

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I am honored and humbled at being asked to address you tonight.

It has come as no surprise to many of you that members of the media don't look too kindly on you folks. I have heard many commentators go so far as claiming the Tea Party Movement is motivated by hate. Looking out at you tonight I disagree.

I see fathers and mothers worried about their children's future.

I see grandparents worried if their descendants will enjoy the liberties they had.

I see business people worried not only if they can turn a profit but whether they will be able to provide jobs for their community.

I see medical practitioners worried about the standard of care they will be allowed to give their patients.

I see veterans who after sacrificing so much for their country have to worry whether they have been put on a terrorist watch list.

In short, I see patriotic Americans concerned about our nation's future.

Will it retain its soul or will it be the United States in name only?

Ladies and gentlemen the Tea Party movement is not about hate, it's about love.

My message to Washington is that while hatred and anger fades, love endures.

Love is equal to the long haul.

Love is equal to the task before us.

Washington may hope our ardor will fade but their judgment in this, like in so many other things, is flawed.

I worry about a government that has so far lost track of what it's supposed to protect

that it bends over backwards to protect Nazi marches and pornography but complains bitterly when citizens peaceably assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.

I ask you, have our elected representatives even read the constitution?

Now endless talk of new programs has been coming out of Washington and many of you are worried that we are becoming a nation of entitlements.

Stop your worrying. We are and we have always been a nation of "entitlements".

The problem stems from our government forgetting what those entitlements are and where they come from. They are not dispensed by government. Government was instituted in this country not to grant entitlements, but to protect the ones we already have by virtue of being human beings. Perhaps it has been forgotten by the current crop of Yahoos in Washington but , we have been endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights, that among those are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness..

In other words:

We are entitled to speak our minds.

We are entitled to worship in the manner of our own choosing.

We are entitled to live our lives without government intrusion unless we are harming others.

We are entitled to engage in peaceable commerce..

We are entitled to make our own charitable decisions.

We are entitled to make our own health decisions.

BUT

We are not entitled to live off the labors of others.

We are not entitled to use government to gain advantage over our fellow citizens.

And yet, our current government has turned this completely upside down.

We stand at this sad, frightening moment in history not because of some outside force. There has been not invading army that took control of our government. We did this to ourselves. We were warned that the price of liberty was eternal vigilance. But we still fell asleep at the switch. And as we slept our liberties slowly eroded. We allowed our government to take short cuts. If we generally liked what the government was doing we didn't look too closely at whether the constitution actually allowed it.

The old saying should be changed to "The price of liberty is Internal vigilance". In other words don't look to government to solve your problems. Limit what you ask of government. A government powerful enough to grant your every wish is powerful enough to take your every liberty.

So we were the problem but we are also the solution.

No other nation in the history of the world has ever respected the rights of the individual the way this nation has. This is a legacy worthy of defending.

Keep up the good fight. Future generations will thank you.

I wish to leave you with one final thought.

Our elected officials are not our leaders.

Free men do not have leaders

They are our servants.

And servants should be replaced when they fail to do their masters will.

Goodnight, God Bless, and God Bless America.