

America the Beautiful

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 7.15.21

Oh, Beautiful for voting in record numbers in spite of a pandemic. Two-thirds of eligible voters participated and turnout increased in every state. Our history of peacefully transferring power ended on January 6. But patriotic Americans of both parties, “who more than self their country loved,” did their constitutional duty, defended democracy, put down an insurrection, and withstood Trump’s attempted coup.

Oh, Beautiful for embracing the spirit of the Statue of Liberty by opposing Trump’s Muslim ban and his demonization of immigrants and asylum seekers. You remembered we are a nation of immigrants, whose “pilgrim feet...a thoroughfare of freedom beat across the wilderness.”

Oh, Beautiful for responding to George Floyd’s murder with humanity. Americans of all races used their freedom of speech to express shared outrage in a demonstration of “brotherhood, from sea to shining sea”. And, when his killer was convicted, 75% of Americans supported the verdict.

Oh, Beautiful for acting responsibly, for yourselves, your families, your communities, and your fellow Americans by helping crush the pandemic. You chose to “confirm thy soul in self-control” by masking up and social distancing. Two-thirds of adult Americans are vaccinated, and can safely enjoy America’s “spacious skies” and “purple mountain majesties.”

Some continue to promote the Big Lie and work to suppress the vote. Some enjoy American citizenship, but would deny it to others. Some ignore systemic racism by insisting on a whitewashed history. Some shirk responsibility by refusing to get vaccinated. That is not patriotism. They are not the majority.

Working to “form a more perfect union” and “mend thine every flaw” is patriotism in action. Had the Founding Fathers taken the Beacon’s “love it or leave it” advice, they would have abandoned the colonies instead of giving them a democracy, and we’d still be British subjects.

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