

## *Our Calling - Our Account*

By Bill Johnson



Pictured above is our staff from 2015. Some of you will recognize Judy Krause (now with the Lord) who is pictured on the far left. Judy was part of our staff for upwards of seven years (in two different time frames) and part of the team God called and assembled over our years of ministry; her presence is still missed. Though she is no longer with us, she is not forgotten. Her story recorded in booklet form speaks personally to the destructive nature of pornography, oftentimes so subtly in the lives of individuals and married couples. We will have some of her booklets available at our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event – July 11, 2025.

This picture was taken at a weekend conference we held at the Shack Country Inn near Fremont. As it happened, we had scheduled and promoted an event that featured several of our American Family Association friends from Tupelo, MS as speakers. However, due to issues beyond the control of our AFA friends - the serious health decline of a loved one and a fire at an airport causing a canceled flight - our speakers could not make it at the last minute. With conference attendees registered, and, in some cases, already on their way, we made some God-ordained adjustments to our weekend program. What could have been an embarrassment and a fiasco turned out to be a wonderful blessing as we witnessed the calm and cool of each of our staff rising up and standing in the gap to do ministry "on a dime."

I asked Steve Huston to give a message with less than 14 hours to prepare, which included what would have been his overnight sleeping. (Steve is pictured third from the right.) I am shown with a microphone as I am serving as a moderator for an impromptu staff Q and A, being put on the spot with questions that I placed before them with spontaneity. The question that I asked of Judy was to share a life-changing event in her life. Her response was a personal account of the harmful impact of pornography in her life by a trusted loved one years before. Her tender response ministered to a number of ladies in attendance as one by one they spoke privately with her.

This is just one account of outreach we've had over the last 40 years of ministry. As we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to telling of God's hand - how He took a fledgling organization founded in 1985, which originated in a humble bedroom-turned-office, and touched His people to give sacrificially over a relatively short period of time to raise the monies needed to acquire a church building used not only for our headquarters, but also as a center for hosting speakers.

Please join us as we celebrate what God has done:

**What:** American Decency  
40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration / Thank You Dinner

**Where:** Faith Baptist Church auditorium and fellowship facility  
7729 W. 48<sup>th</sup> Street (1 mile west of ADA headquarters) Fremont, MI 49412  
**When:** Friday, July 11 (5:30 – 8:00 PM)  
**Why:** To give thanks with like-minded servants of God and friends of ADA

**To make your reservation** for our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, please fill out the section on the enclosed response card and return by mail or contact us at 231-924-4050 or [kimberly@americandecency.org](mailto:kimberly@americandecency.org).

**Nearby hotels.** We have several rooms held at the Harrington Inn in Fremont. They will be held until April 11. Call 231-924-3083 to make your reservation and ask for the American Decency Association block of rooms. The Gerber House may also have a few rooms available. ([www.the-gerberguesthouse.com](http://www.the-gerberguesthouse.com)).

In closing, I would encourage you to prayerfully consider making your reservation(s) early because seating is limited to the first 200 reservations. We have a lot to share with you, including music, videos, and presentations by friends of this ministry.

*Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. [Jude 24-25]*

## Personal Note: As We Move Forward ...



In starting my personal note and being so graciously mindful of God's working power in my life, I am aware of my daily weaknesses and need of God and of His Holy Spirit to awaken me and to lead me; especially now as we are presently only a few months away from our July 11th celebration of 40 years in ministry!

Why am I feeling led to begin this way? To acknowledge my desire for God's presence via His Holy Spirit in my writing this to you. Because I want God's help in my weakness! I am humbled by God's presence, His faithfulness and empowerment in His placing a God-ordained sense of calling upon me - what truly seems like only a few short years ago, though it goes back to 1985. Truly, I don't want to lay down my service yet. He has given me a joy and a work yet to do.

Yet, I am not oblivious. Things happen - sometimes very suddenly. His will be done, but I desire to keep on. Lest you read anything into this, Jan's and my health and energy remain very good at this writing.

I am so looking forward to what God is helping us to do, with so many of you joining us, as we celebrate 40 years of ministry - unveiling just a few sketches of our work (due to time limitations) with touching evidence of what He has done and is doing in a ministry called and graced as we have been.

I am in the book of Judges this morning - chapter 5-8, reading of Gideon and his small band of 300. It is a great reminder of what God can do with just a few - under the inspiration of God.

*Know ye not that to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, His servants you are to whom you obey whether of sin unto death*

*or of obedience unto righteousness.* Romans 6:17

May God help us in these days of great sin, great challenge and great opportunity.

May God also help us at ADA to put before you a God-inspired evening that will bless your heart, encourage each one of us, and unashamedly show the weakness of we His people and the goodness, grace and faithfulness of our glorious God!

Prayerfully, we seek to inspire you with music, testimony, video remembrances, joys and a wonderful evening of fellowship over a prepared meal put together and catered by our staff and close friends and family.



[2019. ADA staff with Raphael Cruz, Senator Ted Cruz's father. Pictured L to R - Steve, Chris, Lisa, Kim, Raphael, Jan and Bill]

In the meantime, we have work to do here at American Decency Association. As we move forward, we sensed the voice of the Lord directing us to return to a greater emphasis upon the need to pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14)

As you know, we have been talking about unleashing a podcast. The podcast will be called "*Finally, a Decent Podcast.*" It is not meant to sound arrogant but rather wonderment and begging the question, "*What is this all about?*"

With God's help, we intend to speak caringly and boldly into the matter of pornography and the battle against it and to *pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord.*

As many of you know, my calling came years ago as a result of my own struggle with pornography and lust in my late teens

and early twenties. Knowing the insidious and the degrading darkness of pornography, but in my newborn salvation experiencing the love of God and the empowerment of his indwelling presence and grace, I was set free. I saw firsthand the victory, the true victory, set free from sin and guilt, the restoration and the joy that came through His Word and the power of practicing the presence of God daily, hourly, and in true victory.

So, with God's great touch and inspiration, I desire to humbly speak myself and interview others who know Christ and His victory in our weekly podcast! Your prayers for us are needed as never before. Pray for our continued yielding to God that we will seek his face and humbly and boldly, despite our weakness, rely upon His power and His Sovereign grace.



[Speaking outside of the Supreme Court, April 27, 2015, before the hearing of the Obergefell v. Hodges case, which ultimately legalized homosexual marriage.]

Lastly, please know that your faithfulness over these years has not only blessed us day after day, but that without your strong support we would not be able to carry on. However, in saying this, we do want you to note that our monthly giving has been in decline over the last few months to about \$4,000 short every month of where we would like to stay in financial strength. We believe your love for our work and for us, your prayers, and support is a major factor in our sensing God's personal presence by way of His Holy Spirit.

May God be glorified through all of us together in His precious name! Please stay in touch and we will look forward to seeing many of your names as you make a reservation for our time together on July 11<sup>th</sup> in Fremont!

# Is This City on a Hill Dimming?

By Steve Huston



As one reads the article below, please recognize that it is written with the broad brush of generality and a “guessing” of things to come; that’s what one gets from surveys and polls. Of course, also, one cannot discount the merciful and sovereign Hand of God, working out His own good purposes.

Living in Michigan, when the calendar turns to March, we’ll get a few days in a row of warm, sunny weather. For many, even though we know better, in our minds, winter is over and we look forward to enjoying warmer weather, planting gardens, riding bicycles, and the list goes on. But then, we’re snapped back to reality as cold fronts move in, snow flies, and we put our coats back on.

Biden’s “very dark winter” has given way to the sunshine of common sense and the warmth of “reality,” but, if polls are to be believed, winter still lingers in the heart of America where Christianity is concerned. The stark warning of books like Pagan America THE DECLINE OF CHRISTIANITY AND THE DARK AGE TO COME by John Daniel Davidson and Life in the Negative World: Confronting Challenges in an Anti-Christian Culture by Aaron M. Renn, for most, seem to be overshadowed by the “spring” of better days we are now enjoying. People felt troubled; now, most feel relieved. While there is much to be relieved over, we mustn’t forget the “impending doom” much of our nation felt less than half a year ago. If things do not change, it’s very likely a precursor of things to come.

Mr. Davidson, writing for the Federalist, points to a Religious Landscape Study (RLS) recently put out by Pew Research Center, stating that “*what it reveals about the decline of Christianity should alarm every American, whether or not one is Christian.*” He points out that in spite of this survey being entitled *Decline of Christian-*

*ity in the U.S. Has Slowed, May Have Levelled Off*, one should recognize “*that the de-Christianization of American society is not going to stop anytime soon, in part because it’s being driven by a younger, less Christian, increasingly neopagan cohort of Americas as older Christians die off without being replaced and aging Christian parents fail to pass the faith onto their children.*”

Davidson points out that when looking at the Pew RLS over the past 17 years (2007, 2014, 2023-24) regarding the percentage of U.S. adults who identified as Christian, the most recent “showed a 9-point drop since 2014 and a 16-point drop since 2007, which suggests the rate of our de-Christianization is accelerating.”

American “nones” – those who do not identify with any religion – have “increased from 16% in 2007 to 23% in 2014 to 29% in 2024.” These numbers run across all demographics.

Davidson quotes from Eric Sammons that “for every 100 people who leave the religious ‘nones’ (i.e., they join a religion), a full 590 become part of that irreligious cohort.” Catholics suffer greater losses than Protestants: “for every 100 people who become Catholic, 840 leave.” For the same number of those who become Protestant, only 180 leave.

Not only are the “nones” continuing to grow, but non-Christian religious adherents have increased in number from 4.7% in 2007 to 7.1% today.

The fact that the practice and once strongly held beliefs of the Christian faith are in decline must also play a role in the de-Christianization of America. Over the years, we’ve witnessed the decline in numbers of those – even pastors – who either don’t read or don’t believe the Bible as being true and inerrant. This latest RLS shows that among the 62% who profess to be Christian, only a third of them claim to attend religious services – either in person or virtually.

From Pew’s numbers to the society which comprises America in general, one can see that we’ve not responded well to President

Coolidge’s call in 1926: “*If we are to maintain the great heritage which has been bequeathed to us, we must be like-minded as the fathers who created it. We must not sink into a pagan materialism. We must cultivate the reverence which they had for the things that are holy. We must follow the spiritual and moral leadership which they showed.*”

What will be our lot if we continue on the road we are traveling? John Daniel Davidson clearly warns in his forementioned book: “*The void left by Christian morality will not remain empty, though. It will be filled with a new morality that harkens back, very far back indeed, to the pagan world that Christianity swept away. The future of America is not strictly speaking atheist or nihilist, much less agnostically secular or libertarian. Those ideologies have always been luxury goods that only a Christian society could afford. We will not be able to afford them much longer. What comes at the sunset of the Christian era rises up from the distant past, appearing to us now in new guises and under new names, but heralding the return of the old moral order in all its indifferent violence and raw manifestations of power. Under its banners march the old gods, blood-soaked and cruel, who now fix their insatiable eyes on a once-Christian people and lay claim at last to pagan America.*” (p. 44)

Christian or not, if America loses its Christian morals and departs from the living God, it will affect us all.

Must we stay on this course? No, that’s the great thing about true Christianity and evangelism, through Jesus transforming us we change and things change. But know this: It takes more than mere Bible reading, meditation, and study. It takes more than prayer and fasting (Isa. 58). In 1 Timothy we are called to “war a good warfare” (v. 18); to tell others that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (v. 15); and that this is much more than our eternal destination, it’s about God receiving “honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen” (v. 17).

Will this “city on a hill” get brighter or continue to dim? Lord only knows, but let us be faithful in doing our part.



# Defeating Democrats Will Require Us to Be Tough

By Chris Johnson



A few weeks ago, I was looking for a TV show that my family could all enjoy together, and I stumbled across a competition reality show called “Tough as Nails.” The show brings together blue-collar workers from different parts of the country and stages them against each other as they compete to complete real-world jobs the fastest.

As I want my kids to admire “toughness” and to want to be “tough” themselves, we watched the first season which included a drywaller, a farmer, a roofer, a fireman, a prison guard, a commercial fisherman, and a military veteran, etc.

We enjoyed the show, and I looked up reviews to see how others had received it and was surprised to find a low rating. Nearly every negative comment was from a female viewer who was disappointed that the tough tasks chosen for the competitions gave a disadvantage to the women!

This may be an unpopular opinion in 2025, but I think it’s pretty obvious that, in general, men are more likely to be “tough as nails” than women in the sense that the work featured on the show requires. Sawing lumber, slinging bales, fighting fires, etc. – select women can do those jobs well and do so on the show, but you have to look a lot harder for those women than you do for a man capable of doing the same jobs.

But then again, perhaps that’s not as unpopular an idea as we’ve been led to believe. It’s exactly that kind of refusing to embrace reality that lost Democrats the most recent election.

What’s interesting about “Tough as Nails” is that it focuses on a demographic which Democrats blame, in part, for their 2024 losses: the working class, the union-members, the kind of people leftist Bruce Springsteen had in mind when he sang “My Hometown.”

Yet, illegal immigration was one of the most important voting issues because American workers sense that illegal aliens are taking work opportunities from them. Blue-collar workers see the fruit of their blood, sweat, and tears go to ridiculous government bloat or foreign interests that offer them no benefit. It’s union members who’ve been made to sit through reality-denying DEI training with straight faces. And, of course, it’s American workers who’ve been hurt by their factories being moved overseas in pursuit of a globalist vision.

These have been the defining policies of Democrats under their last three presidencies.

Amil Imani wrote a piece for the Geller Report titled, *The Democrats Are the Gravest Threat to Our Nation*: “*Once a cornerstone of American political life, the Democrat Party has transformed into something unrecognizable—a force that now threatens the very fabric of the nation. Historically a party of working-class advocacy and progressive reform, it has strayed from its roots in recent years to adopt a radical, anti-American agenda. This transformation warrants scrutiny, as the stakes for the United States could not be higher.*”

Victor Davis Hanson at American Greatness observes that the recent faltering of the Democrat party is evidence of change: “*On matters of trade, immigration, and foreign policy, we are witnessing a counter-revolutionary effort to erase the madness of the Biden revolutionary years.*”

The MAGA agenda may seem radical compared to what we’ve been used to over the last few decades, but that’s just because the Trump administration is trying to undo *quickly* the slow decay we’ve become so used to living in.

And the Democrat party, the champion of this decay, continues to falter after the election. Recent polls have the party’s approval at just 27% percent. As Rod Martin frames it, “*more Americans believe in ALIENS than support the Democrat Party right now.*”

Meanwhile, Trump’s approval is reaching record highs, as the March 16 NBC poll reveals: “*more registered voters see the U.S.*

*as heading in the right direction than at any point since early 2004...*” and “*Trump’s approval rating also equals his best-ever mark as president (47%)...*”

Democrat response to this shift covers a spectrum with one end represented by Democrat political consultant Doug Schoen who argued in an op-ed that his party shouldn’t be afraid of pushing for a secure border, cutting government regulation, and embracing school choice. The other end of the spectrum is setting owners’ and dealers’ Teslas on fire in protest of Trump supporter and Tesla founder Elon Musk.

The good news is that the Democrat party is currently an unpopular place to be. The bad news is that the next generation of leadership in the modern Democrat party is far more beholden to the pyromaniac end of the spectrum and they are not done fighting. For now, they’re fighting in the defunct information space of cable news, celebrity endorsements, and - more effectively - in lower courts - and, of course, by setting things on fire. But weaponized “victimhood” is a powerful weapon in elections, and Democrats will find new ways to wield it.

Conservatives will need to be “tough as nails” in the months and years ahead as new norms continue to be shattered in the return to old norms in this “counter-revolution.” Tactics may include the president defying lower-court activist judges’ unconstitutional orders and harsh sentencing for American terrorists who firebomb their political opponents’ cars.

If law and order are going to rule in the US, the lawless left is going to play the victim, and we have to be tough enough to not fall for it.

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# A Coup by Court Order

By Lisa Van Houten



President Trump hit the ground running to implement the mandate the American people gave him to secure our nation, rein in unchecked bureaucratic power, and rid the government of ideological insanity. Yet nearly equal to his flurry of executive action, has been the reaction of activist leftist judges to thwart the implementation of Trump's policies. In just the first eight weeks of Trump's second administration, Obama and Biden-appointed federal judges have issued 48 injunctions or restraining orders to block President Trump's executive orders.

For example, federal judges have blocked Trump's order to house federal inmates based on biological sex, instead of transgender identity; issued a restraining order to keep Trump appointees, including the Secretary of the Treasury, from accessing payment data at the Treasury Department; and ruled that the CEO of the United States can't fire the employees who work for him. One judge even ruled that the administration had to restore deleted Biden-era information to a government website advocating for transgender surgeries for children.

**It's obvious that this isn't about upholding the rule of law; it's blatant judicial tyranny to hamstring the President of the United States from fulfilling his agenda.**

If black-robed activists can dictate to the President what website information his administration must post, the will of the people is meaningless and we become a nation ruled by unelected judges. Such lawfare undermines the separation of powers, usurping the power granted to the Executive Branch by the U.S. Constitution – a coup by court order. District judges do not have the constitutional authority to dictate policy for the entire nation or micromanage the actions of the President. Yet that hasn't stopped these activist judges from undermining Article II of the very Constitution they've taken an oath to uphold, which ex-

PLICITLY grants the President alone the authority to shape the policy of the executive branch – not the courts.

The president also has the responsibility for national security. In fulfilling that duty, President Trump invoked the Alien Enemies Act (AEA) to expedite the removal of illegal aliens who are members of the violent Tren de Aragua (TdA) gang, which the State Department had designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and as Specially Designated Global Terrorists. Secretary of State Marco Rubio brokered an arrangement with El Salvador's President Bukele who offered to incarcerate them. The law says the AEA can be invoked when "any invasion or predatory incursion is perpetrated, attempted or threatened" against the U.S. and those perpetrators can be "apprehended, restrained, secured, and removed as alien enemies."

However, in another act of judicial activism, District Judge James Boasberg - siding with these alien criminals rather than the safety of the American people - issued a restraining order to block the deportation. Boasberg has a long history of leftist judicial activism, while his daughter works for "Partners for Justice," a group which gives criminal illegal aliens legal advice. In his ruling, Judge Boasberg claimed Trump couldn't use the Alien Enemies Act except during a time of war. While the AEA has typically been used during wartime, both Presidents Wilson and Truman used it post-war and the Supreme Court upheld such usage in a 1948 ruling, in which the Court's majority stated: "*These are matters of political judgment for which judges have neither technical competence nor official responsibility.*" In other words, national security issues are not subject to judicial review, but rather are under the authority of the Commander-in-Chief.

By the time Judge Boasberg issued his injunction, 238 TdA terrorists had already been removed and were on military flights over international waters on their way to El Salvador. Judge Boasberg, a mere district judge, then ordered that any flights which had taken off turn around immediately. However, the administration's legal team determined the judge's ruling had no authority outside of U.S. airspace. As Matt Walsh wrote: "*At the risk of stating the obvious,*

*Judges do not have the authority to direct the movements of the federal aircraft when they're carrying out missions related to national security, especially when those planes have already left the country.*" The Department of Justice made the similar case to the D.C. Court of Appeals, stating: "*If this [temporary restraining order] were allowed to stand, district courts would have license to enjoin virtually any urgent national-security action just upon receipt of a complaint. District courts might next [block] drone strikes, sensitive intelligence operations, or terrorist captures or extraditions.*"

As Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller stated, these activist judges have "assumed the mantle of Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, Secretary of Homeland Security and Commander-in-Chief," while dictating "the foreign policy, economic, staffing and national security policies of the Administration."

Senator Chuck Grassley warned, "*Another day, another judge unilaterally deciding policy for the whole country. This time to benefit foreign gang members. If the Supreme Court or Congress doesn't fix [this], we're headed towards a constitutional crisis.*" Yet, the Supreme Court recently had an opportunity to check this abuse of power and failed to do so, upholding a lower-court order which compelled the Trump administration to pay out \$2 billion in foreign aid, which had been put on hold for review. Chief Justice Roberts and Amy Coney-Barrett sided with the liberal wing of the Court, allowing this lower court to set presidential policy. "*The Supreme Court's majority has effectively handed a single district judge the unchecked authority to dictate executive action, a move that undermines the separation of powers doctrine at the heart of our government,*" writes John Daniel Davidson at the Federalist.

Justice Samuel Alito, writing in dissent of the Court's decision, warned of this abuse of judicial power: "*Does a single district court judge who likely lacks jurisdiction have the unchecked power to compel the government of the United States to pay out*

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## Coup by Court Order

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*(and probably lose forever) 2 billion taxpayer dollars? The answer to that question should be an emphatic 'No,' but a majority of this court apparently thinks otherwise. I am stunned.*" Alito also wrote that the government "must apparently pay the \$2 billion posthaste — **not because the law requires it, but simply because a District Judge so ordered.**"

Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Barrett, supposedly part of the conservative wing, have a troubling record of rulings which do not align with an originalist view of the Constitution. As Davidson also writes: "In joining the leftist justices, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett have tipped the scales toward judicial supremacy, blurring the lines between the branches and weakening the presidency." When President Trump joined prominent Republican congressmen in calling for Congress to impeach activist judges such as Judge Boasberg, Chief Justice Roberts issued a rare public rebuke, claiming "impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision." However, the concern with these activist judges is not merely a disagreement, but a very real threat to the separation of powers. Roberts issued no such public rebuke when President Biden defied the Supreme Court ruling that Biden did not have the constitutional authority to forgive student loans. Biden even bragged about it, writing on X: "The Supreme Court blocked me, but it didn't stop me." Yet when Trump criticizes a lower court ruling, the left claims it's a "constitutional crisis."

**The actual constitutional crisis is the usurpation of presidential authority by the courts.** If the Supreme Court continues to allow rogue judges to engage in judicial tyranny, we'll become a nation ruled by unelected judges wielding unchecked power.

## MHSAA: Defying Both Man's and God's Law

By Lisa Van Houten



In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Russian dissident and Christian, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, urged fellow citizens of the Soviet Union to refuse to cooperate with the regime's lies in his famous essay, *Live Not by Lies*. Our last election proved that many Americans are also rejecting the lies of our cultural regime which has tried to force us to pretend that gender is fluid and not tied to one's biological sex. Polls showed that the number one reason swing voters broke for Donald Trump was due to the transgender insanity pushed by the left.

Overall, 72% of Americans oppose transgender surgeries and puberty blockers for children. In addition, approximately 80% of Americans - including 67% of Democrats - are opposed to males competing in female sports. There are very few issues upon which so many Americans agree, yet leftist elites continue to cling to their extremism - ignoring not only the will of the people, but more importantly, defying God's revealed truth.

In February, President Trump signed an executive order banning men/boys from competing in female sports; schools which refuse to comply will lose federal funding. In recent years, female athletes have been forced to compete and share locker rooms with men; numerous girls have been injured in competition; and 900 medals that should have gone to female athletes have instead been awarded to males allowed to participate in female sports.

Despite this binding order from the President, numerous public schools and universities are refusing to comply. One is the state of Maine, where a male high school student, "identifying as female," just stole first place in the girls' pole-vaulting championship.

Here in Michigan, **the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) is**

**also thumbing its nose at the executive order banning males from female sports, even though 78% of Michiganders want boys out of girls' sports.**

Michigan's Department of Education also refused to approve a resolution that would have affirmed Trump's order protecting girls' sports, with State School Superintendent Michael Rice citing: "The board of the MHSAA determined that there were no safety issues..." and "that there were no competitive disadvantages ..." Tell that to the 900 girls nationwide who've lost medals, having to compete against boys with larger bodies and more muscle mass; who've been forced to share locker rooms with males; and have been injured in competition. Rice shrugged off the concern, claiming that the issue of transgender athletes wasn't affecting the vast majority of high school athletes. Obviously, he's willing to sacrifice the girls whose safety on the field, vulnerability in the locker room, and athletic aspirations are affected in order to promote a radical ideology that the vast majority of citizens oppose.

The Michigan House of Representatives adopted a bipartisan resolution calling on the MHSAA to align their eligibility rules with President Trump's Executive Order 14201 and ban transgender athletes from girls' sports. State Representative Nancy De Boer [R-Holland] stated: "There is no question that males and females are different biologically. Our girls deserve the right to fair competition. Allowing boys to compete in girls' sports is not only unfair—it undermines the integrity of female athletics and puts our girls at risk."

Notably, the NCAA was quick to change its policy limiting NCAA women's sports to "student-athletes assigned female at birth only." Yet, the MHSAA has so far refused to change its policy to comply with the federal order.

Corporate partners of MHSAA include: Meijer, Inc., Farm Bureau Insurance, Michigan Army National Guard, and the United Dairy Industry of Michigan. **Ask these sponsors to use their influence to urge MHSAA to uphold the Executive Order protecting girls' sports or pull their support if MHSAA refuses.**



# In Defense of Israel

By Steve Huston



Should America defend Israel? That's a question that most people have strong opinions about. Those feelings extend to Israelis and the Jewish people as well. Some align with the Philo Semitism, pro-Hebraist sentiment of our founding fathers, while others may side with the anti-Semitic hatred expressed by Israel's middle eastern neighbors who call for their extinction. Of course, there are also many more who fall somewhere along the continuum between these two extremes.

Still, are there valid reasons for America to defend Israel? Let's begin by looking at two historical and diametrically opposed examples.

**First, The Yom Kippur War in 1973:** The first Jewish U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had already turned down Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir's request for arms to defend her country, having told others, "Let the Israelis bleed a little."

Knowing that her country will perish without help, regardless the brave souls fighting valiantly on all the front lines, Meir picks up the phone and calls the private line of U.S. President Richard Nixon at 3 am.

When Golda Meir's call came, Nixon recalled putting on his robe and sitting on the edge of the presidential bed. He said that he heard Golda Meir pleading with him: "Mr. President, if you don't help us, the Jewish people will never survive." In speaking with Bill McKay, documentarian and investigator of the American role in the Yom Kippur War, the president said, "**I could almost hear my mother's voice. She would tell me stories and read to me from the Old Testament, the heroes of the Bible. And one afternoon, she said, 'Richard, someday you're going to be in a position where you can help save the Jewish people. And when that day comes, you must do every-**

**thing in your power.**" President Nixon continued: "At that moment I realized, maybe for the first time in my presidency, why I had become president of the United States. I said, 'Golda, what do you want?' – she had her list."

Nixon provided EVERYTHING she asked for. McKay states that "*many military experts credit that decision, that request, at that moment, as the essential element that saved Israel from destruction.*" (Information taken from *Against All Odds Israel Survives* video series)

On January 7, 1992, in an interview with Ted Koppel, Nixon gave some reasons why America supports Israel, also making the statement, "*No American president will let Israel go down the tube, Democrat or Republican, it's not an issue.*" Apparently, he didn't foresee a Biden regime in the future.

**Second: The 2023 October 7 Hamas-led attack on Israel:** Instead of assisting Israel, President Biden arguably funded their enemies beforehand to the tune of \$6 billion to Iran and, afterward, another \$75 million approved under the radar to aid Palestine.

Prime Minister Netanyahu, in addressing Congress said, "*Like Dec. 7, 1941, and Sept. 11, 2001, October 7 is a day that will forever live in infamy.*" Adding later, "*For the forces of civilization to triumph, America and Israel must stand together.*"

In considering why America should defend Israel, let's start by admitting that Netanyahu has a point: There are forces bent on destroying civilization; they are our common enemies. Josh Hammer, author of [Israel and Civilization: The Fate of the Jewish Nation and the Destiny of the West](#), identifies these forces in an interview with Mark Levin. "*We're facing the exact same enemies, whether it's wokeism, Islamism or global neoliberalism. Those are the three hegemonic forces that I identify in 'Israel and Civilization.'* ... *Jews and Christians have to be in this together until the very end.*"

Next, America has spent much of its history defending the "little guy" – the oppressed –

doing what we can to bring democracy to other lands, supporting the freedoms of Natural Law. America would show itself untrue to this worthy cause if we neglected to defend Israel which is already a democracy and the only one in that area of the world. President Nixon, regarding this point, said we have a moral commitment to defend Israel.

Israel has proven itself to be a strong ally. If we neglect to reciprocate support, defending them, why should any ally trust us? We lose the respect of many by not doing the honorable thing. Also, many of Israel's enemies already tie her and us together with similar nomenclatures: "Little Satan" and "Great Satan" respectively.

For me, personally, the best reason to defend Israel comes from God's promise to Abraham, father of the Jewish people, in Genesis 12:3. "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." I am so grateful that Abraham obediently left his home and went to that other country God showed him (12:1). I am extremely blessed that Jesus was born of Jewish descent, obediently suffered death on the cross of Calvary, and saves to the uttermost. This is the second part of that promise to Abraham in verse 3. It makes me want to show my gratitude tangibly and moves me to pray that my nation would do likewise.

When considering why America should defend Israel, think of that first promise in verse 3: "I will bless them that bless thee, AND curse him that curseth thee." Josh Hammer isn't the first I've heard ask this, but he is the most recent: "*Has any country ever forsaken the Jews and then lived to tell the tale or redounded to their benefit?*"

We may never know, this side of eternity, the great benefit and extended mercy that has been ours, in America, because a sitting president took to heart the words of his mother from when he was just a boy and blessed Israel when she needed it most.

# End the ED!

## By Chris Johnson



A picture of the Louisiana Supreme Court seal made its way onto the internet last month as President Trump signed his executive order to wind down the Department of Education. The emblem was projected onto the wall behind the judges, and featured an unfortunate typo. This was the caption: “Speaker mike johnson [sic] from the great state of ‘Louisiana’ wants to get rid of the Department of Education.”

The post’s attempt to poke fun at “ignorant Republicans” makes a perfect illustration of the misconceptions surrounding Trump’s decision. First of all, whoever made the typo and missed the chance to correct it was almost certainly educated under the Department of Education, which was established in 1979. Second, the Department of Education doesn’t actually have much to do with educating anyone, least of all the grades where you’d learn to spell ‘Louisiana’ or capitalize proper nouns like “Mike Johnson.”

The truth is the quality of education has only gone in one direction since the Federal Government involved itself in the subject: down.

In 2024, about half of Americans said that the United States’ public education system is heading in the wrong direction, with nearly 70% of those concerned citing, “Schools not spending enough time on core academic subjects, like reading, math, science and social studies.”

Donald Nielsen, Senior Fellow and Chairman of the American Center for Transforming Education, wrote about the state of education in 2024: “*The Nation’s Report Card documents that there has been no meaningful improvement in the education of our children as a result of the ED (Department of Education) efforts over the past 50 years. **Test scores in our K-12 system have remained flat or have declined.** It’s no*

*wonder that this poor performance has resulted in a lack of support for public education and more parents pulling their children out of the public system.*

*“At the higher education level, the stature and reputation of America’s universities have declined while adjusted for inflation college tuition has increased 180% since 1980.*

*“One of the main culprits for this astronomical increase is the federal government loan program, funded by the ED. That program gave universities a carte blanche opportunity to increase tuition without worrying about losing students. Tuition increases became almost a rite of passage.*

**“The end result is that the federal government’s involvement in higher education has made education more expensive and less effective.**

*“Given all the above, it’s very hard to find any meaningful contribution to the education of our youth from the \$2.3 trillion spent by the ED.”*

More recent studies, boost that \$2.3 trillion to a whopping \$3 trillion, yet American students are no better off educationally.

In fact, as Walter Myers III of the Discovery Institute writes, “*there is little correlation between funding and student performance. For example, the Baltimore City Public Schools budget is one of the highest in the nation, yet only 25 percent of its students are proficient in math. California has a \$128 billion K-12 budget, yet it too boasts only 25 percent proficiency in core subjects (black students are particularly hard hit, with only 10 percent achieving proficiency in math). Chicago Public Schools spend over \$29,000 per student, yet only 11 percent of black students were reading on grade level according to the 2021 Illinois Report Card...*”

To be fair, it’s hard to say how many of those dollars were spent in an effort to make children smarter when they graduate in light of reporting by Breccan F. Thies at the Federalist: “*The Biden administration’s Department of Education threw away over \$100 million on university grant funding to train K-12 social workers in diversity,*

*equity, and inclusion (DEI) ideology, ‘anti-racism,’ and critical race theory.”*

But this, too, illustrates why the Fed doesn’t belong in education – the propensity to push pet projects on parents’ children with no regard for how the parents feel about those subjects.

We even felt this here in Fremont, as many others did in their local public schools under the last administration. When the Biden administration decided to interpret the Title IX non-discrimination law to include trans-genders as a protected class, our local schools ignored outraged parents’ pleas, put our daughters at risk, and held firm that they could not ban sexually confused boys from the girls’ bathroom, lest they risk losing their Title IX funding.

Federal funding is the bit in the mouth of local schools which should answer, primarily, to the parents who entrust their children to them.

Of course, Title IX funding is not going to disappear with the Department of Education, but be managed by another department, but still the dissolution of the DoE is an important step towards putting children’s education back in the hands of parents and local communities.

This is a refreshing change from the Biden administration, where parents were labeled as “domestic terror” suspects when they took a personal interest in what their students were being taught.

Like all executive orders, this one is only good for as long as the head of the executive branch supports it; Congress needs to pass a law to make it permanent. As more and more states explore school choice and vouchers which encourage competition between educational systems and returns authority to parents, the federal government’s involvement in our kids’ education will come more and more into question. Unraveling federal involvement in education must be a legislative priority in the years ahead.