

We Have No Choice

I wrote and dedicate this speech this evening as a tribute to my dad, who we laid to rest last week. My dad immigrated to Filmore, Ca in 1959 from Mexico when he was 9. He was a liberal registered as a Democrat and while we didn't agree on much politically, we still knew how to have conversations with each other. And we loved each other dearly.

It is an absolute honor to be back here at the Reagan library again this evening and to be asked to participate in the Time for Choosing speaker series. It seems the air is always a little cooler in the shadow of Reagan. This is our Graceland and I'm proud to represent Simi Valley at the federal level in Congress.

I'm proud to be once again serving my nation this time in this very special capacity. I believe that if Armageddon is on, one ought to be there to fight for the good guys.

My journey to this point has been an amazing one. In my lifetime, I've held a lot of titles, and I've put no import on any of them. I've been called midshipmen at Annapolis, Lieutenant commander and strike-fighter pilot in the Navy, Vice President at Raytheon, been a small businessman, congressman in this role, and even worse things in ads paid for by Nancy Pelosi that I shouldn't repeat here. Show me someone worried about titles, and I'll show you someone destined to fail at their job.

It's not the titles I care about. To me, the essence of who I am and what I do, and what I care about, stems from being affiliated with one group. For me, there's one title that matters. That title is "American".

Being an American is the only secular title I care about. Even when you don't agree with me. I would give my life to defend your liberties and your ability to continue to call yourself a free American...the only worldly title that matters.

This is an absolutely critical period of our nation's history. It's a challenging time and our decisions over the last 2 years and over the next 4 will alter the trajectory of our country.

A federal republic like ours is a dynamically unstable one that requires the exertions of men and women who serve unselfishly in the interest of the nation. Without those exertions, without the sacrifices made by patriots, the nation is simply a wobbly top that is a mere few revolutions from falling down.

And if not Armageddon, this era is certainly a test of our resolve. It is a fight of good vs evil, socialism vs capitalism, right vs wrong. There are remarkable parallels between today's environment and the environment when President Reagan took office in the early 1980's.

I'm blessed to be able to serve in this era. My role in this lifetime is to be the best American possible. To be a patriot in her service for the purpose of extending this amazing experiment beyond 246 years. With the functionality and purity, true liberties and freedoms, that our founding fathers envisioned on day one.

If this country is worth dying for it's certainly worth working for. And it's certainly worth loving. This country needs our work and it deserves our love. And true love, like that of a parent to their child, drives us to do whatever is necessary to protect them. We are willing to do the hard things for that cause. We are willing to make the sacrifices.

As it's not about titles, it's also not about division. It's not about creating an us vs them mentality.

With just a few simple questions we can quickly divide this audience into smaller factions.

There's a million ways to divide us. Dodger vs the Yankees. Whether the toilet paper should dispense from the front or from the back of the roll. Coke vs Pepsi. And the quickest way to divide us, asking if you are a republican or democrat.

The hard work comes in the task of unifying. The hard part is saying you believe in America first and be willing to civilly engage those who don't agree with you. And in doing so helping them realize that we are in fact on the same team. And that while we may disagree, we vow to not cancel each other. We vow to engage in civil discourse with the intent of resolving differences or balancing our perspectives. If unable to resolve differences, creating solutions that are the product of compromise.

As we are the shining city on the hill that President Reagan called us, its important to value not just the existing city. More importantly, we must value the foundation that our country is built upon. And perhaps most importantly, the bedrock this foundation is built on. If the United States is the city on the hill, the Constitution is its foundation. But the precepts of the Constitution were not simply developed out of thin air. And it wasn't just a product of providence or amazing coincidences.

Instead, the Constitution, and the precursor Declaration of Independence, were built upon fundamental principles of liberty that our founding fathers ascribed to. It is these principles that are the bedrock upon which our foundational documents were written. These principles remain timeless and relevant today. They represent the unheard echoes of millions of citizens thru the caverns of time and geography who have fallen victim to tyrants since the beginning of man and government.

These principles...these are the bedrock under the Constitution. And they can be grouped in 4 major themes.

But first, I think its important to highlight the fact that our founding fathers, like leaders and citizens today, didn't agree on everything. Far from it. But they did agree on these fundamental "self-evident truths" in their crafting of the DOI and the Constitution. And while they didn't have social media, tv, radio and many of the vehicles used to polarize us today, they were very much divided on several issues, and the battles over these divisions were passionate and personal. Despite these divisions, and in the midst of their arguments, they were still willing to compromise on the ancillary issues while remaining dogmatic about the bedrock principles.

It is because of our founding fathers' intelligence, courage and above all things, willingness to compromise, that we have this exceptional country today. But they benefitted from relying on a playbook that was written in blood from the previously oppressed and the heads of kings. It is this playbook that we need to remember today. These core values of our federal republic that we can almost all agree on. Regardless of party, these 4 key principles ring true:

1. All humans are created equal and with unalienable rights under God
2. In order for a nation to survive, it must be led by leaders who are virtuous and moral
3. The power of the government is ultimately vested in the people themselves
4. The function of government is to protect the individual citizen, with adequate checks and balances to prevent abuse of power

Simple right? These 4 principles wrap around each other and fit together snugly like puzzle pieces that form a powerful image. And I challenge you to go out on the streets and find anyone who disagrees with these precepts.

Yet the irony is that as simple and as universally agreed to as these principles are, when you look back over the history of mankind and government, the bane of every nation is attributed to a failure to abide by at least one of these. And they fail because of one of two reasons: Either the humans don't live up to the role, or the form and function of the government is not codified or adhered to by the nation's leaders.

Fortunately for us, the United States and our founders decided to codify our rules of government in the form of The Constitution.

So today, as it always has been, our limiting factor is mankind. Despite the protections of the Constitution, leaders and the citizens must still follow it in order for it to have true value. Us frail beings who fail on a daily basis to live in the ideal form of our Creator, have a tendency to screw things up when we forget where we came from. Even more disappointing, we see malevolent actors want to change the rules and the Constitution out of their own personal greed, their own desire to stay in power, or to remove opposition.

The protections of the Constitution are meant to permanently protect us against the frailties of our elected officials. The world over the last 5000 years has seen too many leaders enter the world of politics as lovers of the people, only to see these same leaders transform into lovers of power at the expense of the people. The Constitution prevents this. It enables small government, and bigger citizens.

When we forget our foundational documents and the bedrock upon which they were built, we can slowly lose our rights and sail into perilous waters.

And we are indeed in perilous waters today. Earlier I mentioned parallels between today and the late 70s. If you were around in 1979 you probably see and feel many things today that we experienced then. Americans being held hostage in the middle east, America's standing on the world stage being eclipsed by Russia and Communists forces in Asia, a back breaking energy crisis where we find ourselves more dependent than ever on foreign oil, record high inflation, record debt, supply chain challenges, and the list goes on. We have a blizzard of crisis.

But it's not our country's fault. And not the Constitution's fault. This is a human failure with a bread trail that begins at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

The strategy of appeasement and cow toeing to a far left progressive agenda is proving again to be ineffective. In the span of just 20 months, this administration has done a decade of damage.

But like 1979, there is hope in our future. There is hope if we again build on the bedrock and we again take pride in our nation and our people. The power should be with our people.

But the people and elected officials need to behave more like our founding fathers.

The magic ingredient to a federal republic is something that is counterintuitive to our natural behavioral patterns.

Human nature and our basic instincts don't lend themselves to the maintenance of a federal republic: We are naturally predisposed to choose to either fight or flee. We evolve as a nation and become a more perfect union when we mute these innate tendencies. When we choose to neither fight nor flee, but to calmly stay put, debate, compromise, fix and evolve...this is the hard work. We have gotten weaker as a nation in the last 10 years because our elected officials and activists have chosen to retreat to their caveman tendencies.

Our differences have become only wedges instead of being seen as fertile ground to plant seeds of compromise. And we have forgotten that someone who agrees with you on 70% of the issues is still called a friend. Not every disagreement between friends should be a divorceable offense.

Our nation's diversity, our differences, are the most critical components to our exceptionalism. It is this heterogenous advantage that our nation has over other homogenous super powers like China and Russia that makes us special. While China has a capacity and population advantage, the quality of their product and technology lags ours. We just need to protect our technologies correctly. Even if we have fewer minds, we retain an advantage because we have the best minds.

The diversity of thought only makes us stronger if we are willing to actually share our thoughts and be tolerable of the differences, then negotiate and compromise as needed. The modern era, with social media and media that caters to the tips of the political spectrum for financial gain, makes this work more difficult.

Therefore, unifying people in this environment is a laborious challenge. But it's as important to our success as cooking a recipe at the right temperature. Too hot of an environment, we burn the meal and toss it out. Too cold, the yeast never rises. The right amount of friction and passion is needed. And it takes a conscience effort to ensure the levels are set correctly for the interest of the Constitution and progress of the nation.

Unification is what most say they want but it's ironically unpopular. It's what presidents say they will do before the election but fail to do once in office.

Unity falls prey to a thousand different predators. It is a fruit that is ripened only by patience, tenacity and a willingness to listen, learn and compromise. And before that fruit is harvested, most people give up. And most politicians fail.

Unity requires a willingness of humans to continue to respect each other despite differences of opinion. And a willingness to acknowledge there is a greater, common good that is more important than the individual issues that divide us. We shouldn't fear each other. And we certainly shouldn't hate each other.

And we need to stop treating our fellow Americans like animals. Americans are not animals.

Lately, there are many people who speak of fellow Americans as Lions and Sheep. Self proclaimed "lions" are fighting for their cause and anyone who opposes them or doesn't actively support their cause enough are deemed "sheep". This is a very dangerous paradigm. We are all Americans. Americans with souls and complex brains and even more complex emotions. Americans have a right to act and believe as they choose without fear of retribution or being ostracized. It's what separates us not only from the animal kingdom but also other nations.

The intentional division of free people from within is not an attribute of a Federal Republic. It is a tactic of tyranny, despots and oppressors. It's how most democratic nations go extinct. In a Federal Republic such as ours, there needs to be a concerted effort by individuals to be tolerant of differences in our ideals and beliefs as long as they don't stray from the bedrock principles. The government and elected officials need to protect our freedoms. This is the purpose of The Constitution.

This is what America First should mean.

Many Americans, from all points of the political spectrum, are losing touch of this imperative to treat individual freedoms and beliefs as sacred. I find it ironic that those calling for individual freedoms are the first to write off those who choose to do something different or believe something different than them. And they are the first to pretend like the Constitution doesn't exist, or want to change it without going thru the Constitutional amendment process. Both sides of the aisle are guilty of this.

Media (especially social media), extreme activists, self-serving politicians and elitists are actively seeking to divide us. Its easy work. We as Americans must resist this bait. Stirring hatred by highlighting differences in perspective as the justification to write someone off and cancel them is evil and destructive. It's also lazy. It achieves nothing.

Some call it cancel culture, some call it "sub-conscious biases". Whatever you call it, it is un-American by definition. And it erodes the 4 bedrock principles. Have you wanted to defund police because a few cops make mistakes? Do you feel disdain for someone because they are or are not wearing a mask? Have you ever wanted to leave the country because you didn't like the outcome of the election? Have you decided to threaten someone because of a supreme court decision? Do you judge someone because they either did or did not get the vaccine? Do you write someone off because they associate themselves with a certain political party or wear a

certain hat? Have you decided recently not to go to a relative's house because of political differences? If so, then you are guilty of contributing to the problem.

As a representative in Congress I don't care whether you consider yourself a lion, a sheep or a sloth. I care only that you are an American. I care only about protecting individual freedoms and ensuring you have every opportunity and protection from the government and our enemies in your pursuit of life, liberty and happiness. I care about protecting the bedrock.

I care about a strong economy, fighting inflation, lowering taxes, providing safe neighborhoods, ensuring law and order, giving parents a voice and choice in their kids schooling, achieving energy independence, protecting the viability of social security, securing our borders and our elections, getting cheaper and better health care, ensuring the US has a meaningful military and economic advantage over our peers on the global stage and that we aren't dependent on others for the critical resources we need to survive, and that we follow the words of the Constitution.

And I'm not alone in these wants. In the end, we are all on the same team. The real threats to our nation are the Chinese Communist Party, Russia, terrorists, socialism, our debt, incompetent and self-serving politicians, and those seeking to marginalize our Constitution. The threats don't care whether we consider ourselves to be Lions or Sheep. As democrats or republicans. They care only that we are divided. They care only that we are made more vulnerable because of this division.

Good politicians work together for the people. And cooperate to fight the threats I mentioned above.

These real threats (foreign and domestic) need to be treated with absolute disdain and prosecuted with extreme prejudice. These threats are the well-fed and aggressive bears just outside our tent who want to do us real harm. And they will kill lions as quickly as sheep. They are attracted to weakness and prey on timid, invertebrate nations led by unqualified leaders who fail to take actions necessary to establish meaningful deterrence. They feast on appeasers. And they steamroll isolationists.

Therefore, the truly dangerous threats are the ones elected to office within our borders. Politicians who don't care or aren't qualified for office but are convinced that they are. And they convince the voters of the same. This is very dangerous.

The good news is that with good leaders and informed citizens, the sum of our parts is far more valuable than the sum of our threats. But only when we prioritize the Constitution over our own personal angst and interests.

These threats are what motivated me to put on a flight suit and helmet, launch off the front end of an aircraft carrier at night in the middle of the ocean, and fly combat missions in direct support of American troops in harm's way on the ground. And it is these same threats that motivated me to run and serve in Congress. And while I no longer deploy overseas to ensure liberties, I will do all I can in this current role.

Those who see past the differences, seek to unite us despite the differences, and fight on for all Americans with the mission to preserve the American spirit and directly support the Constitution are the real patriots. It's ideal when they also seek office.

So how do we ensure we prevail? I believe it's by adhering to a real America first mindset.

In today's modern politics we hear this theme of America first frequently. In my opinion, this notion is often misused or worse, abused. America first should be just that. America. First. Not a political party first. I think we need weaker parties and stronger leaders. Not a politician or any single human first. Not a political machine or some mascot of a political affiliation. Not a single activist agenda item. America First.

America first means fighting for a federal republic. We have multiple levels of government with the functions and form of each defined within the Constitution. And representatives at all levels.

A federal republic operates according to the will of the majority while our Constitutional provisions protect the rights of the minority, and of all citizens. A direct democracy only values the will of the majority. The downloading of decisions and policies to the lowest levels is critical in a federal republic like ours. If not explicitly addressed by the federal government, the matter, in accordance with the 10th Amendment, is downloaded to the states. And the states likewise download as much to the local levels of government where we realize better efficiencies and direct representation of the people. And ultimately, all levels of government should strive to keep decisions and power with the people themselves with as little regulation as possible.

America First means investing in Americanism and not popularism. Americanism is fighting for what is right in accordance with our ideals. Not simply what is popular.

It's seeking global and national security and not adopting simple isolationism under a cloak of security. Sometimes we do have to fight. And sometimes we do have to support our allies...and in doing so we extend our own American security interests.

America First is patriotism and not just nationalism. Patriotism takes pride in our nation without deriding other nations. It's excellence, without arrogance. But patriotism also requires actions and not just words. By the way, venting on social media isn't action, it's therapeutic, but not real action. Real action is ensuring we not only identify as Americans, but that we also take pride in that identity, and love our country. It means we use the UN and NATO as tools to be used to our advantage and we hold them and their members accountable. These alliances should be additive to the American cause, not another bill and subsidy for the US on the world stage. When they are obsolete or useless tools, we should not use them or support them. There must be a return on our investments. And the US needs to be the first line of defense against this idea of globalism and the New World Order.

America First means committing oneself to principle based behavior rather than fear based behavior. To act and vote in accordance with one's values rather than changing one's principles out of fear of peer pressure, or out of fear of losing an election. The irony is that when elected officials vote and behave out of fear and without alignment to their core values, they typically

end up losing the election soon thereafter, because they've tried to become someone they aren't. This is why we see many of the shifts in power and majorities change in Congress. This is why we will see such a shift this November. When you abuse the majority, you lose the majority.

America first means committing to the Constitution. And if we seek to evolve the Constitution we do so thru the appropriate Constitutional amendment process. The same process that yielded 27 Amendments to the Constitution over the last 233 years. And in my opinion there are still opportunities for improvement in this living and breathing document. This is why I support bills that will put a vote to a Balanced Budget Amendment as well as Term Limits for members of Congress. Congress should not be allowed to spend more than it takes in. And members shouldn't be allowed to make this job a life long career. This should be codified in our Constitution.

America first means equality for all. Not equity.

There is an important difference between equality and equity. Our constitution guarantees equality. Not equity. And rightfully so. Equal rights does not mean equal things or equal outcomes.

Equality is having the choice to take the stairs or to use the escalator. Take the escalator and it may be easier. Take the stairs, you may work harder but you can arrive sooner. But regardless of the route, equality ensures you have full access to both regardless of your color, religion or sex. And if you decide to run up the stairs and get there before everyone else, well, congratulations...you worked hard for that and earned that success. If you chose to take the escalator, well, you were still able to get there but you shouldn't expect to cut back in front of those who worked hard to run up the stairs. That's equality.

Equity is that same scenario except regardless of the path you choose, regardless of the hard work and sweat you put in, regardless of how much earlier you arrive at the top, you will be put back in line where you began at the bottom of the stairs. In the end, like socialism, we all end up tied for last. So why even build the stairs? Why even provide avenues for success for the people if success is not rewarded appropriately?

The far left is working to conflate this issue because equity sounds and feels good. But it's not. And there's a lot of government money now being spent on "equity" projects. A lot of people making money on this idea of "equity" at the expense of others, which is painfully ironic. Citizens need to pay attention to this. Cuba and Russia will seek equity among their subjects. But the US will shepherd equality and encourage success for its people and not shame them for their accomplishments.

This is my role. This is my responsibility. To be a true America first leader. Not to sacrifice the bedrock principles. But to convince those who disagree with them to understand the value of these principles. And to convince those who do agree with them to act accordingly. Some say they agree with the principles but their actions prove otherwise.

If you are the President of the US and you believe, as I do, in that 4th Bedrock Principle that the function of government is to protect the individual citizen, then how can you support things that literally put the individual American citizen in harms way. How can you support an open

border that enables the illegal import of fentanyl that kills hundreds of thousands of Americans between the ages of 13 and 45?

How can you knowingly leave hundreds of Americans stranded in Afghanistan after committing to get them all out? How can you decide to dissolve the China Initiative at the Department of Justice this past February when China is our single biggest threat, having killed 6 million people with COVID, committing the largest genocide since WWII and stealing American IP at the rate of \$400-600B per year? I personally have been aggressively working to convince this President and his cabinet to fix these policies that are direct risks to Americans. It's amazing to me that not all members of Congress are doing the same.

American patriots should be making it rain longer than any of our threats can tread water. We shouldn't be enabling the threats.

And so while some Americans may slander each other and degrade each other, we must strive to behave like the sheep dog. Someone who is willing to do whatever is necessary for our collective good. To protect the weak and vulnerable and to protect that precious document written in 1787. To keep the top in a stable spin. And to hold elected officials who fail in this regard accountable. We do this for the American citizen and our children. We are accountable to them.

American lives matter. American leaders should seek to expand American security, not erode it. Stewards of security don't simply hope for peace. They don't simply count on opponents *not* attacking. They instead plan for the attack. The real stewards of security develop plans for the inevitability of bad and irrational actors. Stewards of security work to make their weaknesses their strengths and make their strengths known to their adversaries. They do so with the intent of deterring attacks, and if attacks are undeterred, with the intent of quickly winning wars to again secure the peace.

And within that one sentence, we have the mission of the military: To deter aggressors, and if unable to deter, to win the war. That's it. I believe the current administration and our current Secretary of Defense have forgotten this. The military should deter, and if necessary, win the war. I've heard SECDEF Austin say multiple times in public that no one wins a nuclear war. I agree that nuclear war is an ugly last resort, but we sure as hell better win in the event of a nuclear war. He shouldn't have any reservations about saying that. And he should recognize that a woke military, is a broke military.

We are seeing a disturbing trend at the federal level under the Biden administration that relies too heavily on hope and the good will of our adversaries.

Now more than ever, we need to re-establish our dominance on the world stage. But the current administration and his cabinet instead apply the same appeasement and "soft on crime" mentality that the defund the police movement pushed in our communities, except now on the international stage and on our southern border. This puts the US in a weakened position relative to Russia, China and Iran, and puts American lives at risk at home and abroad. Putin's actions, his invasions of Crimea and now Ukraine, are actions that closely parallel Hitler's moves in the late 1930's, and are a direct result of our President's appeasement strategies in 2014 and most recently since early 2021.

But China is the existential threat. As painful as the last 20 months have been for the US on the global stage, our future under this progressive 're-imagination of national security' against China is even more dim. The Chinese Communist Party under Chairman Xi is the serial killer currently walking the streets freely. He has aspirations of annexing Taiwan just as Putin today annexes major parts of Ukraine. Yet many in DC and in boardrooms across the country continue to make money on joint ventures in China and turn a blind eye to the biggest threat against the United States.

And our government continues to hang its policy hat in regard to Taiwan to the 1979 Taiwan relations act. This act was intentionally ambiguous and neither compels us nor prevents us from protecting Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion. It is obsolete. In 1979 Taiwan was an authoritarian nation with little significance to the US. Today it is a democracy with massive significance to the US. I believe ambiguity breeds hostility. Clarity and strength breed peace. And we need an article 5 type agreement with Taiwan just as we do with NATO partners. Today and for the foreseeable future, Taiwan has more strategic importance to the United States than most of our NATO partners.

I believe that the US should be pulling every lever against China that we have pulled against Russia in the last 9 months, except this time before war breaks out. We need smaller carrots and bigger sticks to protect us against the Chinese Communist Party threat and deter Xi. We need to disentangle ourselves from China. And we need to establish an actual, real deterrence against China today to preclude an invasion of Taiwan.

Whether it be Russia, China, Iran, or elsewhere, it is incumbent upon the President to use every available tool to stop the looming threats abroad before they put Americans and our interests at risk. And diplomacy alone, without the horsepower of a strong military and leadership with strong backbones behind it, is not diplomacy.

Pretending to engage in diplomacy, without a meaningful deterrence, and without a strong military behind it, is akin to a child waving a red cape in front of a bull and pretending to be a bullfighter. It actually provokes violence instead. And you eventually get the horns.

Our country needs leaders who will actively hold China and Russia, and who will prevent Iran, the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, from obtaining nuclear weapons. And we need to unabashedly double down on our commitments to our ally Israel.

We have already witnessed the carnage that re-imagining public safety reaps in our local communities. If progressive and naive politicians continue applying their 'defund the police' dream beyond our borders and against our adversaries, we may be witnessing the beginning of the end of our Republic. American lives matter.

Because of the choices made by the current administration, we now have problems that will take 6-8 years to resolve. And so I can think of no more important role and mission than once again serving our precious, but not invincible nation.

Our time on this planet is limited. This is a truth. The way people react to this truth matters. The way people behave matters. And the choices they make matter.

Some Americans live their lives each day with the intent to do good and serve what is right. Whether it's at church, at work or in the community. They choose the right.

Some act out of personal gain or selfish reasons. Seeking that next promotion or chasing the almighty dollar at any expense. They choose to serve themselves.

Others just get by from one day to the next and focus on how to survive in a world that can, at times, be overwhelming and challenging. These folks have no choice but to simply survive.

For me, well I live everyday to fulfill one mission. And it's not really a choice. I know this series is called "A Time for Choosing", but folks I don't feel like there is a choice.

Instead, it's more of an innate sense that compels me. Like the tree that grows vertical because of its genetic and biological disposition to seek sunlight, I wake up every day seeking to support and defend the Constitution and the security of the United States. I'm blessed to have no choice in this mandate, regardless of the sacrifices it may require.

A large part of this is because I love this beautiful country. We are exceptional in every way and when compared to any other nation in the grand arc of this planet's history, we are truly special. But I especially love how we have evolved. We aren't perfect of course, but we are exceptional and we continue to get better.

Initially the United States was a nation burdened with contradictions but with a self awareness of these contradictions: At the outset, how could we call for equality for all yet still allow for slavery and not allow women to vote?

Besides the civil war and the civil rights movement, however, it has been a relatively peaceful process of amending any contradictions via Constitutional amendments over 200 years. This is remarkable.

Since then we have grown to become a super power of 330 million people. We actually may be at 331 million by the time Elon gets done reproducing.

We have led the world thru 2 world wars against tyranny and we remain the shining city on the hill that President Reagan described numerous times.

Those precious words in the DOI still ring true today. That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

This is why I have been willing to give my life in support of the nation since I was 18.

It's why our founding fathers risked it all. They were inspired to revolt against a tyrant that deprived them of their lives, liberties and the pursuit of happiness.

Our founding fathers...they loved the idea of America before America existed. They were patriots before there was a star spangled banner. Inspired to natural freedoms before there was even a national anthem. And they were willing to fight and die for the precepts of the

Constitution before pen was put to parchment in the writing of the actual Constitution. They put America first before she even had a name. And they were willing to wage a war against a superpower against all odds to obtain their independence without knowing how they would prevail.

To me, that's the real inspiration...the real definition of America First. If our founding fathers can make that commitment for so many generations to come, we must be willing to do the same.

We should all love the United States today as much as our founding fathers loved her before she was born.

I was deprived by the cruelty of the clock of the privilege to fight for my nation during her birth. But I'll sure as hell work for her for the entirety of my lifetime, in order to ensure that her life outlasts mine.

We have no choice.

No choice but to put America first. To put her first as one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.