

I Dream of A New America

A new book by George Cappannelli www.IDreamOfANewAmerica.com

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By

George Cappannelli

I dream of a new America rising from the ashes of fear and distrust that cloud our landscape and blind us to our humanity, our decency and our true destiny; a new America in which we have the courage to move beyond half-hearted, band aid solutions born out of compromise and destined to fail and instead find the will to redefine our priorities, redirect our resources, recommit our talents, and revitalize our values so that we can realize the promise of a democracy in which all human beings are treated as equals and where there really is liberty, justice and opportunity for all; a new America in which we can step proudly and boldly forward once again into the fresh air of hope and the sunshine of unlimited possibility to model a new tomorrow for ourselves and for the world at large.

I dream of a united America in which we set aside our divisions and stop squandering our precious energies and resources in acrimonious public debate and biased political positioning; a land in which we remember that communication is about connecting, understanding and finding commonality and not about protecting and defending tired old illusions and false assumptions; a land in which we refuse to sacrifice our fundamental values on the altar of winning at any cost; a united America in which we stop settling for the mediocre in products and services and for minimal advances against our most serious challenges; a united America in which we revitalize our sense of pride and purpose and recommit genuine creativity and innovation in place of the reactive strategies, limiting beliefs and false posturings that have marked our recent past.

I dream of a strong America in which wisdom, ethical leadership and diplomacy serve as our primary instruments in our quest for true alliance with others, here at home and abroad; a land in which we demonstrate to the rest of the world the futility of war and aggression; a strong America in which divisiveness and fear are not used by those who we elect to confuse and manipulate us; a land in which distortion, lies and exaggerations are replaced in the public discourse by accountability, truth, understanding, mutual respect and genuine cooperation for the common good.

I dream of a righteous America in which we take full responsibility for those who we ask to serve and who, as a result, are placed in harms way; a land in which when we are forced to defend ourselves we do so only after adequate planning, with sufficient equipment and enough infrastructure to support and nurture our defenders not only while they are away, but when they return; a

new America in which we only go to war as a very last resort and then only when it is unavoidable, morally right and supported by solid evidence and the good judgment of our friends and allies.

I dream of a noble America in which we heal the wounds that encumber our present, stain our past and that stand in the way of an uncompromised future, the wounds of subjugation visited upon the indigenous people who occupied this land before us, the wounds of enslavement of our black and brown brothers and sisters who were brought here against their will, the unhealed wounds that continue to separate North from South, one religious sect from another and historic immigrant minorities from more recent ones; a noble America in which we retake the moral high ground by rekindling the promise of the land of the free and the home of the brave; a land in which we welcome those who seek refuge from oppression and limitation and allow them, through their own sweat and talent, to seek the promise of new opportunity and contribute to our future.

I dream of a courageous America in which we move beyond the hypocrisy that has us identify our critical problems and then bury all hope of finding genuine solutions under the guise of an economic reality that masks the greed and gluttony of the few; a courageous America in which we move past the politics of scarcity into an age of abundance, generosity and gratitude; a land in which our elected officials remember that they are our servants and not our masters and where our corporations understand that they only exist to serve us and that their quest for profit is only valid if their products and services contribute to the advancement of our way of life.

I dream of a visionary America in which what we export is our wisdom, experience, indomitable ingenuity, and spirit to people around the world; a land in which we model for them a higher level of consciousness which holds that none among us is free until all of us are free and that none among us is secure until all of us are fed, clothed, given shelter and opportunity; a visionary America in which we remember and honor our democratic system, the values on which this nation was founded and the courage our forefathers demonstrated in their effort to end unfair taxation and oppression.

I dream of a compassionate America in which healthcare is not the privilege of some, but the right of all; a land in which we spend at least as much time, energy and money preventing disease and illness as we do trying to diagnose and cure it; a land in which seniors do not have to slowly descend into lives of isolation and neglect and end their days in medical warehouses, but instead are nurtured and supported in their twilight years with quality life care and opportunities to live and die with dignity; a compassionate America in which we take advantage of the wisdom of our elders – gathered from both their stumbles as well as their victories – and apply it for the betterment of all.

I dream of a competent America in which a genuine recommitment to excellence and quality once again constitutes the watermark against which every company must measure their success; a land in which we do not have to buy special product insurance to make up for shoddy workmanship, and that the insurance we do buy actually insures our health, our lives and our property; a land in

which executive and shareholder greed is replaced by genuine social responsibility, accountability and a heartfelt pride of service; a land in which rightsizing is measured not against some arbitrary bottom line, but against the ability of an organization to truly serve the well being of its customers; a competent America in which all government agencies, private enterprises and not-for-profit organizations have only one standard by which to gauge their effectiveness - their ability to serve the public good.

I dream of a wise America in which the well-being of our habitat and of all the species that reside here is not viewed as a public relations opportunity by politicians or an inconvenient truth that interferes with business as usual, but instead as the sacred responsibility and trust of every citizen and business even if it means sacrificing levels of comfort and profit; a wise America in which we abandon the madness of using environmentally destructive fuels whose purchase prompts war and aggression, weakens our economy and provides other nations with funds to purchase American companies; a wise America in which the indisputable interconnectedness between all members of humanity and all other species that reside on this planet is used as the basis against which we measure all of our actions and the validity of our policies.

I dream of a discerning America in which we celebrate and benefit from our advances in science and technology, but do not become blind slaves to them; a land in which we have the forethought to test the impact of new products and innovations not just for their short term economic gain, but against their long term effects on human health and the environment; a land in which we base our future on forms of energy that are natural and sustainable; a discerning America in which we celebrate art and culture as well as commerce, separate journalism from voyeurism and entertainment, so called economic necessity from the public good; a new America in which we contribute our talent and labor as responsible members of this society for the betterment of our families and the advancement of our individual and collective lives and not in blind servitude to the false god of economic greed.

I dream of an enlightened America in which we serve our young, not by pacifying them with trivial pursuits, poisoning them with junk food or inducting them into mental slavery to insipid forms of entertainment, addictive video games and the emulation of celebrities and athletes who waste their precious gifts and degrade our primary values; an enlightened America in which we inspire and motivate our children to explore lifestyles in which their only defense against boredom is not deeper emersion in gluttonous consumption; a land in which we provide our young with quality education in life skills, core values and the arts, and offer them inspiring roles models from whom they can learn to master the art of living sane and sustainable lives; an enlightened America in which when we create programs like 'no child left behind' we are doing more than coining a politically convenient catch phrase, but are actually committing ourselves to invest all of the necessary time, energy and resources in these young hearts and minds who are our best and only hope for advancing the highest goals for the future.

I dream of a conscious America in which we celebrate integrity and champion each person's right to live a life of meaning and purpose; a land in which we reclaim our self-respect and pride not through the domination of others but as the natural byproduct of our everyday thoughts, words and deeds that align with our best and highest values; a conscious America in which all of our

citizens understand the privilege and practice responsible participation in governance and who can be assured that it is their participation and not the decision of a politically appointed and philosophically biased court that will determine their future.

Yes, I dream of a new America, undivided, visionary, optimistic, imaginative, talented, compassionate, abundant, authentic, strong, committed to genuine ethical leadership, solving critical challenges and maximizing opportunities for all of the world's citizens; a new America in which we will continue the revolution begun by our forefathers and, in close collaboration with people all across the planet, finally turn this landscape of fear, distrust and scarcity into a genuine Garden of Eden. I dream of a new America, will you dream with me?