

Local Politics Matter

Scared of Their Own Shadow

Come Out of the Darkness



January 6, 2021 really is a day that will live in infamy. For the second time in the history of this Country the seat of our Democracy was attacked by a group intent on overthrowing our Government. Unlike what happened during the War of 1812 this attack was captured live and in color. We saw the violence, the insanity, the courage and the bravery. During these six hours that we will never forget we saw the full gamut of individual emotions and all of us who watched experienced those same emotions. As you might expect the Country has been in an upheaval since this act of sedition took place.

As we recover as a Country and begin to appropriately look to hold those involved in the sedition accountable an interesting narrative is starting to take hold. Some Republicans are finally starting to try to distance themselves from Trump while others are expressing a fear of going against Trump because their lives and the lives of their family members may be in jeopardy. Obviously these Republicans are not very good students of American history. Maybe someone should explain to them that the lives of African Americans and whites supporting civil rights have always been on the line in this Country.

From a historic perspective we can look at Chaney, Goodman, and Schwerner. For those of you who need a refresher they were three civil rights workers who were killed in Neshoba County, Mississippi in June of 1964. They were in Mississippi working to register African Americans to vote. I am sure that these young men had fears especially during the tumultuous 1960s but they put those fears aside in order to pursue what was best for the Country. Speaking of Mississippi we can also look at the courage of Medgar Evers and his family. A World War II veteran and civil rights activist who was assassinated in his driveway by a white supremacist in 1963. Following his assassination both his wife and brother became important activists in civil rights and politics respectively. I am sure that doing this in the wake of Medgar's assassination stoked fear in their hearts but they put that aside for the good of their Country. Finally, I am sure that they are familiar with Muhammad Ali. A man who at the

height of his athletic glory took a stand against the war in Vietnam that resulted in the loss of his right to box and stripped him of the best years of his athletic career. My guess is that Mr. Ali had some level of fear as he took his stand. Probably a fear of the unknown but he stood on principle and did what was best for this Country. These examples clearly show that fear is not an excuse for cowardice. There is and never will be an excuse for cowardice especially when the democratic ideals and rule of law that we have always aspired to uphold are being challenged. Plant your feet and take a stand for the good of your Country.

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