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date the people's elected officials during deliberations. These are all unsettling events, and seem to be coming at us from all sides.

I've been thinking about a time, years ago, I stood on a treeless hill of no great height in Pennsylvania, not as prodigious as the mighty hills hereabouts, not even so tall as the Proctor Academy ski hill. From that treeless rise I could look down into an antique Pennsylvania Scotch-Irish town with about 450 buildings. One hundred and fifty-six years ago, the battle of Gettysburg raged for three days on that hillside, ending on July 4. When the smoke cleared, eight thousand corpses lay strewn upon the hillside, wearing a jumble of U.S. Army or Confederate States of America uniforms, with three thousand dead horses scattered among them. The citizens of that little town buried them all.

Before the grass had grown deep over their graves, Abraham Lincoln gave a very succinct speech dedicating the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, in which he concluded, "It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us...that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Lincoln realized that the democratic ideal of "government of the people, by the people, for the people" is the source

of American freedom. He also says democratic freedom is not simply an American birthright, but an ongoing "great task" for us to nurture and sustain. In order for democracy to provide "liberty and justice for all", we must agree that the will of the majority shall prevail, but with tolerance and forbearance toward the minority. In the ideal American democracy, any minority group has a right, not just to continued existence, but to equal protections and opportunities under the law. When any minority group obstructs the implementation of the will of the majority, or the majority uses its power to punish and oppress minorities for "being different", we are failing our "great task". American slavery, the systemic white supremacy and racism that has persisted ever since the Civil War, and the current obstructionism blocking the will of the majority in the New Hampshire legislature are all glaring evidence that our "great task" of maintaining our democratic freedom is far from over.

One hundred and fifty-five years ago, as the hate of the Civil War raged on and General Sherman was burning his way vindictively across the South, the New Hampshire House of Representatives was unable to meet in our State House, and instead found another location – an important precedent that allowed the House to legally conduct the People's business this June outside of its usual Hall. Your democracy has been threatened because your elected

Representatives have been locked out of the State House by the Governor's declared State of Emergency, and your democratically elected representatives whose constitutional responsibility it is to write laws that articulate public policy and to control the state's "pursings", was prevented from meeting for several months due to the conditions of those executive orders. Realize that there is an empowered minority who are directly benefiting politically and financially from this shut-down.

On June 11, 2020, the House convened for the first time since the 19-hour marathon session in March. Although the location was new - the huge and spectacular Whittemore hockey arena at UNH - representatives were pleased to see familiar old faces of their friends and colleagues of both parties. Jokes were made about throwing fish onto the ice after the first bill passed, and about the Speaker exiling members to the penalty box for misbehavior, but the mood quickly turned very serious. The average age of members of the House is 64 years old, with many of the two dozen House committees being chaired by very experienced representatives nearly 80 years of age. To minimize the possibility of contagion and to meet every requirement of the emergency orders, members on the floor wore surgical masks and/or clear face shields and maintained more than six feet of separation to the next member. Chairs were set on the rink surface at an appropriately

wide spacing. Members who refused or were unable to wear masks were seated in the stands, behind the rink glass.

The formalities of opening a House session always include a roll call of those whose absences have been excused. It was sobering to realize that among the roughly 380 legislators that had been a part of the previous 19-hour marathon session back in March, two had died and five had resigned due to ill health. Many more representatives who were present indicated that after the final full House session for this legislative year on June 30, they will retire and not seek re-election.

I have heard the calls from constituents across New Hampshire for the Legislature to "do your job!" I had hopes that this historic session would accomplish much, but the proceedings were vastly complicated by ideological turf wars. There were fifteen bills to be voted that had strong bipartisan recommendations from their committees coming in; nine were even unanimously recommended for passage. I won't list all of them, but two examples stand out as no-brainer "ought to pass" bills: SB295 - "relative to creating the office of child advocate" within the New Hampshire Division of Children Youth and Families, to represent children who otherwise have no legal voice, and HB1603 - "establishing the PFAS remediation and mitigation revolving loan and grant program and fund", which would essentially create

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New Hampshire Native and Conservative Louise ANDRUS of Salisbury

**Filed on June 3rd as a Republican candidate for the New Hampshire House Representatives seat for Merrimack County/District 1
Andover, Danbury, Salisbury**

I am pleased to announce that I am running once again for the District 1 House Representative seat. Late August 2018, I was asked if I would run as a write-in Republican candidate for the Merrimack/District 1 (Andover, Danbury, Salisbury) Legislative House seat. My response was "Yes." I obtained the 30-votes that are necessary in the Primary to be placed on the General Election ballot. Being that it was the first time I ran in a Primary election, I lost the General election by only 42-votes. Even though I did not win the Representative seat, it was a wonderful experience and pleasure meeting and re-connecting with constituents from District 1. With your support and your vote I look forward to winning the Primary seat on September 8th and the General election on November 3rd!

Some of the primary reasons that I am running: NH is a unique State and I want to fight for our Constitutional rights and Freedoms. I am pro-life and I am an advocate for parents making school choice for their children. We have seen a majority in Concord vote for disastrous bills in 2019 and 2020 that would burden our state's economy and take away our Second Amendment rights. I will always vote against an Income Tax or Sales Tax and or any other form of tax that burdens NH citizens and small businesses. I want to be a part of a new majority that fights for limited government in the Granite State and preserves New Hampshire Freedoms, Liberties, and Constitutional rights.

It is my belief that the election in the Fall will decide New Hampshire's future for years to come!

Contact me with questions: 603-648-2510 or l.a.andrus21@gmail.com

Vote for Louise Andrus and the great State of New Hampshire – Live Free or Die!

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