

Independence

'The' day falls on a Sunday this year, the day our country declared its independence from Great Britain.

So I've thought for a few days what does this really mean? I don't want to go into a history lesson as more and more 'history' is discovered about many of the people and events of the times and ensuing centuries and actions taken.

However, I am a son of a defender of Bataan and the Bataan Death March who was also a POW of the Japanese for three and a half years ending his stay as he calls it 'a guest of the Japanese' at a prison camp somewhere between twenty to twenty-five miles from Hiroshima when we dropped 'the bomb'. Yup, they got seriously dusted thanks to a strong wind with 'fall out'.

So instead I decided to wish, probably more accurately described as prayer, for more and real independence.

I would love to see independence from racism, race and gender inequality whether it be economical or the respect everyone deserves, from the constant violence in a country that is supposed to be the shining light on the hill, an elimination of all guns except those used for hunting (animals not people), domestic violence, abuse of women and men of any race or kind, from the intolerance we have for another's religion or belief and from violence of any kind.

I want to see a true freedom everywhere, the kind that only God gives. I want freedom from the slavery still imposed under another name by many many large corporations. I want freedom from the desires of wants, instead of what I truly need.

I want us to honor our Declaration of Independence, Our Constitution, and our Bill of Rights particularly things like the right to vote and the separation of Church and State. These brilliant documents have stood the test of time but one would be blind and deaf not to see the dangerous course we are taking in damaging not preserving our way of governing.

And it is a 'we thing', this current course. It is absolutely inappropriate to point fingers at the other girl or guy. There is only One Judge.

It is entirely appropriate to find common ground amongst us all, a nation of mostly immigrants due in part to the way we treated the First People, our indigenous human family, almost wiping them out.

To transform is to repent. From this day forward we celebrate our independence with all the good that we really are. The old saying, 'God does not make junk' applies to each and every one of us created in His Image and Likeness. So we must treat each other as such, every single one of us.

We are a good people. We can be a great people, if we seek true Independence and Freedom for all.

Clement