

Barnegat Township Reorganization January 1, 2011

Welcome everyone and thank you for honoring us with your presence today. Congratulations to Al Billie on his election and welcome to the Committee.

2011 will be a very challenging year that will lead us into unchartered territories. Our Nation has lost its way through decades of, "Anything Goes", in regards to corruption, waste, ethics and morals. When the Head Leadership (Federal Government) falters, the body (States) follows closely behind. As I pondered the course of action that this Committee needs to take, I went back to our Founding Fathers. I will paraphrase some excerpts taken from the book, "Life of Washington", by Anna C. Reed which was originally published in 1842 by the American Sunday-School Union.

On May 25, 1787 George Washington was elected president of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. As the debate went on for weeks as to what type of government should be set up, things began to look bleak with no end in sight. The new nation was deeply in debt and divided. Dr. Benjamin Franklin convinced the assembly to take a three day adjournment. When they came back into session, Dr. Franklin stated that, "In the beginning of the conflict with Great Britain, when we were aware of impending danger, we had daily prayers in this room for Divine protection". Our prayers were heard and they were graciously answered. All of us, who were engaged in the struggle for independence, observed frequent instances of a Divine Intervention in our favor. To that kind Providence, we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future and national well being. Have we now forgotten that powerful Friend or do we imagine we No longer need his assistance? I have lived a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, *that God governs in the affairs of men* (p.214).

On April 14th 1789, Congress informed Washington of his appointment as President of the United States. He accepted the

responsibility of the office because it was the call of his countrymen to serve them. In a letter to one of his friends on how he felt about his appointment he stated, "*I am aware that I am representing the voice of the people who trust me for this journey, because of the way I have conducted my life; but what good they will receive, only Heaven alone can foretell. Integrity and resolve are all I can promise* (p.215).

This ladies and gentleman is what we have lost sight of. In order to survive as a free and blessed nation, we must return to the principles that this country was established.

May all of you have a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Deputy Mayor,
Alfonso Cirulli
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