

ROY D. MERRITT FOR U. S. PRESIDENT
CAMPAIGN SPEECH # 25

- I'm Roy Merritt and I'm running for President of the United States in 2024.
- The Greek historian Thucydides, circa 431-413 B. C., wrote that the secret to happiness is freedom. If that be so, and since we are NOT free here in New Mexico, and perhaps also in other places in the U. S. A.—“the Land of the Free”—then neither are we happy
- The English theologian and author, Richard Hooker (1554?-1600) defined happiness very eruditely as: “...that estate, whereby we attain, so far as possibly may be attained, the full possession of that which simply for itself is to be desired, and containeth in it after an eminent sort the contentation of our desires, the highest degree of all our perfection.”
- The English poet and satirist, Alexander Pope (1688-1744) wrote that for a human being, happiness is an end and an aim
- Samuel Johnson (1709-84)—Dr. Johnson—the English lexicographer and author, and the historical figure that I have chosen to emulate my life after—defines happiness in his 1855 published *Dictionary* of the English language, as: “a state of felicity in which the desires are satisfied.”
- In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826), 3rd president of the U. S., and a diplomat, architect, scientist, educator and author, wrote that: “all men [and presumably understood, all women] are endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and ‘the pursuit of happiness. ‘ ”
- So, among mankind’s God-given unalienable rights are life, liberty and happiness
- I wrote un my 2022 autobiography, whether true or not in the strictest sense, that life and liberty are given in the U. S. A., if we are not already deceased. I have learned since writing that, though, that others, as here in New Mexico, can take away your rights to life and liberty. You may be left with a very poor quality life, or none at all, and no freedom or liberty, as such

- The third unalienable right, which is endowed by the Creator—God—to all men [and presumably again, all women as well] is the “pursuit of happiness”
- Thus, according to the laws of God and of Nature, a self-evident truth is that mankind has a right of entitlement to happiness, or at least the pursuit thereof
- Also, in the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson goes on to state that: “When any form of government becomes destructive of these ends”—that is, to “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”—then it is the right of the people to abolish it—that government—and to institute a new form of government that would be most likely able to effect these ends—including the happiness of the people
- George Mason (1725-92), the American Revolutionary statesman, in the Virginia Bill of Rights (1776) states: “The best form of government is that which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness.”
- John Adams, the 2nd president of the U. S. A. from 1797-1801, political philosopher and diplomat, declared unequivocally in 1776 that “the happiness of society is an end of government.” [And thus, the happiness of man, and the happiness of society, as a whole, are ends of government.]
- The English historian, Edward Gibbon (1737-94), stated that, at least for the Roman empire, the happiness of the people was the sole object of government. The American politician and reformer, Robert Green Ingersoll (1833-99), in his poem *Creed*, stated that “happiness is the only good.” The Chinese scholar and government leader, Ch’en Tu-hsiu (1879-1942), wrote that an individual [even in Communist society], should devote his efforts during his lifetime to creating and enjoying happiness. The English author, H. G. Wells (1866-1946), wrote in 1920 that all human beings are seeking happiness
- On a somewhat lighter side, the American cartoonist of “Peanuts,” Charles Schulz (1922-2000) got into the act of defining happiness when he titled his 1962 book, *Happiness Is a Warm Puppy*. And, as for myself, I know that every time I pick up, hold and hug my little Boston terrier, Bella, I know that this is true
- In the last chapter and the concluding section to my 2022 autobiography, I argue that happiness may very well be the most supernal purpose of one’s life. I go on to say that a primary goal of one’s life is to reach a pointy of culmination, or “consummation,”—“a ‘detailed’ and ‘perfect’ completion to ...life”—in which you

have attained happiness. The whole goal of life may be to “culminate”—“end or wind up, conclude, finish, terminate, result—where we want it to...based on the grace and favor of God.”

- Happiness is something that we all strive for and hope to reach at the end of our lives. If at all possible, a person’s life should end in a “culmination”—to reach what may be considered “the top, acme, climax, or summit”—“the high or capping off point”—in what should be “the crowning jewel”

- Thus, I conclude in my autobiography, that my life’s works have fulfilled me and have made me “complete”—“whole”—and happy as a person

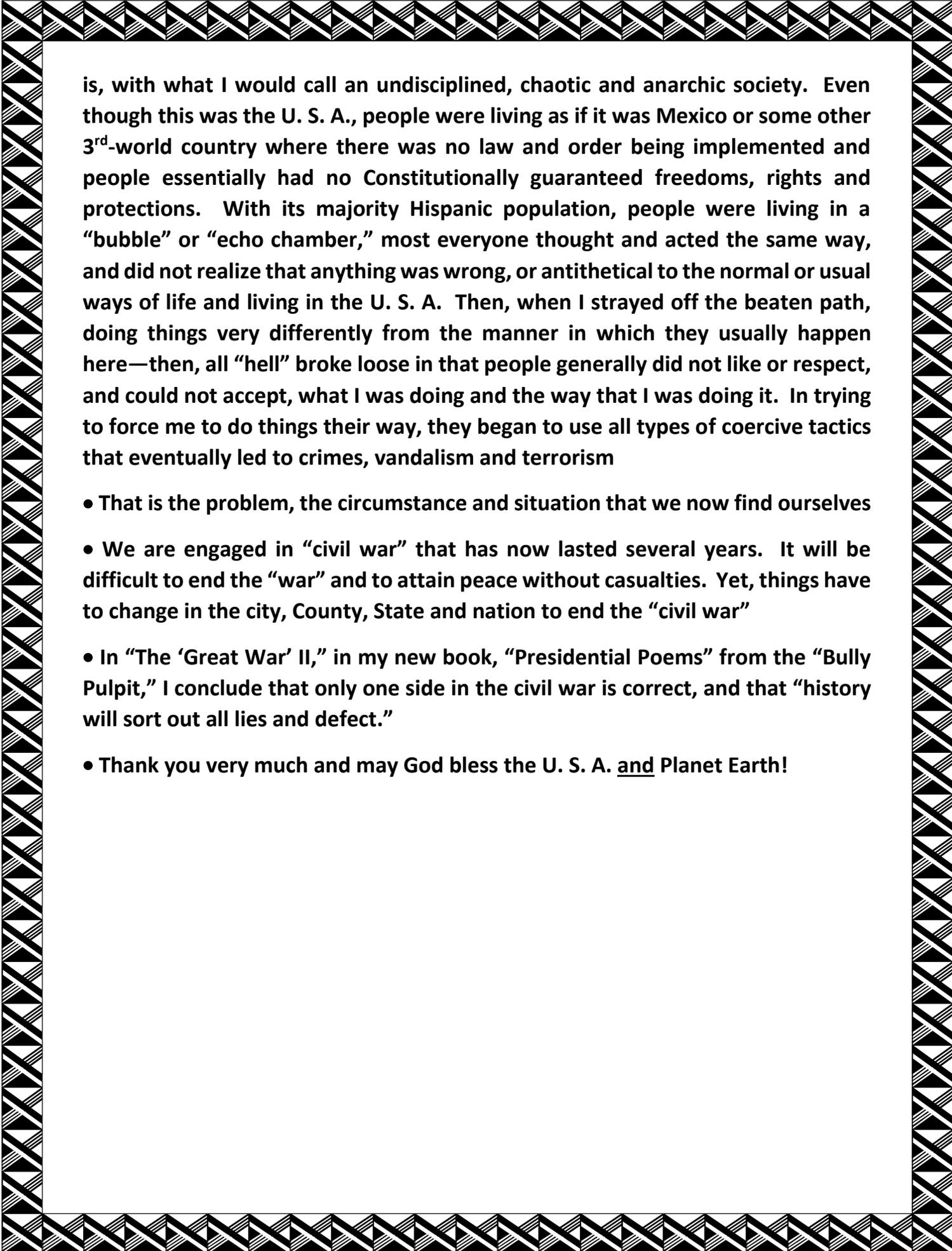
- After writing and self-publishing my autobiography, things changed dramatically and unpredictably for the worse in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County. However, when we—my wife and I—initially returned to New Mexico to retire in 2020, we were happy and felt that we were blessed, and we even told people so. After a while though, I cautioned Sandy that we should be more circumspect, because, if you give others a chance, they will do everything possible to make you unhappy and “un-blessed.” And that is exactly what has happened and how the last few years for us have resulted.

- All types of crimes, vandalistic acts, and terrorism have decimated our lives, peace and tranquility, contentment and happiness. All of that has been completely destroyed—possibly never to return—and at what cost to us. Does that mean that our lives will ultimately end in unhappiness—sending us off to the afterlife in sadness, dissatisfaction and unfulfillment

- Is our current state, frame of mind and general outlook our fault or is it the fault of others? Have we done anything to cause this other than to retire here?

- The English critic and essayist, William Hazlitt (1778-1830) admonished in an 1821-22 essay, that we should not place our happiness in the hands of others. But, did my wife and I do that? Could we have avoided or stopped all of the criminal and vandalistic acts and terrorism that transformed our lives here in New Mexico into misery

- For many reasons, I do not feel that we could have done anything to stop this inevitable result. The cards were already stacked against us. The people here were living differently, and were satisfied with the way things were here. That



is, with what I would call an undisciplined, chaotic and anarchic society. Even though this was the U. S. A., people were living as if it was Mexico or some other 3rd-world country where there was no law and order being implemented and people essentially had no Constitutionally guaranteed freedoms, rights and protections. With its majority Hispanic population, people were living in a “bubble” or “echo chamber,” most everyone thought and acted the same way, and did not realize that anything was wrong, or antithetical to the normal or usual ways of life and living in the U. S. A. Then, when I strayed off the beaten path, doing things very differently from the manner in which they usually happen here—then, all “hell” broke loose in that people generally did not like or respect, and could not accept, what I was doing and the way that I was doing it. In trying to force me to do things their way, they began to use all types of coercive tactics that eventually led to crimes, vandalism and terrorism

- That is the problem, the circumstance and situation that we now find ourselves
- We are engaged in “civil war” that has now lasted several years. It will be difficult to end the “war” and to attain peace without casualties. Yet, things have to change in the city, County, State and nation to end the “civil war”
- In “The ‘Great War’ II,” in my new book, “Presidential Poems” from the “Bully Pulpit,” I conclude that only one side in the civil war is correct, and that “history will sort out all lies and defect.”
- Thank you very much and may God bless the U. S. A. and Planet Earth!