

## **New Year 2003 and More of the Same**

My time of personal inventory-taking and reflection is November, not New Year's. So, I made my assessment on the year past and the year coming during our brief Indian summer – and it holds true today. This New Year looks like more of the same to me. More of the same to me means more work, more opportunity, more hope, more love, and more personal peace.

The world beyond my home on The Peninsula (of Virginia) will stay embroiled in WW-T (World War against Islamist Terrorism). We will be called to our televisions for the more spectacular events. The sum of our fears will evolve into the sum of our hope – regardless of when or if, we absorb attacks worse than 9-11. Our hope will be the survival and growing security of the Imperial Republic Era of American Civilization. Those words don't roll off the tongue easily or taste good. But, it's just a fact that our power makes us an Imperial Power without Imperial Ambition. We are the oddest duck of an Empire. We will use force occasionally and limit ourselves voluntarily. Our toughest challenge will be to remain a Republic at home.

The Great U.S. Culture War, our Second Civil War (ACW II), will determine if our Republic lapses into totalitarianism or surges towards liberty and opportunity. Our ACW II will be more of the same in '03. This battleground is at home in our Commonwealth, our communities – including schools and churches, and in our families. Virginia's Attorney General Kilgore will fight to prevent tax-support for illegal aliens. Governor Warner (D) will push to re-define the family as other than a married man and woman. Democrat Warner may veto a ban on partial-birth abortion again. And on and on – more of the same struggle.

The liberal socialists and the pagan secularists – but I repeat myself – will pursue their agendas of group identity, permanent classes of victims, permanent classes of villains, more assaults on Constitutional freedoms, more inventions of group 'rights', race baiting, and on and on - more of the same.

More political races, intra-party and partisan, mean more work for me and my co-workers in grassroots politics. These are more opportunities to articulate a future worth having next New Year's and beyond.

The peace following Persian Gulf War II will be more complicated and dangerous than the war itself. Although, the coming war will demand sacrifice and sadness in sufficient measure. I was told to get a visa for Kuwait, but I doubt this defense contractor will go. War clouds are always menacing.

Yet, being a conservative is all about joy for the future. We don't want to return to anything in the past. Take the best from the former times and push it into the future. Dump all less than best. Think anew for novel problems - guided by ageless principles. Conservatives are the believing children of the Enlightenment. We hold hope for the future of 2003.

Hooah 2003! Even if it reads like more of the same struggle, controversy, political fighting, etc. If our vision is worth fulfilling, then there are worthy challenges along the way. Moreover, many of my Republican compatriots are motivated to be in the world but not of it. We are subject to moral commandments to love our enemies. We are faithful to not hate another human.

My personal relationship with Jesus Christ promises more love and personal

peace this year – no matter what.

Fight the good fight at home and abroad. Run the race. Keep your eyes on the prize. *Love* God and *love* others as you *love* yourself. Let's hear a cheer for more of the same throughout this Year of Our Lord, 2003!

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