

THE PATRIOT POST

VANISHING HEROES

by Seth Johnson

Disappearing quicker than Houdini, the role models so long admired by many are going the way of the dodo bird. From Thomas Jefferson to Robert E. Lee, these and many other historical figures are being reexamined to see just how great they were.

Schools named after Lee have been under pressure to change their long-held names because Lee was a racist who fought for slavery. The fact he worked to free the slaves left to him by his father-in-law, becomes irrelevant. Also, within the last month, students and faculty at the University of Virginia, founded primarily by Jefferson, signed a petition to ban quotes by him from the campus. This happened after the university president sent a campus-wide email with a quote by Jefferson saying University of Virginia students "are not of ordinary significance only: they are exactly the persons who are to succeed to the government of our country, and to rule its future enmities, its friendships, and fortunes." It seems to me that Jefferson is getting silenced for complimenting students from two hundred years in the past. Perish the very thought. The reason for the ban is that he was a slave owner and, therefore, bad guy. The fact that he wasn't perfect is, to our flawless society today, simply unacceptable.

One of the problems with this is that we fall into the trap of presentism. This is judging history by our own present standards. For example, I sometimes view the ancient Greeks as stupid because they thought the earth was flat, not moving, and that objects willed themselves to move. To us, this is folly; to them it was reality. Anyone of us would have followed this line of reason had we lived in those days. While this doesn't excuse moral misdeeds, it shows that while today slavery is an obvious evil, 250 years ago it was a much contested idea that we may have allowed had we been alive.

Another problem with such scrutiny and shaming of historical figures is the effect on our society. When our founding fathers or any historically significant person is erased from society, students have no model for what to do and what not to do. The evil people of times past are still remembered quite well and certainly not, for the most part, wiped from the conversation and the public view. Why? Because an example of what not to do is important. Similarly, an example of what to do, who to be, and how to live is needed, more so even. Who can replace the models we cast down? Surely, no one presently living can, for everyone, it seems, is considered bad by someone.

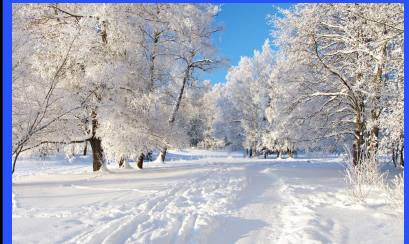
People need an example, a picture of good to live by, but no one is perfect and it seems one flaw is all it takes to be excused from being a good example. The issue with important people is that the spotlight magnifies their flaws while their virtues simultaneously shrink to the point that they are more flawed than good. We must acknowledge that no one is God and choose to look at all influential people for two reasons: to mimic their good traits and learn from their mistakes. That is why we mustn't let anyone be erased from history's pages, for we can learn from them all, and certainly shouldn't remove those who are, for the majority, great models of living.



PATRIOT SPORTS:

Congratulations to all three of our basketball teams as they swept Colonial Christian on Tuesday night. The Jr. High boys played an excellent game and it was a nail-biter. Gabe Arison led the team in scoring with 18 points, followed by Ty Zirkle, who scored 6 points. Final score was 26-25 for the Patriots. The Lady Patriots also played a terrific game and gave us quite a show. Behind Shelby Peterson's 12 points and Julia Keating's 9 points, they pulled out a narrow and exciting win with a final score of 29-27. In the last game of the night, our Men's Varsity team did not disappoint. Seth Johnson erupted, scoring a season-high 22 points, along with 7 rebounds and 7 assists. Brayden Karnes also put up some big numbers, scoring 21 points. At one point in the game, the Patriots were up by more than 40 points, allowing the opponent to score only 1 point in the entire third quarter. In their first CICC Conference match of the season, they came away with a 75-38 victory over Colonial Christian. Tonight, the Girl's Varsity Basketball and the Men's Varsity Basketball teams are heading to Indianapolis to face off against Crosspointe Christian Academy. Come down and support YOUR Patriots.

*"He sends the snow
like white wool; He
scatters the frost upon
the ground like
ashes."
-Psalms 147:16*



Living Christmas Tree 2016

Don't forget to pre-order your **FREE** tickets at Grace Baptist. Tickets must be pre-ordered to guarantee seating.

Performances are December 9th through the 11th. Times are December 9th at 7 pm, December 10th at 3pm and 7pm, and the final performance will be on Sunday, December 11th at 3 pm. See you there!

Be Our Friends!

