

From the office of
Texas State Representative - Dan Flynn

THE FLYNN REPORT

Newsletter
December 14, 2003

Greetings constituents, supporters and friends:

Since this will be my final newsletter for 2003 I want to take the opportunity to wish all of you a merry Christmas as we come to the season to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This has been an unforgettable year for Susan and me and we are honored to have been able to represent District 2 during the 78th Legislature in the Texas House of Representatives.

I filed for reelection on December 9th and look forward to continuing the work on the programs I have initiated. Now is the time to remedy complex issues such as public school finance and to pare down inefficient areas of the bureaucracy.

When elected I said my race would be one of vision, value and leadership based on faith, family and freedom. I have kept my promises and will again work on issues that include reducing the tax burden and strong support for sound education for all our children. I believe in traditional family and moral values, property rights especially as they relate to our East Texas water issues, and our Second Amendment rights. These issues continue to be priorities of the citizens of House District 2. I have proven I am willing to fight to preserve and protect these issues for future generations. I am asking for your vote of confidence to allow me to continue to serve as your Representative in Austin in the House of Representatives.

I was privileged to speak at the graduation commencement at Texas A & M University, Commerce, on Saturday December 13th and I am sharing my comments to the graduates now with you.

“Dr. McFarland, distinguish guest and graduates, I have looked forward to this opportunity to speak to you on this very special day. You have accomplished a goal that will have importance to you for the rest of your life. Regardless of your future accomplishments don’t ever let anyone diminish this achievement.

I came wanting to share this historic legislative year that I was fortunate enough to be a part of that I believe all Texans will benefit from.

With the help of legislators of both parties, we passed the most sweeping lawsuit reforms in the nation – reforms that will attract jobs and employers from all over the world. We protected doctors and our access to health care. Despite a \$10 billion budget gap, we increased funding for health care and public education by more than \$1 billion each. And we did something few envisioned possible – we

balanced our budget without asking Texans to pay more in taxes. All of this has seemed so important to me and I believed important to all Texans and I thought would be important to you and it is.

But, I discovered like you will find as you travel this road of life, so often events will happen that will change your thoughts and make you want to go a different direction. That is what happen to me today.

Last night I returned from Washington D. C where I was privileged to be a guest at the U. S. State Department. If you have every been to this historic building you will be as caught up with the grandeur of it as I was. It truly is a national treasure and, in fact, a museum where hundreds of gifts have been given to our great country by visiting heads of state. In one corner of that room stands the very desk where Thomas Jefferson penned our Declaration of Independence.

I walked out on the balcony of this great building to behold a panoramic view of our nation's Capitol, the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial and the Lincoln Monument. In this twilight moment I was struck with their meaning and a picture was planted in my mind that I will not soon forget.

Upon my return I was met with yet another unimaginable surprise. Secretary of State Colin Powell had entered into our company. I naturally assumed he would talk about significant current events, but to my surprise he began with how honored he was to serve as the 65th Secretary of State of the United States of America and what a privilege it was to follow in the footsteps of the great patriots that proceeded him. He referred to Thomas Jefferson (Our First Secretary of State) and even referred to that grand desk that had caught my attention earlier.

Secretary Powell described the many uses of the room. Every day he presents honors to individuals that have made significant contributions to our country in grand scope from the arts to heads of state. This prompted him to tell of a pivotal event when retired from the military twelve years ago and was not sure just what he wanted to do.

He knew the lecture circuit was very lucrative, but while in Miami giving a talk to young people he was telling them of the importance of family, education and how vital it was to listen to your parents and allow them to guide and direct you. He naturally asked for questions and a young man about 8 or 9 years old raised his hand. He called on him knowing you should never ask for questions from children (You never know what they will ask! All bets are off with children.) The young man said, "I don't have any parents. Who do I talk to?"

After leaving that meeting he determined to start America's Promise Program, one that mentors young people that need help. I'm sure you have seen its logo, the little red wagon, and its success.

After becoming Secretary of State Secretary Powell said that the Heads of State of many nations come and talk to him and he is always amazed at their knowledge of our founding fathers. Recently, having dinner with the Premiere of China Secretary Powell mentioned he was reading a book on President Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address when the Premier said, "I liked his first inaugural speech better," and then the Premiere proceeded to quote it. His point? Leaders and people from all over the world look to America for hope and leadership.

Ronald Reagan once talked about having a copy of the Soviet Constitution and how he read it with great interest. He noticed all kinds of terms in there that sounded just exactly like our own; 'freedom of assembly' and 'freedom of speech' and so forth. Of course, they don't allow the citizens to have those things, but they're in their constitution.

All countries have their constitution so why so much emphasis on ours? The answer is very simple that's why we don't notice it at first. But, it is so great that it tells the entire difference. All those other constitutions are documents that say, '*We, the government, allow the people the following rights.*' Our Constitution says, '*We, the people, allow the government the following privileges and rights.*' We give our permission to government to do the things that it does.

America's Founders endowed our Republic with sound principles and a framework for governing that is unmatched in the history of mankind. We are a nation that has been governed for over 200 years by one document. This is unprecedented in man's history. The prosperity and freedom of America can only be assured if we continue to be guided by the basic principles we were founded upon as we continue into our future.

Ronald Reagan said, "*FREEDOM is not something to be secured in any one moment of time. We must struggle to preserve it every day. And freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.*"

We should be proud of it. But we do not respect the Constitution simply because it is tradition. There are, after all, bad traditions. Rather, as American citizens we have a duty to understand the Constitution as fully as possible which means understanding the principles upon which it was built.

John F. Kennedy said, "*Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer.*"

This day is only the beginning of your labor and now you must continue as you begun. With much hard work! Set your eye upon the highest mark of the profession you have chosen. Let unwavering integrity be your guide with an enlightened sense of duty presiding in your every movement. Allow no stain on your purity or your honor and always live in the hearts of your fellow citizens.

Stretch your hands out and leave the finest impression of your work and power upon your associates and your nation. Then you will inscribe your names indelibly on the brightest page of your countries history.

All of this can be accomplished and with the blessing of God nothing is impossible. Exercise unlimited confidence in all circumstances knowing that those who hold a strong faith truly possessed and conscientiously practiced will forever be kept from The Tempter and whether in prosperity or adversity the sunshine of Joy will be poured out on your path through all the journey of your being.

The rewards, which will await your devotion to these principles will be honor and success among men while you live and when your mortality shall cease your memory will remain fresh and alive. Future generations will speak your praise and many will unite to praise your accomplishments.

I have always lived by my own code and it has served me well. It comes from the words of an old Gospel song I use to sing:

I was facing decisions with answers unknown, a valley with no end in sight. When I stepped out in faith believing that I soon would be receiving what He promised to make of my life.

Government is run by those that show up.....Promise me. You will show up and you will be there to defend and protect this great document, our Constitution. John Adams, said "*Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives.*"

May God bless each of you and May God bless America”

My staff and I welcome your input and your questions. You can reach us in our office located in the Capitol extension: **E1.324**. Mailing address: **P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX, 78768** and our phone number is **512/463-0880**. Canton District office: **P. O. Box 999, Canton, TX, 75103** phone number **903-567-0921**. Email **dan.flynn@house.state.tx.us**.

God bless you and God bless Texas,

Dan Flynn

State Representative, House District 2

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