

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

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IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - Part 54

GOD SAVE THE USA

*The stars now slide from fields of cobalt blue
as aged homeland bears the scars of time.
Judean rules seem far from stripes on cloth;
Its history is sinking fast in time.
This freedom we enjoy is in a brew.*



*How can we stop the threats of bloody coup
when leaders grab the gold to sell their souls
and leave the common man without a home?
She's almost to the ground, this flag of ours.
The stars now slide from fields of cobalt blue.*

**Yvonne Nunn
Hermligh, Texas**

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REMEMBER THIS WARNING: BEWARE OF THE RED MIRAGE! (OR, IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A SPLIT TICKET TO WIN?)

By Wanda Sue Parrott

HOMELESS issues are on hold while the world awaits the outcome of Tuesday's election! If you recall the warning flashed between Covid-19 updates - "Beware of the Red Mirage!" - you'll survive!

In metaphoric prose it means: *Republican candidate Trump, symbolized by red, will appear to win the first phase of popular votes; don't be fooled, because the chimera—vision of victory—will flex as waves of Biden's Democratic blue flood in.*

Absentee ballots, military ballots, and mail-in ballots can collectively transform the colors if Biden, blue dark horse, surges from behind and takes the lead.

That's what appeared to be happening near midnight on Nov. 3, at which time former Vice President Joe Biden appeared at a drive-through rally and announced like a good sport that "the American people will decide" on who'll be their president.

Shortly thereafter, President Donald J. Trump threatened from the White House, like a weary spoil-sport, that he would “take it to the Supreme Court” to have his pre-midnight early winning votes “declared a victory.”

Meanwhile, international news media jumped on the political bandwagon and one British journalist called the Red Mirage, “The Battle for America’s Soul” just as former Texas Senior Poet Laureate Yvonne Nunn did four years ago in her historic poem “God Save the USA.”

Who knows?

Ask an elector!!

How The President And Vice President Are Really Chosen

Vinz Koller of Carmel is an Elector for the California 20th Congressional District. He explains that appointments like his are for each presidential election. He was an elector for the 2008, 2016 and now the 2020 elections.

“I am a social scientist by profession and work at Social Policy Research Associates as Senior Strategist,” Vinz said. “Serving as an elector is a volunteer public service appointment.” In California, the appointment is made by a member of the House or Senate. Congressman Jimmy Panetta appointed Vinz. “After December 14, the appointment expires.”

I knew a candidate must receive 270 electoral votes in order to win, so asked, “What if there’s a tie between Biden and Trump?”

According to Vinz, “If there is a tie, or in any circumstances where neither candidate gets 270 electoral votes, we end up with a contingent election.” For details about a contingent election, visit Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contingent_election

Vinz continued, “The president gets elected by the House of Representatives, and the vice president by the Senate.

“In the House, each state delegation gets one vote only.

“In the Senate, each senator votes independently.”

I asked Vinz how the California delegation of electors will meet on Dec.14 in Sacramento. He said, “Unless we have different instructions because of COVID-19, it will be an in-person meeting in the Assembly chambers where the 55 California electors vote. This is repeated in each state capital around the country.”

I asked, “How is the election actually certified?”

“Votes are sent to the House of Representatives, where they will be opened and counted in the first session of the 117th congress,” Vinz said. “The winners will be announced in the House, but they will already be known on December 14.”

“Might Biden-Pence, or Trump-Harris, be declared split-ticket winners?”

“It is theoretically possible, because the exact makeup of those bodies is not known yet,” Vinz said. “Very famously, it happened in 1800 when we had a stand-off between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. . . . At the time, the top vote getter became the president and the candidate with the second highest number of electoral votes became the vice president. The deadlock and uncertainty in the 1800 election, which Jefferson won, led to the 12th Amendment which now has us elect president/VP as part of a single ticket.

“Still, in a contingent election, a split is possible. . . . Usually, the electoral college does not change the outcome that is reported in the press in the days following a popular election, because most electors follow the popular vote. In some states, as in California, they are forced to do so.

“However, in very tight election—like the one we have now—if a candidate ends up winning by just 270 electoral votes, expect the electoral college vote to receive a lot of attention.”

So, what if a split-ticket win emerges?
Could you live with a Red-Blue or Blue-Red mirage?
To be continued next week!

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Credits: Poem “God Save the USA” reprinted with permission of former Texas Senior Poet Laureate Yvonne Nunn; Photo of the Flag courtesy of Clip Art.

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It also appears on Facebook, in Nextdoor and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to the contact info below.)

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