

## **America – Land of Exceptionalism**

### **January 2013 View from the Chair Clallam County Republican Party**

Most of us believe in America's exceptionalism... that America is different – and therefore an exception – from every type of governing entity in the world today.

All other previously established governing bodies derived their authority from either the hereditary “divine rights” of monarchs or simply the naked brute force with which self-selected rulers subjugated the population. Or, more often than not, a combination of both.

America is the exception. Only America recognizes human equality and individual rights as its fundamental organizing principle as set forth in the Declaration of Independence. Only America places individual rights above those of the government. Only America envisions government as the servant of the people and not the master. In short, it is only in America that the “government does not have a people” but, rather, “where the people have a government.”

The vision of America as exceptional – held by most of us – is in stunning opposition to that of our President who sees no difference between America and the rest of the world. Quoting him, "I believe in American exceptionalism, just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism...."

I wonder if our President really believes what he said... that if a nation merely believes itself to be exceptional then therefore it automatically becomes exceptional. Really? Does he truly contend that a simple belief will trump the freedoms, the prosperity, the lack of limitations that Americans so routinely experience that they take them for granted ... that a simple belief will overshadow the fact that, all over the world, people risk all that they own – including their lives – to reach America and experience the exceptionalism enjoyed by those of us who live here.

How sad that our president cannot – or will not – recognize what so many others do... that America is – and has always been – the hope for the rest of the world... a beacon of freedom... a refuge for those who dream of a better life...

America is truly exceptional. And what a shame that our leader is not...

Dick Pilling  
County Chair