

Warning rant follows:

Partisan
Unity of Purpose
Representatives of the People
Best Interest of the Nation
Falling on Your Sword

These phrases have many different meanings to us. They sometimes mean different things within us. There is a time and a place for partisanship, I believe there also in a time and a place where partisans **MUST** conform to the idea of “best interest of the nation” rather than “representative of the people that elected me [only]” It is during these times that falling on your sword is required – you make a “moral” decision that isn’t necessarily going to be well received or understood by the people that you represent, or your superiors, subordinates, anyone looking from the outside.

Can we each recall times in our lives where we were at a place or under circumstances that “shaped our character?”

I remember being accused of being “a bootlegger” and deciding that I was not going to accept that label – it required that I withdraw from school at 16 – and the fact that I was not performing those functions – a matter of definition – mine obviously differed from my accuser – was relevant to each of us – we both made decisions based on what we “could live with?”

Another time I decided to help someone who I had gone to school with who had a flat tire. I took him to a segregated town to get his tire repaired – stupid, unthinking me – thought it was no big deal. Now, 50 some years later, I regret the thoughtlessness – not the result. He had no idea that I was putting him in the situation – and I should have simply taken the tire in alone myself. But the confrontation where I said “It’s my tire, will you fix it?” was my next “moment of truth.”

Most of us have faced these moments, mostly without the whole world knowing; and we have dealt with them, usually coming out the other side better off morally. Sometimes not so much – weaker, broken (temporarily). Hurting others by our actions. As they say about throwing that first stone . . .

Now we are asking our elected representatives, some of whom represent areas where the Democratic persuasion is predominant; others representing where a Republican persuasion is predominant; to make fundamental decisions where some say “one side or the other loses.”

I’m of the opinion that “the art of compromise” seems to be a dead or dying concept in our political landscape – the extremes of our party positions seem to have taken control rather than being the marginal separators I thought they were when I was younger (say 40 years ago).

The only way this bitterness; these polar positions; the assertions of nefarious intent; will ever be resolved is when “we the people” say “ENOUGH”, sort of like Lindsey Graham said tonight – make the Congress pay – in the literal sense – take their salary away until this is resolved.

Not that long ago, there was a “throw the bums out” idea floating – if the ballot said INCUMBENT, vote for the other person. I’m not sure I agree with that – in every case – but I do think the idea that we have CAREER Representatives and Senators is not at all what the founders intended. Congress was supposed to be burdensome for those elected, not prestigious. How can we return to that concept?