

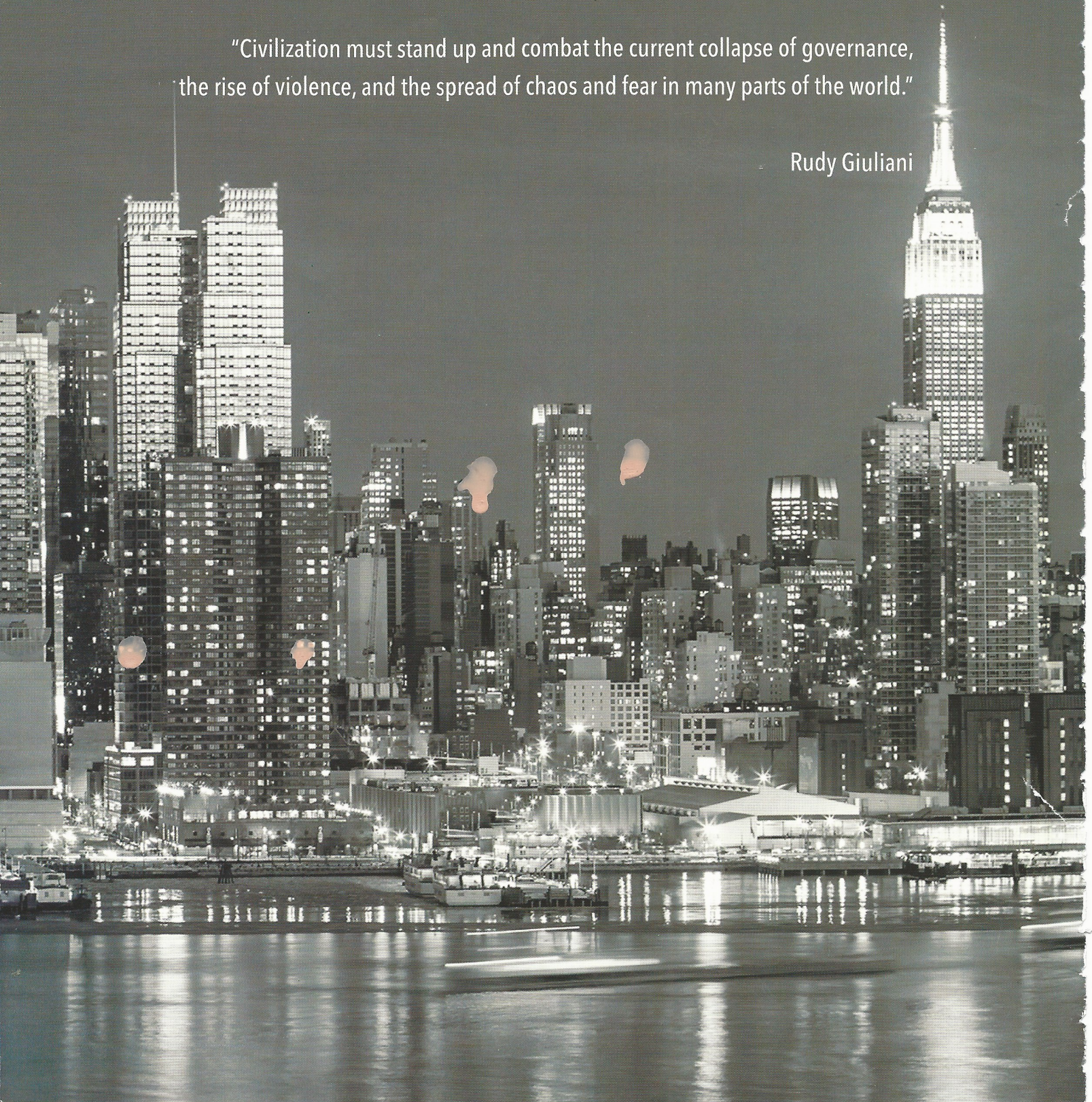
RUDY GIULIANI

The Man... The Legend... The Hero

By Lynn Wexler

"Civilization must stand up and combat the current collapse of governance, the rise of violence, and the spread of chaos and fear in many parts of the world."

Rudy Giuliani



He is known by many names – America’s Mayor, Urban Legend, Sir Rudy, Fiorello LaGuardia of the Modern Era, Prince of the City - to name a few. He has unwittingly earned each title through daring and controversy, astride a road paved with destiny.

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani’s relationship with destiny has not been by chance but by choice and achievement. Jawaharlal Nehru, India’s first Prime Minister and the father of Indira Gandhi, describes it like a game of cards. “The hand you are dealt is determinism; the way you play it is free will.”

Rudy Giuliani has played his hand with fearless resolve, seemingly beholden to guiding principles and values learned from his background, education, life experience, and adversity.

If, according to American writer James Russell Lowell, “Fate loves the fearless,” then Giuliani is fate’s favored son, with accomplishments attributed to choosing courage and leadership in the face of misfortune.

Giuliani was born in May of 1944 in Brooklyn, New York, the only child of Italian-American working-class parents. Growing up he attended Catholic schools and considered becoming a priest, before deciding instead to attend the University School of Law in Manhattan, graduating cum laude in 1968 with a Juris Doctor.

He began his political career as a Democrat; spent most of the 70s as an Independent; and entered the Reagan era in the early 80s holding more conservative views. He was later quoted as saying he changed his party affiliation because he found Democratic policies ‘naïve’, and “by the time I moved to Washington, the Republicans had come to make more sense to me”.

Giuliani’s public service began in the U.S. Attorney’s Office. In 1983 he gained national prominence prosecuting high-profile cases resulting in the convictions of Wall Street figures Ivan Boesky and Michael Milken. He doggedly went after drug dealers, organized crime figures, and corruption in government, amassing a record of 4,152 convictions and 25 reversals.

Notoriety followed after he was elected Mayor of New York City and, in 1985, took on the city’s Five Organized Crime Families. Aggressive strategies and a zero tolerance policy for crime yielded improved quality of life throughout the city and a significant decline in violent crime, for which he was widely credited.

Giuliani sought the Republican Party’s 2008 presidential nomination and was considered an early front runner before withdrawing from the race to endorse the eventual nominee, John McCain.

It wasn’t until the devastating attacks of 9/11, which occurred during Giuliani’s second term as Mayor, that he came into his own. The New York Post called him “a rock”; “his finest hour” because he showed the world by his strength and leadership that NYC, in fact America, had not been defeated by the terrorist attacks.

Newsweek said that Giuliani’s “...legend was in place. He’s our Winston Churchill. Walking the rubble, calming and inspiring his heartbroken but defiant people, he set a new global standard for crisis leadership...strong, sensitive, straightforward, and seriously well informed about

every detail of the calamity.”

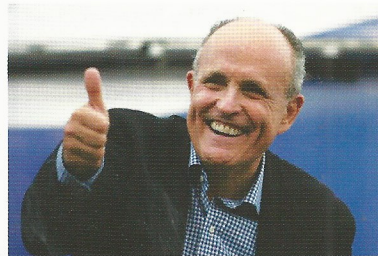
The Chicago Sun Times named him Prince of the City. “A prince fearless enough to write his own rules to establish order.”

Even late night TV talk show host, David Letterman, said of Giuliani, “Watch how this guy conducted himself. He is the personification of courage”, effectively bringing hope to New Yorkers and all of America by striking just the right cord of toughness and compassion.

Criticisms of Giuliani’s mistakes and missteps during the 9/11 disaster notwithstanding, most all would agree that his role as chief communicator in crisis, particularly one of such epic proportions, was masterful and now legendary.

WEXLER: How were you able to begin anew following the haunting events of 9/11?

GIULIANI: One never begins a new life. It’s a mistake to think that you end one part of your life and start another



as if there's no continuity. One begins a new phase of life based on the things they've learned in the past. I've moved on, but with lessons learned on many levels that in fact inform my present perspectives and future endeavors.

WEXLER: Have you ever been afraid?

GIULIANI: Yes, but I prefer to focus on how to overcome it in order to continue and prevail over what caused the fear. I define courage as doing what needs to be done in spite of fear.

WEXLER: What person would you most like to meet?

GIULIANI: Winston Churchill. I would like to spend hours with him, probing his thoughts on major events and decisions. I would like to ask him about doubt. How did he manage his doubts about England's role and survival during WWII?

WEXLER: Can you explain your controversial remarks, during a private group dinner at the 21 Club in Manhattan, where you called into question President Obama's patriotism?

GIULIANI: I said that I don't think President Obama loves America. He doesn't stand up for the victims of terrorism and he makes excuses for the perpetrators. Why is he incapable of criticizing Islam for the parts of Islam that are wrong? He criticizes Christianity for the part of Christianity that is wrong. What's wrong with this man that he can't stand up and say there's a part of Islam that's sick?"

WEXLER: What about your recent criticism of Beyonce's halftime performance at this year's Super Bowl?

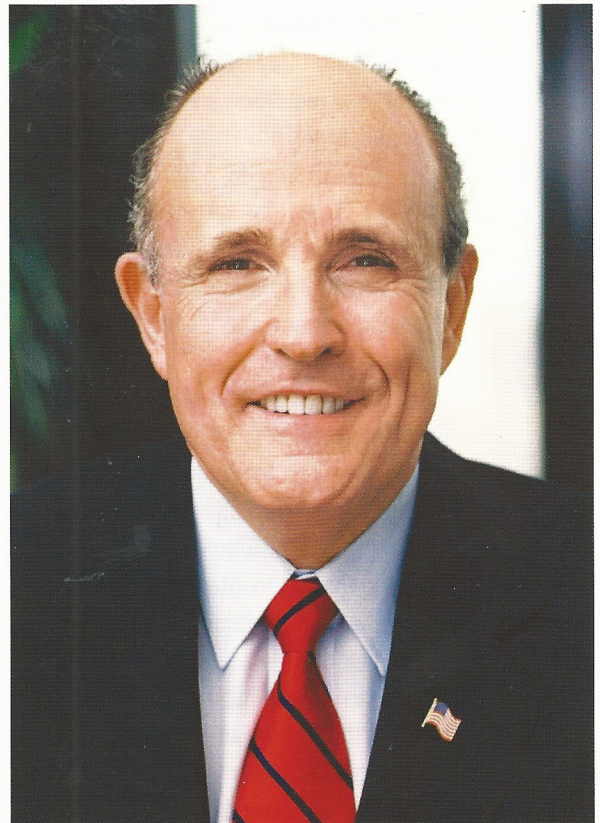
GIULIANI: It was an outrageous affront to police. This is football, not Hollywood, and I thought it was outrageous that she used it as a platform to attack police officers who are the people who protect her and protect us, and keep us alive. What we should be doing in the African American community, and all communities, is build up

respect for police officers. And focus on the fact that when something does go wrong, okay. We'll work on that. But the vast majority of police officers risk their lives to keep us safe.

WEXLER: You've been outspoken against current NYC Mayor De Blasio's progressivism. Can you elaborate?

GIULIANI: His progressivism has created a homeless crisis in the city. And a city with homeless on its streets is a city that has no love of its people.

The supposed progressive view - that people have a right to live on the sidewalk - is not only legally baseless, but is inhumane, indecent and dangerous. As is the case in many other policies - redistribution of wealth, social engineering, weak national defense - it's a contradiction to describe this stance as progressive. It should properly be regarded as retrogressive.



WEXLER: Please share what you believe to be the essential qualities of leadership?

GIULIANI: I would start with having strong beliefs and the conviction to stick to those beliefs especially when the odds are against you. Next, someone who has a vision that goes beyond and to where one needs to be tomorrow, and with a plan to get there. An optimist - a problem solver

- who inspires others to believe the same. Someone with courage - a risk taker. When things fail, someone must have the courage to take the necessary risks to do something different. Someone who is conscious of the need to track progress to be sure you're on the right path. Relentless preparedness. Think of the worst possible scenario and prepare for it. And love your team. Make them feel important toward the accomplishment of the vision so they will invest in going above and beyond.

WEXLER: How did it feel to be knighted by the Queen of England as Sir Rudolph?

GIULIANI: It was an honor to be bestowed with the title Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for outstanding help and support to the bereaved British families in New York during the 9/11 attacks. But it doesn't alter my feelings as far as the World Trade Center site is concerned. It's highly emotional for me. The loss of all those people, friends I saw fifteen or twenty minutes before they died.

WEXLER: How essential are values to leadership?

GIULIANI: Values form the foundation of a person's life. We get them from our family, sometimes peers, and often from religion. Values tell us who we are. Without knowing who we are, our chances at achieving success are slim to none as is our ability to

lead. Live by your values. Make your choices count. Dedicate each day to developing your character. If you do, courage will be there when you need it most, and that is what lies at the heart of leadership.

WEXLER: What advice do you have for the Adelson School students?

GIULIANI: You're bound to get knocked down in life. You're bound to lose sometimes - maybe more than you win. Use the experience to learn more about yourself and what you can do to improve the next time. Successful people are those who are able to absorb failures, absorb mistakes, and then turn them around and use them as learning experiences. I remember watching the "fight of the century" back in 1971 between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali. Ali was losing big time. Late in the 14th round, Frazier landed a left hook that hurled Ali to the canvas. He struggled back to his feet for the remainder of the round and fought valiantly in the 15th and final round. The way he got hit, the way he got up, the way he fought back in the 15th round, knowing he lost, told me he had the heart of a champion. In life, you get knocked down. The real question is - what do you do when you get up? ###

