

Ben Franklin's Quote Applies Today

As one walks up the stairs to Pennsylvania's Capitol building from Third Street, one can read the following engraved in stone on the left side of the stairs:

**Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. --
Franklin**

Ben Franklin had it right. Fear drives individuals to give up essential liberty, under the misimpression that law enforcement can protect them in the event of terrorism or any act that may affect their safety.

Recent history has shown that law enforcement cannot totally protect us from anyone who wishes to harm us. Recent examples include the "shoe bomber" and the "underwear bomber." Neither the TSA nor their equivalent stopped these would-be suicide bombers. In fact, ordinary citizens stopped them in their attempt to blow up airplanes.

With liberty comes responsibility. We are responsible for our own safety, because law enforcement cannot protect everyone 100 percent of the time. We have permitted our Federal government to pass unconstitutional laws, which they believe will protect us from the bad guys. Two such laws include the Patriot Act, which is not patriotic at all, and the Real ID Act of 2005, which violates religious and privacy rights and subjects us to identity theft. It also enrolls us in a worldwide biometric network. The States' Legislators and Governors should nullify both acts.

Both State and Federal Government elected officials know deep down that these acts are unconstitutional, since they violate the "Bill of Rights" and the States' "Declaration of Rights." Many officials argue that the courts should determine whether the acts are unconstitutional. As was addressed before, why put a financial burden on citizens to cover attorney fees and court costs to protect their rights? We elect Representatives and Senators to "...support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and ... discharge the duties... with fidelity." Let's exercise our right to nullify; pass Senate Bills 354, 356, and House Bill 1783.

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