

# Freedom Matters

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*Our mission is to restore, perfect and maintain our government as a constitutional republic that is dedicated to defending our unalienable rights as individuals to life, liberty and property.*

## Reflections on Freedom, Part I

By Michael Byrne

The day before the most infamous terrorist attack in US history, a group of passionate and concerned citizens published their first edition of *Freedom Matters*. Here we are, nearly eight years later, still sounding the alarm for anyone listening that the freedoms we hold dear are in danger of being voted away. Since the United States will soon celebrate another July 4th holiday, we wish to renew our commitment to the principles that led to that very first *Declaration of Independence*.

Much of what we cherish can be appreciated by a close study of the definitions associated with the word 'freedom.' From *Merriam-Webster's* online dictionary, we find:

*Freedom. 1: the quality or state of being free.*

Lexicographers recognized immediately that there is a state of being which humans equate with a feeling of being free. That feeling is, of course, very present in children, especially preschool children. Under natural conditions they will wake up when they feel rested, and ready, eat when they are hungry, and stop eating when they are full. They absorb stimuli from their environment around them and enjoy life. After a full day of this, a feeling of ease leads to a retreat from the world into peaceful sleep to recharge for another day. My dear wife of course reminds me that there is so much more to the complexity of a child's life and that "it isn't quite so simple." That is why I mentioned "under natural conditions." She has of course, hit the nail on the head.

The authority over the child's life is traditionally the parent. It is the parent who is there to see that certain behaviors and patterns are adhered to and reinforced so that in adulthood the child can function productively and hopefully independently. Many of these behaviors rest in the recognition that the absence of the behavior may lead to an inability to co-exist independently in a functioning modern society. To put it simply, if we all got up when we felt like it, most of us would

not get to work on time. If we all ate when we felt like it, our work day would be punctuated by delays. If we simply were to lie down whenever we felt like we wanted a nap, our projects might never reach fruition.

In modern times, especially in America, our economic strength has afforded us the ability to earn enough to allow for substantial free time. Like children, we derive a great deal of happiness and satisfaction from having the freedom to channel that free time as we like. Unhappily, more and more of us find we must work more than we play in order to amass enough resources at the end of each day to sustain our needs.

Enter the government. Like the parent, the government has now, by simply declaring it, mandated that some of those resources which we work so hard to accumulate must be surrendered to the government so the government can "provide" for its people. The problem is, of course, many of us don't feel like we need to be provided for. And also, quite a few of us are quite satisfied to provide for ourselves, and quite unsatisfied to be forced to provide for others.

The next time you are working, watch the clock. The taxation levels we have reached in our modern America amount to nearly half of every hour. So for the first half of your work day, you are working to pay the obligations your government has placed on its citizens. Of course it's ridiculous. What is even more ridiculous is that everyone puts up with it, considering that they could by simply showing up at the polls, vote in people who would either reduce that number or even make it go away altogether.

Dare we say it? Government assumes enough power to legislate freedom away from the people. Government like cancer ensures its own survival by commandeering the resources of the host animal. The state of freedom requires continuous maintenance in order to preserve it, and the maintenance tool is the ballot.



*In the next issue we will look at the second definition of 'freedom' from Merriam-Webster.*

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