

"These are the times that try men's souls"

-Thomas Paine

This simple quotation from one of our Founding Fathers, Thomas Paine, reflected the sentiment shared by many citizens in 1775, and may reflect your feelings today. Veterans who took an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States may have an instinct to "ride to the sound of the guns" and leap to action. However, this is not the time for impulsive actions and our mission should not be on this current political battlefield.

At this time, it is imperative that we uphold the oath we took and fulfill our mission to serve our fellow citizens and defend the U.S. Constitution by lawful discussion and peaceful protest, if that is in your heart. It is not the time for aggressive or impetuous action. It is a time to come together and examine our role as Veterans and citizens and find the path to unity and service under our Constitution. It is time to universally condemn all violence and any suppression of the rights guaranteed to us as U.S. citizens.

The American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, USMC, unequivocally condemned the January 6, 2021 attacks on the U.S. Capitol and called for law and order to be quickly restored in Washington, saying:

"The Capitol is the people's house. An attack on the Capitol is an attack on all of us."

The American Legion, VFW, MCL and others have condemned violence by any group, including prior attacks on our cities and the latest attack on our Capitol. Whether the violence is inflicted by right-leaning groups, left-leaning groups, or unaffiliated civilians, it is never acceptable.

This is not how we do things in America. We believe in civil discourse to resolve our differences. The entire Veteran Family proudly stands with the law enforcement officers and National Guard members who are risking their lives to restore safety. We should not make their jobs any more dangerous or difficult. Now is the time to stay calm, let these scenarios play out until we find the right peaceful approach to regain faith and stability.

Signed:

American Legion Post 156, Commander

American Legion Post 300, Commander

VFW Post 7472, Commander

Marine Corps League Detachment 1084, Commandant