

Grant County Peace Coalition

On 4th of July & The Impeachment of George Bush and Dick Cheney.

The **Declaration of Independence** is a brilliant document, one of the most important in the development of democracy. Today we celebrate its uplifting vision and revolutionary character.

But it has no legal effect upon our laws or government,
That is reserved for **The Constitution of the United States.**

And it is the Constitution that remains the fundamental document defining
the nature and authority of our government,
the scope and effect of it's laws,
the responsibilities and powers of our elected officials,
the rights that we, as citizens, hold so dearly,
and what legitimate options we must have available, and use,
when things go wrong and Democracy is threatened.

The Founders foresaw that the new nation must not only
provide for the common defense against an external threat,
but must also provide a remedy in the event of an internal threat -
such as a President that commits High Crimes and Misdemeanors and violates the oath of office...

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States,
and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The impeachable offenses of the Bush administration are too long even to list, much less detail,

But in the recent session of the New Mexico State Legislature,
Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino introduced Senate Joint Resolution 5 to petition the United States Congress to initiate
impeachment proceedings against George Bush and Richard Cheney on the following four areas of offense...

- 1/ Intentionally misleading congress & the public on the threat from Iraq in order to justify war.
- 2/ (Bush's admission of) Ordering the NSA / National Security Agency to conduct electronic surveillance of American civilians without seeking warrants from the FISA court.
- 3/ Torturing prisoners in violation of US law, the UN Convention Against Torture & the Geneva Conventions, which are the "Supreme Law of the Land" under Article VI of the Constitution.
- 4/ Stripping American citizens of their constitutional rights by ordering indefinite detention without charge without legal counsel, without the right to appear in court to challenge the detention.

As Americans - regardless of party, issues, or station -

Can we allow such charges to go unexamined and uninvestigated?

Can we allow our Congress to violate their oaths
by taking impeachment "off the table" and thereby failing in their sworn duty?

Can we allow our other elected representatives,
either to higher or lower office, all of whom swear similar oaths,
to violate those oaths by passively allowing a president to
defile our most cherished traditions and individual liberties?

Can we allow claims to radically redefine our government
by creating a 4th Branch whose only occupant is the Vice President?

Can we allow a President to place himself above the law?

To defy the Congress by applying the law to his liking?

To usurp the judiciary by interpreting the law as he sees fit via "Signing Statements?"

To corrupt our electoral process to steal elections and deny the will of the people?

To lie and send our sons and daughters to their deaths?

To murder hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians?

To destroy a country that did not threaten ours?

To kidnap, and detain anyone, anywhere, indefinitely, with no charges, in secret prisons?

To torture, abuse, and kill without consequence?

To violate our privacy and the constitution by massive spying on our citizens?

To strip Americans of their inalienable rights of due process with the odious Patriot Act?

To conspire with Corporate Thugs to steal the oil of Iraq
and have the American taxpayer foot the trillion dollar bill, not only today, but for generations?

To steal from the treasury by handing out massive no bid contracts that are never fulfilled to political cronies?

Grant County Peace Coalition says **NO** to every one of these offenses.

We say **NO** to the thousands of instances of these offenses and others too numerous to mention.

And we say **NO** to those not yet dragged from the shadow of secrecy to the light of knowledge.

The process of **impeachment** is part of the original fabric of our Constitution.

The founders doubtless thought long and hard before weaving it into that tapestry.

But they knew that someday,
Perhaps not in their lifetimes,
Or those of their children and grandchildren,

Beyond some then unimaginable horizon,
The people would need, a provision, a method, a tool,
To wrest power from a criminal and restore the checks and balances necessary to a democracy.

This is why we need to Impeach George Bush and Richard Cheney.

That is why our officials must uphold their oaths and perform their sworn duty.

We must stoop to pick up the tool that the founders provided

We must grasp it firmly

We must focus our attention upon our work and

We must bring that hammer down

We must Impeach

to save our democracy

for "ourselves and our posterity."

Impeach,

Impeach,

Impeach.