



July 2, 2010

I believe, along with our nation's founders, in three fundamental principles: that there is a God, that God has granted people certain rights and that governments are set up to protect those rights.

This week is our nation's 234th birthday. On Independence Day, many of us will celebrate by remembering the sacrifices of the signers of the Declaration of Independence who pledged their "lives, fortunes, and sacred honor " to defend the proposition that "all men are created equal."

The price of liberty has always been eternal vigilance, and that's certainly been clear in recent times. Congress has passed an individual mandate to purchase health insurance, which, if it remains in place, will nullify the basic federalist principles our founders set up. Greece is a very present example of what happens when spending and debt spiral out of control. With the financial reform measure passed in the House this week, the majority has once again proven that they are more interested in expanding government regulations than actually reforming the

system.

Right now, many people are having to face tough choices. Even more than civil government, our founders believed in self-government. And, in these difficult economic times, with job losses and foreclosures affecting so many, people are re-ordering their lives and priorities and exercising the restraint and wisdom necessary for self-government. In homes and businesses and communities across the country, Americans are modeling the "back to basics" approach to life and liberty that Congress continues to neglect.

Americans place a high value on liberty. And, our fundamental liberties are confirmed and protected by law, starting with the Constitution. In some other countries, there is no such thing as freedom of speech or freedom of assembly. These restrictions and innumerable injustices are passively tolerated and even accepted in many places around the world. Here, Americans are increasingly disturbed by the high cost of big government, the weight of the national debt and the chains countless federal regulations place on individual freedoms. Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court recently recalled the principles upon which this country was founded - just this past week, it ruled that law-abiding Americans have an individual right to keep and bear firearms under the Second Amendment and that right cannot be unreasonably restricted by state and local governments. I am committed to using the trust you have given me to protect the liberties that have been passed down to us for the next generation of Americans.

CONSTITUENT CORNER

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is cautioning consumers to avoid scams and fraudulent offers related to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Scammers may use e-mails, website, door-to-door collections, fliers, mailings and telephone calls to solicit money. Some may demand up-front money and promise to provide a service which they will never deliver. Others may claim to be engaged in charitable clean-up efforts. If you suspect that someone is committing fraud related to the oil spill, the FTC recommends that you contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud. [More details](#) ...