

## A Tea Party Activist: A Personal Anatomy of an American Little Guy

Why do politicians and elitists have the contentious view of average Americans as the little people? As a little guy, my life has been filled with a richness that no amount of power can ever take away from me and no amount of wealth could ever purchase. This little guy has lived the American way, free to fail and free to succeed and I have done both, many times.

I was born three miles from where I currently live just over 47 years ago. When I tell people this I also add, jokingly, "I haven't made it very far in life, have I?" The truth is, in that three miles; there is a journey that covers thousands of miles. I have lived in five different states and visited at one time or another 22 more. I have traveled to 5 foreign countries, a British Indian Ocean Territory, and one U.S. territory.

Last year, I was listed in a Department of Homeland Security memo as a possible domestic terrorist threat. That's right. I am a former Marine infantryman. I served proudly with men from Alpha Co., 1st Bn., 6th Marine Regiment, in the 1980's. I was honorably discharged in 1988. President Ronald Reagan was my Commander-in-Chief. The men I served with became my brothers. About 40% of us were white, 30% black, and 30% Hispanic. There was no such thing as a white or brown or black Marine, we were all green Marines and we relied on each other heavily, everyday. I took an oath that requires me to defend the US and the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic. That oath did not dissolve with the end of my military service. As a Tea Party activist and ex-military man I am accused of being a domestic threat and a racist hate monger by you "Elite"? I am just one of a giant multitude of little guys and gals that make up WE THE PEOPLE in the Constitution that I have sworn to defend but that you have decided to destroy.

The Tea Party movement is THE PEOPLE, the little guys and gals all over America, it encompasses every ethnicity and race, much like America and the military in general.

Racism is something that I deplore and resent being accused of by anybody. When I was about 9-10 years old, I had an experience involving racism that changed my life. At that point in my life I had a few relatives that would use the N word in a derogatory way that I had picked up on. I was with my dad and one of my sisters down town. My dad had gone into a department store and my sister and I waited in the car with the windows down and we started fighting. Angry with her, I for some unknown reason yelled at the top of my lungs, "N\*\*\*er!" There was an elderly black man walking by who couldn't help but hear me. He turned and looked at me and in his eyes....I saw something I had never seen before, the evil of the racism that he had probably experienced in his lifetime. The look in his eyes shook me to my core and I cowered in shame. He looked down, shook his head and walked away. I learned what racism was that day, pure evil and hate. That was about 37 years ago. Yep, racism is pure evil and it lives today and it is not unique to any one race or group. You elites use racism as your most powerful weapon; you shut down free speech with the mere mention of it, while you manipulate minorities with lies continually. Well, the multitudes of the Tea Party little guys and myself, in particular, are on to your politically correct baloney. We will not be shut down, be shut up or go away.

I have cried as an adult on very few occasions, on June 11th, 2004, I cried for a great man I had admired from afar for so many years. I cried that day for a man who was filled with so much inspiration and love for America. I cried that day for a man who at one time was my Commander-in-Chief when I was a young Marine. I cried for President Ronald Reagan as I watched his State Funeral on TV. I cried for a true hero of America. I cry and mourn now as I see my country and glorious republic being transformed and changed against the will of the little guy.

Our founding fathers understood the importance of the little guy. To you elites, the little guy is of no consequence; our importance is a concept that escapes you. I along with my fellow Tea Party members, a movement comprised of little guys, will continue to fight to save the American way of life, the American that I have sworn to protect.