned up at Kavanaugh's home, along with crowds of enthusiastic protestors.

Does anyone recall Maxine Waters urging the public to bird-dog Trump administration officials and harass them whenever they were seen in public? "If you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out, and you create a crowd, and you push back on them, and you tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Does anyone also remember Nancy Pelosi, then-Democratic House Minority leader, greenlighting "uprisings" over ICE deportations? "I just don't know why there aren't uprisings all over the country. Maybe there will be." So spoke the radical owner of two mansions, who entered Congress with little net worth and will leave it worth over \$100 million. A Tip O'Neill she wasn't.

Then there was soon-to-be Vice President Kamala Harris egging on the George Floyd demonstrations, which, weeks earlier, had already turned violent and indeed deadly (despite what the "fact-checkers" asserted):

This is a movement, I'm telling you. They're not going to stop. And everyone beware, because they're not going to stop. They're not going to stop before Election Day in November, and they're not going to stop after Election Day. And that should be—everyone should take note of that, on both levels, that they're not going to let up, and they should not, and we should not.

After four months of rioting in 2020—which left 25 people dead and 1,500 law enforcement officers injured, inflicted \$2 billion in damage, and saw a police precinct, a federal courthouse, and an iconic church set ablaze—who gave the perpetrators a pass, with 14,000 arrests followed by few convictions and fewer jailings?

What happened during the violence against ICE in 2025–26? Did the Democratic apparat at least pretend to deplore the violence, or did it instead egg it on?

And who, as sore losers in 2016 and 2024, normalized the idea of dismantling the constitutional order—first by calling for the abolition of the Electoral College and later by planning to pack the court, end the filibuster, and admit two new left-wing states?

The Frankenstein Monster Awakens

So the socialists and communists did not really hijack the party. Rather, these youthful radicals were spawned and nurtured by aged Democrats. They became irate over their impotence and loss of influence—and simply upgraded the methods and message of their elders.

The upper-middle-class Mamdanis, Pikers, and AOCs did not storm the party parapets but were invited in by a party that had already radicalized itself—amid its hatred of Donald Trump, its growing estrangement from the majority of the American people, and its fury at becoming increasingly powerless without the White House, Congress, or the Supreme Court.

Socialists did not lower the bar for extremism; establishment Democrats had already destroyed that standard altogether.

Given all that, the Democratic Socialists of America scarcely had to be invented.

After a decade of establishment Democrats destroying norms and traditions, deliberately dividing us by race, seeking to eliminate life-giving fossil fuels, and trying to implement dangerous crackpot ideas like critical race theory, critical legal theory, no cash bail, and defunding the police, the only change is that the now-electrified socialist monsters have awakened. They have mocked their stagnant creators, reenergized the old messages, and simply sought to replace the messengers.

Gone or going soon were the old white people like Pelosi and Schumer—despite their pathetic efforts to appease the Jacobins. In their place arose a cohort of upper-middle-class, degreed but otherwise poorly educated white urbanites, furious that their empty university certificates, student debt, inflated sense of self, and precious titles and jobs—but low salaries—had not delivered the affluent lifestyles enjoyed by lawyers, doctors, stockbrokers, and other professionals in their urban circles who had real jobs.

The downwardly mobile whites who formed 85 percent of the official ranks of the Democratic Socialists of America were joined by first- and second-generation immigrants, many from failed socialist states.

These were ingrates who, once safe and prospering in America, learned that boutique radicalism and identity chauvinism won cultural acceptance and conferred DEI leverage in their blue-state urban circles—and so sought to dismantle the very host nation that had saved them.

For both groups, anger was fed by envy of others with more stuff and by furor at a Middle America that plowed ahead, ignoring both their supposed talents and their hyped plight. And the Democratic Party provided the radical model—which, in their youthful ignorance, the new socialists pledged to enhance and exceed.

No longer, they thought, would hardcore leftists have to hide their agendas for fear of losing elections. In their folly, they attributed Harris's 2024 implosion not to her clumsy efforts to disown and disguise her radical past (including the most left-wing voting record in the Senate), but to her not being left-wing enough.

In other words, a milquetoast socialist had lost in 2024 not because she was too radical for America, but because she was not socialist—or indeed, communist—enough.

The crazed new socialists bragged that they could win by loudly and brazenly broadcasting the old agendas: open borders, mass amnesties, defunding the police, ending fossil fuels, attacking—and now seeking to destroy—the Senate and Supreme Court, and scapegoating whites and white “privilege.” To this old mainstream Democratic farrago, they added one new element: openly embracing anti-Zionism and indeed antisemitism.

America will soon see how this insanity works out.

Access the article: <https://victorhanson.com/the-socialist-monster-awakens/>

The President And The Press: Address Before The American Newspaper Publishers Association, April 27, 1961

President John F. Kennedy – Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City – April 27, 1961

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen:

I appreciate very much your generous invitation to be here tonight.

You bear heavy responsibilities these days and an article I read some time ago reminded me of how particularly heavily the burdens of present day events bear upon your profession.

You may remember that in 1851 the New York Herald Tribune under the sponsorship and publishing of Horace Greeley, employed as its London correspondent an obscure journalist by the name of Karl Marx.

We are told that foreign correspondent Marx, stone broke, and with a family ill and undernourished, constantly appealed to Greeley and managing editor Charles Dana for an increase in his munificent salary of \$5 per installment, a salary which he and Engels ungratefully labeled as the “lousiest petty bourgeois cheating.”

But when all his financial appeals were refused, Marx looked around for other means of livelihood and fame, eventually terminating his relationship with the Tribune and devoting his talents full time to the cause that would bequeath the world the seeds of Leninism, Stalinism, revolution and the cold war.

If only this capitalistic New York newspaper had treated him more kindly; if only Marx had remained a foreign correspondent, history might have been different. And I hope all publishers will bear this lesson in mind the next time they receive a poverty-stricken appeal for a small increase in the expense account from an obscure newspaper man.

I have selected as the title of my remarks tonight “The President and the Press.” Some may suggest that this would be more naturally worded “The President Versus the Press.” But those are not my sentiments tonight.

It is true, however, that when a well-known diplomat from another country demanded recently that our State Department repudiate certain newspaper attacks on his colleague it was unnecessary for us to reply that this Administration was not responsible for the press, for the press had already made it clear that it was not responsible for this Administration.

Nevertheless, my purpose here tonight is not to deliver the usual assault on the so-called one party press. On the contrary, in recent months I have rarely heard any complaints about political bias in the press except from a few Republicans. Nor is it my purpose tonight to discuss or defend the televising of Presidential press conferences. I think it is highly beneficial to have some 20,000,000 Americans regularly sit in on these conferences to observe, if I may say so, the incisive, the intelligent and the courteous qualities displayed by your Washington correspondents.

Nor, finally, are these remarks intended to examine the proper degree of privacy which the press should allow to any President and his family.

If in the last few months your White House reporters and photographers have been attending church services with regularity, that has surely done them no harm.

On the other hand, I realize that your staff and wire service photographers may be complaining that they do not enjoy the same green privileges at the local golf courses that they once did.

It is true that my predecessor did not object as I do to pictures of one’s golfing skill in action. But neither on the other hand did he ever bean a Secret Service man.

My topic tonight is a more sober one of concern to publishers as well as editors.

I want to talk about our common responsibilities in the face of a common danger. The events of recent weeks may have helped to illuminate that challenge for some; but the dimensions of its threat have loomed large on the horizon for many years. Whatever our hopes may be for the future—for reducing this threat or living with it—there is no escaping either the gravity or the totality of its challenge to our survival and to our security—a challenge that confronts us in unaccustomed ways in every sphere of human activity.

This deadly challenge imposes upon our society two requirements of direct concern both to the press and to the President--two requirements that may seem almost contradictory in tone, but which must be reconciled and fulfilled if we are to meet this national peril. I refer, first, to the need for a far greater public information; and, second, to the need for far greater official secrecy.

I

The very word "secrecy" is repugnant in a free and open society; and we are as a people inherently and historically opposed to secret societies, to secret oaths and to secret proceedings. We decided long ago that the dangers of excessive and unwarranted concealment of pertinent facts far outweighed the dangers which are cited to justify it. Even today, there is little value in opposing the threat of a closed society by imitating its arbitrary restrictions. Even today, there is little value in insuring the survival of our nation if our traditions do not survive with it. And there is very grave danger that an announced need for increased security will be seized upon by those anxious to expand its meaning to the very limits of official censorship and concealment. That I do not intend to permit to the extent that it is in my control. And no official of my Administration, whether his rank is high or low, civilian or military, should interpret my words here tonight as an excuse to censor the news, to stifle dissent, to cover up our mistakes or to withhold from the press and the public the facts they deserve to know.

But I do ask every publisher, every editor, and every newsman in the nation to reexamine his own standards, and to recognize the nature of our country's peril. In time of war, the government and the press have customarily joined in an effort based largely on self-discipline, to prevent unauthorized disclosures to the enemy. In time of "clear and present danger," the courts have held that even the privileged rights of the First Amendment must yield to the public's need for national security.

Today no war has been declared--and however fierce the struggle may be, it may never be declared in the traditional fashion. Our way of life is under attack. Those who make themselves our enemy are advancing around the globe. The survival of our friends is in danger. And yet no war has been declared, no borders have been crossed by marching troops, no missiles have been fired.

If the press is awaiting a declaration of war before it imposes the self-discipline of combat conditions, then I can only say that no war ever posed a greater threat to our security. If you are awaiting a finding of "clear and present danger," then I can only say that the danger has never been more clear and its presence has never been more imminent.

It requires a change in outlook, a change in tactics, a change in missions--by the government, by the people, by every businessman or labor leader, and by every newspaper. For we are opposed around the world by a monolithic and ruthless conspiracy that relies primarily on covert means for expanding its sphere of influence--on infiltration instead of invasion, on subversion instead of elections, on intimidation instead of free choice, on guerrillas by night instead of armies by day. It is a system which has conscripted vast human and material resources into the building of a tightly knit, highly efficient machine that combines military, diplomatic, intelligence, economic, scientific and political operations.

Its preparations are concealed, not published. Its mistakes are buried, not headlined. Its dissenters are silenced, not praised. No expenditure is questioned, no rumor is printed, no secret is revealed. It conducts the Cold War, in short, with a war-time discipline no democracy would ever hope or wish to match.

Nevertheless, every democracy recognizes the necessary restraints of national security--and the question remains whether those restraints need to be more strictly observed if we are to oppose this kind of attack as well as outright invasion.

For the facts of the matter are that this nation's foes have openly boasted of acquiring through our newspapers information they would otherwise hire agents to acquire through theft, bribery or espionage; that details of this nation's covert preparations to counter the enemy's covert operations have been available to every newspaper reader, friend and foe alike; that the size, the strength, the location and the nature of our forces and weapons, and our plans and strategy for their use, have all been pinpointed in the press and other news media to a degree sufficient to satisfy any foreign power; and that, in at least in one case, the publication of details concerning a secret mechanism whereby satellites were followed required its alteration at the expense of considerable time and money.

The newspapers which printed these stories were loyal, patriotic, responsible and well-meaning. Had we been engaged in open warfare, they undoubtedly would not have published such items. But in the absence of open warfare, they recognized only the tests of journalism and not the tests of national security. And my question tonight is whether additional tests should not now be adopted.

The question is for you alone to answer. No public official should answer it for you. No governmental plan should impose its restraints against your will. But I would be failing in my duty to the nation, in considering all of the responsibilities that we now bear and all of the means at hand to meet those responsibilities, if I did not commend this problem to your attention, and urge its thoughtful consideration.

On many earlier occasions, I have said--and your newspapers have constantly said--that these are times that appeal to every citizen's sense of sacrifice and self-discipline. They call out to every citizen to weigh his rights and comforts against his obligations to the common good. I cannot now believe that those citizens who serve in the newspaper business consider themselves exempt from that appeal.

I have no intention of establishing a new Office of War Information to govern the flow of news. I am not suggesting any new forms of censorship or any new types of security classifications. I have no easy answer to the dilemma that I have posed, and would not seek to impose it if I had one. But I am asking the members of the newspaper profession and the industry in this country to reexamine their own responsibilities, to consider the degree and the nature of the present danger, and to heed the duty of self-restraint which that danger imposes upon us all.

Every newspaper now asks itself, with respect to every story: "Is it news?" All I suggest is that you add the question: "Is it in the interest of the national security?" And I hope that every group in America--unions and businessmen and public officials at every level-- will ask the same question of their endeavors, and subject their actions to the same exacting tests.

And should the press of America consider and recommend the voluntary assumption of specific new steps or machinery, I can assure you that we will cooperate whole-heartedly with those recommendations.

Perhaps there will be no recommendations. Perhaps there is no answer to the dilemma faced by a free and open society in a cold and secret war. In times of peace, any discussion of this subject, and any action that results, are both painful and without precedent. But this is a time of peace and peril which knows no precedent in history.

II

It is the unprecedented nature of this challenge that also gives rise to your second obligation--an obligation which I share. And that is our obligation to inform and alert the American people--to make certain that they possess all the facts that they need, and understand them as well--the perils, the prospects, the purposes of our program and the choices that we face.

No President should fear public scrutiny of his program. For from that scrutiny comes understanding; and from that understanding comes support or opposition. And both are necessary. I am not asking your newspapers to support the Administration, but I am asking your help in the tremendous task of informing and alerting the American people. For I have complete confidence in the response and dedication of our citizens whenever they are fully informed.

I not only could not stifle controversy among your readers--I welcome it. This Administration intends to be candid about its errors; for as a wise man once said: "An error does not become a mistake until you refuse to correct it." We intend to accept full responsibility for our errors; and we expect you to point them out when we miss them.

Without debate, without criticism, no Administration and no country can succeed--and no republic can survive. That is why the Athenian lawmaker Solon decreed it a crime for any citizen to shrink from controversy. And that is why our press was protected by the First Amendment-- the only business in America specifically protected by the Constitution-- not primarily to amuse and entertain, not to emphasize the trivial and the sentimental, not to simply "give the public what it wants"--but to inform, to arouse, to reflect, to state our dangers and our opportunities, to indicate our crises and our choices, to lead, mold, educate and sometimes even anger public opinion.

This means greater coverage and analysis of international news--for it is no longer far away and foreign but close at hand and local. It means greater attention to improved understanding of the news as well as improved transmission. And it means, finally, that government at all levels, must meet its obligation to provide you with the fullest possible information outside the narrowest limits of national security--and we intend to do it.

III

It was early in the Seventeenth Century that Francis Bacon remarked on three recent inventions already transforming the world: the compass, gunpowder and the printing press. Now the links between the nations first forged by the compass have made us all citizens of the world, the hopes and threats of one becoming the hopes and threats of us all. In that one world's efforts to live together, the evolution of gunpowder to its ultimate limit has warned mankind of the terrible consequences of failure.

And so it is to the printing press--to the recorder of man's deeds, the keeper of his conscience, the courier of his news--that we look for strength and assistance, confident that with your help man will be what he was born to be: free and independent.

Access the article: <https://www.jfklibrary.org/archives/other-resources/john-f-kennedy-speeches/american-newspaper-publishers-association-19610427>

Trump Warns Of Global Spread Of Communism At NATO Summit

Communism 'has become international,' the president said, but has 'never worked' and will not succeed.

By Jackson Richman & Emel Akan originally published in The Epoch Times (July 8 2026)

ANKARA, Turkey—President Donald Trump reiterated his warnings about communism during the NATO summit in Ankara on July 8, saying it's taking root in the United States and around the world.

In response to a question from NTD News, the sister outlet of The Epoch Times, Trump said that the United States faces

a growing ideological threat from communism, and described it as appealing because it promises free housing and other benefits.

The president said that communism ultimately leads to poverty, violence, and poor living conditions.

He said it has consistently failed throughout history, even when presented under different names such as “social democrats.”

“I want to get the word out, because what’s forming is communism in the country, and communism is easy to sell,” Trump said during the press conference at the conclusion of the summit.

“It sounds so nice. It’s not nice. It’s a very dangerous term.”

Trump went on to say that communism “has become international” but has “never worked” and is “not going to work.”

Trump contrasted communism with the United States’ economic system, saying that the United States has strong employment, rising wages, and an overall successful, though imperfect, system.

Without naming anyone, Trump characterized some political opponents as “very dangerous” and argued that the spread of communist ideas poses one of the greatest threats that the United States has ever faced—comparable to or greater than major historical crises.

Trump indicated that the idea of the United States becoming communist is more dangerous than Pearl Harbor and Sept. 11.

“One thing that happens when you go communist is you never come back,” Trump said. “You die in squalor, and it gets very evil and very nasty.”

He said countries that become communist do not recover and instead experience repression, poverty, and suffering.

Trump’s comments come as self-described democratic socialists running as Democrats have won primaries in New York and Colorado.

Since the primaries, the president has used recent speeches to warn about communism and criticize such candidates. “They’re communists, they’re not social Democrats,” Trump said at a Faith and Freedom Coalition conference on June 26.

During the conference, as well as in speeches delivered on July 3 and July 4 marking the nation’s 250th anniversary, Trump urged Americans to protect the country’s identity, warning that communist ideology has been making a comeback.

“There is now a resurgence of the communist menace in our land, including from newcomers to our country who embrace ideas totally opposed to our way of life and our great success,” Trump said on July 3.

“These are not mere political disagreements like differences over taxes or regulations. Communism is a mortal threat to American liberty.”

Trump criticized the sentiment that America was founded on stolen land by oppressors.

“As for those who peddle Marx’s lies about our heritage, who tell our children that we live on stolen land or that our heroes were oppressors, they’re doing something much worse than slandering our past; they are slandering and attacking our future,” he said.

On July 4, addressing an Independence Day crowd on the National Mall, Trump said: “The communist system is the opposite of the American system, and the communist system has never worked.

“Our warriors did not fight communism on battlefields across the world, only to have that menace rear its ugly head right back here in America. We’re not going to let it happen.

“It’s like a cancer, you got to cut it out; you got to cut it out fast.”

In his July 3 speech, he also described communism as “a mortal threat to American liberty” and called it “the greatest threat to our country.”

It’s estimated that 65 million Chinese people died under leader Mao Zedong’s efforts to establish a new “socialist” China and that 25 million to 30 million people died in the former Soviet Union under communism.

Access the article: https://www.theepochtimes.com/us/trump-warns-of-global-spread-of-communism-at-nato-summit-6059015?utm_medium=app&c=share_pos1&pid=iOS_app_share&utm_source=iOS_app_share

REVEALED: Here Are The Mainstream Journalists On China's Payroll

The New York Times, CNN, MSNBC, The Washington Post, NPR, the Associated Press, Vox, The Atlantic, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, and more...

By Natalie Winters originally published in Natalie G Winters Substack (July 27 2026)

The identities were buried.

Foreign-agent filings reveal that operatives working for a Chinese Communist Party-linked influence organization planned free trips for American journalists based on the potential for "favorable coverage" and sought to "effectively disseminate positive messages" about Beijing.

But the filings did not plainly identify the reporters who received the access.

By cross-referencing the filings with archived newsletters, annual reports and contemporaneous accounts, this investigation has uncovered the names of prominent American journalists who participated in China trips organized or funded by the China-United States Exchange Foundation, or CUSEF.

The roster includes current and former journalists from The New York Times, CNN, MSNBC, The Washington Post, NPR, the Associated Press, Vox, The Atlantic, the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune and other major American news organizations.

In several cases, the trips were followed by columns and reports defending Chinese government policies, attacking President Trump's confrontation with Beijing or presenting the decline of American manufacturing as unavoidable.

CUSEF was founded by Tung Chee-hwa, a former vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a central component of the Chinese Communist Party's United Front system.

A bipartisan congressional report explains that the United Front seeks to "co-opt and neutralize sources of potential opposition to the policies and authority" of the CCP. Its targets include foreign governments, universities, businesses, media organizations and other institutions capable of shaping public opinion.

CUSEF's own foreign-agent records reveal how that strategy was applied to the American press.

Washington lobbyists and public-relations firms working for the organization described plans to recruit influential journalists, generate "favorable coverage" and "effectively disseminate positive messages to the media, key influencers and opinion leaders, and the general public" regarding China.

The identities of the journalists were not presented together in the filings. They emerge only after matching those records with CUSEF's own publications and accounts from the trips.

The Names

Records identify the following journalists as participants in CUSEF-sponsored delegations, funded trips or related media exchange programs:

- Ezra Klein, Vox co-founder and New York Times columnist;
- Matthew Yglesias, Vox co-founder;
- Ronald Brownstein, CNN senior political analyst and Atlantic senior editor;
- Bradford Plumer, New York Times reporter;
- Marjorie Miller, former Associated Press vice president and editor;
- Steve Clemons, former editor-at-large of The Hill;
- David Rohde, former New Yorker editor and current MS NOW national security reporter;
- Jonathan Alter, MSNBC commentator;
- David Sweeney, former NPR managing editor;
- Daniel Gross, former Yahoo Finance columnist;
- Marilyn Geewax, former NPR senior editor;
- Kathleen Deveny, former Newsweek and Wall Street Journal Marketplace editor;
- Tom Omestad, former U.S. News & World Report correspondent;
- Steve Chapman, former Chicago Tribune columnist and editorial writer;
- Bruce Stokes, former National Journal correspondent;
- Craig Gilbert, former Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Washington bureau chief;
- Tony Semerad, Salt Lake Tribune reporter;
- Shikha Dalmia, former columnist for The Week;
- Jonathan Broder, former Newsweek senior writer;
- Cristi Kempf, former Chicago Tribune associate managing editor;
- Jon Healey, Los Angeles Times deputy editorial page editor; and
- Julian Pecquet, former Foreign Affairs reporter.

Washington Post columnist Catherine Rampell also disclosed that CUSEF funded one of her China trips, writing at the bottom of two columns:

“Disclosure: My trip is being paid for by the China-United States Exchange Foundation, a Hong Kong-based nonprofit that aims to improve Americans’ understanding of China.”

The disclosure acknowledged who paid for the travel. It did not tell readers that the organization’s foreign-agent representatives had discussed journalist trips in terms of favorable coverage and disseminating positive messages about Beijing.

The Coverage That Followed

Trip participant Shikha Dalmia published an op-ed titled “China Bashing is for Losers” during the same year she traveled to China.

Bradford Plumer later praised Beijing’s climate agenda in a piece titled “China’s ambitious plan to limit carbon emissions, explained.”

Bruce Stokes warned that economic “decoupling” from China would “backfire.”

Catherine Rampell repeatedly criticized the Trump administration’s China policies, including in a column titled “Team Trump should be careful what it wishes for on China.”

One of Rampell’s dispatches from her CUSEF-funded trip amplified complaints from Chinese officials who portrayed the United States as the aggressor attempting to contain China’s rise. The column repeated Beijing’s objections to American scrutiny of Huawei, criticism of currency manipulation and the Trans-Pacific Partnership before urging Washington to defuse the “zero-sum-game attitude” between the two countries.

David Rohde produced one of the starkest examples.

After participating in a CUSEF-organized trip, Rohde praised the role of the Chinese state in building and expanding businesses: “Unlike the United States where free-market advocates deride the role of government, the Chinese state has played a central role in creating, supporting and expanding businesses here.”

He also defended the economic opportunities created by Beijing’s system: “Those successes show that, for all the attacks from American politicians on Chinese currency manipulation, American companies can find profits in China.”

Rohde then argued that Americans should accept the permanent disappearance of large-scale domestic industry: “Americans, meanwhile, should accept that large-scale manufacturing will never return to the United States.”

He concluded that American companies should profit from China’s rise while dismissing political objections in Washington as “ideological babble.”

Ezra Klein defended aspects of China’s response to COVID-19, writing on X: “I keep hearing that China bought us some real time and our government wasted it doing nothing and downplaying the threat.”

Matthew Yglesias joked about helping Communist Party propagandists improve their messaging, writing that he wanted to “give Party flunkies notes” on how to better craft “propaganda.”

He separately quipped: “Moody’s, S&P, and the People’s Bank of China should just run the government.”

At the time of his trip, Yglesias was affiliated with the Center for American Progress, whose alumni later filled numerous positions in the Biden administration.

Steve Chapman repeatedly attacked President Trump’s trade policies toward China, tweeting: “China may have a bad human rights record, but you don’t have to take off your shoes for airport security.”

He also authored a now-deleted column making “the case for buying U.S. Olympic outfits from China.”

Ronald Brownstein opposed President Trump’s trade confrontation with Beijing and later attacked criticism of China’s handling of COVID-19.

Former NPR editor Marilyn Geewax went on to serve as a visiting professor at Tsinghua University, Xi Jinping’s alma mater and one of China’s most politically connected academic institutions.

All Roads Lead to Biden

The CUSEF network also intersected repeatedly with the political apparatus surrounding Joe Biden.

Bruce Stokes is the husband of Wendy Sherman, who became Biden’s deputy secretary of state and one of the administration’s most senior foreign-policy officials.

Steve Clemons enjoyed an especially warm relationship with Biden during the then-vice president’s 2013 trip to China.

Biden publicly introduced Clemons to Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao as: “A very important man.”

Biden then encouraged the Chinese official to speak with Clemons, declaring: "He's the one you really want to speak to." Later that day, while accompanied by Hunter Biden, the vice president jokingly attempted to buy Clemons an ice cream bar. Clemons has since authored commentary arguing that "Biden gets China" and wrote approvingly about the emergence of "a new global order" with China serving as its "anchor."

This Is What Foreign Influence Looks Like

The scandal is not simply that American journalists traveled to China.

It is that a CCP-linked organization quietly selected and cultivated influential members of the American press while its registered foreign agents discussed opportunities for "favorable coverage" and the dissemination of "positive messages."

The public was shown the resulting articles.

It was not shown the influence operation behind them.

Beijing did not need to purchase an American newspaper or dictate every sentence. It could pay for access, curate the itinerary, arrange meetings with officials and allow trusted American voices to deliver the preferred conclusions.

Access the article: <https://nataliegwinters.substack.com/p/revealed-here-are-the-mainstream>

The Journalist's Creed - By Walter Williams

The Journalist's Creed was written by the first dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, Walter Williams (July 2, 1864 – July 29, 1935). More than a century later, his declaration remains one of the clearest statements of the principles, values and standards of journalists throughout the world.

More information: <https://mopress.com/journalist-creed/>, <https://journalism.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/journalists-creed-download.pdf>

THE JOURNALIST'S CREED

I believe in the profession of journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of their responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of a lesser service than the public service is betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking and clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true.

I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocketbook is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that the supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds best—and best deserves success—fears God and honors Man; is stoutly independent, unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power, constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance and, as far as law and honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradeship; is a journalism of humanity, of and for today's world.

The Journalist's Creed was written by the first dean of the Missouri School of Journalism, Walter Williams. More than a century later, his declaration remains one of the clearest statements of the principles, values and standards of journalists throughout the world. Plaques bearing the creed are on display at the School, the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. (since 1958), and many other locations around the world.


Missouri School of Journalism
University of Missouri

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 August 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM
425 S Main St. Pennington, NJ 08534
Or Livestream on YouTube

Municipal Township Meetings

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

Township Committee Regular Meeting
Monday August 10, 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.hopewelltp.org/> select How Do I.../ bottom right View/ Video Library

Board of Elections Meeting

Schedule, Agenda, Minutes: <https://www.mercercounty.org/boards-commissions/board-of-elections/board-meeting-schedule-election-timelines>

Tuesday September 8, 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 Notice, Agenda: <https://www.mercercounty.org/government/board-of-county-commissioners/meeting-agenda>

Meeting Schedule -- August 2026

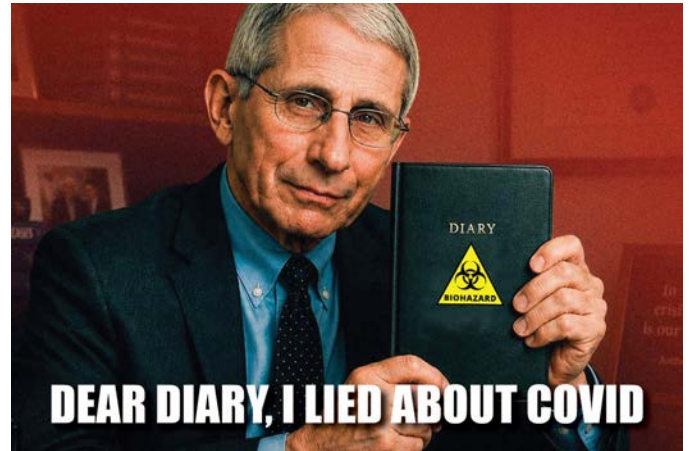
Tuesday August 11, 2026 6:00 PM Agenda Meeting

Thursday August 13, 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, New Jersey, 08650

(609) 989-6583 {V/TTY} {Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 101-336}



At the Movies, Bookstores

Young Washington (2026)



In Theaters Now
PG-13, Genre: War, Action
Release Date: July 3 2026
Directors: Jon Erwin, Daniel Edwards
Duration: 2h 5mins

Cast: William Franklyn-Miller, Ben Kingsley, Andy Serkis, Kelsey Grammer, Joel Smallbone, Mary-Louise Parker

Film Synopsis

Before he was the Father of a Nation, he was a soldier fighting to survive. A single misstep thrusts young George Washington into the center of a global conflict, testing his honor, loyalty, and courage. As alliances crumble and the frontier erupts into war, he must confront not only his enemies but the man he's becoming. This is the untold story of Young Washington.

Watch Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Q3WkycWjLc

More about Young Washington: <https://www.angel.com/movies/young-washington>

Tickets on Sale Now: Angel Studios, Fandango

'Young Washington' Sequel In The Works After Record-Breaking Box Office

By Dan Selcke originally published in MovieWeb (July 5 2026)

Young Washington was the surprise hit of the long holiday weekend, taking in \$20.8 million at the domestic box office. The biopic came in third on the box office leaderboard this weekend, behind Toy Story 5 in second place and new arrival Minions & Monsters in first. Supergirl, which already had a rough debut last weekend, sunk to fourth place. On July Fourth itself, Young Washington came in second place.

Set in the 1750s, Young Washington follows a 20-something George Washington (William Franklyn-Miller), the future first President of the United States, during his battles with the French and Indian War. According to Deadline, Young Washington earned more money on its opening weekend than any other movie produced by faith-based media company Angel Studios, including the 2023 hit Sound of Freedom. The only other Angel Studios picture to earn more was the animated film David, which took in \$22 million when it debuted in theaters in Dec. 2025.

Young Washington director Jon Erwin hopes to capitalize on this success. In a video message posted from George Washington's former home of Mount Vernon (now a museum dedicated to Washington's life), Erwin shared that he and his team are already working on a follow-up movie called 1776. This one will skip forward in time and follow Washington during the thick of the American Revolutionary War. "And if you think Washington's big, wait for 1776. It's epic in every way. It's another incredible chapter in this man's life and legacy," Erwin said. "I hope you're ready for 1776. We're writing it right now."

Young Washington played well in the Mountain, Midwest, Southcentral, and South regions of the United States, which together contributed 67% of the weekend take. The highest-grossing theater was the Megaplex Lehi at Thanksgiving Point in Utah, underscoring how well the film did in the American heartland as opposed to the coasts.

The demographics for Young Washington are also interesting, with people over 55 years old accounting for 47% of the movie's audience. At a time when movie theaters are bouncing back after post-COVID lulls, it's exciting to see what kinds of movies can draw different sorts of people out of their homes. Obviously, debuting a movie about a major American historical figure over the Fourth of July weekend was a smart move.

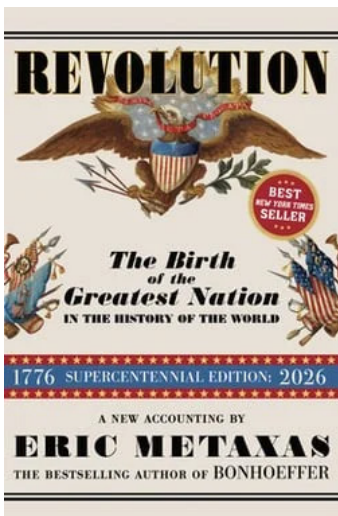
As for reviews, critics generally praised Young Washington as exciting and well-made, even if some questioned its lack of nuance or historical authenticity. It earned a 60% fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes, although audience scores were much higher at 92%.

There's no release date set for 1776 as yet, but one imagines it will also come out over Fourth of July weekend. And perhaps there could be more adventures with young presidents after that. "My hope is that this is the beginning of many extraordinary American stories told through film and television," Erwin said in a statement.

In addition to William Franklyn-Miller, Young Washington stars Ben Kingsley, Andy Serkis, Kelsey Grammer, and Mary-Louise Parker. It's worth noting that William Franklyn-Miller is an Englishman, but he wouldn't be the first actor from the United Kingdom to play an American president. If Daniel Day-Lewis can play Abraham Lincoln in 2012's Lincoln, there's room for Franklyn-Miller.

Access the review: <https://movieweb.com/young-washington-sequel-1776-box-office/>

Book: Revolution: The Birth Of The Greatest Nation In The History Of The World



Author: Eric Metaxas

Publisher: Odysseus Books

Publication Date: June 2 2026

Hardcover, 640 Pages

Overview

#1 PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BESTSELLER

#2 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

#1 AMAZON BESTSELLER

#1 BOOKSCAN WEEKLY BESTSELLER

#1 BALTIMORE SUN BESTSELLER

"Once upon a time there was a REVOLUTION."

There's never been a nation like the United States of America. It's impossible to imagine the world without it—but do you know the wild and true story of how it came into existence?

On our 250th anniversary, the hunger for America's story has never been greater.

Who better to tell it than historian Eric Metaxas, author of seven New York Times bestsellers, including the ground-breaking, million-selling biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer?

With the passion, erudition, and irrepressible wit that have become his signature, Metaxas's REVOLUTION brings the epic of America's birth to life so fully that you will feel you are a part of the story, which is precisely the point. By turns deeply moving, gripping, and spectacularly entertaining, these are the stories every American must know, including some of history's noblest heroes — and some despicable villains.

REVOLUTION also touches on the role that sacrifice, character, and faith played in the great struggle for "the Sacred Cause" of liberty. George Washington, John Adams, Nathan Hale, Henry Knox, Horatio Gates, Israel Putnam, Benedict Arnold and many others all come to life for a new generation of Americans.

At more than 600 pages—with photos, maps, and illustrations—REVOLUTION is definitive and sweeping, an astonishing epic containing a dazzling array of stories, ranging from the explosive events that led up to Lexington and Concord, all the way through the impossible twists and turns of the war itself—including the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Crossing of the Delaware, Saratoga, and the bitter winter at Valley Forge — all the way to the final victory in Yorktown and "The World Turned Upside Down."

Unless we ourselves know the true story of the Revolution—what some have called America's "founding myth"—we cannot play the role we are meant to play in the Revolution that still continues today.

This is our story. We need to know it. For such a time as this.

To purchase: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million

Who is Eric Metaxas?: <https://ericmetaxas.com/about/>

Sacred Honor: The Declaration That Defines a Nation



Genre: Documentary
Premiered Date: July 2 2026
Produced By: The Daily Signal
Duration: 50mins 32secs

Overview

"Sacred Honor" takes the audience inside the years and months leading up to America's Declaration of Independence and invites viewers to think like the great statesmen of our Founding. It premiered on the Daily Signal's YouTube page on July 2.

The documentary features interviews with prominent conservative lawmakers, such as Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah; Sen. Eric Schmitt, R-Mo.; and Rep. Brandon Gill, R-Texas. Some of the nation's top historians help the Daily Signal tell this gripping story, including Victor Davis Hanson, Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts, and Matthew Spalding from Hillsdale College.

Watch the documentary: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1d3gn_H8ow

The Daily Signal cannot continue to tell stories, like this one, without the support of our viewers: <https://secured.dailysignal.com/>

Hillsdale College: The Story Of America

Episode 6: John Adams

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 6 (12mins 37secs): Lee Habeeb of "Our American Stories" tells the tale of John Adams. Adams was never a soldier, but he was always a fighter for his country.

Access the video (12mins 37secs): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExHA5SjH4>

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

Support Hillsdale College: <https://secured.hillsdale.edu/hillsdale/support-hillsdale-college...>

Visit our website: <http://hillsdale.edu>

Learn from our online courses: <http://online.hillsdale.edu>

Read Imprimis: <https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/>

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

Publishers note: In 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** (featured in January 2026: <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/0126-MercerWe-revised.pdf>)
- **John Hart** (featured in November 2025: <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/1125-MercerWe.pdf>)
- **Francis Hopkinson** (featured in February 2026: <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/0226-MercerWe-revised.pdf>)
- **Richard Stockton** (featured in March 2026: <https://mercervethepeople.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/0326-MercerWe.pdf>)
- **John Witherspoon** (featured in December 2025): <https://mercervethepeople.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.



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

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/>

Timothy Matlack: Scribe Of The American Revolution

In this installment of 'Profiles in History,' we meet a young Quaker, brewer, and gambler whose gift with the pen left an indelible mark on American history.

By Dustin Bass originally published in The Epoch Times (February 13 2026)

Something particular stood out about Timothy Matlack. Indeed, there were many things, like the fact that he loved to gamble, engaged with the lower and ruffian classes, and brawled whenever necessary (and sometimes seemingly when it wasn't), all while being a Quaker. Certainly these characteristics stood out, but it was actually his writing style that would ignite his rise to prominence. It wasn't his rhetoric, though, but rather the "looping flourishes" and the elegant style of his penmanship.

Matlack (1736–1829) was born in Haddonfield, New Jersey, into a family of Quakers. His father made a living as a merchant and brewer. A decade after his birth, the family moved to Philadelphia, where this revolutionary firebrand would find his place among a hotbed of revolutionaries.



"Timothy Matlack," circa 1790, by Charles Willson Peale. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Public Domain

Rough Times

The young Quaker learned the business trade and earned money on the side, as well as a less than upstanding reputation by way of betting on horse races and cockfights. When he was 13, he signed his first contract as an apprentice for a local Quaker merchant. His signature demonstrated an elegance that was rather in opposition to his rough personality.

Shortly after this contract was signed, however, his family experienced immense hardship. His father's debts resulted in the family's brewery and much of their household goods being seized by the courts. A legal agreement did salvage the use of the brewery, but it would not be Matlack's father in charge; it would be his elder half brother. The humiliation proved too much for his father, who subsequently drank himself to death.

As his half brother continued with the brewery and his younger brothers were sent to a school for charity cases, Matlack continued his apprenticeship, completing it in 1758. That same year he married Ellen Yarnall, the daughter of a Quaker preacher. At this time, the Americans were in the middle of the French and Indian War. In 1759, Benjamin Franklin, who was arguably Philadelphia's most famous citizen, printed the Pennsylvania Assembly's petition to King George II about the Native Americans. Franklin, aware of Matlack's writing ability, hired him to pen the petition. It would not be his last such project.

The following year, Matlack opened his own business selling fabrics and hardware. His affinity for gambling, however, led him to financial ruin. He was tossed into debtors' prison but was redeemed by several wealthy Quakers. Despite this example of Christian charity, the Quakers viewed Matlack as a problem for the religious community. In 1765, Matlack was disowned by the Society of Friends.

Rebound and Revolution

In many ways, Matlack didn't reflect the views of his fellow Quakers. He also ridiculed Quakers who remained in the Society yet owned slaves—Quakers were known for their stance of antislavery. His sharp criticisms seem to have expedited his removal from the community.

By this time, the French and Indian War had been over for two years. Great Britain, and therefore its American subjects, had been under the rule of a new king, George III, for five years. When the war ended in 1763, the king and British Parliament in London believed it necessary to tax the Americans without their consent in order to pay off the immense war debts. Thus, the British enacted the Sugar Act of 1764. The slow, but steady political upheaval that led to the American Revolution put Philadelphia, as well as Matlack, at its center.

While Matlack had earned a poor reputation among the Quakers, he had earned a favorable reputation among political radicals. He proved not only affable in their company but also thoughtful in terms of American liberty.

Matlack spent time in Philadelphia's alehouses and taverns, consorting with fellow republicans. Additionally, his financial situation improved sometime after his removal from the Society of Friends. His half brother had turned the family business into the city's largest brewery, and Matlack built off of this success with his own brewery and beer bottling operation.

Over the intervening years between 1765 and 1774, Matlack ran his business, continued his gambling and cockfighting, and delved deeper into the growing revolutionary cause. His involvement in each met with success, and his popularity in Philadelphia grew.

Petition and Commission

The Sugar Act of 1764 was just the first of a number of taxes and laws placed on the colonists, who viewed them as unconstitutional. On Sept. 5, 1774, delegates from 12 of the 13 colonies assembled in Philadelphia at Carpenter's Hall to discuss their problems with Parliament. At the time, they believed that the king was the solution, not the source of the problem. By the end of the session, the Congress had written "The Petition of the Grand American Continental Congress, to the King's Most Excellent Majesty" in order "to obtain redress of grievances and relief."

Matlack was asked to create two copies of the petition, which he completed by the following day on Oct. 26. It also happened to be the last day of the First Continental Congress's session. The copies were signed, and one was sent to Benjamin Franklin, who resided in London at the time. Franklin was charged with presenting the petition to Parliament. Parliament and the king duly ignored the petition.

With no redress, tensions increased, resulting in the "shot heard round the world" in April 1775. The American Revolution had begun in earnest and Matlack was fully behind it. By the time the Second Continental Congress assembled, he became an intricate part of it. He wasn't a delegate, but a clerk for Charles Thomson, the secretary of the Second Continental Congress. His writing skill proved invaluable.

On June 15, 1775, Congress chose George Washington to become commander in chief of the Continental Army. It fell to Matlack to write the formalized version of the commission.

Penning the Declaration

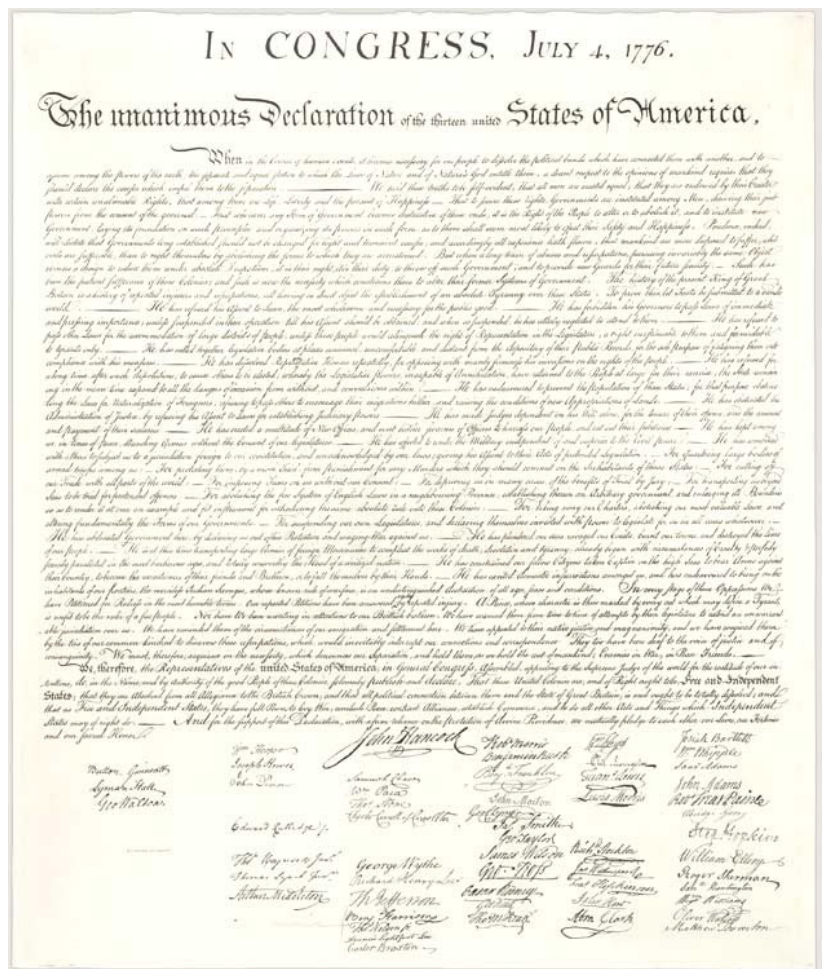
His greatest printing achievement remained a year away, when the delegates of Congress chose to declare their independence from Great Britain. Thomas Jefferson had written the Declaration of Independence, and it was edited by a committee of five—Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and Jefferson. Members of Congress edited it further, but Matlack created the version with which the world would become most familiar.

On July 19, 10 days after New York agreed to independence, Congress commissioned Matlack to create an official version of the declaration that every member of Congress could sign.

Utilizing the "looping flourishes" and elegant penmanship he had become known for, Matlack penned the Declaration of Independence and included a new title to it, which read: "The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America." It is Matlack's version that has long resided in the rotunda of the Capitol building in Washington, where approximately 1 million people come to visit each year.

Matlack enjoyed a long career in the Revolution as a militia commander, a member of Pennsylvania's committee of inspection, secretary to Pennsylvania's Supreme Executive Council, a director of the Bank of North America from 1781 to 1782, a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania in 1779, a delegate to the Second Continental Congress in 1780, and, interestingly, a founding member of the Society of Free Quakers in 1781. But it was his ability with the pen that cemented his most lasting legacy.

Access the article: https://www.theepochtimes.com/bright/timothy-matlack-scribe-of-the-american-revolution-5982648?ea_src=frontpage&ea_med=section-3



Although this image is of an 1823 copy of the Declaration of Independence, Matlack's penmanship was preserved. Public Domain

Presidential Message On The Birthday Of Alexis de Tocqueville

By The White House originally published in The White House (July 29 2026)

Today, our Nation honors the life, legacy, and enduring wisdom of Alexis de Tocqueville—a great witness to the promise of our young Republic and one of the most brilliant political minds in the history of the world.

In May of 1831, French magistrate Alexis de Tocqueville arrived on American soil for the first time, beginning 9 months of travel to study the moral foundations of our country and observe the animating forces behind the American way of life. From the bustling streets of Boston and New York to the bayous of Louisiana and the sprawling coastlines of Michigan and Wisconsin, Tocqueville traveled thousands of miles, taking copious notes and speaking with countless Americans to better understand the strength and success of our new system of government. Tocqueville had arrived in our Nation as a stranger, but marveling at the faith, self-reliance, and steadfast civic spirit of our forefathers, he fell in love with the American People.

Upon returning to France, Tocqueville published *Democracy in America*, one of the most profound reflections on political and human nature ever put to paper. “In America, I saw more than America,” he wrote. “I sought the image of democracy itself, with its inclinations, its character, its prejudices, and its passions.” He found America’s strength in her churches, town halls, and city squares, but most of all, he saw it in the hearts of hardworking, God-fearing Americans who love their families, their homeland, and their freedom.

Tocqueville’s writings remind us that freedom and democracy cannot survive without morality and public virtue and that extremism, bureaucracy, and apathy are the surest paths to tyranny. For these reasons, my Administration is working tirelessly to defend our Nation’s long-standing traditions of sovereignty, freedom, and faith in Almighty God. We are restoring pride in our heritage, defending religious liberty, strengthening families, and ensuring that our children are taught to love their country, honor our Constitution, and respect our great American Flag. In this work, we are guided by the same truth Tocqueville recognized 195 years ago: A people who wish to remain free must remain worthy of freedom.

Today, on what would have been his 221st birthday, Tocqueville’s words remind us that the greatness of America lies in the enduring principles of liberty, self-government, and the character of our people—and we recommit to a future that cherishes the blessings of freedom and restores America as one glorious Nation under God.

Access the Presidential Message: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/2026/07/presidential-message-on-the-birthday-of-alexis-de-tocqueville/>

Kate Smith’s Heart-Stirring ‘God Bless America’ - This Is the Army (1943) HD (Video)

Welcome to a nostalgic journey back to 1943! This video showcases the American cultural icon, Kate Smith, passionately singing the patriotic anthem, “God Bless America,” from the classic wartime musical, “This is the Army.” We’ve proudly remastered this golden piece of American history in High Definition (HD) for your viewing pleasure.

From the stage of history to your screens, this poignant performance will remind you of the resilience, courage, and unity that define the spirit of America. Immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the time when millions of Americans found hope and inspiration in the soul-stirring vocals of Kate Smith. As her voice swells with patriotic fervor, let it invoke a sense of gratitude for the freedoms we cherish and the heroes who protect them.

“God Bless America” is more than just a song—it’s a national prayer. This stirring anthem was introduced by Kate Smith during her 1938 Armistice Day radio broadcast. Written by Irving Berlin in 1918 while serving in the U.S. Army and revised by him in 1938, it has since echoed throughout countless stadiums, parades, and hearts, resonating with our enduring love for our country.

The film “This Is the Army,” is a beloved musical produced during the trying times of World War II. This motion picture offered the American people a sense of hope, camaraderie, and the firm belief that united, we can overcome anything.

Our HD remastered video captures the enduring beauty and power of Kate Smith’s performance. We’ve meticulously enhanced the original recording’s visual and audio quality, preserving its vintage charm while ensuring a more engaging viewing experience for modern audiences.

As you watch and listen, we hope Kate Smith’s rendition of “God Bless America” reminds you of our nation’s rich heritage and stirs within you a profound appreciation for the courage, sacrifice, and indomitable spirit of the American people...

Enjoy this classic music video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvUxPloZf4g&list=RDSvUxPloZf4g&start_radio=1

God Bless America

While the storm clouds gather,
Far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance,
To a land that's free,
Let us all be grateful,
For a land so fair,
As we raise our voices,
In a solemn prayer.

God, bless America,
Land that I love.
Stand beside her,
And guide her
Through the night with the light from above.
From the mountains
To the prairies
To the oceans white with foam,
God, bless America,
My home, sweet home.
God bless America
Land that I love
Stand beside her
And guide her
Through the night with the light from above
From the mountains
To the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America
My home sweet home
God bless America....
My home sweet home!



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Mercer We the People

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