

## **JUDGE ROY MOORE-STANDING IN THE GAP**

By Terry L. Thompson

Born in rural Alabama, raised in a home without plumbing, by parents who did not have enough money to send him to college, Roy Moore seemed destined to work in the cotton fields like other boys in Etowah County. But young Moore had two things going for him; first his father, who set an example of hard work, taught him to "honor God, cherish family and love his country" and second he had a driving determination to stand for what was right. From these humble beginnings, Moore rose to the top legal position in his home state, when in November of 2002, the people of Alabama elected him the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. Yet, only two years later, by a unanimous vote of the nine-member Court of the Judiciary, he was thrown out of office for defying a federal court order to remove the Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of the Alabama Supreme Court building. Based on your point of view, Moore is either a misguided, unemployed lawyer who blew a comfortable and respected position by not "adjusting" to political realities or he is a symbol of courage and a national hero for standing for what he believes, regardless of the consequences. I subscribe to the latter view.

Moore was able to go to college by obtaining a nomination to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He recalled that his father "hocked his toolbox to get the \$300" to get him physically to the academy. After graduating from West Point with a Bachelor of Science degree 1969, Moore served as Captain in the Military Police and was a company commander in Viet Nam. In the military Moore was nicknamed "Captain America" by his troops for his strict adherence to military regulations. After his tour of duty in the military, Moore attended law school at the University of Alabama where he received his Juris Doctor degree in 1977. From 1977 to 1982, Moore served as deputy District Attorney in Etowah County before returning to "private practice" in Gadsden, Alabama. This is how Moore's official biography reads, however, the truth is that Moore was in deep conflict with the court system in Etowah County and was highly critical of its' inefficiencies. He resigned in disgust, went broke, moved to Texas to train as a full-contact karate fighter and later spent nine months in the Australia "Outback" mustering wild cattle in the Simpson Desert of Queensland. This tough life as an "outback cowboy" prepared Moore for the battles to come. He was appointed Circuit Judge in the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Court in Gadsden, Alabama in 1992, a position he held until being elected Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in 2000. Moore is married and he and his wife Kayla have four children, Heather, Roy, Caleb and Micah.

Moore's first confrontation with the ACLU came when they sent a letter to all the state Judges in Alabama protesting their practice of having prayer in the court room every few weeks. All the state Judges backed down but one.....(you guessed it!) Judge Roy Moore. He refused and stood his ground. This infuriated the ACLU which started a personal attack against Moore. The battleground they finally chose was one of the "decorations" Moore put on the wall of his courtroom. The "decoration" was a small hand-carved wooden plaque containing the Ten Commandments. The ACLU filed suit against Moore which catapulted Moore and the Ten Commandments into the national

spotlight. Moore did not back down and the commandments stayed firmly nailed to the wall. Moore's resolve in defending his right to display the Ten Commandments made him a national hero of conservatives, Christians and the majority of Alabamans, who subsequently elected him Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Shortly after becoming Chief Justice, Moore ordered a 5,280 pound monument (paid for by private funds) be installed in the rotunda of the Alabama Supreme Court building. The monument depicts the moral foundation of law in America. It bears excerpts from the text of the Ten Commandments, quotes from the Declaration of Independence, our National Motto ("*In God We Trust*"); the Pledge of Allegiance ("*One Nation Under God, Indivisible, With Liberty and Justice for All*"); and the Judiciary Act of 1789 ("*So Help Me God*"). The ACLU again filed suit and a federal Judge ordered Moore to remove the monument because it was an "unconstitutional promotion of religion" in violation of the First Amendment. Moore refused and said that the federal government had no authority to issue such an order. In case you haven't read your constitution lately, the "establishment clause" of the First Amendment to the Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...." That's it...nothing about monuments, nothing about acknowledging God and nothing about the Ten Commandments! Moore is not Congress, a monument is not a law and the Ten Commandments are not a religion (in fact they are acknowledged by all three major world religions)! The establishment clause, which was intended by our nation's founders to prevent Congress from establishing a national denomination like the Church of England, has been turned on its head in recent years and interpreted by liberal judges and the ubiquitous ACLU to mean the complete opposite of its original intent. Moore is absolutely right that the Federal government has no authority to prevent state officials from acknowledging God, especially when in their oath of office they promised to do so! Moore refused to play their game. He said no and it cost him his job, but he kept something far more valuable...his integrity.

What makes Moore such a powerful voice for constitutional law, and a spokesman for returning the constitution to the original intent of our founders, it is that Moore has done his homework. He has spent years studying Sir William Blackstone, the writings of our founders from Washington to Madison to Patrick Henry AND he has a tremendous memory. Moore can quote pages of the founder's writings without notes. (I recall hearing Moore speak once at a convention and suddenly realizing that what he had been saying for the past several minutes, without notes, was a recitation of Washington's farewell address and not his own extemporaneous remarks.) Because he knows the constitution, its foundation and the founder's intent, Moore can stand his ground in debate with anyone. He recently testified before the Senate judiciary's subcommittee considering the Constitution Restoration Act<sup>1</sup> (CRA) for which Moore is the primary

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution Restoration Act of 2004 (S. 2323) is a simple but brilliant solution to the quagmire our country is in with respect to acknowledging God in the public arena. The CRA simply removes the appellate jurisdiction from the United States Supreme Court and all lower federal courts to that jurisdiction permitted them by the Constitution of the United States. It says that "the Supreme Court shall not have jurisdiction to review, by appeal, writ of certiorari, or otherwise, any matter to the extent that relief is sought against an element of Federal, State, or local government, or against an officer of Federal, State, or local government (whether or not acting in official personal capacity), by reason of that element's or

author. He rained down quotes from the founding fathers on the Senators who ran for cover.

At a time when the simple act of acknowledging God in public is under brutal and unrelenting attack by the ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and petty bureaucrats across the country, a man who is not afraid to stand up and defend the name of the Creator gives confidence to the rest of us that there is still hope to restore our country to its foundations. Paul exhorts us to “withstand the evil day, and having done all to **stand**” and to “**Stand** therefore, having girded your waist with truth.....” Ephesians 6:13-14. In the Book of Ezekiel, God searches for a man to “**stand** in the gap” on behalf of the land. Judge Moore is such a man and he is **standing** in the gap for America. He is a beacon of hope for all of us..... a true American Hero!

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officer's acknowledgement of God as the sovereign source of law, liberty, or government..” In other words the proposed law says that the acknowledgment of God is not a legitimate subject of review by federal courts. The CRA also protects and preserves the Constitution of the United States by restricting federal courts from recognizing the laws of foreign jurisdictions and international law as the supreme law of our land.