

## **“Register to Vote”**

By: Dan Ward

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I have been asked to talk with you about voting. Why should you vote? First, let me say that voting is a privilege, a right, and, a responsibility! Not all people in all countries have this privilege, this right, this responsibility. This voting privilege, this right, this responsibility came at a high price, a price that has been paid for in blood and suffering by the military and civilians alike.

Our founding Fathers broke away from England and formed this great country at a great cost in blood and suffering. Our grandparents fought World War One at a great cost in blood and suffering. Our parents fought World War Two at a great cost in blood and suffering. Through the years, there have been many conflicts both military and civilian fought to ensure our freedom. Our grandparents and parents formed and participated in the civil rights movement at a great cost in blood and suffering. All of this was done so that we as Americans today and tomorrow would have this privilege, this right, this responsibility of voting.

Now, up to this point, I have discussed the privilege and rights aspect of voting. At this time, I would like to discuss the responsibility aspect of voting. It is our responsibility to choose intelligent, responsible and responsive representatives at all levels of government. And by this, I mean that our representatives should be both morally and fiscally intelligent and responsible. This responsibility applies equally to all parties; Democrat, Republican and independent. It is up to us to nominate and elect representatives that reflect our stance on current issues. If the representatives that are currently in office do not reflect our views and values, it is up to us to vote them out of office. We must take the time to research each candidate so that we can make an intelligent decision as to which candidate would be the best to represent us.

Thanks to the privilege, the right, the responsibility of voting, we have the ability to change policies that we do not agree with. If we do not exercise this privilege, this right, if we do not accept this responsibility, we will be disrespecting our forefathers, our grandparents, our parents and ourselves. If you do not like the way our country is being run, VOTE to change it. If you do not vote, you do not have the right to complain. The only way that you can vote is to REGISTER. I would like to take this opportunity to invite those of you who have not registered to vote to take the time and register NOW.