

# We're at risk of bleeding our heritage

**'A**ll bleeding stops; if not now, eventually." A battle-wise flight surgeon wryly barked that at me over the 130 decibel whapping sound of our U.S. Army UH-1C Huey Medevac chopper. His words competed with the snap of a .50 caliber spitting at the battleground below. The gun shot blanks but the medical commander was dead on with live fire.

Our pilot was dropping a bunch of young medics into a simulated hot zone during a combat casualty care exercise. Soon, I would be humping heavy loads, knee deep in moulaged mock war casualties amidst real tear gas and not so simulated ordnance. In the real deal, all bleeding does stop, eventually.

We are at war right now with ourselves. We are hemorrhaging money with Congresses' every spin of the magical treasury wheel of misfortune. As printing presses spew out real dollars of debt, you, I and generations to come are the walking wounded. Interest payments alone may reach 15 percent of our entire budget. Shame.

The president may be more sincerely entrenched in academic intellectual beliefs and principles than he is in politics. Perhaps good, if he were largely correct. However, we risk bleeding our heritage. This is no surprise as he has no "blood on the battlefield" command experience and the Great Depression is an inadequate model.



**Kevin Ryan**

Governance and leadership must embrace human nature, not deny it. Socialistic reengineering of economic and political systems has repeatedly proven to conspire against man's ultimate creative and productive powers.

I do not want my president to fail. That's the

wrong question and stinking thinking. I do not accept that the track we are on can ever succeed; especially if we measure success as the crippling of the American dream. I fear the administration's definition of success.

**O**ur Founding Fathers were not geniuses as much as they were implacably appreciative of man's nature.

They divined a system complementary to human nature as irrefutably as the double helix of Homo sapiens' DNA. They knew that aptitudes in life are not equally distributed and "the poor we will always have with us."

Thus, they engineered a system ensuring access to opportunities to be all you can be, not be all the same. This was a core competency of a small government empowered by our dollars.

They knew that the pursuit of happiness is the prerogative and path of the individual, not the prescriptive rhetoric found in the papal bull of politicians. Access to that pursuit, free from meddling hands of big government, is the power that drives patents and the fuel that fires productivity. It perpetually invigorates a nation and

its children. They sought to weave a safety net for those incapable of self help, not a suffocating socialistic shroud ushering in the demise of the American dream.

They knew that ethics in government mattered and north was north and not a fleeting notion of one's personal moral compass. They knew governments were created by the people and for the people. They are not the people.

We got here by a perversion of the right, not the politics of the right or left, per se. We predictably lost our way. History says pendulum swings serve in time to steady the course, much as the baroque period ushered in the classical and McCarthyism led to mayhem against the "man."

**T**his time the pendulum may well fly off its fulcrum and the road back may only be historical reminiscence if citizens do not engage.

An informed electorate has power of titanic proportions. In the next few articles let's look at some of the directions our government may be taking in its proposed hysteric and historic 2010 budget. Some are noble bets on the future. But some would even give Nostradamus a nosebleed.

Remember, all deficit spending is an arterial torrent of treasury notes and all bleeding stops, if not now, eventually.

*Dr. Kevin Ryan is a retired colonel, physician, musician and author who lives in Fairfield. Reach him at [ryan\\_k@comcast.net](mailto:ryan_k@comcast.net).*