

January 9, 2014

Faulkner County Tea Party

Phillip D. Fletcher

Ladies and Gentleman, I want to thank each of you that have assembled here tonight for our first monthly meeting of the Faulkner County Tea Party. I am your chairman for the year and by virtue of your presence here you demonstrate as a collective body your desire to affirm limited government and fiscal responsibility under the governance of our United States Constitution.

This year has the potential to be a watershed year for the resurgence of Constitutional principles which were infused into our country over two centuries ago when men pledged to one another their lives, their fortunes, and sacred honor. These men understood that their lives were being governed by the divine and purposed hand of God to accomplish the establishment of a new type of country. It was to be a new country where men and women could forge for themselves and their families a new way of life; free of tyranny, free of burdensome taxation, and possess the freedom to limit the power of fallible men willing to trample on the natural, God given rights of all men and women. At the moment they penned the Declaration of Independence, poured tea into a Boston Harbor and stood with courage in the face of a powerful empire; these men and women, white, black, Indian, rich and poor committed their lives to be a vocal trumpet around the world that liberty and justice matter.

This year has the potential to be a watershed year for men and women who have principle and understand that their lives are in the service of others. All of you that are gathered here tonight, you have the solemn responsibility and duty to hold men and women accountable who want your vote to remain in office or want your vote to serve in office. Your life, your family, what you earn and how you live are equally important as the men and women who represent you at the city, county, state, and federal level. Therefore, be not afraid. Do not be afraid to call your elected official and ask questions. Do not be afraid to protest the decisions of men and women who votes in contradiction to the principles of liberty and freedom which are protected by our Constitution.

Since this is an opportune year in which we can promote the beauty and gracious gift of liberty and freedom, if we are to win more people to our cause as we freely speak and freely assemble, we must be cognizant of the fact that those on the other side are not our enemy. There are those who take a different perspective on matters of the role of government, taxes, immigration, deficits, and foreign policy. While we differ on these issues, we must remember that the man or woman sitting across the table from us or interacting on social media with us is

a man or woman made in the image of God. We must speak to one another in such a manner that our journey for freedom and liberty is not lost in the darkness of coarse language, name calling, or juvenile attacks. The time is far past Faulkner County Tea Party for people to stereotype this larger movement as racist, xenophobes, who want to take America backwards. Let me say to everyone here tonight, this Tea Party welcomes all types of citizens. Regardless of your ethnicity, your economic standing, your gender, or anything else that is used to divide us as Americans, I say to you tonight that you are welcome to this table. This is a table of men and women made in the image of God who are Americans. It is a table that affirms the right of every American to know justice, tranquility and experience the blessings of liberty.

Ladies and gentleman, your life and your voice matter in this city, this county, state and nation. Your life and voice are necessary in the promotion of the fact, not the opinion, that we are the people that are to be the influencers of this great country. So we need you to speak. We need your voices to resound like the oncoming march of mighty soldiers who are on the path towards something special because as the hymn writer said, "His truth is marching on!" It is a truth that the divine providence of God has put you in this county and this specific time period to advance the principles of freedom and liberty. You are here to accomplish a purpose.

Ladies and gentleman, your life and voice this year in 2014 with the FCTP can have a tremendous affect because I have read the documents.

I have read somewhere that "we the people of the United States...have ordained and established this Constitution for the United States of America."

I have read somewhere that the people have the right to freedom of speech, to peaceably assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

I have read somewhere that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I have read somewhere that if we want to continue to be a free nation in which people work hard, where people learn personal responsibility, and our elected officials serve in the best interest of their constituents, then, we must pledge our lives, our fortunes, and sacred honor for Faulkner County, the State of Arkansas and these United States of America.

May God bless you and God bless our country.