

SEPTEMBER 11 – NO TIME FOR AMATEURS – OR IS IT?

by

Barry A. Goodfield, Ph.D., DABFM

America's assault of 2001 is a fading, tragic history in time. It is still a painful haunting memory for those of us who lived through it. We will never forget and will remind others who were not there.

The world is at war, people stream across what where once clear borders.

Today there is still choice for Syrian refugees and migrants, strikeout for foreign borders, risk life and limb by land or water with a growing risk is displacement disaster, or death.

The governments receiving these desperate people are clearly not prepared. What's policy one-day morphs the next day, into a double message reflecting scrambling thoughts and would be policies where none had existed before.

Chaos, confusion seems to be the only thing that one can count on. It is a humanitarian crisis on a scale only seen in World War I and II. The pictures of people streaming across borders conjure up the still unbelievable images we saw in the 1930s and 40s. Will we ever learn? Will it ever change? Words of will haunt our memory- Never again! Never is *now*!





REFUGEES THEN AND NOW

Here in America 26 men and women have said they want to be the person to oversee this, and other impending crises we will face, in the next four years after the election is over.

Clearly this is a time when you need someone with expert skills and even better judgment. This is no time for amateurs or is it?

Our forefathers did not foresee a “professional political class” with honed skills and long term preparation for addressing a growing country’s needs. In fact, they didn’t trust the possibility of “professionals” guarding, and guiding our young country through its fledgling years towards the fulfillment of the promises stated in our Constitution.

But what then? Times are tough and it’s clearly not getting any better. Few would argue against that thought. The “professional” Washington warriors, although well intended, seem to have spent more time fighting among themselves than looking out the window at a war weary world.

What makes us believe that if the pros can’t do it well, that the amateurs are better suited for straightening out the problems we face today? The argument against the amateurs is certainly not based on the success rate of the long-term Washington politicians!

But in a time of major crisis such as the ones we face now, is it prudent to send the “pros” packing and bring in well wishing neophytes? You could argue they couldn’t do the worst job. That thought is not exactly a rousing

endorsement for change! It's more like a capitulation to repeated miss management and unfulfilled promises.

After spending some months writing a book (*So You Want To Be My President?*) profiling all 26 of those who aspire to be the next U.S. President in 2016, some of those amateurs are probably pretty good at sorting out tough situations.

Clearly a brain surgeon pits his skills against limited possibilities. Corporate titans wrestled with tough markets and hard decisions. All of those who would be president have skills and abilities that are applicable in other situations. They offer logic not longitude. Their thinking is; "with my ability to solve problems, we can find a way out of the chaos that we've suffered over the years."

America has a history of hiring successful amateurs. Farmers, businessmen, military and civilians have held the reins of power in all branches of our government. A lot of the well-meaning amateurs that came years ago, now compose the long term political ruling class of today. Some gave up their amateur status for political power. They simply overstayed their welcome. I'm sure that those who wrote our constitution would agree.

The one item being most clearly peddled in the presidential campaign of 2016 is one word change. Who, what, where, when, and how? That's the question?

For me, I'm willing to take a chance on an outsider who has proven skills regarding leadership, listening, good judgment, compassion and is willing to take direct action after the facts are in.

Send in the amateurs! People who *will not* over stayed their welcome. They could be something like "political migrants" - they come in, do their job get paid, and once the job is over they go home. What a good idea! Hell, they can't do any worse than those who over stayed their welcome.

*Pic. Bildarchiv der Oesterreichischen Gesellschaft für Zeitgeschichte
Associated Press*

©9/11/15 Goodfield Institute LL