

Chimney Rock Demonstrates America's Need for Unity

I remember a trip to Ireland. As we flew in and gazed at the countryside below, we saw that the parcels of land were divided by stone walls, separating neighbor from neighbor, farm from farm.

But later, when I returned during harvest season, everything had changed. The stalks of wheat were so tall that you couldn't see the stone walls at all. Abundance concealed the divisions, and the countryside was verdant.

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This came to mind recently as I thought about the state of our own nation. Post-election, I see little indication we are resolving our profound cultural, red-blue divide.

Search the internet, and you'll find advice on how to disown family members who voted differently than you did. When did politics become more important than loving your own family? Something's gone terribly wrong.

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President John F. Kennedy famously proclaimed, "What unites us is greater than what divides us." Benjamin Franklin expressed a similar sentiment after he signed the Declaration of Independence, when he's reported to have said, "We must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

As Russia, China, North Korea and Iran pose critical

challenges to the United States, I wonder if that's still true. Have we forgotten that, ultimately, we're all in this American enterprise together? I fear we have.

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