

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

Today, July 4th is America's day. There is perhaps to better way to celebrate the birth of the United States than to think for a moment about those events that have brought us to where we are in 2013. I spent last week in San Diego on North Island Naval Air Station. To my ears, there is no better freedom sound than the full-throttle roar of a jet fighter on take-off roll, and I heard that familiar sound many times throughout the week. I like fireworks too, but that jet engine explosion sound of freedom is a signature of my generation of American aviator service members. Many things keep constancy in our history. The one element most central to our American history has always been that individual willing to defend the United States. No other citizen can be more valued! The country and American dream isn't maintained by politicians and bureaucrats. These folks make all the noise and take the credit for everything, but when history is written the reality of who made the sacrifices always comes out.

Since I retired from the military, I take great pride in talking with the current generation of military people who sustain and protect our freedom. It doesn't matter that they be soldier, sailor, airman or marine. Nearly every day I am talking with service members who are currently serving on active duty as part of my volunteer position as the California Ombudsman Director for the DOD Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves program. Listening to the personal stories and experiences of these military members helps me understand the cost of sustaining freedom issues of 2013. These issue of today will mark a period in American history where we have been in sustained conflict and deployment for over 20 years. We have been in a full-up wartime combat configurations since 2011. The people I met on the naval base in San Diego last week are another link in a chain that was first forged at Bunker Hill. Over the years, generation after generation have committed to defend this country and to protect the ideas brought forth in that July in 1776. For example, on July 1st this year, we marked the 150th anniversary of the bloodiest battle in American history.....Gettysburg. Many battles and many generations have preserved this land. The battle

of Gettysburg secured the union between the North and South and preserved the concepts of a constitutional republic.

Today.....July 4th 2013 is marked by an American dream deeply divided between and entitlement-seeking group and a paying-for group. The ideological separation between competing population segments is most troubling. Dynamic leadership in every level of government is needed to sustain the dream that was started in 1776. I just don't see any emerging civic leaders. I don't see leadership at the local, state or national level. We have installed government by consultancy and special interest. We have the government taxing, regulating, and fostering special interests over the rest of the population. I'm reminded of a document.... "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary to separate....

If you know history you know the source of those words.

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