The Fire Eater
in silence & in stillness

# New Patriots: Building and Accepting America's Socialism

by Herbert Hayes

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Many of America's patriots, our men and women in uniform, and other government/military-related services knowingly accept and participate in the death of our Republic.

The notion that anyone who decides to volunteer and serve our country should be entitled to immediate retirement benefits after 20 years of service is evil and anti-American. I can't imagine our Founding Fathers ever allowing even a hint of an entitlement for the privilege to serve our country. American revolutionary veterans received land grants of untamed wilderness in the frontier territory and soon-to-be State of Kentucky for their service.

A one-time payment designed to expand a new and growing nation which most vets willed to their descendants or signed over to land speculators, never seeing their gift from the Federal government.

French pre-revolutionary print: the peasant, bowed under the burden of taxation, is seen as supporting the clergy and nobility. Musée Carnavalet, Paris.

Finally when most of the revolutionary vets had passed away, the federal government decided to grant military pensions to the few vets, or their widows, who survived. Most of the vets were feeble or unable to live on their present earnings. These pensions were meager, and designed to help those in need, since the vets were old and near death; not like today's lush entitlements that last forty-plus years.

Now before I go on and further anger those who have been blinded America's patriotic socialism, I feel it is

important that you know where my heart lies on this serious matter. First, I believe that anyone who serves our country with honor deserves and should be treated with the utmost respect.

My family has served with honor in every conflict the united States has engaged in, and every colonial conflict since the founding of Jamestown. I descend from patriots who lost everything to help birth this nation and never once asked their new country to repay them for their losses. My ancestors were decimated during the Trail of Tears, halved on the battlefields during the War between the States, gassed in Europe to repay Lafayette, drowned entombed on the Arizona, bled on the beaches of Italy and France, captured and escaped in Korea, and had their names etched onto the Vietnam Memorial. And my family continues today to serve.

I'm proud of my family's service and involvement in keeping America a free Republic. I have no intention of dishonoring my ancestors by writing this article. In fact, I feel I honor them by doing my part to right the wrong of giving entitlements, which is part of the socialist takeover of our nation. I don't believe any of my ancestors would disapprove of my desire to save our Republic from the despotism of a socialist America. Shall we go on?

An unlimited power to tax involves, necessarily, a power to destroy; because there is a limit beyond which no institution and no property can bear taxation. (John Marshall: McCullough v. Maryland, 1819)

I think we've reached well beyond the limit about which John Marshall warns us. FDR's New Deal of the early 1930s has matured into today's Raw Deal. Farm subsidies, Social Security, government pensions, and government entitlements have turned into a socialist monster which, if not stopped, will destroy our nation. Military pensions cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year; a conservative estimate of 563 billion dollars over the next 20 years to further burden taxpayers. And that doesn't even include the billions of medical costs for the military families.

The Bush administration is quite aware of the looming bankruptcy of the lush military entitlements begun at the close of WWII. Bush has a plan that most likely will sit on the back burner forever to avoid being unpatriotic during our War on Terrorism. The administration's plan is to push the minimum age limit for military retirement to age 60. This will include any access to military health benefits.

The plan does allow disabled vets to continue to receive benefits and medical services as they do today. But the Bush plan is designed to stop those who are recently retired after 20 years of service at age 38 or 40 something from receiving any benefits while they are perfectly healthy and in their prime earning years. Makes sense to me. But we all know this plan will never see implementation as various military groups and lobbies are posed to vilify the new plan. After all, they want to protect the lush entitlements that so many healthy vets take for granted. Moreover, how can Bush even ask our vets to sacrifice any benefits during this time of conflict?

Veteran groups are ready to battle Bush or any future administration which dares to take away the entitlements post-WWII vets eagerly consume. It's as if entitlements are what makes a republic. Wrong. Entitlements are what enslaves you to socialism and worse, despotism. I know many forty-something retired vets who collect 50 percent plus of their military pay, plus benefits, and receive cost-of-living raises.

The majority of these vets take jobs elsewhere and become double dippers. Their families enjoy the vets' retirement by riding on the coattails of the benefits, being covered by the military health plans which costs billions more each year instead of paying for their share of coverage through their civilian employers. Is this not anti-American cradle to grave socialism?

I don't understand how any true patriot who loves this country and wants to live in a free Republic can willingly help grow and build this country into a socialist nightmare by accepting immediate retirement benefits-for-life

in their prime. It seems as though they don't really care about the future of our Republic or the freedom they so gallantly defended. It just isn't right and must be stopped.

I believe that all military retirees should not receive any benefits or retirement compensation until age 65, or a reduced amount at age 62, just like the majority of Social Security recipients. This should be made retroactive with no grandfathering of present pensioners. I know this may be painful to those who have enjoyed the lucrative benefit of their military pensions, but they must face reality once more and realize they must continue to serve the best interests of their Republic and save it from despotic socialism.

Sadly, no one will listen to the sounds of our failing republic. I fear that those receiving military pensions today at age 45 will most likely see no pension at all when they reach 65, as the nation they voluntarily protected falls into a socialist quagmire. Or worse, completely dissolves into history, just like the Romans. I find it ironic that those who have served are willing to destroy their nation by greedily accepting pensions in the prime of their lives.

So vets, wake up, prepare for battle once more, and be responsible citizens of this great nation or face seeing the empire fall before your final days.

## About the Author

*David Lee Kelly is a political science major, family historian, and an honourable gentleman. He enjoys history, lively conversation, and debate. With ancestors who arrived in the American Colonies in the early 1620s, David descends from a family tree that is a story in itself. He is cousin to William L. Yancey (Fire Eater), William T. Sherman (yes it's true), descended from three signers of the Declaration of Independence, and lawyers, doctors, and ministers. David, like most Americans whose families migrated west and settled on the frontier, also descends from several Indian Nations, including the Powhatan, Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw. David is proud of his heritage, fighting to keep the original ideas and intentions of America's founding fathers alive and in the front lines of political debate. He is an active member of the National Genealogical Society, and a card-carrying Fire Eater. David was born in sleepy Hermosa Beach, California. He now resides in central Colorado, making his home near the majestic beauty of America's mountain, Pikes Peak.*