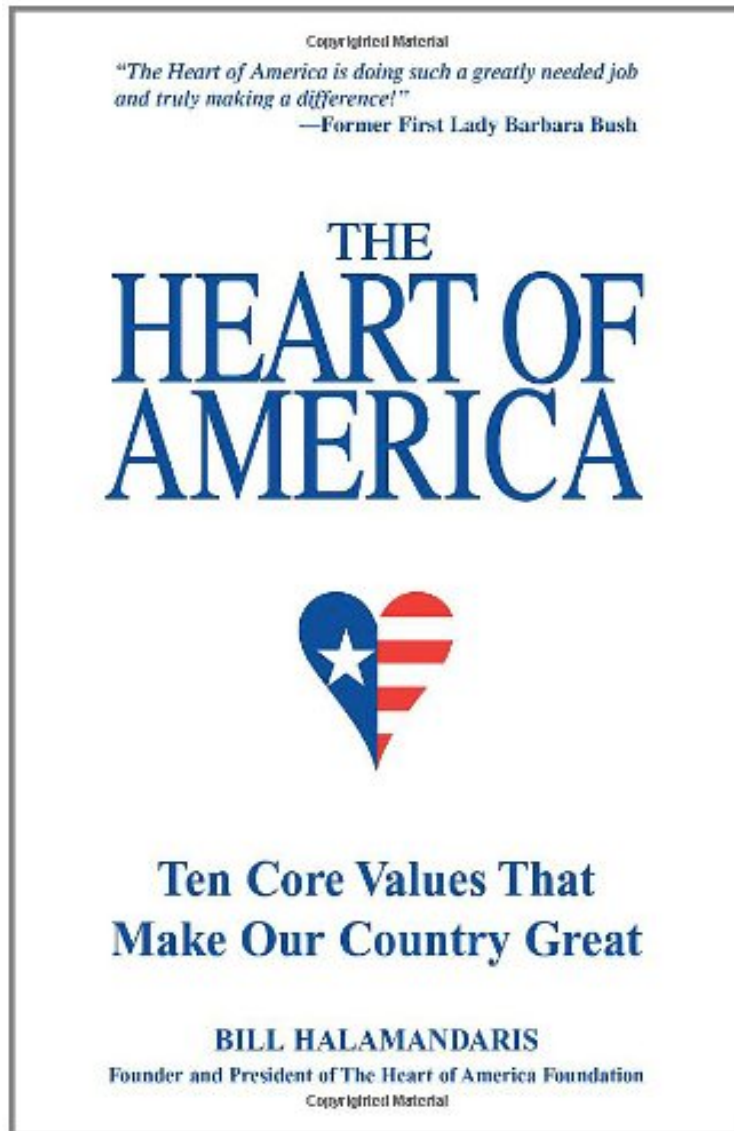


(Ebook pdf) The Heart of America: Ten Core Values That Make Our Country Great

The Heart of America: Ten Core Values That Make Our Country Great

Bill Halamandaris

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An inspiring and nonpartisan guide to the ten uniquely American attributes that lead to a better life—just in time for elections! America is a great country, a fact that is often overlooked with all the bickering and negativity in our culture today. And what makes us great, states Bill Halamandaris, are ten core values that have always been found in the spirit of the American people: Compassion, Opportunity, Responsibility, Equality, Valor, Ambition, Liberty, Unity, Enterprise, Spirituality. In 10 short chapters, Halamandaris explains why each of these values forms the foundation of our country, from our Founding Fathers to today's popular culture. He then shows how and why each of us should instill these values in our daily lives, not to return to an outdated ideal or to throw back history, but to step forward together into a brave new world. At the end of each chapter, Halamandaris tells the story of 4 to 5 contemporary Americans who are inspiring examples of lives well lived. Some of these people are famous; most are ordinary people who have chosen to do extraordinary things, like the school girl who has served 350,000 meals to the homeless and the man who has made it his business to hire only people no one else wants. The Heart of America is not about philosophy or finger-pointing at either side in the culture debate; it is a call to arms to be the best we can be every day. The Heart of America Foundation is a national non-partisan, nonprofit humanitarian organization whose mission is to teach the values at the heart of America and to help people, particularly children, learn that they can help themselves when they help others. Their programs include: The Youth Ambassador Program uses dynamic, service-minded youth leaders to inspire children in schools around the country to recognize their potential for social service. Heroes of the Heart recognizes and honors individuals and corporations who perform remarkable volunteer services. The Heart Corps offers financial credits for college to middle school and high school students who volunteer in their communities. Books from the Heart finds books that are not being used and distributes them to needy children and school libraries. Speaking from the Heart is a professional speakers bureau of more than 200 active youth and adult speakers, with all proceeds going to charity. The National Community Fund is an umbrella organization that donates to worthy charities promoting public service around the country.

From the Inside Flap "Bill Halamandaris makes it clear that the values that make America great—including generosity, selflessness, idealism, courage—are not the exclusive property of either side of the political spectrum. They are beyond politics and for all of us to share and embody. This book will touch your heart and inspire your soul. Arianna Huffington author of *Fanatics and Fools* "The Heart of America Foundation is making a wonderful difference! By giving children an opportunity to be leaders and givers, you reveal the compassion and community spirit that truly is the heart of America." Laura Bush "I consider the work of the Heart of America Foundation to be very important. I send you my prayers and best wishes for the success of your humanitarian endeavor." The Dalai Lama "I commend the Heart of America Foundation for giving young people the opportunity to learn that it is better to give than to receive and that in giving and receiving there is a profound joy that enriches the world." Archbishop Desmond Tutu Nobel Peace Prize winner "The Heart of America is doing such an enormously greatly needed job and truly making a difference!" Barbara Bush, Former First Lady of the United States "By personalizing the ten core values with moving stories of Americans both known and obscure, Bill Halamandaris provides a very human face for the ideas he presents. The Heart of America instructs readers as it moves them, and inspires as it educates." Marcia Bullard President CEO, USA WEEKEND Magazine "As this book demonstrates, the greatness of America is a reflection of the greatness of our people. There is something each of us can do to make the world a better place." Christopher Reeve "As the son of Italian immigrants, this book speaks to the values that gave them and millions like them the opportunity to live the American dream." Leon Panetta Chief of Staff, Clinton Administration "Bill Halamandaris and these inspiring stories puts us back in touch with the foundation of who we are as Americans. It is a first step on the path to finding our way again, to being the hope so many once aspired to be like. It is perfectly timed and much needed for all Americans." Tim Love Vice Chairman International, Saatchi Saatchi "Bill Halamandaris, a man of great compassion himself, poignantly reminds us by numerous real life stories of just how fortunate we are to be an American. It should be required reading in every Civics class in America and in every high school graduating class in America." Lloyd L. Hill Chairman CEO, Applebee's International "A deeply moving collection of stories about people whose passions and commitments exemplify the goodness within the heart of America...a must read." Don Perlyn President, Miami Subs, Inc. "You do superb work." Frances D. Fergusson President, Vassar College "Your motives and objectives are fantastic. I hope and pray that [The Heart of America] will succeed in raising people's horizons and standards of what they think they ought to do in the world." Peter Grace former Chairman, W.R. Grace and Co. "[Bill Halamandaris]

remains one of the greatest inspirations that I have encountered in my life." Robert Macauley founder, AmeriCares "Your work toward the betterment of mankind inspires us all." Admiral Alan Shepard

About the Author Bill Halamandaris is the son of an immigrant coal-miner. For 15 years, he headed a Congressional Committee to find and prosecute waste and fraud. In 1985, disheartened by the corruption he'd uncovered, he began to search for the "heart of America"-people who represent the best in our society, the best instincts of man, and the best part of ourselves. That effort grew into The Heart of America Foundation, a non-partisan non-profit that gives support to groups trying to better our society, especially our children. Bill Halamandaris lives near Washington, DC with his wife. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. VALOR

Margaret Chase Smith The modern retelling of the story of David and Goliath is the story of Joe McCarthy and Margaret Chase Smith. She was slight, dignified and frail with white hair and refined features, looking every inch the school teacher she had been. The first time I saw her I was a boy running the senators elevator in the U.S. Capitol. I tried to direct her to the public cars until one of my colleagues pointed out she was the senior senator from the state of Maine. Margaret Chase Smith had distinguished herself by being the only woman elected to serve in both houses of Congress. She had served in the House of Representatives for eight years before being elected to the Senate in 1948, receiving the greatest total vote majority in Maine history. She had a solid record and was well-respected by her colleagues for her independence and commitment to public service. She took her job seriously, holding a perfect attendance record in Congress, as well as the Senates all-time voting record with 2,941 consecutive roll call votes. Joe McCarthy was Margaret Chase Smiths polar opposite. He was coarse and flamboyant, with a menacing countenance. There was nothing frail or refined about the junior senator from Wisconsin. When McCarthy came to Washington in 1950, there was nothing remarkable about him. His primary claim to fame was that he had beat another Republican of some repute, Robert La Follette Jr., in the primary. La Follette underestimated McCarthy and hardly bothered to campaign, apparently thinking his reputation would carry him through. McCarthy won by less than 5,000 votes. In contrast to Smith, McCarthy had no previous Congressional experience and little apparent legislative interest. He arrived in Washington as a great unknown and remained unknown for first three years of his service. He was a run-of-the-mill senator looking for an issue to ride. McCarthy found his cause at a meeting with his advisors in the Colony Restaurant in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to find an issue that would carry McCarthy to re-election. After considering and discarding a number of others, the group chose communism. The Alger Hiss trial was then in full swing and attracting a lot of media attention in the United States. Communism had spread to China. About the same time, the Soviets tested their first atomic bomb, raising concern for the communist threat abroad. Thats it, McCarthy is reported to have said. The government is full of Communists. We can hammer away at them. Less than a month later, McCarthy tested his strategy before the Republican Womens Club in Wheeling, West Virginia. I have in my hand a list of 205 cases of individuals who appear to be either card-carrying members or certainly loyal to the Communist Party, he said. The speech went over so well and attracted so much attention there was no turning back. McCarthy repeated his assertions on the Senate floor, suggesting the State Department was full of Communists and communist sympathizers. Overnight McCarthy emerged from the back rows of the Senate to center stage. Within a matter of weeks, his name was known everywhere, and he became the dominant figure in American politics. As his biographer, Richard H. Rovere, noted, the key to McCartchys success was the sensational nature of his charges. Simply put, Rovere wrote, his charges were wilder than any of his peers and too sensational for the press and the public to ignore. To cover this reckless approach, McCarthy relied on senatorial courtesy and the privileges of his office. Knowing he was immune from suit for anything he might say in the course of Senate hearings or in statements he made on the Senate floor, he let it fly. There were no limits to the scope of his accusations. Such was McCartchys power that a simple sentence of his was enough to destroy a persons reputation. He held two presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower captive in their conduct of the nations affairs. From 1950 through late 1954, neither could act without considering how McCarthy would react. Though no one he accused of being a Communist was ever found guilty, he ruined careers, friendships and marriages. People he named were blacklisted, unable to find employment and subjected to public ridicule and suspicion. Understandably, no one dared stand up to him for fear of his reprisal. Margaret Chase Smith was the one exception. On June 1, 1950, she took to the Senate floor for a declaration of conscience. She said she would speak briefly and simply about a serious national condition, a national feeling of fear and frustration that could result in national suicide and the end of everything that we Americans hold dear. I think that it is high time for the United States Senate and its members to do some real soul searching and weigh our consciences as to the manner in which we are performing our duty to the people of America and the manner in which we are using or abusing our individual powers and privileges, she said. I think it is high time that we remembered that we have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution. I think it is high time we remembered that the Constitution, as amended, speaks not only to freedom of speech but also to trial by jury instead of trial by accusation. As a United States senator, she concluded, I am not proud of the way in which the Senate has been made a publicity platform for irresponsible sensationalism. I am not proud of the reckless abandon in which unproved charges have been hurled from this side of the aisle. . . . I do not like the way the Senate has been made a rendezvous for vilification, for selfish political gain at the sacrifice of individual reputations and national unity. I am not proud of the way we smear outsiders from the floor of the Senate and hide behind a cloak of congressional

immunity. Embarrassed and perhaps emboldened by Senator Chases courage, other members of the government began to speak up in the months that followed and question McCarthys credibility. The tide turned, culminating in McCarthys censure by the Senate in 1954 for conduct that tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute. Stripped of his credibility and no longer taken seriously by the press, McCarthy disappeared from the public eye as quickly as he emerged. He began to drink heavily and died at the age of forty-eight. Margaret Chase Smith served three more terms in the Senate and became the first woman to have her name placed in nomination for president of the United States at the Republican Convention in 1964. On July 6, 1989, President George H. W. Bush presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nations highest civilian honor, for her commitment to truth and honesty in government and in America. 2004. All rights reserved. Reprinted from The Heart of America: Ten Core Values That Make Our Country Greatby Bill Halamandaris. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, without the written permission of the publisher. Publisher: Health Communications, Inc., 3201 SW 15th Street, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442.