

Statement From the June 2020 Centre County Republican Luncheon



The Centre County Republican Committee condemns racism in all of its forms as evil. We stand in solidarity with those who denounce the excessive use of force and support the pursuit of justice for those who are victims of that excessive use of force. We also support the rights of people to peacefully protest. We stand in support of a response to these events that is committed to the idea of equal justice under law, with due process, and this without any compromise to “liberty and justice for all”. We stand in solidarity with those who support our law enforcement community. At the same time, we recognize that there are instances where excessive force is used by law enforcement. In these cases, we stand with those who earnestly seek equal justice under law.

Our founders were imperfect people who founded a nation that they *knew* was imperfect. They understood the flaws and vulnerabilities. And yet they sought to form “a more perfect union”. While these founders did not all share the same faith, they all embraced faith-based values, rooted in a transcendent source – “endowed by our Creator”. To be sure, there have been tumultuous times throughout this country’s history, but with this common values system and a shared commitment to a “more perfect union” and “liberty and justice for ALL”, there was a path forward. Today the Centre county Republican Committee recognizes that the challenge to become “more perfect” lies ever before us. Today the Centre County Republican Committee renews its commitment to these ideals.

We stand for a heterogeneous culture and society where people of different views, held in good conscience, can live in peace. To this end, we encourage a sincere, collective return to our faith roots – “One nation, under God”. Therein lies rich unity despite many things that may otherwise divide us. We issue a call to civility, to civil discourse, and to a condemnation racism whenever it is encountered; to seek common ground wherever possible. When it becomes necessary to disagree on issues, we issue a call to do so graciously. We recount and affirm the good work of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who dreamed of a day when individuals would be judged according to the content of their character rather than the color of their skin. We note his enormous respect for the ideals of the flag of the United States. Indeed, he made his appeal to the flag. We must remember what he saw in the flag and not allow it to be coopted and mis-characterized, lest we lose what he fought for - unity despite diversity. This is where we can stand together.

There is a concept known as a “false flag”. This is when you attribute false characteristics and a false set of ideals to a flag or symbol in order to destroy the substance of what that flag truly stands for. Today there are two United States flags and they both look identical. One is a false flag, and one is the flag carried by Dr. King. The true flag does not *stand for* our darkest days or the worst actions of divided factions within our country. Dr. King would not have carried that flag. The flag stands for the best of what we strive to be - that “more perfect union”, and “liberty and justice for ALL”. Martin Luther King, Jr understood that, and *we* need to remember that today. The flag carried by Dr. King preserves justice *and* liberty, while the false flag is a sure path to lose both.

We must not lose this great symbol that inspires the hope of unity, yet we *must* understand why citizens are not satisfied with the current state. We are Conservatives because of deeply held values and beliefs that are wholly consistent with this condemnation of racism. We maintain that it is conservative economic and social principles that cultivate self-sufficiency and interdependence rather than dependence on the state. We maintain that the motivation behind these principles is truly “liberty and justice for all”, and these values must not be compromised.

We encourage ALL people to act in good faith in reflecting on where they can find common ground, build bridges, and cultivate civility – especially during these trying times.

“This is not a black problem. This is not a white problem. This is an American problem, and the only way we can heal this country is by working together.” - Floyd family attorney, Benjamin Camp