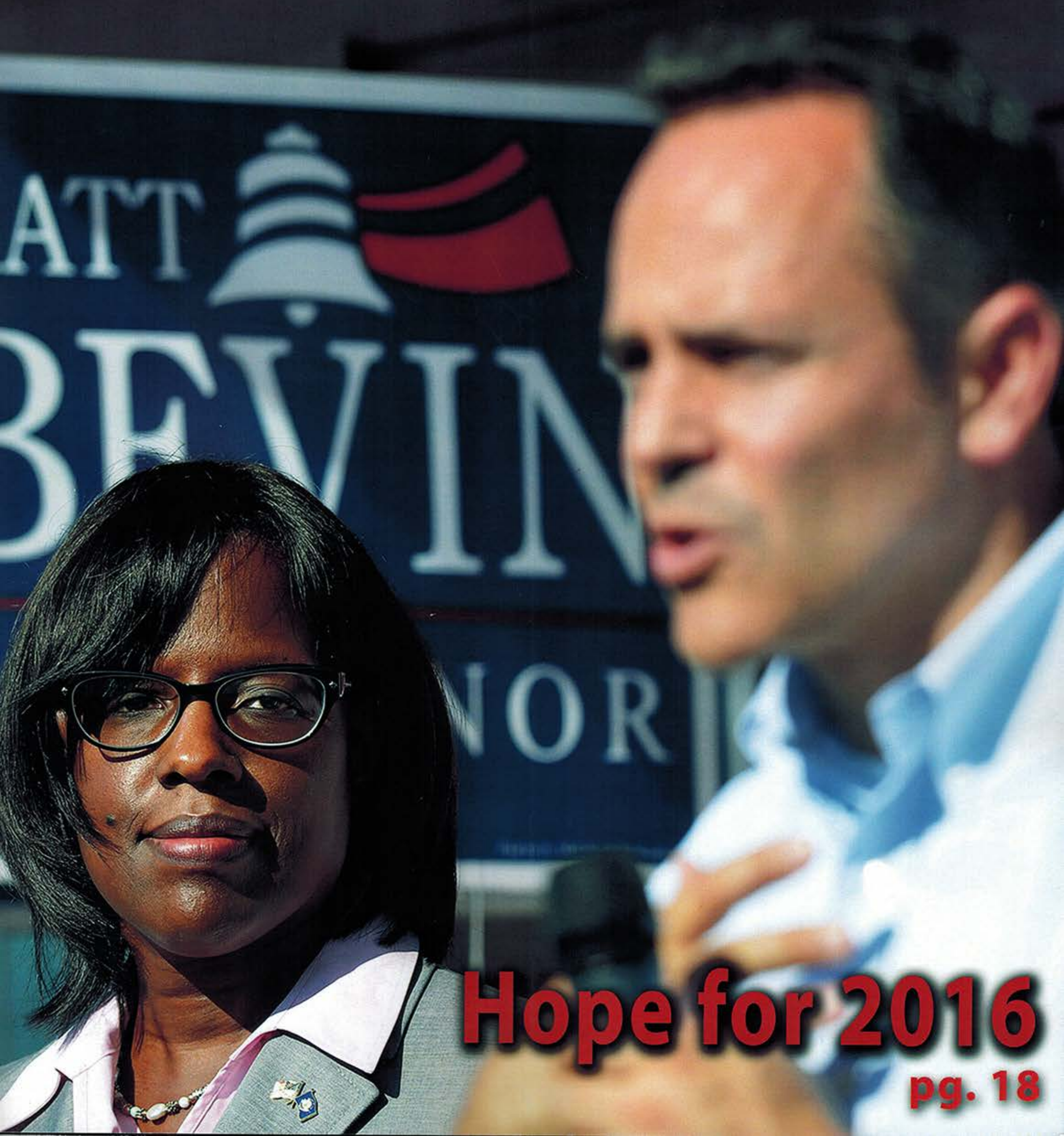


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COMMON SENSE



Hope for 2016

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Thoughts For An Article

By Mark Korin



I feel compelled to share a story, actually an epiphany I had while working at home one weekend. I've been working a lot, way too much which is an understatement in itself. Then add Mayoral duties, customer visits, manufacturing issues, engineering solutions, meetings, family issues, honey do list, broken dryer, well, you get the drift. So, on Saturday September 12th I spent the entire day from early morning till late in the day working in my garage, cleaning up the past six months of long forgotten previous projects. The good thing about the shop at home is it allows me to do projects while being connected to internet through my computer. I connected it to the stereo system with four fantastic speakers that develop clear, loud sound! I love to get the latest political scoop from all different angles and views.

There is a lot of digital music, audio books, local talk radio and political podcasters to choose from but that Saturday I was catching up on Mark Levin's shows. This one was his podcast and tribute to the fallen, and victims of September 11, 2001. As I worked cleaning and organizing I found myself focused on his recapping of that moment in time, that horrible moment. I remembered exactly where I was at the time, all of the feelings, the sense of anger and helplessness that someone, or an organization, could be that evil to even think about doing something so horrific. As I sat down to listen closer he played a tribute to the victim's which started with a compilation of sounds, sounds of that day, the sheer frantic, chaotic situation of ground zero, speeches from President George Bush, Mayor Rudy Giuliani and others. As I tried to continue working, over the radio comes this pure angelic

voice, a voice that stops you in your tracks singing **Amazing Grace**. This enchanted voice for some reason hit me deep, real deep in my heart drawing out all the memories from that dreadful day. To top that, Bag Pipes begin playing **Amazing Grace**. The clarity and the sound absolutely stopped me, I'll admit I got emotional, I'll deny it in public, but tears, yes, tears and a sense of real profound sadness for the lives of all the people, employees, fire

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fighters, police, EMT's. Good, good people trying to help... But lost their lives... The Bag Pipe music lasted a very long, long time...

As I got up trying to gain my composure and see again, I looked out the big shop door and there was my wife. As she walked towards me I noticed she was crying and visibly upset. Well, I did the man thing and pretended I wasn't teary and met her half way out in the driveway and asked, why was she crying? She said that day was so, so terrible. As we both stood there, listening to the rest of **Amazing Grace** from the Bag Pipes, now both in tears, I realized that 9-11 had a huge impact on her as well, and even after 14 years, the deep embedded scars came to the surface with an outbreak of immense emotions. We stood there, together, listening to the tribute.

When the Bag Pipes finished, Mr. Levin read the

words from Mayor Giuliani's speech forcing me to think how this country was ripped wide open that day, and those evil sub-humans not only killed innocent people, but instantly changed the lives of all our loved ones across our country. Americans and America changed instantaneously that day.

For me that Saturday morning brought back the sadness, but it also made me remember the news reports immediately following those horrific events from around the world. Most were countries and leaders feeling our pain, our sadness, our loss. But the events of that day also dredged up immense mourning and made me remember something else, the news reports and videos, most over in the Middle East but some despicable factions right here in the United States showing evil and sick groups cheering and celebrating the direct attack and indiscriminate murders of Americans. Yes, celebrating the death and destruction in this country. For days, weeks, and months later life changed for everyone. Even if you didn't know anyone personally that was murdered that day, we all were attacked. By Mark Levin playing that particular tribute Saturday morning forced me to remember how, in that one moment of destruction, we **ALL** became Americans together again. We stopped being Republicans, Democrats, immigrants, minorities, individual races, and pulled together, casting off the dust and preparing for a new day. We drew together, not just with a goal of rebuilding but standing proud and with a new sense of American purpose.

But through that sorrow the freedoms and the liberties that we enjoy were significantly changed. Because of such evil, we, American citizens, law abiding citizens lost some of our liberty. That morning of 9-11 our Presidential leadership stood up and clearly defined, in no uncertain terms, these actions will not be tolerated, that America would hunt down that evil and exterminate it. September 11, 2001 was 14 years ago. Life goes on and many try to bury those scars, some that are adults now were too young to remember the horror of that day and yet our country's liberties are being affected by groups that want the destruction of our culture and our America. I wasn't a big outspoken fan of President George Bush or Mayor Giuliani, but I do remember how proud I was of both of them that morning for standing

up and defending us as Americans. Where are the statesmen or political leaders that fight for our freedoms and liberties today? If another crisis happens again will it force the American government to strip even more freedoms? Can we find statesman in our current leadership that are willing to stand up for us and our American culture, and ignite that sense of pride to bring us together again, or are they more interested in their own individual self-focused powers and reelection just to control us?

I felt the pain that Saturday morning even more because I saw my wife crying and thinking how ghastly sounds, a beautiful voice, Bag Pipes and a simple magnificent song, **Amazing Grace**, brought back those ugly, helpless, and angry feelings fourteen years later. As time continues on we must

always remember and respect the fallen, the framers of this country's constitution, our soldiers, and our proud leaders who stood together to shape this nation. As sad as it is, it's important to also remember the sorrow and the pain so we don't elect apologetic politicians that refuse to accept the infiltration of evil forgetting about all those that lost their life and the millions of families that have to go on without their loved ones. We have God given freedom and liberties that form our culture and this country. It's up to us to hold the elected leadership to one goal, to defend America and never allow evil to alter this country by their desires of destruction. **Amazing Grace**, such powerful words, I pray that our leaders are listening. **TO BE CONTINUED...**

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