



Editorial: Critical Times Call For Reflection and Growth!

By Bea Pedersen, Executive Director, Selected Educational Trust

The last few weeks have caused us all to sit back, reflect and rethink our goals, our objectives and most importantly, our futures. We have had to postpone or cancel meetings, events, school, celebrations, family gatherings and worship services. Our work environments have changed from the office to the home. Classrooms have been moved to bedrooms living rooms and kitchen tables. Class books have been replaced by Chrome books. Funeral home services are being streamed into our living rooms. The news is filled with the spread of COVID-19 worldwide, but it is the news of our neighbor being diagnosed with the virus that chills us.



The United States by world standards is a young country—only 244 years old. But we have endured four continental wars, one which saw the deaths of over 600,000 of our brave soldiers. We helped end the War to end all Wars! We overcame the pandemic Spanish Flu. We survived the Great Depression. We battled in the South Pacific, North Africa and Europe during World War II. We joined the world's leading governments in the Cold War battling Communism in Korea and Viet Nam. We sent our soldiers to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Kuwait to fight for democracy. And we saw the invention of penicillin, first flights, a man on the moon, Teflon, instant coffee, cellular phones, instant messaging, the British invasion, television and now live-streaming!

And still life goes on. The American people are a durable race—a young race, yes, but a strong and adaptable race. We are survivors because we don't sit still and let the world pass us by. We take hold of the situation and lead the way to the future, paving the way with creativity and hard work. And now, with another world crisis to fathom—we have taken a lead to adapt, grow and change. We are learning new technologies, embracing alternative methods of communications, education, leadership, healthcare, logistics and production.

We are an inimitable race and we will endure, and we will survive. Our spirit is indomitable, and we will never surrender to any crisis—no matter how big—nor to any fear—no matter how pervasive. We fought for the freedoms that led the first settlers to these shores—the freedom of religion; the freedom of speech or of the press; the freedom of the people to peaceably assemble; to petition the government for a redress of grievances and the right to bear arms. We have fought for these freedoms and our kinsfolk have died for these freedoms.

Yes, we have an inimitable spirit and that spirit will see us through his world crisis. It will enable us to adapt, learn, grow, change and progress.

Life will go on and the American people will once again lead the way!