

## ***A VETERAN RECALLS AND REFLECTS***

***“YESTERDAY, WHEN WE WERE YOUNG” –AS THE SONG BEGINS-AIDS THIS OLD SOLDIER IN RECALL OF WARS PAST: I WAS NINETEEN WHEN I LANDED ON OMAHA BEACH AS A REPLACEMENT SOON AFTER THE INVASION, OLDER AS A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER IN KOREA AND VIETNAM. MY THOUGHTS RETURN OFTEN AND VIVIDLY ON THIS DAY – VETERANS DAY-AS I WRITE. AND MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THOSE ON WAR’S FRONTIER IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.***

***TOO, I REFLECT ON THE MOMENT WHEN THE TORCH WILL BE PASSED FROM PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH TO NEW PRESIDENT, BARACK OBAMA. TRANSITION MAY APPEAR EASY, BUT THE CHALLENGES ARE OMINOUS. FINANCIAL DISTRESS POSITS A CONTINUING SICK ECONOMY AND THE NEVER-ENDING WAR IN IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN PREVAILS.***

***SINCE I HAVE BEEN A SUPPORTER OF JOHN MCCAIN – SEVERAL OF US RETIRED MILITARY TYPES MET WITH HIM IN THE EIGHTIES, AMONG OTHERS, TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO RUN FOR THE SENATE-I WAS WITH HIM TO THE END AND WISH HIM WELL IN HIS CONGRESSIONAL TREK. IT MAY BE OF SOME IMPORT THAT OBAMA CALL ON HIS WISE COUNSEL- ACROSS THE AISLE.***

***IN A REGISTERED LETTER I RECOMMENDED MCCAIN HAD THREE REAL OBJECTIVES: IN THE GUISE OF THE 9/11 INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION TO PUSH FOR A PRESIDENTIAL NON-PARTISAN EVALUATION OF THE MELT-DOWN OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS TO ASSESS BLAME AND REDRESS; TO PROPERLY DEFINE THE ENEMY(MILITANT ISLAM)AND ITS MISSION OF GLOBAL JIHAD AND SET-FORTH A STRATEGY TO DEFEAT IT; AND TO PLACE THE OBAMA PHENOMENA IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF HIS INEXPERIENCE, A SUSPECT IDEOLOGY OF WHICH APPEARED, LIKE KERRY, TO SKIRT THE***

*DIMENSIONS OF POPULISM, AND EGALITARIANISM AND TOUCH THE VIEWS OF THE AUDIENCE HE WAS ADDRESSING, OFTEN CHANGING THE MESSAGE AND A PRIOR COMMITMENT LIKE 'WHETHER TO DRILL OR NOT DRILL FOR OIL.' BOTH MCCAIN AND OBAMA STRETCHED THE MESSAGE AND OFTEN OBSCURED THEIR IDEOLOGY.*

*MCCAIN NEVER ANSWERED MY LETTER AND MY FANTASY. THE ECONOMY TRUMPED EVERYTHING IN DEBATE AND IT SEEMED THE ENIGMA WAS GEORGE BUSH WHOSE SHADOW AND IMAGE WERE THERE THOUGH NOT MENTIONED, YET THE 'WAR AGAINST TERROR' AND THE COLLAPSE OF THE ECONOMY HAPPENED ON HIS WATCH. LIKE AN OLD ADAGE OFTEN PREVALENT IN THE PORTRAIT OF THE COMMANDER: "A COMMANDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HIS TROOPS DO OR DON'T DO; HE GETS THE CREDIT OR THE BLAME." GEORGE BUSH MUST LIVE WITH THAT.*

*I AM COMFORTABLE WITH OBAMA AS PRESIDENT AS I WOULD HAVE VOTED FOR POWELL EARLIER. BUT THE PROOF WILL BE IN THE PUDDING; EVEN POWELL SEEM TO ALTER AND RATIONALIZE HIS VIEWS WITH BUSH. BUT UNLIKE POWELL, OBAMA, INTELLIGENT AND ELOQUENT, IS A NEOPHYTE ON THE WORLD STAGE. HASTE MUST BE TEMPORIZED BY THE NEED FOR CAUTION AND REFLECTION IN THIS TROUBLED WORLD.*

*FOR THOSE OF US WHO GAVE OUR ALL FOR OUR COUNTRY ESPECIALLY IN TIME OF WAR, WE EXPECT NO LESS FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA. PARAPHRASING KENNEDY HE MUST REMIND US TO COMMIT TO OUR COUNTRY, RATHER THAN AWAITING WHAT OUR COUNTRY WILL DO FOR US. THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS MONEY TREE HAS TO BE PLACED IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF FINDING OUT WHAT HAPPENED AND WHO IS AT FAULT. GLOBAL JIHAD MUST SHARE IN EQUAL CONSEQUENCE FOR OUR VERY FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT.*

