

# PATRIOT

# PRESS

## MARCHING TO THE DRUMBEAT OF FREEDOM

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### WHAT YOU SAY MATTERS

I was speaking with a woman who is dear to my heart recently and she informed me that her father-in-law, who at that time had been in the hospital for five weeks, was being moved into the Cardiac Care Unit. Bob was doing alright, but the day before he had suffered a little bit of a heart attack. My first response (please go back and read the sentence that said he was alright) was to laugh. Saying someone had a little bit of a heart attack is like saying someone is in a bit of a coma or has a touch of Ebola. She conceded the point with a laugh as well but then admitted she wasn't sure how to tell her daughters. One could be informed that Bob had a minor myocardial infarction and was now in the CCU and, due to her background she would know exactly what that meant and the ramifications. Her other daughter could have a panic attack over a hangnail. The topic had to be danced around.

All of this is just a preamble into the fact that what we say and how we say it matters. Definitions are important. The audience also dictates how you should express yourself. Let's look through some of the terminology surrounding the major issue of abortion.

Do you know the difference between an abortion and a medical termination of a pregnancy? Most people use the two terms interchangeably. However, the majority of women who have had a miscarriage have the diagnosis of 'spontaneous abortion' or 'incomplete abortion' in their medical records. The difference and the point were driven home over a family dinner when the topic came up. My sister, who had recently suffered her second miscarriage, was very upset by the use of the word 'abortion.' It wasn't something she had caused or chosen. Since that day I have been very careful to distinguish between abortion and medical termination of a pregnancy. The choice of words matters to your audience.

The two main parties in the abortion argument are Pro Life and Pro Choice. If you are Pro-Life does that mean you are *for life* or *anti-abortion*? What I mean is, are the people who are for life concerned only with the time from conception through gestation and delivery? Or are they concerned with all life? Are they just as concerned with end of life care, DNRs, and passive suicide as they are with a fetus?

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Why are Pro Choice advocates always arguing? Are they pro choice or pro abortion? If pro choice truly means a woman has the right to make the choices regarding her body and health, how can they come out against a woman who makes the choice to be Pro Life? Why does that woman not get the same support as a woman who makes the choice to have a fetus sucked from her uterus and disposed of as medical waste?

I apologize if I am a bit blunt. I learned tact from my mother. She has the advantage of years that have polished and smoothed hers out. Sometimes I still need to be reminded to key it back a notch.

And that brings me around to the original point. The words you say, how you say it, how you title it, how you define it, and the emotion you use when putting out your information matters. People take in more than just the words. They take what they gain from you then put it through their own personal filter to sift out their meaning. That is how you can talk to a roomful of people and they all remember what you said differently.

Guard what you say. Be sure you can articulate yourself and reach your audience. As someone who writes and someone who reads, I think words are precious. They have meanings. They should be used well and responsibly. Because what you say matters.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD

In the February 1<sup>st</sup> issue, Mark Cole recommended Saint Anselm of Canterbury's *Cur Deus Homo*. This Archbishop who lived in the second century put forth questions that have plagued the masses since the foundation of Christianity and which will continue that plague man until Christ's return.

He questions the nature of sin. He put forth that if man and angels would always render God His due, they would never sin. That does not say there would not be sin, but in the act of giving to God what is Gods, which he states all rational creatures are subject to, there would be no act of sinning.

The conversational style of *Cur Deus Homo* makes it more accessible than other works of that time. Following the conversations on topics like why God sent Christ as a human or whether there should be repayment of sin or God's compassion forgives the debt is enlightening. Anselm's answers to complex questions of faith were riveting at times.

Torch of Freedom Board Member Kathi Seay has the recommendation for the upcoming issue. Reviews of Andrew Trees' book *The Founding Fathers and the Politics of Character* call it 'a wonderful blend of history and literary studies.' Enjoy!

Please feel free to send your comments, thoughts, suggestions, or opinions to [tof.patriotpress@gmail.com](mailto:tof.patriotpress@gmail.com).

### GENEROSITY

Willing to give and share unstintingly.

*Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle,  
and the life of the candle will not be shortened.  
Happiness never decreases by being shared.*

Buddha

Usually with the character column, I like to go into definitions of words and tell everyone why they should take that trait and implement it in their lives, the difference it will make. Today I just want you to give you a few examples in my life.

Stormi Boyd opens her home each year to young people who need a place to stay for internships or opportunities in the Austin area.

Jerry Seay drives to Dayton, Texas almost weekly in order to help take care of his ill parents in any way they need.

David Boyd serves his community as a DUI enforcement officer with the Austin Police Department. He works to keep people safe.

Kathi Seay nurtures the next generation of leaders, gives unfailing support to her children, and takes care of special needs children.

These are the examples in my life. How can I not want to emulate them?

*Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.*

John Wesley

### FOUNDING FATHERS

October 31, 1740 brought William Paca to life in Abingdon in Harford County, Maryland. His father was a wealthy planter who tutored him rigorously until William and his older brother went to school in Philadelphia. The younger brother continued college in Philadelphia where he gained a degree in the arts. Upon his return to Maryland, he studied law alongside Samuel Chase in Annapolis. In 1764 he was admitted into the bar. During the time of his studies, he courted and married Mary Chew who was also a daughter of a wealthy planter.

Paca and Chase were known for their opposition to the Stamp Act in 1765 and for the establishment of the Anne Arundel County chapter of the Sons of Liberty. William Paca served in government for many years. In 1771 Paca was elected to the Maryland Legislature and to the Continental Congress in 1774 where he served with his colleague Samuel Chase. After leaving the Continental Congress in 1779 he served as the Chief Justice of Maryland. He was elected as Governor in 1782 and in 1789 he was appointed federal district judge to the state of Maryland by President George Washington. He served as judge until he died in 1799. He had the privilege of serving in all three branches of government.

On October 13, William Paca died at his family estate, Wye Hall. He was laid to rest in the family cemetery in Queen Anne's County. Paca spent his life establishing, serving, and protecting the young country he loved.

## KATHI'S QUOTES

*If we don't change the  
direction we are heading,  
we will end up where we are going*

Chinese Proverb

## BIRTHDAY WISHES

Congratulations are in order. Mama Seay celebrated her birthday yesterday, February 14. Drop her a line to say Happy Birthday if you have a minute. She loves to hear from her Patriots.

## PA 2009

Each day brings us a little closer to Patriot Academy 2009. This August we will gather in Austin, Texas to learn and experience the political and legislative process. It's never too soon to get your application in. Ensure your spot in Austin this summer with Rick, Kathi, Mark, and all the others.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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