

In the summer of 1970, my Mom came home and told my Dad she had been laid off work. The company did not win a government contract and needed to cut back on staff. My Dad was a Teamster truck driver but being junior in the union did not receive many runs. The senior drivers had first right of refusal on all runs and so very few runs went to the junior drivers; if you did not drive you did not earn any money. My Dad always had a good attitude about any situation he faced. I remember him smiling and looking at my Mom and saying do not worry they would find a way.

Dad went to the truck terminal the next day and explained to Kelly, the supervisor, the situation. Kelly told my Dad that if he was interested, he could sweep and mop the entire terminal, clean the offices, and the bathrooms. The work had to be completed on Sunday when the terminal was closed and he would earn fifty dollars. My Dad asked if it was okay to have my Mom help him and Kelly said that was no problem. They started work that Sunday.

When we went to the terminal, my Dad told me I had to watch my brother (6yrs old) for a few hours and to be careful around the trucks; I was nine. We looked at all the trucks and threw rocks into the pond in the field near the building. After what seemed like forever, our parents finally came out of the building and we went home.

When we got home, I was mad. I told him he was a truck driver and this was not his type of work. I will never forget the look on his face as he bent down on one knee so he could look me in the eye. He said, "Son, a man who works hard will always have a job and no matter what job you do make sure you do your best no matter how insignificant the job may seem." He then told me never to forget this.

Thirty-eight years later, I have learned that my Dad left out one key point. A man who works hard will always have a job but it just may not be the same job. My father was a man who believed that hard work was never beneath him. As I watch what is going on in our Nation what I do not see is an optimistic approach that acknowledges this is going to take hard work and will be uncomfortable but we will come through this current hurdle. Fear should not drive decisions.

We are a nation of diverse people, cultures, beliefs, and views that has created our distinct American culture. To be an American is to believe in the power of "We the People..." It is living a better life than the previous generation and building a better future for our children. Most importantly, it is continuing to build on the foundation of our ancestors to make this nation better than the ones we came from. We were a nation of fierce independence neither requiring nor desiring interference or handouts from the government.

When my parents hit hard times, they did not look to the government for answers they looked in the mirror. We need to return to our roots and remember how our parents, grandparents, and the long line of ancestors who built this nation solved problems...they did it themselves. The government did not build the nation; "We the People" built this Nation. The

thought of the Federal government attempting to fix this problem causes me great concern for our liberties, our freedoms, and for our children.

I watched my brother every Sunday for four months. My father started to receive more runs and my mother obtained another job working as a secretary. It was not easy but not once did my parents then or ever ask the government for any help. It was their positive attitude, hard work, and not allowing fear to drive their decisions that was the real reason they came through all the hard times. Fear based decisions are the gateway to tyranny, oppression, and the suppression of liberty. It is in our national conscience to survive and overcome all obstacles. You cannot spend your way out of debt. We are going to have to work hard, reduce our debt, save our money, and help our neighbors. "We the People" are the solution, not the government.