

CRAWFORD  
BROADCASTING  
COMPANY



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## THE STAND GUTS

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country: but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

So said the revolutionary patriot Thomas Paine. This famous quote, now 225 years old, rings true in every way today. In this great country of ours, there were never times which did not try our souls. We Americans and our forefathers hardly ever had true social tranquility, an opportunity to grow our country and become part of the world, a leading part of the world, without hardship and difficulty. If it came not from without, it surely came from within.

The Revolutionary War was only the beginning, but what a critical beginning it was. Without a fight for freedom against the giants Britain, France and Spain, and our dogged perseverance on the battlefield, there would be no America today. Our forefathers always needed to fight to preserve and protect what we had.

Then came our own incredible schism, our own CIVIL WAR. We divided ourselves, killed our very own fellow countryman and nearly destroyed our nation, along with tens of thousands of lives and countless property. Resilient as we were, we survived and corrected our problems and once again moved forward, believing optimistically, as we almost always do, that there was good life now and a better life to come. We were willing, Americans all, to fight for our land, our freedom and for the three concepts we believed in from Constitutional days, namely life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our early family and friends were willing to die for those things. It mattered not how much the times tried the soul, it was always ready to respond. It were as though every American knew, heard and was energized by the words of Patrick Henry, another great patriot who said:

“GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH!”

Whenever our liberty was threatened, we the early Americans, laid our life on the line. I really wonder if we the people would do that today. Our military does, but would we the civilians who reap the benefits do that?

For it seems more than ever that there is THE SUMMER SOLDIER among us. If conditions are right, the demand not too taxing, the risk not too great, perhaps we would shoulder a musket and

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do battle. But if as reality showed 225 years ago, there was little more than pain, bloodshed, horrendous deprivation, shoeless in the winter, muskets without ammunition and an enemy well fed, clothed and armed to face, the summer soldier disappeared. Today there is Iraq and Afghanistan, and although war at its best is the worst, I can only wonder if there is not more to come. The times that try our souls are bitter, hateful, hostile, virulent and combative. Sooner or later, a nuclear weapon must be activated, somewhere, somehow, by someone. And that may well be the end of civilization as we know it. Ironically, there is really very little today that any civilized nation can do to prevent such a catastrophe. We will then see, to the chagrin of Thomas Paine, more than ever, the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot. Even now, so many Americans will not do what is right, what is required, what will become necessary as the foundation of this world continues to crumble. It is as though compromise, placating, talk and supposedly reason will rule the day with catastrophes and disasters diverted. All such summer soldiers and sunshine patriots will shrink from the service of their country. They will not stand up for the right but will be ready to compromise everything our forefathers fought for and believed. I wonder so many times whether America as we now know it, or knew it from its beginning, can ever survive. For there seems to be very few he's and she's that "stand it now". When the soul is tried, the sunshine patriot disappears from the action.

We will be called upon to stand it now, and if not now, sooner or later. We will be called to task to defend what we believe more than ever. There are those in this world by the tens of millions who hate America, Americans, and all we stand for. There would be rejoicing in many places if America were seriously wounded or went down. We will go down if the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot rule the day. I pray that you and I are not one of them. I pray that you, like me, believe in and love America so very much that you will stand it now and more importantly, stand up when it gets worse, as it surely will. Sooner or later, somehow, someday, we will need to fight in our very land to protect and defend our life and liberty, in my opinion. That defining moment will identify the summer soldier and the sunshine patriot, but it will also identify the very wonderful ones who stand it now, who stand up for America and fight for its freedoms. Our lives are soft, protected, often spoiled. The day will come when that may no longer be the case.

Are you ready to stand it now when those times that will surely try our American souls more than ever come? I would be ready to do whatever I can to protect and defend my great country. I have been in many parts of the world, and there is no place, none, like America. There is no lifestyle, no freedoms so great as we have in America. For me, it would be an easy decision to give my all for this great country. And, one more time. I so sincerely hope and pray that you firmly believe the same way and that you would be willing to do whatever is required, no matter how difficult or trying the times.

DBC/msl