



Bluegrass Beacon

BY JIM WATERS

Dreaming of a genie who fights for freedom

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While speaking at a recent Bluegrass Institute reception in Lexington, U.S. House Minority Leader Rep. John Boehner expressed sadness about – and a determination to fight – congressional efforts to trash the Constitution.

Getting rid of a government agency after it's up and running is hopeless. Likewise, once unconstitutional laws such as the recent health care mandates get forced upon people, it's "impossible to put the genie back into the bottle," said Boehner, R-Ohio.

It's not that Boehner isn't doing his part to try and stuff the genie back into the bottle. He's just being brutally honest.

How can the [Constitution](#) be re-assembled once it's been shredded to bits by an administration that thinks we need a "new" Declaration of Independence? My 5-year-old will tell you: "Humpty Dumpty can't be put back together again," despite valiant efforts of "all the king's horses and all the king's men."

Am I giving up? No. I told the TEA partiers in Owensboro, Henderson, Madisonville and Paducah during the past few weeks that "I only have one flag, and it's not a white one."

Rather, consider this warning: America is at a crossroads.

Could that great Kentuckian and President Abraham Lincoln have been peering into the future when he [spoke words](#) about the civil war that claimed more American lives than any foreign conflict in which we have become entangled?

Now we are engaged in a great ideological civil war, "testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure?"

On one side: those who would not hesitate to take bread from the mouths of those who earn it to give it to those who don't – known as "wealth redistribution." Many on this side really believe they are compassionately doing "God's work."

Remember, regimes built on such philosophies have fallen into the ash heap of history.

Add to the mix constitutionally illiterate leaders who claim the tyrannical health care legislation is policy that would make our founders proud, and you have a dangerous precedent.

On the other side are those fueled by freedom's fire, committed to being good citizens, engaged parents, responsible stewards of limited fiscal resources and helping those in need out of personal choice, not government coercion.

Their approach has led to the most prosperous nation in history with the icing-on-the-cake residual effects of breaking chains of totalitarian enslavement worldwide. If anyone does "God's work," it's them.

You want to help those in need? A Chinese proverb offers a much better answer than any government program in Washington or Frankfort and the enslaving, entitlement mentality permeating the citizenry: “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

Maybe the genie can’t be stuffed back into the bottle, but it usually gives you three wishes.

Here are mine:

- Voters will sound the trumpet this May and November. The message will be loud and clear: Replace earmarks with balanced budgets, “educrats” with great schools and passionate teachers and out-of-touch politicians with representatives who don’t see taxpayers as their gravy train for a lifetime.
- Constitutionality of bills would become the norm rather than the exception. Our founding document has been maligned, ignored or just plain forgotten. Yet, citizens naively wonder why we now have a federal government out of control and sovereign states so addicted to money they receive from Washington that they lack all strength to resist.
- We as a country and commonwealth would “have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

As Lincoln said, we still have “unfinished work” to do.

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