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“Election Day”

by

Tom Holbrook

Well folks... this is the day you've all been awaiting. I'm sure many of you have gotten out over the last couple of weeks and placed your 'X' beside the candidate's name of choice and I applaud you for your effort. There are still thousands, however, who have yet to go to the polls and do their part in shaping history. I have stated many times that this column in "Lifestyles" is not a political venue but one to exalt the many blessings we have as citizens of this great nation, this great hometown and the lifestyle that we have been afforded in our autumn and winter years. What a gift we have been given!

However, that which allows us to have the lifestyle with which we are blessed was not gained by accident or freak of happenstance. Many have come and gone before us to lay the foundation of all we enjoy, not the least those who founded this wonderful country and the subsequent ones who have fought through the years to allow us to continue to live in a free society.

Another blessing we have enjoyed, again gained through bloodshed, turmoil and tears throughout our country's existence, was the right... nay, the responsibility to vote into office those who would be our leaders and our lawmakers. That is what this day, Election Day in America, is all about... exercising that right to choose between two individuals and determine the one who will be our President for the next four years. Electing one person to the highest office in this land... one who will be not only our political leader but also our military Commander-in-Chief. Truly, not a task we should treat lightly or frivolously.

To that end I submit the following quotation from one of our country's greatest leaders and one of our most gentle citizens, our 16<sup>th</sup> President Abraham Lincoln. I thank my friend who made me aware of it.

*'You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.*

*You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.*

*You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.*

*You cannot lift the wage earner up by pulling the wage payer down.*

*You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.*

*You cannot build character and courage by taking away men's initiative  
and independence.*

*You cannot help men permanently by doing for them, what they could and  
should do for themselves."*

**--Abraham Lincoln**

**May God give us His wisdom to heed these words as we go to the polls.**

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