

Dearest Contrymen,

August 28th 2021

So many names on that card! You all have my sincerest thanks for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. I loved the Jefferson quote too. Right now we are being denied Religious services but have come together in a Bible study to share scripture. We have been in Samuel reading about King David and his origins as a fearless shepherd boy striking down Goliath with his own sword. David was far from perfect and a great illustration of how it is not the equipped who are chosen but the chosen being made equipped to better serve the Lord. Many of the veterans here are in disbelief over the developments in Kabul and are disappointed after many shared in the sacrifices made in the middle east. You opened your missive urging me to "Stay Strong" and today is one I needed to retreat to correspondence over, it is my daughter's second birthday and it is sad to be away. I've now been jailed for over a quarter of her life and there is a real fear developing that she will not remember me when I hug her next. It's one of those gnawing insecurities that no reassurance from the fellows here that my smell will stir an instinctual recognition will fix. I too pray for speed relief! But I feel resigned to seeing this though, this all must have a purpose. We heard that Matt Braynard and the Citizens against political persecution had filed a complaint with the UN over our detainment. Fingers crossed? We did see some good news the past week where Joe Hackett of FL and George Tanios of WV were allowed bond and returned to their families. We are praying that Dominic Pezzola of NY is next this week coming up. Julie Kelly was on the radio talking about us and the bias the system is showing against us. Can we even expect fair trials? We have been made monsters. Karl Dresch of MI finished his case but was told by his judge that he was not a patriot, not a political prisoner and that

1776 was fought against men like us. Recently 3 of our number were removed from the pod - John Mellis, Guy Reffitt, and Pete Schwartz. Forgive me if I sound dramatic but I just read "Five Years to Freedom" about a POW from the Vietnam war who resisted attempts by the Vietcong at reeducating him — so to have 3 of our fellows removed from us, yet knowing they have not been released but are "elsewhere" is distressing. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers with a bit of urgency for their return or release. I hate to admit it but one of the recent focal points for men here is examining a world atlas. Where they'd rather be, where they'd like to visit, places they regret they'll never see, places where men are still free. Me? I miss the woods of Maine where I live and the cool breeze off the ocean along the coast there. One day right? My eyes have fallen over the books of Peter and Paul the prisoners and came away with a good verse 2 Corinthians 4:8 "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed, we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed" Although this is a dark spot and that it may seem as though we are buried, maybe it is that we have been planted. My thanks to you, the patriots in Lorain County, Ohio, (what's round on the ends and hi in the middle?) who are keeping us from being forgotten. Growing up in the Shadow of West Point, NY in Fort Montgomery helped me understand at an early age that sometimes a defeat can earn later victory and greater things. Had men not defended the Hudson Highlands so ferociously Saratoga might have been lost and the USMA never built. God Bless You and God Bless the United States of America

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