



PASTORIALIS  
PUBLIUS  
CONTRA  
REPUBLICANA

EPISTLES FROM A  
FLORIDA WILDERNESS

**Pastorialis  
Publius  
contra  
Republicana**

**Epistles  
from a  
Florida  
Wilderness**

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**Williston Highlands, FL**

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10/21/16 – *Citrus Chronicle* <sup>1</sup>

I have to admit, after the Florida Supreme Court found state Republicans guilty of violating my right to vote in a constitutional district last year, I've held their party in particularly low esteem. However, observing the social carnage left in the wake of their presidential nominee's attacks, it's become clear that in addition to their opposition to democracy, Republicans have also adopted a strong stance against many other core American ideals.

The crude rapacity of their

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<sup>1</sup>originally published under the title, "Republican Party is full of hate"

chosen candidate has turned every claim to be the party of family values and personal accountability into a pathetic joke. Their economic platform negates every assertion that Republicans are the party of fiscal responsibility (of course, evidence supporting that claim has been largely absent for years). Chants of “lock her up” demonstrate such profound disdain for constitutional justice and its fundamental principle of “innocent until proven guilty” that it proves their “law and order” sloganeering is yet another cynical lie.

Years of partisan attacks

against the very institutions of our democracy have already coarsened civic discourse, but nothing could have prepared this country for the complete rejection of basic human decency we've seen coming out of the Republican Party this election cycle. Not that long ago they put a now-confessed child molester<sup>2</sup> as third in line for the presidency. Now they've presented voters with their new exemplar. It would take a heart full of hate to believe this is a good idea.

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<sup>2</sup> Chronicle editors inserted name and title of felony-convicted Dennis Hastert, former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

We should all recognize the tree by its deplorable fruit.

08/18/16 – *Williston Pioneer*<sup>3</sup>

I'd like to thank the Williston Pioneer for providing such a wealth of information about local candidates to help voters make their decisions in the upcoming election. This service is particularly valuable in the aftermath of last year's Florida Supreme Court ruling, which found legislative Republicans guilty of violating the state constitution when they illegally manipulated this district to rig

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<sup>3</sup> originally published under the title, "Local candidate coverage is ample"

elections in their favor. Despite the verdict, damage done to this region's electoral process remains evident. For many local offices, choice is limited exclusively to members of the self-same political party that was found guilty of denying residents their right to vote in a legal district.

Those who value democracy always have difficult decisions to make. The Pioneer, by providing ample information, is helping independent-minded voters determine for themselves if candidates who ally themselves with such an organization are deserving of our vote, or



not.

08/01/16 – *Citrus Chronicle*<sup>4</sup>

It's my sincere hope that gun rights advocates will stop repeating their argument that the essential purpose of owning a weapon is to kill government officials with it. In the aftermath of recent events, some of the tragic consequences of this profoundly anti-American message are on full display. Advocating murderous vigilantism is not only seditious propaganda, but it's also a perversion of patriotic values that no decent cit-

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<sup>4</sup> originally published under the title "Vigilantism is the wrong ethos"

izen would ever express.

As we each stand before the irrational fear that seems to overwhelm this nation's better judgment, we can either promote chaos through cowardice or we can advance justice through courage.

07/28/16 – *Williston Pioneer*<sup>5</sup>

I was pleased to see Margaret McDowell's recent essay about renewed growth in the American middle class. However, her article neglected to blame Obama. With record high equity markets, seventy-five

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<sup>5</sup> originally published under the title "Do we want a repeat?"

consecutive months of job growth and declining federal deficits, it's all somehow got to be Obama's fault.

Twenty million more Americans with health care for only three quarters of the projected costs? Must be Obama. Shrinking federal workforce? Obama.

Three quarters of a million lost jobs every month, shuttered storefronts, spiraling debt, and collapsing markets? Oops, that was the Republicans' economy.

Against an unprecedented tide of cruel invective and unpatriotic obstructionism, our

president's pragmatic leadership continues to guide this nation out of its historic economic crisis, which was the direct and foreseeable consequence of his predecessor's "conservative" policies. Now we hear impassioned cries by radical voices demanding that we turn our economy around. America is a resilient nation. But really... Do we want to go through all that again?

07/25/16 – *Gainesville Sun*<sup>6</sup>

To disappointed Bernie Sanders supporters: Thirty-six

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<sup>6</sup> originally published under the title "Historic opportunity."

years ago, I gave my vote to a third-party nominee for president. I did it on principle. Consequently, the winning administration executed policies that undermined workers' bargaining rights, initiated extra-constitutional military conflicts, discouraged progress in civil rights, comforted negligent polluters, implemented regressive taxes and introduced Americans to their first trillion dollars of debt.

This president's antagonism toward venerable institutions of democracy was soon echoed by white supremacists, religious bigots, opportunistic

swindlers and others who profit when federal systems of justice are enfeebled. It marked the beginning of a political movement that we can now recognize by its profoundly bitter fruit.

As I reflect upon the consequences of that election, I've come to recognize the long-term damage that can be caused by just one candidate. I'm now offered a historic opportunity to help set things right, empowered by the realization that sometimes patriotism demands compromise.

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01/28/16 – *Letter to the Office of  
FL State Senator Charlie Dean*

Mr. Dean,

I'm disappointed by the lack of response from your office to my prior request for information regarding the redistricting process, specifically, the Senate's confession that it violated Florida law. Breaches of public trust, such as this one, demand increased vigilance from voters. In that spirit, I've had to rely on my own efforts to discover the Senate's statement in Exhibit "A" of Florida Supreme Court Case No. 2012-CA-002842 Filing #30181595 07/28/2015:

*Florida Senate stipulates and agrees that the apportion-*

*ment plan adopted by the Florida Legislature on March 27, 2012, to establish Florida's Senate districts (the "Enacted Senate Plan") violates the provision of Article III, Section 21(a) of the Florida Constitution providing that "[i]n establishing legislative district boundaries . . . [n]o apportionment plan or district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent," because the Enacted Senate Plan and certain individual districts were drawn to favor a political party and incumbents.*

I encourage you to read the entire case history so you can better understand the con-



sequences of your ill-considered 2012 vote, and in the future, I would ask that you please refrain from trying to deprive me of the right to vote in a constitutional district, again.

01/08/16 – *Letter to the Office of  
FL State Senator Charlie Dean*

Mr. Dean,

Florida Supreme Court records document extremely troubling constitutional issues surrounding your 2012 "yea" vote on SJR2 and, despite reports of the Florida Senate's admission of wrongdoing in the redistricting case, there are no statements to that effect on the

Senate's website, or public comments from your office regarding the issue. The "unconstitutional intent" which tainted the reallocation process is now a matter of public record and, in retrospect, the bill you voted for unnecessarily squandered millions in tax dollars and effectively disenfranchised District 5 voters over multiple elections. I would like to request that your office forward me the Senate's official confession via e-mail. Also, a public statement explaining why the Florida legislature allowed this conspiracy to flourish in its midst and what steps will be taken to pre-

vent such constitutional violations in the future might help restore some of the trust that was damaged by your vote. Thank you.

01/06/16 – *Gainesville Sun*<sup>7</sup>

Nearly 50,000 victims of Corinthian Colleges Inc. were recently offered federal student debt relief after the predatory institution's long history of fraud was finally revealed and its campuses were shuttered.

During the investigation, Sen. Marco Rubio (who received \$27,000 from Corinthian) inter-

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<sup>7</sup> originally published under the title "Predatory institution"

vened on behalf of these swindlers and, just last month, this opponent of public education was still pitching his failed for-profit educational model, which has now squandered hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars and damaged the lives of hundreds of thousands of students.

Soon it will be time to pull out that old want ad again: "*Southeastern state seeks honest public servant. Education required. Cheap fraudsters' paid shills need not apply.*" We can only hope there might still be one or two qualified applicants out there.

12/31/15 – *Williston Pioneer*<sup>8</sup>

I'd like to thank the League of Women Voters for helping to restore legal elections in Florida. Last July, the state Supreme Court ruled that the Republican-led legislature had violated the law of the land when it reapportioned congressional districts with “unconstitutional intent to favor the Republican Party and incumbent lawmakers.”

The League's suit success-

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<sup>8</sup> originally published under the title, “Don't squander your vote in 2016,” online edition retitled, “Thanks to the League”

fully demonstrated that, starting in 2012, party leaders entered into a criminal conspiracy to deprive many Floridians, including residents of this region, of the right to vote in a constitutional district. The Senate's confession of wrongdoing ended trial proceedings, but those of us who were disenfranchised by these enemies of democracy should still seek justice

Just last week (after the legislature proved unwilling and incapable of doing so), the Supreme Court finally adopted a districting map that accords with Florida's Constitution. This means that, in 2016, Levy

County voters will finally have the ability to exercise their long-denied right to deliver meaningful electoral justice. I ask my neighbors to please read the chilling account documented in the court proceedings before they squander their vote on any group that would treat them with such disdain

09/03/15 – *Chiefland Citizen*<sup>9</sup>

Three of my ancestors were publicly murdered by Christian zealots. Survivors sacrificed blood and treasure

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<sup>9</sup> originally published under the title “Why religion, government are kept apart”

fighting a king's God-given right to deny them self-governance. Great-grandchildren shed more blood defending a young democracy against insurgent attacks by champions of divinely ordained ownership of human beings. This is just one family's heritage.

Bronson is not Salem. Neither is it Lexington, nor Vicksburg. It's a town that, unfortunately, seems to have forgotten Christianity's long and painful history of religious violence, the very reason and purpose behind our constitution's Establishment Clause.

By insisting on the inser-



tion of their own private sectarian rituals and idols into this county's public business, our current elected officials are engaging in a divisive abuse of trust. Constitutional questions have repeatedly been raised regarding the legality of their ongoing efforts to use government to force personal beliefs on others, not to mention their complete exclusion of alternative expressions of conscience from the public forum. This refusal to abide by the self-same principles from which their own religious liberty derives indicates that a level playing field, one which guarantees unencum-

bered freedom of belief for all citizens equally, is not their objective.

Last week a large group of these office holders publicly announced their principled stand against the Constitution of the United States, along with a clear statement that they seek to deprive religious minorities of their political voice. This unseemly spectacle harkens us back to a familiar description of religious hypocrisy, “for they love to pray standing in the assembly and on the street corners to be seen by others.”

10/25/14 – *Chiefland Citizen*<sup>10</sup>

A recent study by the National Bureau for Economic Research revealed that, over the past sixty-four years, America's economy performed significantly better under Democratic administrations than under Republican ones. To anyone paying attention, the last recession (subsequent to years and years of Republican control over all three branches of the federal government) provides convincing evidence to support this conclusion.

Representative Yoho is an excellent case study in the type

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<sup>10</sup>unpublished

of policy choices that continue to hobble this nation's economic performance. Upon voting "No" on HR2775, he publicly stated that defaulting on America's debt would stabilize the world economy (an assertion that subjected the voters of District Three to nationwide ridicule and earned him a number of well-deserved booby-prizes). This belief was based not upon any particular economic evidence (since no historical or hypothetical models have ever supported such a claim), but upon a very narrowly-framed and seemingly unassailable individual perspective of what

“ought to be.” Had other, more responsible, legislators not prevailed that day, we can predict with some certainty that his vote would have seriously damaged the prospects of every American.

From squandering twenty-five billion dollars by voting “Yes” on “poison pill” amendments to JR59 (effectively closing the government), to his “Yes” vote on the nakedly political HR676 (an unprecedented attack against the presidency), Representative Yoho’s placement of partisan interests over national interests has already cost us all dearly, not only in

dollars, but also in trust.

Under our current Democratic president, America has enjoyed fifty-three straight months of job growth, the Dow has increased well over 250%, and our economy, though still delicate, recovered from the Great Recession faster than any other major industrial economy. Judging from Representative Yoho's actions though, it appears that he believes we "ought" to put an end to any prospect of prosperity by returning to policies that, only six short years ago, resulted in the loss of three-quarters of a million jobs per month.

08/17/14 – *Ocala Star Banner*<sup>11</sup>

I was surprised when the author of the letter, “Self-sufficiency,” supported his defense of conservatism with a quote from the same man who announced, “I am proud to say I’m liberal.” Given the overwhelmingly positive impact of liberal ideas historically, one has to wonder why the very people who profit most from them seem to deny their value.

Every single step in the growth of the liberal welfare state has been democracy’s di-

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<sup>11</sup> originally published under the title “Liberalism’s contributions”

rect response to particular (and often egregious) failures of private interests to act responsibly.

If conservatives wish to define freedom through tainted meat, poisoned water, burning rivers, polluted air, species extinctions, fraudulent businesses, predatory lenders, exploding vehicles, collapsing mines, child laborers, maimed workers and inaccessible medicine, they're certainly welcome to do so.

However, given the undeniable reality of this nation's history, we should each ask ourselves a few questions. Has regulation of irresponsible interests made individual citizens



more or less free? Have policies that nurture and protect families resulted in more or less freedom of economic self-determination? Is there truly a moral hazard (as some conservatives argue) when exploited laborers, impoverished elders, malnourished children and disenabled Americans accept help to survive and flourish? Lastly, to what degree can policies that promote social equality enhance or inhibit individual liberty?

Utopian perfection may be an impossible goal, but only by refusing to acknowledge innumerable successes, successes

that have improved the lives of every American, does it appear that these policies have completely failed.

A denial of the value of liberalism and where it has taken this nation requires that we ignore a multitude of positive achievements. And we know what we become when we ignore.

10/14/13 – *Letter to the Office of US Representative, Ted Yoho*  
Rep. Yoho,

I feel that I must respond to a claim you made in Sunday's *Gainesville Sun*. You argued there that shutting down the

federal government of the United States and defaulting on its financial obligations constitutes a rational political position. Whatever the merits of any policy, it's also essential to assess whether the means used to achieve a particular end are ethically reasonable.

You've chosen a strategy that has squandered billions of taxpayer dollars, risked the nation's future liquidity, and has already negatively affected the economic prospects of hundreds of thousands of American families. By any measure of foreseeable consequences, it's extremely difficult to character-

ize these actions as reasonable.

As a freshman congressman, particularly one who highlighted his lack of political experience in campaign advertisements, your recent public statements seem to indicate that there remains a great deal to learn about how the American system of government functions. When a political party wins enough legislative votes, then it can begin to dictate national policy (within Constitutional constraints). Otherwise, it must negotiate. This is democracy. Under current conditions, your choice of political tactics (advocating legislative change

by threatening to damage the nation's economy) would be described by any objective assessment as fundamentally irrational, particularly given the continuing absence of enough Republican legislative votes to accomplish your stated political goal.

I hope you can understand that your willingness to inflict unnecessary damage on this nation and your inability to acknowledge the extent of that damage bring not only your powers of reason into question, but also your capacity for human empathy. Please take a moment to reflect on the lives

of Americans your decisions impact.

Medical doctors embrace the Hippocratic credo, "First, do no harm." I encourage you to consider this phrase very carefully as you finish your term of office. Thank you.

01/26/12 – *Williston Pioneer*<sup>12</sup>

I was saddened by Pastor Stewart's opinion piece in last week's Pioneer. His unprovoked attack on evolution seemed based on a fundamental denial of the purpose of science, which is to simply observe and docu-

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<sup>12</sup> originally published under the title "Disagrees with faith columnist"

ment the ongoing revelation of existence. He suggests that a convicted felon should have greater authority on this subject than a Nobel Prize winning physicist, another cause for concern.

The next time he recommends that we close our eyes to the world, perhaps we might follow Matthew's advice: "Leave them alone. They are blind guides of the blind. If the blind guide the blind, both will fall into a pit."

10/07/10 – *Ocala Star-Banner*<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>originally published under the title, "Recent memories"

Many voters who claim to value fiscal responsibility now seem ready to squander November's opportunity by voting for a party whose leadership hasn't signed a balanced budget in over four decades, that recently left us \$5 trillion deeper in debt and that "governed" this nation into the worst economic collapse in memory.

At the risk of spilling more tea than intended, these individuals should look carefully at the Republican record before entering the voting booth.

01/30/08 – *Ocala Star Banner*<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> originally published under the title



I want to thank Entercom Communications, corporate owner of the local conservative talk-radio station, WSKY-FM. The U.S. Senate Office of Public Records reports that more than 83% of their political contributions have gone to support Democratic candidates. Barack Obama, John Kerry, Bill Nelson, and even Howard Dean have benefited personally from Entercom's generosity, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of dollars they've poured into the coffers of Democratic national and state election com-

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"Stealth campaign," read on-air by WSKY radio personalities 01/31/08.

mittees over the past few years

I also want to thank them for further discrediting a bankrupt ideology by offering up the conservative movement's most embarrassing apologists for public ridicule. By encouraging syndicated hate mongers, self-described drive-time morons, and a morning personality, who laughingly refers to himself as a journalist, to utter blatant falsehoods laced with cruel incivilities, they undermine the radical right's credibility more than any amount of "leftie" rhetoric ever could.

Entercom has also proven its civic responsibility by airing

advertisements for literacy programs. When WSKY listeners learn to read, they will discover the existence of reliable channels of information and eventually, they'll stop supporting the conservative policies that have left them less free, less secure, less economically stable, and more than nine trillion dollars in debt.

Keep up the good work Entercom. Progressive liberals throughout this community applaud your brilliant stealth strategy, and we just might be willing to forgive that payola scandal if you help us achieve a successful outcome this Novem-

ber.

*01/26/08 – Letter to the Office  
of Levy County School Superin-  
tendent Clifton V. Norris*

Dear Superintendent Norris,

I am writing to ask you to correct the error that you, and the other members of the School Board of Levy County, made on Tuesday, January 22, when you voted against the best interests of the children of Levy County. Science is an important tool through which students can learn to understand the world in which they live, and by denying evolution as the conclusion of scientific evidence,

you undermine the value of the scientific method itself.

To document the complete acceptance of evolution as “evidence-based fact” within the global scientific community, I have enclosed a statement signed by the American Academies of Science, as well as 67 other scientific academies around the world. The consensus opinion of almost every scientist on this planet is totally at odds with the School Board of Levy County’s position on evolution.

Whatever your own personal beliefs may be, it is a mistake to use your office to

impose these on our public school children. The recent United States federal court case, "Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District" demonstrates the folly of local officials who inflicted non-scientific theories on a science curriculum. I recommend you read the decision in that case.

I implore you. Please do not bring this community into disrepute by condemning Levy County's young scholars to a life of superstitious ignorance. It is within your power to educate them in such a way that they can compete with the rest of the world on a level intellectual

playing field.

01/10/08 – *Letter to the Office  
of US Representative, Virginia  
Brown-Waite*

Ms. Brown-Waite,

I received your "franked" mailing yesterday and was extremely troubled by your decision to use your tax-payer funded privilege for blatantly political purposes. I have already notified the House of Representatives Committee on Standards of Official Conduct about your actions. I hope in the future, you will discontinue this and any other similar unethical campaign tactics. Thank you.

12/29/07 – *Ocala Star Banner*<sup>15</sup>

Recent faith claims by some Republican presidential candidates should concern anyone who respects the constitutional guarantee that, “no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office.” To those of us who value the methods of informed reason as governing principles, the historical record on this subject is quite clear. Every freedom we enjoy today is the direct consequence of rational secularism, not religious faith.

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<sup>15</sup>originally published under the title, “Stick with reason”



For more than two centuries now, proponents of faith have accused constitutional secularists of attacking religious belief. While it is true that American freethinkers have long been at the forefront of an ongoing struggle against ignorance and irrationality, it is also true that when a particular dogma is not founded upon reason, rational statements can be perceived as threats. This is evident in the defensive vigor with which many advocates of faith assault the revelations of science.

Today, there are millions of voters who have measured faith

against reason, and they find faith wanting. These citizens agree with that architect of American liberty, James Madison, when he writes, "Religious bondage shackles and debilitates the mind and unfits it for every noble enterprise, every expanded prospect."

Because it is secular, the Constitution continues to secure our power as individuals to choose what we believe, and this includes the privilege to remain uninformed or superstitious, if this is our choice. However, every right carries with it an equal measure of responsibility, and to sustain the legacy

of democracy, we must all embrace our obligation to inquire, to think, and to speak as our conscience demands. This includes the duty to challenge every political candidate who denies the fundamentally moral purpose of reason.

10/12/06 – *Ocala Star Banner*<sup>16</sup>

With so many well-substantiated reports of corruption, incompetence, hypocrisy, and perversion among members of the Republican Party, it's getting harder and harder for them to continue deceiving the electorate into voting against their

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<sup>16</sup>untitled

own best interests.

07/28/06 – *Ocala Star Banner*<sup>17</sup>

The latest State Department assessment indicates that global terrorism has increased 300% and the Treasury Department reports that our national debt is approaching a whopping \$9,000,000,000,000 (almost all of it signed into law by Republicans). Since claiming both political branches of government, this party's record has been marked by increased security threats, debt, trade deficits, rising poverty, crumbling infra-

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<sup>17</sup>originally published under the title, "Debt and danger"

structure, a weakening dollar, stagnant equities markets, skyrocketing energy costs, cronyism, incompetence and corruption. All of this indicates that Ronald Reagan was wrong. Government is not the problem. It is Republicans in government that is the problem. Americans should never forget that the last time self-serving Republican policies went unchallenged, our country was left in utter financial and structural ruin. We're thankful that in the nineteen-thirties, there were capable and vigorous liberals who preserved American democracy by respecting its citizens and re-

building the economy until the nation became united enough to defeat overseas threats through legal means. To my neighbors who still haven't peeled the "W" off their bumpers; your votes have left us each \$30,000 in debt and in far greater danger. Thanks for nothing.

*06/28/06 – Letter to the Office of US Representative, Clifford Stearns*

Rep. Stearns,

I was horrified by the contents of the letter I received from your office. I do not support the Orwellian-named "Constitution Restoration Act." It is

inappropriate for anyone in your position to engage in this type of craven attack on justices who decide in favor of the Constitution and against the ill-considered legislation of pandering politicians. Your divisive words only serve to empower those who commit acts of violence against judges.

I wrote the phrase “constitutionality” on the visitors’ card at the Williston Town Hall to chide you for your own shameful record of Constitutional transgressions. The most egregious example was your October 2002 vote to abrogate one of Congress’s exclusive Article

1, Section 11 powers, by illegally (see *Pvt. Doe v. Bush*) proposing to assign it to another branch of the government. This represents a direct attack on the integrity of the Constitutional separation of powers; the outcome of which has been a continuing constitutional crisis and a disastrous pattern of policy blunders that may threaten the security of the entire planet for generations.

Your ongoing support for the "Marriage Protection Act" must be interpreted to reflect either ignorance or disdain for the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment. I under-



stand that your party benefits politically when it cultivates bigotry, but please honor your oath to defend and protect the law of the land. If some of your constituents are offended by the freedoms enumerated by the Constitution, then organize congressional super-majorities and submit an amendment to the states; otherwise, stop fostering lawlessness against those citizens whose “pursuit of happiness” includes establishing a family of their own choosing.

Since your party claimed control of both political branches, Americans have witnessed their 1st, 4th, 5th, and 9th

Amendment rights attacked with unprecedented regularity. They can no longer be confident that hard-fought liberty will continue to persist in the country they love. Our collective freedom derives exclusively from these Constitutional rights, so while you continue your public posture of shaking clenched fists toward undefined threats from distant sovereign nations, please heed these words from one of the few Republican presidents to remain universally respected: "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because

we destroyed ourselves.” Thank you.

02/13/06 – *Ocala Star Banner*<sup>18</sup>

Once again Mr. Cheney has mishandled a deadly weapon without considering the consequences. Any moron can pull a trigger, but it takes wisdom and skill to make that which has been rent asunder, whole again.

02/06/06 – *Letter to the Office of US Representative, Virginia Brown-Waite*

Representative Brown-Waite,

Please use all of your in-

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<sup>18</sup> originally published under the title, “Dangerous”

fluence to defeat the extension of the Patriot Act. The unwise and even illegal interpretation of its powers as claimed by the current administration has resulted in a threefold expansion of terrorist activity (see the State Department's latest Global Terrorism Report) accompanied by unprecedented compromises to hard-fought individual constitutional rights. Instead, seek international judicial remedies to this problem. As long as America is isolated in this fight, we will lose it.

*01/20/06 – Letter to the Office of US Representative, Virginia*

*Brown-Waite*

Ms. Brown-Waite,

I recently received your latest taxpayer-funded political advertisement. "Committed to Fiscal Discipline," was the phrase that most offended me and your use of deceptive statistics to represent the current state of the federal deficit was particularly cynical. I should be inured to such hypocrisy by now, but the fact that my own representative continues to engage in it has spurred me to write this letter. The corruption and incompetence that has characterized Republican rule over all three branches of the

federal government for the past five years represents a genuine threat to the economic stability and even the democratic foundations of the republic. Equity markets remain stagnant (the Dow is virtually unchanged since 2000), national infrastructure is deteriorating (not just the levees and coal mines), millions and millions more Americans have descended into poverty (please look at the Census Bureau figures for your watch), and the national debt has spiraled alarmingly to almost \$9,000,000,000,000.00 (most of it signed into law by members of your party). A child

born today must work at a minimum wage job for three entire years of their life just to pay their fair share. This overwhelming preponderance of evidence discredits the ideological assumptions upon which many of your party's economic strategies are based. Please ask yourself if continued support of policies that have this sort of outcome will encourage freedom or engender servitude? I beg you to look at the effect of your decisions on future citizens as you complete your current term of office and to please proceed more circumspectly.

Utter disdain for the constitutional rule of law exhibited by many Republicans has contributed to this crisis. Despite the fact that the Supreme Court has repeatedly rebuffed the leader of your party's claim to war powers (absent a legal declaration of war), he continues to transgress the statutory and constitutional limitations of his office, encouraging destructive initiatives such as torture, domestic surveillance, and military attacks on innocent civilian populations. Many of these decisions are not only specifically prohibited by the laws of this land, but are repugnant to



every moral human being. This same leader finally admitted that many of the threats to our country were exaggerated (former Secretary Powell's confession of shame over his false testimony before the United Nations General Assembly provided a similar revelation). The outcome of ill-conceived policies implemented under these false assumptions is a 300% increase in international terrorism according to the State Department's Global Terrorism Report (not counting up to 80 attacks per day in the Iraq civil war). Systematic assaults upon fundamental constitutional

rights have also resulted in unacceptable compromises to hard-fought individual liberties. The arrests of Vice Presidential Advisor Lewis Libby and procurement official David Safavian, the indictments of House majority leader Tom DeLay and Representative Randall Cunningham, the SEC investigation of Senate majority leader Bill Frist, a foreign agent in the White House, patterns of incompetent cronyism in the Executive, and daily reports of widespread corruption in your own caucus only reinforce the inevitable conclusion that citizens of the Fifth District who

love their country must seek new leadership at every level. During your next few months in office, I ask you to once again, please protect our nation against ongoing damage inflicted by the corrupt members of your party. Thank you.

10/15/05 – *Ocala Star Banner*<sup>19</sup>

It's evident that the author of "Clueless Peaceniks" (Oct. 13) is still duped into believing that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. This is despite the fact that Special Advisor to the Director of Central Intelligence,

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<sup>19</sup> originally published under the title, "Get it straight"

Charles Duelfer has confirmed that Iraq's WMD capability "was essentially destroyed in 1991" and that it "had no written strategy or plan for the revival of WMD after sanctions." "Clueless" also cites the pre-war speeches before the United Nations, but is apparently unaware that former Secretary of State Colin Powell recently confessed that he presented false testimony to the U.N. to bolster the administration's case for war. In the future, please make certain you have all of your facts straight before calling someone else clueless.

10/01/05 – *Gainesville Sun*<sup>20</sup>

In 1793, James Madison wrote: "The executive has no right in any case, to decide the question, whether there is or is not cause for declaring war." On Oct. 10, 2002, Congress abrogated its exclusive Article I, Section 10 power by authorizing the president to determine whether to use military force against the "threat of Iraq" and to "enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions".

Anyone who actually read this resolution could easily see

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<sup>20</sup> originally published under the title "The cost of war"

that this was not a declaration of war, but a conditional authorization that required U.N. approval. On March 7, 2003, a Security Council proposal to approve of military force against Iraq received virtually no support, so it was shelved.

On March 20, 2003, President Bush, with absolutely no statutory authority, transgressed his constitutional powers and chose to initiate this irrevocable war. On Sept. 16, 2004, the U.N. secretary general declared the invasion of Iraq illegal.

This March, Charles Duelfer, special adviser to the di-

rector of Central Intelligence, reported that Iraq's WMD capability "was essentially destroyed in 1991" and that it "had no written strategy or plan for the revival of WMD after sanctions."

There was no U.N. authorization and there was never any threat from Iraq. To date, this president's disdain for the rule of law has cost America more than 1,900 lives, more than 13,000 casualties, \$188 billion, and our hopes for lasting national security.

01/07/05 – *Ocala Star Banner*

This April, the State De-

partment released its annual Terrorism Assessment Report. Even after the previous report's incorrect election-year figures were revised dramatically upward, it still documents a more than three hundred percent increase in global terrorism (even without data from Iraq). This report shouts evidence that this administration's disdain for constitutional and international law has not made the world a safer place. The outcome has only been a marked increase in terrorist activity. As we look forward to the next election cycle, we must not forget the shameful legacy of Republican



incompetence and corruption that has contributed to this current situation.

Remember that ex-CIA director William Casey, former chair of Reagan's election campaign covertly conspired with Britain's MI6 and Pakistan's ISI to recruit militant Islamic mercenaries to fight alongside Mujaheddin guerillas in Afghanistan. One outcome of this policy was the creation of the Taliban and Al Qaeda. Remember that George Schultz, former Secretary of State and ex-president of Bechtel Corp. sent Donald Rumsfeld to covertly negotiate Bechtel's

pipeline contract with Saddam Hussein, defying a recent U.N. censure for his bio-chemical massacres. The outcome was American support and a half-billion dollar loan, perpetuating Hussein's rule when it was at its weakest. Remember, this same administration secretly provided armaments to the Iranian theocracy to fund its terrorist activities in Nicaragua. The outcome was the United States' almost unanimous condemnation for terrorism by the U.N. International Court of Justice, shattering many nations' trust in us.

We must never forget that

this current Republican administration repeatedly uttered proven falsehoods to deceive Americans into supporting policies of destructive chaos and irrevocable war, while it rejected responsible policies of international justice and global peace. The immediate outcome has been intensified Islamic radicalism and galvanized global anti-Americanism. The foreseeable outcome will be continued loss of American life, fortune, honor, and freedom. Alternative policies are still available to us. To pursue these, each responsible citizen must thoughtfully assess the full out-

come of their next vote and every vote after that.

06/26/05 – *Ocala Star Banner*<sup>21</sup>

There is a veiled brutality in the chilling bigotry of Profulla Singh's recent declaration of religious war. The letter cites the threadbare canard that America was founded as a Christian nation, to justify denying constitutional freedom of religion. Our founders Jefferson, Franklin, Madison, Adams, and Paine all rejected Christian belief, warning repeatedly against "the tyranny

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<sup>21</sup>originally published under the title, "Thwart theocracy"

of monkish ignorance" and one of the earliest congresses unan-  
imously enrolled a bill which unambiguously asserts that "the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion." The overwhelming preponderance of historical evidence demonstrates that America's legal foundation is based upon human reason, not upon any particular religious doctrine. Denial of America's origins represents a threat to those liberties established and sustained exclusively by our "godless" Constitution.

Though embattled, it re-

mains the law of this land, despite shrill and treasonous cries for establishment of a theocratic kingdom. Make no mistake, while they may have no stomach for yet another undeclared war, there are legions of Americans who believe the "freedom of conscience," for which our forebears sacrificed, is still well worth defending.

*04/21/05 – Letter to the Office  
of US Representative, Virginia  
Brown-Waite*

Representative Brown-Waite,

I received your April 1st advertisement and was outraged by your political attack

on those who oppose the funding of policies that transgress constitutional and statutory law. If you were truly concerned for our proud troops' safety, you would not continue to encourage the recklessness and disdain for the rule of law that characterizes this administration's unconstitutional policy of pre-emptive invasion and occupation. You would bring our troops home to safety immediately, then root out and prosecute the criminal and treasonous elements within our government who have conspired to create this constitutional crisis. These actions will also have the

effect of helping to solve the problems of record spending and ballooning deficits that concern all of us. In the meantime, please read Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution and honor your oath by vigorously enforcing it. Do not support H.R1298.

03/01/05 – *Ocala Star Banner*

There is no bliss in ignorance. Despite his inability to cite evidence of any specific problem, Rep. Dennis Baxley has filed House Bill 837, which proposes to prohibit college faculty from engaging in classroom discussion of subjects he



deems controversial, irrelevant, or illegitimate. In other words, Rep. Baxley would gag the most highly literate, the most knowledgeable, and the most rigorously trained minds in the state of Florida because he wishes to prevent them from exercising their civic responsibilities. Like all Americans, Florida's students have long been victim to reprehensible political and social exchanges, consisting of half-truths, falsehoods, and outright lies crafted by political ideologues who callously violate the public trust on a regular basis. Our higher education faculty respond to this situation as

any patriotic citizen and responsible intellectual would, they refute unsubstantiated false claims with factual assertions that are founded upon rationally applied methods of informed reason. Anyone whose political ideology is based solely upon uncritical acceptance of falsehoods, unexamined superstition, or blind embrace of manipulative propaganda would certainly feel their beliefs threatened in the face of unimpeachable evidence to the contrary. Perhaps this is the way it should be. I believe Rep. Baxley is feeling this same sort of discomfort. If he wishes to cease

discussion of controversial topics such as undeclared war, unreported torture, unpaid national debt, unequal distribution of civil rights, unchecked environmental shortsightedness, and general unconstitutionality, subjects which range across the spectrum of academic disciplines, he might simply bring some genuinely persuasive arguments for his positions to the table. Since he cannot, he has decided to attack constitutionally protected free speech instead. Face it, sometimes right can be so wrong.

04/26/04 – *Letter to the Office*

*of US Representative, Virginia  
Brown-Waite*

Representative Brown-Waite,

Your response to my previous communication indicates that you misunderstood my position against HR2045, so I repeat my plea for you to discontinue this ill-considered attack on freedom of religion.

Also, your continued support for the "extra-constitutional" killing of foreign nationals in their home country (apparently for the sole purpose of sending a "clear message," as you indicate in your 3/19/04 letter) has done nothing but undermined America's long-term

national security, compromised our hard-won freedoms, and stained our ethical standing, internationally.

We must share moral responsibility for the loss of human life that has resulted from your choice (including thousands of U.S. casualties and 10,000 innocent Iraqi civilian deaths). My guilt is that last Spring I was apparently not eloquent enough to dissuade you and others from promoting death as a political tool. As you reflect upon your own responsibility here, I ask you please to consult the Fifth Commandment (which you would have

forced upon non-Christian Americans) and ask yourself how your position can be anything but that of a hypocrite.

*03/26/04 – Letter to the Office of US Representative, Virginia Brown-Waite*

Representative Brown-Waite,

Thank you for your courteous response to my recent e-mail. However, I feel obliged to correct what I see as two chillingly erroneous assumptions you've made while defending your position on HR2045.

Regarding your claim that this nation was founded in the Christian faith, please consult

the writings of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Paine. You will discover unimpeachable evidence that these (as well as other) founding fathers were absolutely and avowedly not Christians, but had adopted a significantly different belief. You'll also read their repeated warnings against the innumerable threats to liberty posed by what they described as, "monkish ignorance."

Regarding your ill-considered use of the Tenth Amendment to justify allowing individual states to decide whether or not they should "command"

U.S. citizens to "Have no other gods before Jahweh," you've overlooked the scope of this article, which refers only to those powers that are not delegated or prohibited by the Constitution. Yet, the First Amendment explicitly prohibits the making of laws respecting the establishment of religion. Your Constitutional rationale thus becomes totally untenable on its face and takes on the unsavory appearance of base political pandering.

Promotion of unwise laws that are based upon such unexamined assumptions can only be used to justify the tyranny



of one belief over another and this threatens religious freedom for all Americans, including yourself. Please look to Alabama's Judge Roy Moore for the consequences visited upon the political careers of those who are arrogant enough to defy the wisdom of our founders on the issue of preserving this fundamental freedom. Thank you.

*04/24/03 – Letter to the Office  
of US Representative, Virginia  
Brown-Waite*

Representative Brown-Waite,

Thank you for your considerate response to my previous

e-mail. I certainly agree with your enumeration of tragic consequences resulting from years of prior administrations' political and economic support of the Ba'athist regime and subsequent policies of negotiated containment rather than resolute non-recognition of the legitimacy of dictatorships. Like you, I remain guardedly hopeful that the long-term domestic and global repercussions consequent to this unprecedented executive deployment of pre-emptive military force will not further undermine the security of American sovereignty and the individual freedom of its citi-

zens.

In Federalist:41 James Madison warned, "The veteran legions of Rome were an overmatch for the undisciplined valor of all other nations and rendered her the mistress of the world. Not the less true is it, that the liberties of Rome proved the final victim to her military triumphs." In your letter you state that this war is about insuring American security and freeing the Iraqi people. While I encourage and celebrate support of freedom for all citizens of every nation (freedom to live, being pre-eminent); this enterprise, initiated in the

name of security (then disingenuously spun elsewhere) has been pursued with reckless disregard for the very instrument of justice that preserves our own liberty and domestic protections. This just cause is threatened by the unjust means by which it is being carried out.

In October, just prior to your election to office, the 107th Congress abrogated its constitutionally vested art1:sec11 power, abdicating it to another branch of the government through legislation authorizing the executive office to determine whether or not armed forces were necessary to enforce specific UNSC

resolutions. This defied both the letter and the intent of the framers, whose purpose Madison articulated in 1798, "The Constitution supposes what the history of all governments demonstrates, that the executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has, accordingly, with studied care, vested the question of war in the legislature." Your letter mentions important information withheld from the American electorate. If intelligence indicated that Iraq indeed posed an imminent threat to American citizens, then Congress abjectly failed its

duty to protect the nation's security when it did not vote for a declaration of war. Instead, it willfully thwarted the constitutional separation of powers, the foundational bulwark that protects American lives and freedoms, in the expectation and hope that another office might act.

The President's denial of United Nations jurisdiction subsequently nullified any authorization the (tainted, though enrolled) October resolution might have bequeathed him, eliminating the only statutory condition satisfying section 2c(2) of the 1973 "War Powers Act." Under

no imminent threat, the President proceeded to prosecute unexamined policies fraught with peril and momentous cost absent any legal authority or *a priori* consent of the governed. His office made the choice to act within a lawless vacuum of constitutional power created by Congress's prevarication.

This February, in Boston's U.S. District Court, disillusioned soldiers and their families sought judicial relief from potentially grave consequences resulting from this breach of the social contract that bound these patriotic citizens to the service of their government. Their case

was heard just prior to the invasion, but at that time the court declined to intervene between the executive and legislature on a matter of such constitutional import in the absence of the “smoking gun” of actual, full-blown conflict. *Doe, et. al. v. Bush* is currently under appeal and its outcome may still have significant consequences for the radical revision of U.S. policy documented in the President’s recent National Security Strategy, a plan predicated on protracted disregard for the integrity of the Constitution.

Americans must never again be forced into a “Hobson’s



choice” between supporting their commander-in-chief or preserving the Constitution. I implore you please, use your office to introduce legislation that will insure greater procedural fidelity to this beleaguered document and decry the crippling cowardice and shrill opportunism that coerced so many of your colleagues to foreswear their oaths and undermine the foundational ideals out of which this nation draws its integrity and within which mindful Americans root their patriotism. If Americans are to kill and die for another nation's freedom, they must be given the

informed choice whether they wish to do so or not. Thank you.

*03/03/03 – Letter to the Office of US Representative, Virginia Brown-Waite*

Ms. Ginny Brown-Waite,

Please support Ms. Jackson-Lee's bill, H. Con. Res. 2 "Expressing the Sense of Congress that the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq of 2002 Should Be Repealed." Every reasonable and informed American demands that the President's foolhardy international policy be curtailed immediately before more ir-

reparable harm is done to the constitutional ideals that comprise the rule of law in this country. Until the constitutionally specified conditions for war are met, then the use of the word "war" in any discussion on this topic represents an egregious and unquestionably unethical breach of oath by any office holder who participates in this widespread deception of the electorate. We demand that acceptable solutions to the acknowledged problem of threatening regimes be derived from the cherished ideals upon which this country is founded, not upon blind fear that will trans-

form this nation into the world's most powerful "rogue" military state through utter disregard of its most fundamental ethical principles, international law and longstanding treaties. The truly patriotic voters in this district and across the country will hold their representatives accountable for their participation in ill-conceived actions, which will have long-term negative consequences for the sovereignty and security of our nation. America can be great, only if it is good. Thank you.

*03/03/03 – Letter to the Office of US Senator, Robert Graham*

Senator Graham,

I'm certain your health and presidential bid are weighing heavily on you, but your participation is urgently needed to prevent this nation's greatest failure of past quarter century. Please support Sens. Kennedy and Byrd's Senate Resolution 32 and Ms. Jackson-Lee's H. Con. Res. 2 rescinding legislative authorization for use of force in Iraq. As the nation learns more about the situation (particularly the information Sen. Byrd recently submitted to Congress), support for the president's folly wanes. Until the constitutional requirements are

met, the use of the word "War" in discourse on this subject (including rationalizations to suspend civil rights, as represented in the patriot act) constitutes an outright deception of the electorate. Voters will certainly hold any leader accountable who supports this act, which threatens the integrity of American ideals and the security of its sovereignty. Please listen to patriotic Americans who know that America must be good to be great. Thank you.

*your obedient servant,*

*Pastorialis Publius*



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**cover images: details from the Lorinzetti's allegory of good and bad government at the Palazzo Pubblico in Siena.**

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