

PATRIOT

PRESS

MARCHING TO THE DRUMBEAT OF FREEDOM

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LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

"You shall receive the gift..." Acts 2:38

The tree is up, carols are playing, fires are burning, lights are twinkling, snow is falling (somewhere) and Starbucks is serving peppermint mocha twists. These fabulous facts lead me to one happy conclusion...it truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

I love Christmastime. My extended family is big and loud – I'm convinced we have Italian in us somewhere – and when we get together, we celebrate the season with a kaleidoscope of colorful traditions. One of my favorites is when my grandpa hides my grandma's gift for her to "find" under the tree. This Christmas will be 54 years of packages "to Sherry from Santa." Another tradition we love is Christmas brunch, complete with cinnamon scones, strudel and coffee – LOTS of coffee. But the best tradition we keep happens right before we open presents in the morning: retelling the Christmas story.

The method of storytelling changes each year, from news stories to skits to monologues, but the purpose is always the same: to remember why we are celebrating. For my family, at the heart of all the parties and shiny bows is a desire to celebrate the greatest gift of all. Jesus. He's what inspires the gifts and makes this my favorite season...the most wonderful time of the year.

This Christmas, I am grateful for the gifts of God. I am grateful for my family, my friends, my country, for Patriot Academy and for each of you. God has done awesome things and there is much more to come. So, in celebration of it all, I am delighted to have the honor of presenting three gifts from the Patriot Academy team to you. Virtual giftwrap and shipping included free of charge.

No. 1: Wrapped in silvery paper is...Free Registration

From now until January 15 we are waiving the \$50 deposit normally required to apply for PA. That means you can register for zero dollars. So, if you know you want to come back to the Academy in 2009, go ahead and save your spot for free by mailing in your application soon.

No. 2: Tied with a big red bow is...Mr. Green's New Book, "Freedom's Frame"

Mr. Rick Green just wrote a book! It's called "Freedom's Frame" and focuses on the principles of freedom that are foundational to America's founding and future. Be among the first ten applicants for PA 2009 and you will receive a free autographed copy of "Freedom's Frame."

No. 3: That Really BIG Box you wait to open last is...The New Website

You know when you have a gift you are so excited to give you don't even notice the other ones? This one is it for me. www.patriotacademy.com. Can't wait to hear what you think.

Thanks for making our Christmas bright. If you want to give a gift back to the staff (and possibly even be featured on the website) make sure to fill out the survey Rick sent a couple weeks ago. Email us if you need a new one. Merry Christmas and God Bless.

Merrily, Kassie

THE TORCH OF FREEDOM FOUNDATION
PO BOX 586, DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX 78620

TAKING IT AS IT COMES

Usually I like to get the Press together several days before it is due to come out so it can be edited then get out on time. Due to my little brother's wedding, my birthday, and various other asundries time managed to get away from me. So today you get to read some of my words of wisdom. **#1: Life happens, deadlines get bent. You have to do the best you can with what you have.**

For my birthday, I received a gift from one of my closest friends. He sent me a six inch red silicone doll with X's over his eyes named Dead Fred. Dead Fred has a convenient cut out right where his heart is for a pen to stick into. When you stick a pen in the hole, it looks like you are stabbing him through the heart. It's one of the best gifts I've received in a while. **#2: Know your audience. And your friends.**

I process things and emotions by writing it down. And one of my goals is to write a novel. I am three quarters of the way through my first draft. It's a bit dark and twisted because it is how I am working through some personal issues. My mother has already told me she won't read it when I am done. **#3: Sometimes you have to get it out, even if the person you count on the most chooses not to grant their approval.**

I have a four year old niece, an eighteen month old nephew, and a new nephew due in May. **#4: Being an aunt is one of the best things in the world.**

I am a book person. Anyone who reads the Press can pick up on that. There is a very funny book called *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* written by a brilliant author by the name of Douglas Adams. There are many important lessons in the book. Always keep hold of your towel. A depressed robot is not a fun robot. Sometimes you can't know both the question and the answer. But my personal favorite is my last bit of wisdom I'll share today. **#5: The answer to life, the universe, and everything is forty two.**

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD

I am not usually the one who makes the recommendation for this column simply because I am not a member of the Board. However, since the author *is*, I figured I would let it slide this once. So we were all given the opportunity to dust off the copy of Mark Cole's book, *Lives, Fortunes and Sacred Honor*, that we were given at the last session of Patriot Academy.

His book is a wonderfully written exploration of the lives of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. What I enjoyed about it was the stories that aren't readily available. Stories about duels that were settled in the carriage ride over. Stories about a man turning a 180 in his position in order to insure a unanimous vote. Dates and offices held are important, but the stories of their lives make it so much more real to me. I appreciate Mr. Cole bringing the world of our country's beginning to life.

Mark Cole was kind enough to provide us with a recommendation for this issue. He is assigning us *The Abolition of Man* by the talented CS Lewis. In the words of Mr. Cole, this book is 'short, but even so, for some it might be a bit difficult. For others, it will be just right. It is worth the effort.' Even though some say CS Lewis can be hard to read, give it a try. Enjoy!

Please feel free to send your comments, thoughts, suggestions, or opinions to tof.patriotpress@gmail.com.

PUNCTILIOUS

Punctilious is defined as being strictly attentive to detail; meticulous or fastidious, particularly to codes or conventions; or precise or scrupulous. The first time I saw the word was in a book I read in fifth or sixth grade. I had no idea what it meant until several years later. Then I really liked it and chose to have it be one of my personal words to live by.

Paying meticulous attention to details in various aspects of life pays off. You can impress a new boss by being able to remember that the gestation period of a nine banded armadillo is approximately 120 days. (Don't ask how I know.) Being able to remember the minutia of a meeting helps out everyone. Knowing and remembering (even if you have to write it down on your calendar) important dates like birthdays, anniversaries, or upcoming events in a friends, co-workers, or family's life makes them feel appreciative of your care. Paying attention to your studies will always pay off in the long run.

Dee Henderson wrote that the good stuff is in the details. It is my belief that the details make the world go round. Being aware of them, conscientious of them, and using them to your advantage will affect the way you are perceived and reacted to. It will affect the way you perform at your job, in your volunteer activities, and in your home life. The ability to be punctilious can make or break you, professionally or personally.

FOUNDING FATHERS

Thomas Heyward, Jr. was born on July 28, 1746 in St. Luke's parish in South Carolina. His prosperous parents provided him with an excellent education. He went to England to study law. After he finished his education, he had the opportunity to take a few years to tour the continent. He was upset by the way the American colonists were viewed and regarded.

When he returned home to South Carolina in 1771, he returned a patriot who was ready to fight for independence. When he was elected to the Continental Congress in 1775 to fill a vacated position, his reaction was to decline the office. Others convinced him to accept and he became a member of the South Carolina delegation. In 1776, he signed the Declaration of Independence and in 1777 the Articles of Confederation.

He returned home in 1778 to take up a position of judge along with a military commission. Heyward was taken prisoner in the Charleston invasion during 1780. He, along with other patriots, was taken to Florida to spend a year imprisoned. One of his pastimes while there was to take traditional British national songs and rewrite the lyrics to make them political American songs. This brought him high regard with his fellow prisoners. While he was being held, his plantation was ransacked and his wife died from an unexpected illness.

On the ship home, Heyward had an unexpected chance of luck. He actually fell overboard and managed to hold onto the rudder until someone was able to save him. Once home, he returned to his judicial duties, remarried, and repaired his plantation. He retired from public office in 1789. He died at his plantation on March 6, 1809.

KATHI'S QUOTES

...Never forget that every choice you make is on you. Ignorance of the outcome doesn't exempt you from the consequences.

Laura Weiss
Leftovers

CONGRATULATIONS

On December 1, Mama Seay became a proud "Migi" to two new grand conservatives.

Chase Asher Casas

Born to
Ricardo and Laurel Casas.
7 pounds, 1 ounce
20.25 inches long

Benjamin Titan Landry

Born to
Ben and Aleha Landry.
6 pounds, 14 ounces
20.5 inches long

Congratulations to the new parents!!!

REMINDER

Applications are available on the Patriot Academy Blog. If you are interested in participating in the Senate, the deadline is January 15, 2009. Deadlines for all other applicants and tuition will be finalized in the near future. Contact Mama Seay at Kathi.Seay@gmail.com with any questions. Remember, the sooner you get your application in, the better. We want as many alumni in attendance for the 2009 session as possible in order to make the most of this experience.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

COMING UP

The Texas Legislature will convene in January. That means many things for many people. One thing to look forward to is Mama Seay's devotional, *A Session of Prayer*. If you are interested in receiving this Session's words of wisdom, you can contact me at tof.patriotpress@gmail.com or Kathi at Kathi.Seay@gmail.com.