



**General Michael Flynn, Chairman | Ed Martin, President**

## **LET PARENTS BE PARENTS**

I'm sure you've heard the phrase, "Let kids be kids." However, I think more people should be adopting the phrase, "Let parents be parents," when it comes to raising and educating their own children. The notion that politically-motivated school boards or any other entity can go about usurping or interfering with a parent's supreme right and responsibility to rear their own children is not in keeping with the fundamental tenants of this great nation. With certainty, our Founding Fathers would agree.

The famed Samuel Adams wrote on November 4, 1775, "how necessary is it, that the utmost Pains be taken by the Public, to have the Principles of Virtue early inculcated on the Minds even of children, and the moral Sense kept alive, and that the wise institutions of our Ancestors for these great Purposes be encouraged by the Government. For no people will tamely surrender their Liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and Virtue is preserved." Note that both knowledge and virtue are required. Knowledge without virtue can be perverted and virtue without knowledge is powerless. If our government wishes to remain an experiment in democracy formed as a Constitutional Republic, the government then has a vested interest in promoting the Judeo-Christian morals and values upon which America was founded.

Sadly, many professional educators have abandoned both Judeo-Christian morals and values. Even more sadly, those teachers who still hold fast are silenced and shamed. Perhaps that is why Dr. Benjamin Rush, signatory on the Declaration of Independence and Surgeon General to the Continental Army, called for schoolmasters to have "their principles and morals... subjected to examination before we employ them." Today's parents should come to accept what our Founding Fathers already knew to be true: education without moral instruction is of no effect.

The Founding Fathers were clear on where ultimate responsibility lies for the moral education of children. John Adams wrote on June 2, 1778, "The foundations of national Morality must be laid in private Families. In vain are Schools, Academies and universities instituted, if loose Principles and licentious habits are impressed upon Children in their earliest years. The Mothers are the earliest and most important Instructors of youth.... The Vices and Examples of the Parents cannot be concealed from the Children."

Even if we stormed every school board in America and demanded the immediate reform of every public school, parents would still have the ultimate responsibility to control the moral education of their children in their home.

Let me be absolutely clear: Parents can and should question and reclaim school boards that have come under the iron grip of an out-of-control education bureaucracy where the ideas of socialism and Marxism and other sick ideas have crept. Let parents be parents. Bureaucrats and political operatives have no business telling parents that their rights end at the schoolhouse door.

The right to control your children's education is your supreme responsibility, and is my call to action. The greatest lesson you will ever teach is the example you set for your children. Live a life that inspires them to be bold, patriotic, moral, and spiritual leaders. Teach them to live for others, to treat everyone with respect, to live by the golden rule and to be life-long learners. More importantly, teach them the value of living a full and spiritual life where the presence of God is recognized as part of who we are as Americans. Nothing else could be a greater contribution to the future and the very survival of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Flynn", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn, USA (Ret.)  
Chairman, America's Future, Inc.