



Up Front

Make our Founders smile again.

By C.J. Hadley

On July 4, 1776, our Founders swore on their freshly minted Declaration of Independence to support it with “our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.” They began the Declaration with beliefs that would change the world, stating, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” (That’s the part President Biden forgot recently, waving his arm and stammering, “You know...the thing....”)

Patriots from the 13 North American colonies split from Britain and its overtaxing tyrant, King George III, and fought for liberty so that these United States would become a free country. It was an extraordinary experiment and one that is now in jeopardy.

President Abraham Lincoln, during his Gettysburg Address on Nov. 19, 1863, said: “Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met here on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.”

He concluded: “The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

I came alone to this country a long time

ago from a British factory town and fell in love. I became a citizen in 1972, proudly swore allegiance to the Stars and Stripes and have loved this place more with every passing year. I labored hard earning my way at many great jobs, but this is the one I was meant for.

Since two great employees retired a couple of years ago (right after COVID), I have been looking for another “assistant to the publisher.” But we are not flush enough to pay for an old pro, unemployment pays more than I can, and America’s work ethic these days is wanting. After decades in the publishing trenches, I know that it takes about six months to be of use and a year to be of value, and, sadly, hiring is not like it used to be. Résumés all seem to be written by AI (artificial intelligence), qualify for DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion), and every one is eerily similar with no way to see, hear or imagine a candidate’s real qualifications.

Years ago I placed a classified in the local newspaper offering: “Low pay, high stress, no benefits, call CJ at 1-800-RANGE-4-U.” A woman came in for an interview and I asked her why she responded to such a terse request. Her response? “I was intrigued.” She turned out to be a fabulous bookkeeper and lasted 10 years, retiring only when her husband quit his job as a pharmacist so that they could wander and enjoy the world.

Nowadays, the job description I was encouraged to produce for our state’s “Job Opportunities in Nevada” also sounds a lot like AI. Most applicants whose résumés I pondered had held a lot of jobs in very few years. One was a house cleaner, one a Target cashier, another worked in a warehouse. All perhaps capable and all expecting better pay than I get. I offered the bright, former Target worker the job but she refused it when she learned that I included no benefits.

We are pretty busy here, joining about half of the people in America trying to save the country and continue our Founders’ dreams, and at press time I am still looking for an affordable worker. Send original résumé (no template) to edit@rangemagazine.com. It will help if you have an outside income, your own medical insurance, an affordable place to live, and a decent vehicle. Being an independent and real adult will also benefit us both.

You won’t get rich at RANGE but it might be interesting. That’s when we will aim for high gear and continue to resist rule by autocrat and groupthink. And we will make our Founders smile again by continuing the fight for “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” You know...the thing.... ■