

West Michigan Volunteer Militia: Our purpose and intent

By Robert Gray

Michigan Compiled Laws 32.509 states: "The unorganized militia consists of all other able-bodied citizens of this state and all other able-bodied citizens of this state who have or shall have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States who shall be age 17 or over and not more than age 60, and shall be subject to state military duty as provided in this act."

The West Michigan Volunteer Militia is made up of folks just like you; blue collar workers, white collar staff, business owners, law enforcement, government employees, etc. Some of us are veterans and some are not.

Why do we exist? We want a return to the form of government that clearly defines the Constitution as the law of the land. We are not anti-government as some might suggest. We believe that government has a legitimate role, but that role should be smaller and less intrusive; it should levy taxes on a smaller scale and spend our tax dollars responsibly. It should concentrate its efforts on protecting our rights, not usurping them.

With legislation such as H.R. 45 and S.B. 2009 (mentioned in the last issue of FAN) always looming, it is clear that our government is trying to usurp the second amendment, which states: "A well regulated militia, being necessary for the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

However, it's not just about the second amendment, it's about government infringing on states' rights, the tenth amendment, and the ever-present control over first amendment rights with things such as the Fairness Doctrine and Obama's FCC Diversity Czar Mark Lloyd, who believes that government-controlled media is what the United States needs. Our government is spinning out of control and gravitating away from its original purpose as outlined in the Constitution.

As a result of our criticisms, we have been labeled as domestic terrorists, although none of our beliefs or actions warrant these allegations. The members of the West Michigan Volunteer Militia (WMVM) vow to protect American citizens, and report to the police any person we encounter who intends to bring harm to this country or its people.

There has been much talk about the resurgence of militia activity in this country due to the election of Barack Obama, our nation's first black president. It is both easy and convenient for the liberal media to dismiss this resurgence as racist in nature; however, it is President Obama's socialist and statist views that have aroused such alarm. The WMVM is not a racist group. We welcome people from all walks of life, so long as they are pro-constitution and are citizens of the United States. We are not a hate group and don't associate with any militia or other groups that have racist or religious ulterior motives. Individuals who can legally own a firearm and whose loyalties lie first and foremost with the Constitution of the United States and the tenets of a free-market economy are welcome to join.

The men and women of the WMVM are not a group of scary militants bent on violence. Militants, by definition, prefer armed conflict over peaceful resolution. While we are ready and willing to die for our freedom, we would much rather live for it!

When you are ready to commit to this noble cause, contact westmivolunteermilitia@yahoo.com or visit www.westmivolunteermilitia.webs.com. •

Where will we find objectivity?

by Richard Blackmer

The large newspapers in the country have fallen on hard times. In a previous submission to FAN, I mentioned some of the reasons commonly attributed to this decline, such as the internet, and rising operating costs coupled with falling advertising revenues.

Clif Martin, in an excellent article printed by FAN, revealed a sobering parallel between the current distress being experienced by newspapers of today and the demise of the local radio stations which were so informative in days past. In addition to the above mentioned, probable causes for the plight of today's print media, another common belief regarding large newspapers is a loss of objectivity. This growing realization by the general public is also being touted as reason for loss of readership.

Loss of objectivity results in fewer readers. Fewer readers equates to less interest on the part of advertisers, which, in turn, means less revenue.

Another disturbing possibility regarding the print media is the hint by government that a financial "bail-out" of newspapers may be in the offing. The implications of such an act by government are staggering.

Contrary to popular belief, governmental money does not come with "strings" attached. Rather, it comes with "chains" tightly welded around the recipient.

There is a rule in the business world which is referred to as the "Golden Rule of Business." My many years in that world taught me that this rule is closely adhered to.

And that "Golden Rule of Business" is: "He who has the gold makes the rule." If print media is bound to government by financial shackles it does not require an advanced degree in human psychology to determine who will be making the rules.

Should government control the media through a monetary stranglehold, then government will be calling the shots as to what is newsworthy and what editorial commentary is acceptable. Again, it takes little imagination to realize that anything detrimental to governmental agendas would never see print in a "Pravda-like" environment.

Thomas Jefferson made this profound statement regarding the necessity of a free press: "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

Thomas Macaulay named a free press "The Fourth Estate"

Objectivity on the part of the Fourth Estate should be evidenced by non-biased reporting of events. If editorializing is intended, then it should be noted as such, so that the reader can differentiate between fact and opinion. This is a distinction apparently lost by some of today's media sources.

Integrity on the part of the Fourth Estate should be evidenced by a diversity of opinion as expressed and printed in the "Letters to the Editor" column of the paper. Opinions contrary to the views of the editorial board should be printed; (example) should the editorial board endorse a particular candidate for public office, then news coverage of opposing candidates should be objective and unbiased and letters to the editor which support an opposing candidate should be welcomed and printed.

In the humble opinion of this writer, the survival of those newspapers which possess the above-stated characteristics is imperative to a free society. So, then, the question is: "How do we, as residents of West Michigan, insure the continuation of those newspapers which adhere to the traditional values of the Fourth Estate?"

And the answer to that question is: Independent newspapers, which espouse the principles of the Fourth Estate, must survive the current financial challenges. But how?

record. More and more Muskegon County residents are going to realize this when it happens to them.

The prosecutor's office could care less whose life they ruin and at what expense it will cost you. All they care about is their fame and glory. Not to mention their perfect conviction rate as boosted on their web page. After viewing Tony Tague on television so many times, I have come to a conclusion, as I am sure many others have, too. He is either trying to campaign for governor of Michigan, attorney general, U.S. senator, or, who knows, the President of the United States. We have to ask ourselves, "Why aren't head prosecutors from surrounding counties in the same or similar position as Tony Tague, on television so frequently? Probably it is because they are not trying to bask in their own glory, especially through the media. Furthermore, how did the *Muskegon Chronicle* get wind of this situation when Mr. Annis was not charged with a crime? Did the family court prosecutor have the *Muskegon Chronicle* run this article for more recognition and stardom? On second thought, the prosecutor is probably fishing for other children to come forward with similar allegations, so they can charge Mr. Annis, who has already proven his innocence through a polygraph test.

When this prosecutor's office here in Muskegon County fails to obtain charges against you, as what happened to Mr. Annis, they take another route to make sure they do not look defeated. The Muskegon County prosecutors are unjust, for they have been taught to be this way from their top dog, Tony Tague. Conviction, conviction, conviction.

They have ruined many innocent lives here in our county and you could be next. Only in Muskegon County.

Sandie Christiansen
Fruitport

The faithful advertisers who wish to reach potential customers are the lifeblood of a newspaper. Without advertisers, the Fourth Estate must either collapse or subjugate itself to big money special interests or governmental bail-outs, both of which destroy objectivity. Advertisers, big or small, are essential to the continued existence of newspapers.

Readers can lend support to the continuation of such newspapers through subscriptions, and by mentioning to advertisers that their advertisements were noticed in the paper. Also by expressing personal opinions in the "Letters to the Editor" column, and by contacting the editor and staff with suggestions, concerns, or compliments.

Independent community newspapers are an appendage of the community at large, and provide a vehicle for the voice of all to be heard. Independent community newspapers provide an enormous venue for every voice to reach thousands of others.

If objectivity is to survive in reporting of the news, then it will be as the result of a concerted effort by all; readers, advertisers, writers and staff who understand and value the necessity of a free press.

To do these simple things will contribute to the continued existence of newspapers which possess integrity, objectivity, and are committed to the accurate dissemination of news to the public.

The publisher of FAN, and several long-time contributing writers to the paper meet periodically to discuss community and national issues. All share the same concerns for a continued free press in our society. If any of our readers, who also have the same concerns and are seeking a voice for their opinions, would like to join the meeting, please accept the invitation to do so. If you plan to attend, please e-mail me at richardtracheld@yahoo.com. One of the writers who attend the meeting will notify you as to date, time, and location of the next meeting. The attendance of FAN readers is greatly appreciated and each attendee is cordially welcomed and opinions are respectfully received. •

Fix predatory public gambling Letter to the Editor:

For more than 100 years, Michigan state law opposed public gambling for being a cancer in our society on moral standards. Appealing to greed and getting something for nothing, public gambling has spread. Its evils are well known, yet why are clergy in Muskegon County quiet on the issue?

Indians in the Dakotas lived in abject poverty. In contradiction of state laws, the Bureau of Indian Affairs allowed Indian reservations to operate gambling casinos. The promise was to improve living conditions. The concept spread like a malignancy with promises of economic prosperity. Much like the Michigan lottery, where we were duped into believing it would solve the problem of financing public education. That never happened.

A native Indian woman, born and raised on the original casino reservation, told me about it. She said the tribal council is doing well, while the average Indian is no better off than prior to the casino.

In the Muskegon area, a few folks claim we have owed Indians special consideration. They say we were unfair to Indians in the Treaty of 1836. If you will read the newspaper accounts of the time, and the description of treaty provisions, as I did, you will find that claims of injustice are completely false. Also, reading of what Indians did with their treaty largess is most significant.

At least nine states have a great budget deficit burden despite casinos. Predatory gambling, sold on promise of generating revenue, has led us into a swamp of greed and debt. In Muskegon County, millions in real estate will be removed from the tax rolls by the Indians. Tax revenue to support schools and other benefits of our society will be lost.

In 1923, Congress gave Indians the right to become citizens of the United States. Members of the Manistee Indian Council told me that they are citizens of the United States. We have concept of equality under the law, which removes the right of one part of society to have special treatment and so become exempt from law. The Indian casino is then an infringement of the U.S. Constitution, which is our basic law.

On Friday, July 10, Alaska passed a resolution by a vote of their legislators in their house by 37 to 0; in their senate, by a vote of 40 to 0.

This resolution "claims sovereignty for the state under the tenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government by the Constitution of the United States." Six other states have had both houses of their legislatures pass similar resolutions. Similar resolutions have been introduced in 37 states around the country, and various states are considering single-issue legislation in direct contradiction to the federal law. This raises a question as to where our local Michigan state representatives have been sleeping at the switch.

In Fruitport Township, much of the \$8,180,000 of assessed real estate valuation will be removed from the tax rolls, as for a sovereign nation within our borders. A tiny percentage of casino receipts may be offered to local taxing authority. Question includes "who will audit Indians' books?" If they decide to repeal or repudiate any agreement, how can it be enforced? Will we need to engage Hillary Clinton, our secretary of state, to negotiate for Muskegon County and state taxpayers? The Indians are, in effect, being considered as a sovereign nation. Can they hold dual citizenship and thus be immune to Michigan law?

On the issue of predatory public gambling by a foreign nation, our government is broken. It is up to us to fix it.

Arnie Kelm
391 E. Pontaluna Rd.

Beware: No tickling or teasing young children in this county Letter to the Editor:

The Muskegon Prosecutor's office is still trying to prosecute innocent people here in Muskegon County. Please make sure you request a polygraph test if you are charged with any erroneous charges or else you are in for the nightmare of your life. The article entitled, "Prosecutor: Day Care License Should Remain Revoked," in the *Muskegon Chronicle* on Tuesday, October 19, 2009, compelled me to write this.

First of all, do you really think Michael and Beverly Annis, who had a successfully licensed day care for 16 years would jeopardize their business, reputation, and income by inappropriately touching one of the children they cared for? Common sense would tell you no. In my opinion, I truly believe (and I am sure a lot of people who personally know the Assnises would state the same opinion as I feel) they are and never were guilty of this crime. All my thoughts and prayers go out to both of them, for I feel their pain and the agony they went through from the wrath of this prosecution here in Muskegon. Especially at their age, this had to surely put a toll on both of them.

Still, the prosecutor's office cannot admit when they have made a mistake. Going after the Annises like they did was vicious. And then, as a vendetta, they tried to block them through the state from getting their day care license back again. I do not blame the Annises for not wanting their license back, because I am sure the prosecutor's office will try to charge them with another crime to do with children down the road. In fact, they do come back with a vengeance when they have to drop charges against you because of insufficient evidence, and they do not obtain a conviction for their perfect