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BRIEF

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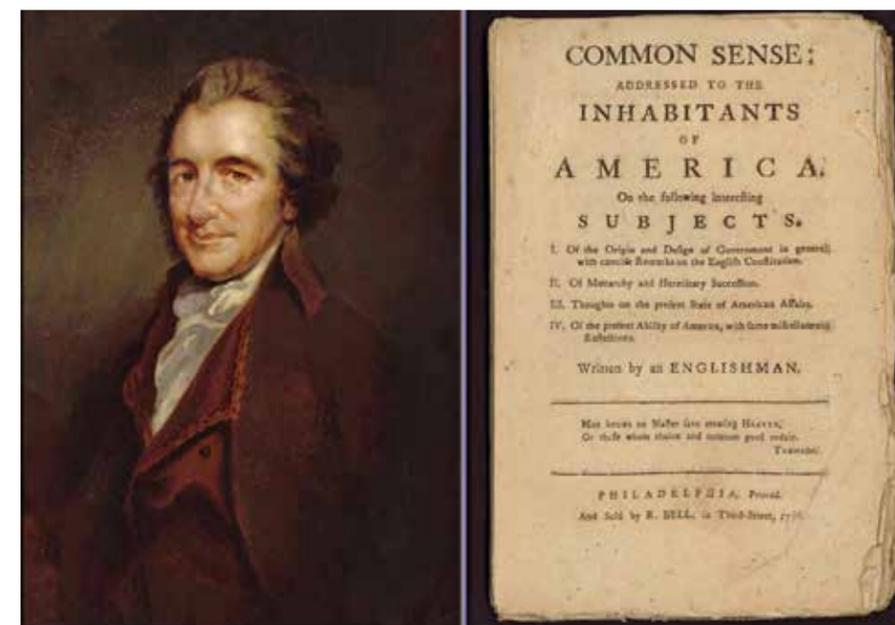
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JANUARY 2021

COMMON SENSE AT DONAHOE KEARNEY

WE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

Two hundred and forty-five years ago this month, Thomas Paine published a pamphlet titled **"Common Sense,"** which laid out an argument for why the original 13 American colonies should fight for their independence from the British Empire. It was a call for Americans to take responsibility for their own governance and lives back from the British monarchy. Paine's pamphlet became widely popular and is now recognized as one of the catalyzing forces behind the American Revolution.



In hindsight, it's a little ironic that Thomas Paine felt he had to argue for what he considered "common sense." After all, why wouldn't we want a government that represents the will of the people? Sometimes, though, the values and ethics that we wish were "common sense" really aren't all that common. That means they have to be written down and kept at the forefront of our minds.

We have a set of core values at our firm that many people would probably consider common sense (we don't think they are that common unfortunately, which is why we hire people based on our core values). Some of these are: We have a great work ethic, we help people however we can (even if we don't handle the kind of case they call us about), and we work hard to take away some of the stress and anxiety that comes with a life-changing injury.

It really comes down to one overarching idea that ultimately guides how our firm works: **We take responsibility for everything. And we hustle — we don't wait for anyone else to do anything for us.**

Today, regardless of political affiliation, there's this notion that the government will take care of us, and we don't have to do

anything but wait for them to act on our behalf. **But that's not how we think. And that's not how we act. Because, let's face it, for someone with a serious injury or illness, you can't just rely on an insurance company to take care of you. You have to take action.**

We all know that people and institutions, like the courts or insurance companies, don't always do what they should, or are just too slow. So, we do everything we can to push them. Yes, that ruffles some feathers, and people get annoyed at us for making them do their job — so what?

It's called hustle. Seems like common sense to me. And we need more of it.

- Frank Kearney

FRANK'S COLUMN HOLIDAY HANGOVER — MY KIDS THINK I'M A HOLIDAY MEME



I love the holidays. I get into Thanksgiving and Christmas — the traditions, the old decorations (Kathy and I still have a few from our first Christmas we literally bought at a Dollar Store that I insist on keeping), watching the same Christmas movies. And I've even recovered from getting an artificial tree a few years ago (something I swore would never happen).

And the cool thing about this year — making the holidays extra "special" — is that everyone is home for a fun, COVID-19 extended period of time, sometimes working, sometimes going to school. But mostly looking for memes that resemble their father.

So, you will sometimes hear festive shouts of "OMG, Dad, that is so you!" followed by people laughing hysterically, pointing (too overcome with laughter to talk) to a picture that says, "My dad getting mad at me because I don't know his password."

It's a fresh start — a new beginning. Happy 2021! Maybe that should be my password.



"We heard the post office forgot about some of you in November and you didn't get our Veterans Day edition. If that's you, scan this QR code to catch up!"

OUT WITH THE NEW, IN WITH THE OLD!

January is National Hobby Month — and for good reason! As people set goals for 2021, they're also thinking about trying new hobbies. But with so many out there, picking just one can be a hobby in itself. Thanks in part to COVID-19, many people have rediscovered old-school hobbies. Some of these have been around for decades or even longer, and others have established communities that can rely on one another for support, sharing information, and more. Here are four great examples.

MAKING BREAD

Over the last year, interest in this ancient hobby has skyrocketed. Homemade bread is tastier and more nutritious than store-bought, and it's so satisfying to watch it



come together. Not to mention it's a great skill to have! With so many types of bread to try, you're not going to run out of ideas any time soon.

COLLECTING CARDS

No matter what people were into during the '70s, '80s, and '90s, there was a trading card game for it. And even going into 2021, that tradition has been kept alive. When many people were stuck at home last year, they rediscovered their card collections and remembered how much fun they were. As a result, card sales went through the roof, and online card communities lit up with activity from all over the world.

RESTORING CARS

Car restoration is a hobby that lets you get your hands dirty, and it's one that you can do with your kids or grandkids. It can be not only educational for them but also fun! Together, you can track down parts, talk to folks who are also interested in restoration, and learn about the history of your car. Though car restoration can be a bit costly and time consuming, it's certainly a journey worth taking.

EMBROIDERING

Embroidery has taken off because it's both inexpensive and fairly easy to get into. Plus, many people have fallen in love with its meditative quality. One of the great things about embroidery is that you can use it to make amazing personalized gifts, like pillows, wall hangings, and kitchen towels!

SOUP'S ON!

PERFECT YOUR WINTER SOUP RECIPE WITH THESE 3 TIPS



Soup is perfect for sick days and alongside grilled cheese, and Grandma always seemed to have a recipe to make everything better. For as simple and comforting as soup can be, re-creating those memories from your stovetop includes a few tedious steps. Become a soup master with this go-to guide to winter's favorite dish.

MIND YOUR PEAS AND CARROTS.

The magic of a hearty minestrone or old-fashioned chicken noodle soup comes from the flavors of vegetables to create the perfect blend of comfort and taste. However, overcooking or undercooking vegetables can ruin this delicate balance. So, consider the vegetables you want in your soup and plan accordingly.

Start by chopping vegetables into bite-size pieces that will easily fit on a spoon. No one wants a spoonful of soup that's just carrots after all! Then, add vegetables to your soup based on cooking time and flavoring. Carrots, onions, and celery should "sweat" in the pot with oil and seasoning *before* you add the broth to capture the fullest flavor of these ingredients. Potatoes and other root vegetables can be added in the boiling phase, while leafy greens only need minutes in the pot toward the end to capture their full flavor.

SIMMER TO BLEND FLAVORS.

Simmering is the key to a great soup. Once all your ingredients are in the pot, reduce the heat to a low simmer. This allows the flavors to play together without overcooking. If a soup is boiled for too long, the vegetables, meats, and/or pasta can become mushy and underwhelming.

SEASON GRADUALLY — BUT GENEROUSLY.

No one enjoys a bland soup, but too much seasoning can overpower the natural flavors of your ingredients. Add your seasoning to vegetables as they sauté in the pot before adding the stock. Then, add the stock and the remainder of your ingredients. Only add more seasoning as the soup simmers and do a taste test. Add a bit of salt and pepper until it's perfect! If you over-salt, don't panic. Adding more stock, potatoes, noodles, or cream can fix your soup in a pinch.

Bonus Tip: Always serve your soup with bread, toast, or crackers. It's the perfect vehicle to soak up all the flavors!

A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU NOTE FROM ONE OF OUR CLIENTS!

Dear Priscilla,

First of all, I would like to thank Frank Kearney for representing me and making sure that I got everything I was entitled to under the law. Secondly, I would love to thank Brooke and the other staff who helped me understand all the details I had no clue about with respect and dignity.

Lastly, Priscilla, I would like to sincerely thank you. Thank you for having the professionalism and patience to deal with me. I can honestly say that on some days I know I was more than a handful, but you stayed professional and helped me with whatever I needed. Without your assistance, I don't know if I would have had the fortitude to stay the course. You helped me to understand and trust the process that I questioned often, especially when the insurance company would delay my checks. You would always say, "Let me see what's going on, Mr. Kemp, and I will call you back." And when you did call me back, you would have an answer for me. Thanks to you and everyone else, I am truly satisfied with the results of this case.

Without good people like yourself and everyone else in the office, people like me would be taken advantage of.

I am forever grateful, and Frank Kearney and staff will always have a special place in my heart, not only because of the great service but because of the respect, professionalism, and care you showed me. May God continue to bless you and the staff to do the amazing work and keep you safe.

Best wishes forever and always,

T.K.



COME SEE US

AT OUR NEW OFFICE!



We're moving our main operations to this historic building in Old Town Alexandria — right off the GW Parkway and just minutes to 495 (the first exit after the Woodrow Wilson bridge).

There is free parking — so if you want to visit with us IN PERSON after JAN. 15, no worries about finding a spot or paying for a garage.

Our NEW ADDRESS is 708 Pendleton Street, First Floor, Alexandria, VA 22314. Our office space will be on the first floor.

Come by and check it out!