

# FORT MYERS FLORIDA WEEKLY

YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

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# OPINION

## What would John Adams think?



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— *Editor's note: Tanya Amador-Daigle is reporting for Florida Weekly on the national primaries until the presidential candidates are chosen this summer. She has a unique perspective on the primaries and the process for choosing a candidate, having traveled the country reporting on primaries and caucuses for the Purple States project. To learn more about Purple States go to [www.purplestates.tv](http://www.purplestates.tv).*

Last week I celebrated Independence Day at a parade in Bonita Springs and then it was on to a cookout in the evening with friends. Like most Americans, that night we watched the fabulous display of fireworks explode in the balmy night skies. I had a little break from the festivities during the afternoon that gave me the opportunity to reflect on the significance of the day.

I found myself comparing the original meaning of the 4th of July to where we have evolved to as a country and what it means today. With the general election just around the corner, I tried to think about which candidate would have been more likely to gain the support of our founding fathers. In fact, it turned into an interesting thought process that I enjoyed immensely with me, myself and I.

When I think of John Adams I think of how he exemplified the role of a diplomat. In his day, Adams traveled throughout Europe solidifying our relationships with our allies in the war against the British. In other respects he was also a revolutionary and a tireless advocate of human rights and American freedoms for the 13 colonies.

This got me thinking about the War on Terror and how Adams would view the stances of the candidates. It is my belief that he would have been thoroughly appalled at the notion of negotiating with those who threaten our freedoms. It is for this reason that I do not think he would support Sen. Obama's views on meeting with terror-sponsored nations.

Although I do think Adams would exhaust all diplomatic channels available to him before rushing to an extreme decision like war, I also think he would be willing to parley with nations sympathetic to the cause of freedom. In spite of both of those things I do not think he would ever waiver towards any nation. Our freedom is not negotiable or for sale.

I also think our forefathers would be proud of the fact that because of the legacy they left behind, Americans can now change their destiny and ideals if they choose to. And it is for this reason that I believe our founders would have been proud of what Sen. Obama represents to many Americans. Never in our history have we chosen a black man to potentially lead our country. Never have we chosen a woman.

With the economy being such an important issue in this election, I began pondering what the establishers of our country would have thought of the current state of American economics. By the standards of the 1700's, guys like Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Washington and many others were the crème de la crème of the wealthy in the American colonies. Yet they were ready to put their necks in the noose and the necks of their families for the cause of freedom.

This brings me to taxation without representation.

In the 18th century Americans were being taxed to death by the British and had little to show for it. While the English were getting high on the hog of America's efforts and resources, Americans did not even have

representation in the English Parliament. Hmm, sounds kind of familiar, doesn't it?

Although we now have representation in government as taxpayers, we consistently see our hard-earned tax dollars being squandered on frivolous government spending. And while our government continues to suck on the teat of American workers, insurance rates and gas prices climb.

Maybe we should expect another Boston Tea Party?

It is for this reason that I think the authors of American freedom would be supportive of Sen. McCain's goals to reduce pork barrel spending.

While examining these inspiring ghosts of the past, I realized that one of the founding forefathers principles was that Americans should be self-reliant. I wonder if they would be disappointed in the fact that neither one of the candidates has provided us with any strong game plan to move America away from dependence on foreign oil.

In the end, I came to the conclusion that our founders would be proud of the average status of each American individual and our ability to prosper and succeed no matter what our race, religion or creed. This is being proven in this election. When these enlightened men were signing the Declaration of Independence, I wonder if they ever realized that we would have the advantages and the wealth that we have now as a nation. I find this especially true when I compare us to other nations.

I think those brave men who gave us our freedom so long ago would have seen that Obama and McCain, while both having weaknesses and strengths, still represent the fact that Americans will never lose that rebellious spirit that pushes us to succeed and persevere. I just hope that each of these candidates can remember the principles this nation was founded on, so that the one that gets elected can get us back on track. ■

## GUEST OPINION

### Junior Achievement bridges business education gap

BY DR. MAX J. KALM  
Special To Florida Weekly

We are all aware that our schools do not teach business and economics, until one gets into college. This is an unfortunate omission since these subjects are so very important for everyone regardless of what career path they choose to follow.

There is a solution to this educational void but, alas, it is virtually unknown to exist. That solution is Junior Achievement. It appears that only those people who themselves were involved with Junior Achievement as either students or volunteers have even heard of this fine organization.

So, what is Junior Achievement?

It is a world wide non-profit organization that teaches business and economics to

kids from kindergarten through high school. The programs are developed by the parent organization in Colorado Springs and are taught in the schools by volunteers from the business and/or education world. Although the textbook materials are the basis for the courses, it is the presence of the volunteers that makes this a unique learning experience. The volunteers augment the printed materials with personal business experiences thus making the entire program more realistic and certainly more interesting.

For this wonderful program to expand into more schools everywhere, two things are needed. Funding, since the organization is non-profit and volunteers to help teach the programs. The classroom teachers participate but are not, themselves, schooled in

the principles that are being taught.

We are fortunate, in Southwest Florida, that we have a very active, excellent Junior Achievement franchise, headquartered in Fort Myers and covering Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties. For those wishing to help by either making a tax-deductible contribution or by volunteering as program presenters or both, you can contact the franchise by writing to: Vicky Stephan, President or Karen Hargrove, Development Manager, 9530 Marketplace Road, Suite 104, Fort Myers, FL 33912 or calling at (239) 225-2565.

— Dr. Max J. Kalm has served Junior Achievement for more than 20 years in New Jersey and Florida. ■

## MOMENTS IN TIME

- On **July 12, 1862**, President Abraham Lincoln signs into law a measure to award a U.S. Army Medal of Honor. Since its creation, almost 3,400 men and one woman have received the Medal of Honor for heroic actions in U.S. military conflict.

- On **July 13, 1938**, Massachusetts Television Institute opens a "television theater" in Boston. The first show broadcast singers, musicians and dancers who

were performing in a studio above the auditorium. In the theater below, the audience viewed a black-and-white image on a 9-by-12-inch screen.

- On **July 11, 1951**, disc jockey Alan Freed starts his new job as host of a rhythm and blues radio show in Cleveland he called "The Moondog House." The legendary DJ had to stop using his popular "Moondog" moniker in 1954 when a blind New York City street musician

who had recorded "Moondog Symphony" won a court battle that stripped Freed of the ability to use the name.

- On **July 10, 1985**, in Auckland harbor in New Zealand, Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior sinks after French agents in diving gear plant a bomb on the hull of the ship. A British newspaper later uncovered evidence of French President Francois Mitterrand's authorization of the bombing plan. ■