



# THE REVIEW

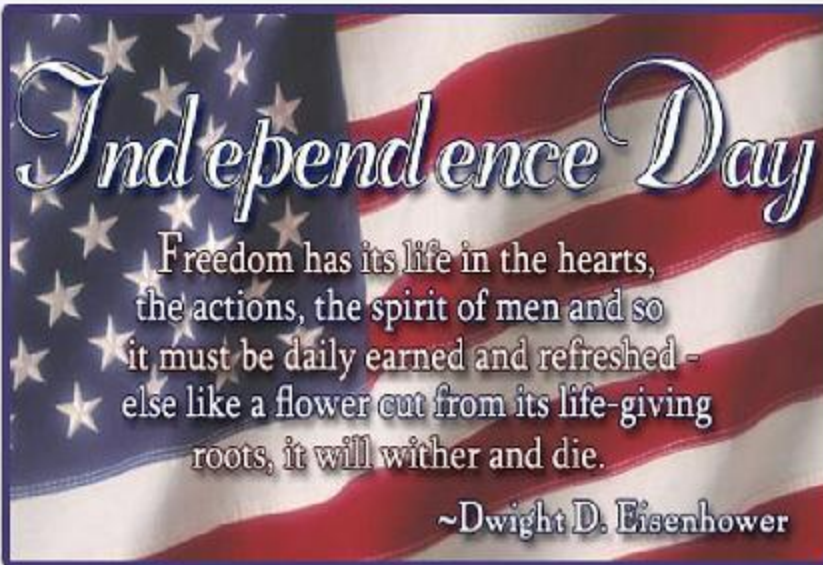
Central Arizona Fire and Medical - 8603 E. Eastridge Dr., Prescott Valley, AZ 86314 – July 3, 2020

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*"I am not bird; no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will."*

Charlotte Bronte



It might be good this Independence Day to remember these words and start standing up for what is rightfully ours earned through the blood and sacrifice of so many that gave so we could live.

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## The Chief's Desk

I'm sitting in front of my computer as the week leads up to July 4<sup>th</sup>. In years past, I would contemplate the amazing country we live in, how blessed we are for the opportunities we have been provided, and look forward to the annual Hose Cart Races and union picnic. It's almost like a country song, but I don't really listen to country music – I know, sacrilege in this area☺ Unfortunately, this year I sit staring at my screen perplexed and in a state of disbelief. Our country seems to be in turmoil at the moment. To what level depends on which news outlet our social media post you choose to believe. What is happening around us right now is exactly what makes this 4<sup>th</sup> of July, in my opinion, vitally important. We need to take time to reflect on our founding principles, remember what freedom means and how important it is, and once again realize how fortunate we are to live in this great country.

While things certainly seem unhinged, and some of our elected officials look and act like unintelligent buffoons, there remains an abundance of hope and opportunity around us. We may have to look hard to find it sometimes, but it's there. One thing that The Rona has done for me is provide more time in the evening. I've been taking advantage of the cool nights by walking around my neighborhood admiring the beauty. My walks have served as a time to clear my head and reset some priorities. Unfortunately, I still come back and flip through social media to see what is up with people. I have to say, my frustration grows each time I see a post about anything other than cars, funny memes, or cute dog tricks. It can easily lead one to believe that we have lost our grasp on reality. Some people seriously need to get a life, and potentially out of their parent's basement.

However, I do not believe all is lost. I think our overly emotional media who are soundbite and headline driven, in conjunction with social media are trying to manipulate us into believing we should be ashamed of who we are, what our country stands for, and that we should be in a state of despair. Fortunately, we are approaching a long weekend that finds us with time on our hands given most events are canceled. This is a good time to reflect on who we are as American citizens and individuals with individual rights and freedoms. We should not despair or be ashamed, we should be proud of what this country has accomplished to date and what we will accomplish in the future. We're certainly not perfect, but at least we are continuously working to improve.

People from all over the world clamor for an opportunity to come to America and realize the American dream. It's not a Disney theme, it's an American theme. I believe the American Dream is still alive and well in our country. To realize it, you need to shut off the TV and your social media, set some stretch goals, and be accountable to yourself and others. No one owes you anything.....

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### Upcoming Events:

June 6 – Senior Staff Meeting  
June 7 – Labor/Management Meeting  
July 8 – Goals and Objectives Development  
July 9 – AFCA, Goals and Objectives Development

### Board Meetings:

July 27 Admin  
CAFMA – 1700-1830



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## **What does freedom mean to me?**

**By: Taylor Dawson**

When most of us think about the Fourth of July, we think about pool parties, cooking out, fireworks, and spending time with friends and family. Others think about our love for America. Some of us even wait all year for an occasion to wear a t-shirt that has the Declaration of Independence printed on it. Is that just me?

I can't hide it—I'm a huge fan of the Declaration of Independence. Almost every time I've visited Washington D.C., even if it's only for a weekend, I make time to visit the National Archives just to see it. It's not changing, but I still can hardly make it longer than a year without looking at it.

When you look at the Declaration of Independence, one of the things you may notice is that most of the text is written in a script that is barely legible. A few words, however, are written in a script that is much clearer and easier to read. Three of those words are "free and independent."

America's founders risked their lives to create a nation where citizens could truly be "free and independent".

As children, a lot of us learned—when we were told we couldn't do something—just to say, "it's a free country! I can do whatever I want!" While that didn't get me anywhere most of the time, aside from being swiftly sent to my room when I said it to the wrong audience, I'm glad I learned that phrase. I'm glad I grew up declaring that freedom was at the core of my country's values, whether or not I realized that was what I was doing.

[alabamapolicy.org](http://alabamapolicy.org)

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## **Letter from the Mayor of Eagar Arizona**

**By:**

I do not know Mayor Bryce Hamblin with the Town of Eagar, but as we approach the 4<sup>th</sup> of July his words spoke to me. You don't have to agree with his position or mine, but you need to remember that America was founded on a shared set of principles, but a varied set of opinions. I can't say that they had complete civil discourse given the whole pistol dueling thing, and they did take to beating the crap out of each other on the floor of House and the Senate, but they ultimately set in motion a great experiment in liberty that continues today. Eventually though, they arrived at a place where physical violence and shooting each other was not acceptable.

I agree with the sentiment of the Mayor's words and felt I should share them with you. I do question when we became so weak in our resolve. I saw two WWII vets at Rafter Eleven this week, apparently they are there quite often. No masks, no fear, just two courageous men who served our country and deserve our respect. It is both disappointing and embarrassing to see what we have become in comparison to these brave men.



Dear Citizens of Eagar,

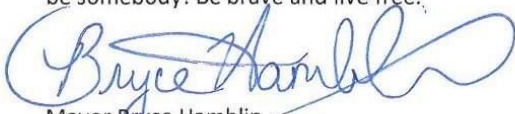
Over the past several weeks I have been asked repeatedly what the Town of Eagar plans to do about Covid19, masks, visitors, riots, etc. It is somewhat alarming how many expect and almost invite a more drastic infringement on their freedoms. My response from the onset of the Covid19 pandemic has been that we will err on the side of freedom. When riots began to riddle the country and our governor took the drastic measure of a statewide curfew, again, I maintained that we will err on the side of freedom. I have received numerous phone calls from reporters, citizens, visitors, and complete strangers to our area asking why the Town of Eagar has not cancelled upcoming rodeos and our 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Again, my response is that Eagar will err on the side of freedom. What authority does the Town of Eagar, or any other state or local government, have to infringe on the rights of healthy law-abiding citizens?

It bares mentioning that I am not one that believes that the coronavirus is fake or any one of a dozen other theories disseminating across the internet. Covid19 is a real virus that unfortunately has drastic negative effects on the health of some of the individuals that contract it. Just as with the flu virus, some of those individuals will die. I do not make light of the fact that its effects on individuals and families throughout the globe have been and will continue to be life changing and/or life ending.

There are many individuals that risk serious peril if they were to contract the virus. Those individuals should take extreme precautions. I certainly would were I in their position. In fact, I would invite those individuals to please stay home and not attend our festivities. But don't ask that the government require it of healthy law-abiding citizens. If an individual is fearful of contracting the virus, I would invite that individual to take every precaution they deem fit; including wearing masks, gloves, or a variety of other personal protective equipment. Those precautions do not harm me, and I will not judge you adversely for doing what you feel is best for you. But don't ask that the government require it of healthy law-abiding citizens.

As grim as Covid19 is portrayed under the most drastic scenario, I dare say that we are facing a much more serious pandemic here in America. We are currently in the midst of the nation's first political pandemic. Never before in the history of America has ignorance and bigotry been more celebrated. Never before has our government been more eager and willing to take away freedoms from the citizenry. Never before has the citizenry been more willing to give them up. Thomas Jefferson warned that *"Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety"*. I believe his warning is as applicable today as it ever was. Some will say that these safety measures have not impacted individual liberty. To them I would quip Jefferson again: *"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."* The right to move about freely in public is one of the cornerstones of American democracy. In a panicked frenzy, created by the media, state and local governments trampled that right wholesale. History will not judge us kindly for our actions over the past several months.

In closing, where would America be if our ancestors that pioneered the countryside, facing a mortality rate that would make the coronavirus look like a scratch, had simply given up, turned back, or laid down and died out of fear? Where would America be if its brave service men and women, who throughout history have on occasion faced odds of almost certain death, simply refused to fight out of fear? When did we stop being the land of the free and the home of the brave? Take charge of your own life. Nobody owes you anything. The government has never been more ill equipped to solve your problems nor is it its function to do so. This is America! Stand up and be somebody! Be brave and live free.



Mayor Bryce Hamblin  
Town of Eagar

**Where Roads Hit the Trails**

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## **Chief's Desk Continued**

I was speaking with Director Packard on Wednesday. She said we need something to unite our country again. Unfortunately, it usually takes some type of tragedy to pull us all together. I think unifying our country right now means that we pull together, stand up, and say NO – we demand better! By better, I mean better from our elected officials who seem to be spiraling with no clear direction or understanding. I am thankful I do not live in Minneapolis or Seattle right now, just to name a couple of places.

Getting through what our nation is facing today is going to take strength of character and a willingness to persevere in the face of adversity. We as American citizens have that strength, and we have the ability as long as we do not allow things to continue as they are.

Our flag, our anthem, the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, and Constitution unite us as one. We are an imperfect union created by imperfect people and populated by imperfect human beings. We have realized great success, have been impacted by terrible tragedies, and many in our history have suffered through injustice. This does not mean we are all bad, it means there are some bad people in our world, and that our history is not unblemished. That said, you can't erase the past. As Winston Churchill once said, "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it." The idea that erasing history by destroying our country will make people feel better about themselves is - well - asinine.

To me, freedom means the ability to move, speak, live, ask questions, and decide for myself. This freedom was written in ink, and earned through sacrifice. If we look back through history, great men and women of all backgrounds, races, creeds, and religions have fought to create and maintain our way of life. Each time we have given up some small piece, it has had an impact on our lives. Think of the boiling frog analogy. Put a frog in boiling water and it jumps out. Put a frog in cool water and slowly turn up the heat, it will not perceive the danger and will slowly die. Look around you to get a sense of what is happening right now.

By a show of hands, how many have read the Allegory of the Cave written by Greek Philosopher Plato? If you have not read it and had a chance to discuss its deeper meaning, you should. I believe that in many ways the Allegory of the Cave is illustrative of our current situation. In the writing, prisoners have been chained facing a wall since childhood. People on a raised walkway behind the prisoners use puppets to create shadows projected on the wall by the fire that burns behind them. The sounds they make echo off the walls making it seem as if the sounds are from the shadows themselves. The prisoners' reality is only what is on the wall in front of them; they have no knowledge of the people behind them.

After setting the stage, Plato supposes one prisoner is freed. When he turns to the light, he cannot see as his eyes are not used to light. He sees outlines but cannot clearly see or understand what is before him. The prisoner is then forced from the cave and into the sunlight. Eventually, he can see the moon, stars, and light shimmering off the lake. His eyes have now adjusted to the sunlight and he can see the truth. He returns to the cave to share what he has seen with his fellow prisoners, but because his eyes have adjusted to the light, he cannot see in the darkness. Plato infers that the remaining prisoners

believe his blindness was caused by his journey into the light. They would then refuse to take the same journey, and if they could, they would kill anyone that tried to drag them out of the cave.

Over time, like the frog in the boiling water, we have allowed ourselves to be shackled in a cave by our media, social media, and some elected officials. When someone tries to drag us out and show us the truth, we lash out irrationally refusing to even have a dialogue about reality. We've become accustomed to watching the shadows projected on our television screens, computers, and phones by puppeteers using their powers of persuasion to create an alternate version of reality or alternate narrative. Some in our society have become so invested in the shadow of reality that they react in vile and violent ways against those with an alternate viewpoint. It's as if it has become a crime against humanity to have a differing opinion. Comply or else!!

Putting it in modern terms, we are becoming the slaves chained in the cave by our addiction to social media, 24-hour news cycles, and politicians who require compliance without question. Our fellow prisoners i.e. citizens have been reduced to blind followers unwilling or unable to seek clarity of vision. Elected officials, the media, and special interests are those hiding behind the wall making the shadow puppets that we are supposed to accept as our reality. Deviate from the accepted narrative, and find yourself figuratively and in some cases literally beaten for not following the herd.

The result is an unhealthy division, an inability to have civil discourse, elected officials run amuck because we are not holding them accountable, and brave social media warriors hidden behind computer screens without fear of reprisal. The vitriol in which people are attacking each other is sickening as is the idea that compliance is a virtue.

The freedom we enjoy in America means that we do not have to be and should not be shackled in a cave and manipulated by others. We have the freedom to seek the truth and we have the freedom to have a dialogue and civil discourse. Others have sacrificed greatly so that we can enjoy these freedoms.

We have the freedom of movement, to travel and enjoy the great beauty our country has to offer. We have the freedom to own and operate businesses, and we have the freedom to patronize those businesses – including gyms, bars, and restaurants when we want and how we want. Just as those individual private businesses have the right to require masks without having to debate with me. We have the freedom to share our views and the government or others should not persecute us for exercising that freedom – freedom of speech is not a one way constitutional right.

On this July 4<sup>th</sup>, as you are enjoying time with your family remember what the day truly represents. Turn off social media, and other forms of media to focus on the beauty that is our world and adjust your eyes to the light. Do not allow yourself to become a prisoner in the cave. Enjoy your BBQ and a cocktail, respect our flag and those who have fought for it, and remember why our country exists. Come Monday, have your eyes adjusted to the light and enjoy your clarity of vision no matter your belief system. As the Beastie Boys sang, you have to fight for your right to party! Okay, it doesn't exactly fit, but now the song is stuck in your head. Hope you have a great 4<sup>th</sup> with family and friends! Be excellent to each other☺

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