

Williams: Freedom brings responsibility

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Synchronicity experience explained during Vet's Day banquet

Matt Williams' flight was the last one into Reagan International before the airport shut down.

Superstorm Sandy was on its way.

Williams hailed a cab immediately because the airport was nearly deserted.

While driving past monuments and landmarks in the nation's capitol, he said synchronicity—when chance has an opportunity to meld with possibilities and things happen that can't be explained—struck.

"I knew what I was going to talk about tonight was a different message than I'd thought," he said.

Williams was the featured speaker at the 2012 Veteran's Day banquet Sunday night at the Senior Center.

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Because political maneuvering has become such a part of Washington D.C., he said many have forgotten that the United States is a symbol of freedom for the world.



Labeling, such as Republican and Democrat or male or female, has become prevalent.

“We all share the label of being American,” Williams said.

The local banker referred to the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence 236 years ago, including 24 lawyers and nine were large plantation owners.

Their names were kept secret six months after the signing because of the last line where they pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to the new country.

Williams said the signers knew if America won the war, there would be hardship for the fledgling nation, he said.

If the war was lost, they faced the hangman’s noose.

On President Franklin Roosevelt’s monument in D.C., the words freedom of speech and worship and from want and, from fear touched Williams, he said, noting that people from other countries flock to the United States because of those freedoms.

And some, of other religions, “do everything they can to harm us,” Williams said.

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Carved into a wall of the Korean War memorial are the words "Freedom Isn't Free" which tells the price veterans paid, he said.

The right to vote is also a freedom but government today can be frustrating, Williams said.

Still change is possible, he said, pointing to core values that service people have already learned. They include:

willingness to recognize the importance of people in success. Little is accomplished by oneself.

conducting oneself with a sense of responsibility.

striving to reach one's potential.



Williams said citizens need to step back and recognize "how blessed we are and how encouraging we can be to other people."

They should also step up, accept responsibility and work for positive change, he said.

"We all have a challenge that isn't Democrat or Republican," he said. "It's the common challenge of being American."

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