

BEHOLD A RIGHTEOUS MAN

There is a place where I go hunt pheasants. It is unlike any other for the amount of game but yet it like what I have seen in Afghanistan. It has the same sort of terrain and climate and if I was to take pictures of both and placed them side by side, it would be hard to tell the difference. There is the one difference as one may imagine, one has for the most part a working Constitution. Freedom from tyranny. Freedom to live according to the dictates of a person's conscience. There is a ranch there and it may seem like any other except somehow it makes a strong impression on me. It is obvious when I think about it, for a righteous man abides there. I do not know exactly why I feel a connection to this place and that man. Perhaps he has prayed for my wellbeing and welfare when I was over in Afghanistan. I would wake up many times and have the strongest impression that someone was praying for me. It was a good thing as many other veterans can attest. We would dodge so many bullets and have rocket attacks that somehow missed and or failed to completely detonate. It was past the point of random coincidence. Others can attest to this as I have spoken with them and they say much the same thing. My heart goes out to those who have paid the price of freedom with the lives of sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, friends and spouses. I am overcome each time that I think of it and the empty places at the holiday tables. I imagine that they would all say the same thing if we could somehow communicate with them, "Do not let our sacrifices be in vain. Live your lives to the fullest and carefully guard your freedoms which we laid our lives down for."

As I was over in Afghanistan I would think of this place and this ranch. It was home and what I was defending. But yet it still not safe and currently there are even more threats and they do creep closer and closer. I am enraged that in spite of all the sacrifices that that have been made, there are those who wish to take away what this Righteous Man has worked for and steal what is not theirs. He has placed his trust in me and I have not done all that I could do to make him safe. He is one of many who do strive to live an honorable life. All those who made sacrifices so that their children my live a better life. This is why I took an oath to defend the Constitution. We the people are the Constitution. It is a living document that is in those who believe in Liberty. I do truly believe that now more than ever we face dire threats to our Liberty. We have warrantless searches, illegal's in some cases with more rights than citizens, some in government that see us as the "Great Unwashed" who cling bitterly to guns and religion. That the people of most of the country are incapable of self government. I do believe in the Great Experiment that our Founding Fathers believed in. I do still believe that Man can rule himself with equity so long as equity is protected and guarded. I do still believe that this land is choice above all others. I have seen what the world would be like if God had not come to show us a better way. I do still believe that the destiny of America is still to come and there is more. Much more and greater things than we can comprehend.

I have seen my life pass before me, as I knew that I was to die. But yet for reasons unknown, I did feel the Hand of God over me and what should have killed me, I walked away from. This knowledge has a price, as I know that my time has been extended. This hasn't been only once but several times. I remember thinking in the split seconds of eternity, I wanted to do more, and I wished I had the chance to do more. And so I have.

I do not feel comfortable here, not so as long as others are over in foreign lands – those are my brothers and sisters and I should be with them. I would like to be able to make a bigger difference and show the world that right is might. It does not seem like we are doing all that we can do, especially when history shows that in WWII, in less than five years America helped defeat Two World Powers. Now we don't defeat but delay. This perpetuates conflict after conflict. Korea – again. Iran – again, to name a few. It is moral to win. It puts an end to the conflict. All this could have been prevented if a stricter implementation of the Constitution was implemented. An invasion of foreigners would be prevented if we were to secure our borders. Conflicts would end because we would declare war and finish it – not allowing it continue endlessly. I am convinced now more than ever that if we are to survive as a nation it is by adherence to our blueprint, The Constitution. To do less is to go the way of other nations. Our forefather's came here to be rid of the inequities of other nations. To have a land where each man would have his own voice and a right to choose his own destiny. They came here to live differently. We do not want to blend in with the world.

I feel a great anxiety. It is because never have I seen so many rights be trampled under foot in the name of some euphemism. It will not turn out ok unless we resolve to not let another evil past us. It is time to turn of the TV and think, clearly. It is time to make our representatives accountable to us – the people. Time to decide what we will allow and not allow, no compromises. Only then will our Liberty be preserved. Only then will the Righteous Man whose name I don't know, be protected. He is my countryman, and that is enough for me.

I still do wish that I can do more, say something Biblical. That would get some attention. But for now I must be content with my words and my voice. They will be backed up. I took an oath to defend the Constitution and that oath I dare not compromise on. To do so I would lose my self respect and self honor. One branch of the US Army has a motto that succinctly sums it up, "This we defend."

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