



Representative W. David Guice

North Carolina House of Representatives
District 113



Legislative Update Eight – Short Session July 4, 2010

Brevard, North Carolina – Happy Fourth of July! I want to wish each of you a Happy Independence Day and I hope that you all had a great holiday with family and friends. I had the opportunity to visit with residents in Polk County on Saturday at their annual Fourth of July Festival. Additionally, I was in Brevard for the fireworks on Saturday night. This is always a great time of year to sit back, remember the sacrifices that have been made and continue to be made for liberty and rejoice in what being an American truly means.

I want to take time this week and talk about what I believe needs to happen in Raleigh for things to get better for all people throughout our state. Since joining the North Carolina House of Representatives in January of 2009 I have talked with you about how I believe we must begin to set priorities and base our spending decisions on those priorities. As you have heard me say that over and over again I will not spend too much time talking about that this week; however, I would like to talk about the lack of vision in our state government. We need new direction, we need a new vision and we truly need a new birth of freedom in North Carolina. We must once again make our state “the land where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great.”

I know that many people might say I am being too critical; however, I believe it is time to call it like it is in Raleigh. There is no vision for the future of our state. There is no plan to pull our state out of the depths of the budgetary abyss we currently find ourselves in. There is no plan to make our education system the best in the nation and indeed the world. There is no plan to put the nearly 472,614 unemployed people in our state back to work. There is no plan to fix our ailing criminal justice and public safety system. At every level and truly at every turn there is no plan. My friends, WE are the people of North Carolina, whether by birth or by migration and it is up to us to take back our state. I am reminded of what John Adams said when he described the American Revolution. He said, “The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people.” I call upon each of you today to look within your minds and look within your hearts and join me in our new fight and our new journey – to take back for the people the government of North Carolina. Our greatest asset as a state is our people and we have it within our capacity to make that difference, to turn against the tide of partisan politics, to rise up in the face of government oppression and change the face of our government.

“But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.” These words are at the very heart of our Declaration of Independence, the Declaration that we celebrate each year on July 4. I cannot help as I sit on the floor of the North Carolina House of Representatives and think that we must once again take back our government for the people. I have said before and I will say again, that as long as there is breath left in me the voice of the people will never be lost in the noise of our state government.

In his Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln said, “...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” I believe these words are as true today as they were in 1863. As elected officials we gain our power from the consent of the governed and it amazes me how many people in Raleigh forget this fact. Well, my friends, I am determined to ensure that they never again forget.

In 1774, John Adams wrote to Abigail Adams and said, "We live, my dear soul, in an age of trial. What will be the consequence, I know not." I, also, do not know the outcome. I know that the path we are headed down now as a state is dangerous. I know that the course we are currently sailing will not lead to prosperity as a people. And I believe it is time to change that course. I believe it is time for a new direction. I believe it is time for new leadership; leadership that puts policy above politics, leadership that spends time talking about the issues and not about scandals and leadership that has only one special interest group – the people of North Carolina!

Thomas Paine wrote, "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 by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph." I know that the journey ahead will not be easy, but I know that the journey we have in front of us is well worth the strife.

I remain humbled to serve you, the people of District 113 and indeed all of North Carolina, as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives. I know that by working together, by putting partisan politics aside, we can make that lasting difference for this time and generations into the future. Please continue to contact my office with your questions and concerns. If you are willing to join me on this journey please contact me and let me know. Together we can regain control of our government and our future.

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