

December 30, 2016

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I cannot begin to express how grateful I am to live in a country where I can tell you, the most powerful man in the world, what I think of your leadership abilities as regards your last eight years as President of the United States. I have no fear of being taken to jail in the middle of the night or suffering because of my words. While you and your wife might be ashamed of America, I thank God every morning for the privilege of being an American. Words alone cannot express the feeling that comes with knowing that for over two hundred years God has blessed this country with a constitution that protects and promotes equality. I believe the Constitution stands between me and your power.

I have never felt compelled to write my President until today. I am one of the deplorables (sic) your surrogate identified in her failed attempt to replace you. I have never voted for you but I have prayed for you. I am writing this letter in the closing days of your administration to go on record as to my opinion of your eight years as my President.

I have spent many hours thinking of how best to protest your leadership in a succinct, but non-confrontational manner, that would still convey the depth of your tragedy as the leader of the United States. In order to accomplish that I need to explain how I got to this letter.

I am a member of the graduating class of "1969" from The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina.

Since its inception in 1842, The Citadel has sought to prepare its graduates intellectually, physically and morally to be principled leaders and productive citizens in all walks of life. Citadel graduates have participated in many of the pivotal events in our nation's history, and have fought in every American war since the Mexican War of 1846. Alumni have achieved prominence in such diverse fields as military and government service, science and engineering, education, literature, business, the medical and legal professions, and theology.

On January 9, 1861, Citadel Cadets manning an artillery battery on Morris Island fired the first hostile shots of the Civil War, repulsing the federal steamship Star of the West. Contrary to popular belief the Civil War was not fought to preserve slavery. The Civil war was fought over State Rights. The question that symbolizes this war was whether the Federal Government had the power to end slavery in America.

It is a historical fact that the overwhelming majority of combatants on both sides of the Civil War never owned slaves. The South attempted to secede from the Union. They fought to form a Confederation of Southern States who believed that each State could govern better than a powerful central government. The other side fought to preserve the Union and the Constitution. Had I been alive during the Civil War I have no doubts I would have stood with the South. Not because of slavery, but to fight for the principal, decentralized government is the best government.

One of the most profound moments of my life, was when I graduated from The Citadel and my father, Frank Riel class of "1941," handed me my diploma. My classmates and I are very close and even today we are linked by daily communication concerning among other things; politics, humor, hunting, fishing and a myriad of other topics.

Since I graduated from The Citadel, I think of myself as a philosopher in the style of Diogenes. I search for Truth. In order to determine the Truth, I have devised a test that is based on the Truth that, "there are two kinds of people in the world; those who divide the world into two kinds of people and those who don't." There are two kinds of people in the world those who understand this test or those who don't. If you understand the test you understand how I search for Truth.

One of my classmates, Harold Wilcox, has created an award winning barbecue sauce based on his boyhood experience growing up in the South. The sauce is called "Harold's Hog Wash." My classmates and I are of the opinion it is a gastronomical achievement that is unparalleled in our lifetimes.

I not only appreciate the taste, I love the name. The word "hogwash" by definition means: empty and pretentious talk; nonsense; baloney, worthless, false, or ridiculous speech or writing, bullshit. In a tribute to my classmate I have created an award for those who I have decided are worthy of the appellation. The award is called "IS IT TRUTH OR IS IT HOGWASH," and anyone who I have selected for the award gets a letter from me explaining the award, why they are entitled to the award and a bottle of "Harold's Hog Wash."

I believe that I can honestly sum up your presidential pronouncements as the highest and finest illustration of a public figure espousing "hogwash" on a daily basis. In your eight years of holding the Office of the President of the United States, you have raised to an art form the use of "hogwash" in explaining the Truth.

The hogwash which precipitated this award is your statement, "I could have beaten Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump "if I had run again."" For that statement alone you have qualified for the, "IS IT TRUTH OR IS IT HOGWASH," award. Your Truth is not the Truth of your fellow citizens. Hillary Clinton was your proxy; she ran and lost on your record and with your endorsement. America has repudiated your administration by an overwhelming majority of States. You delude yourself when you think you could have beaten Trump. To that statement I say "hogwash most sublime" and it makes you worthy of this award.

For this reason alone, Mr. President, you have been awarded the, "IS IT TRUTH OR IS IT HOGWASH," award and of course, with the award, a bottle of the finest barbecue sauce in the entire universe "Harold's Hog Wash."

I wish you good health, happiness and hope you enjoy the finest barbecue sauce known to man.

Most respectfully,

Rich Riel
9848 Apple Tree Drive #D
San Diego, CA.