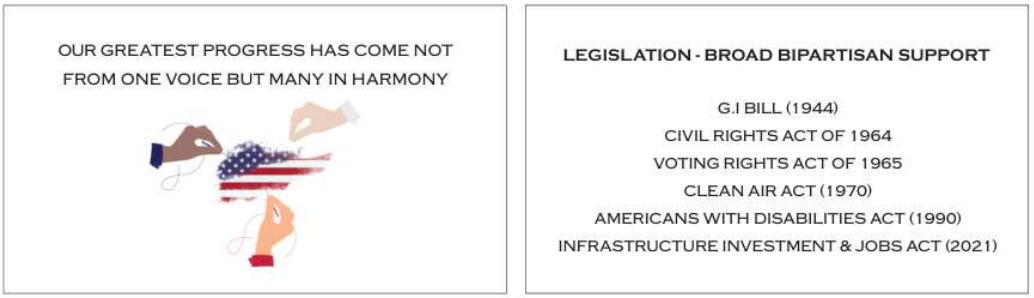
The Story Behind the Book

I never imagined that retirement, after more than 40 years in public accounting, would lead me to writing my first book about presidential leadership.

In late 2023, President Trump's continued refusal to accept the 2020 election results and his renewed presidential candidacy prompted me to become politically active. Never had I felt so strongly that a candidate was wrong for America.

My political advocacy included writing to 23 newspapers in swing states before the 2024 election. In April 2025, I wrote to the president and every member of Congress, outlining my concerns about the president's actions. Each letter was personally signed and included the following:

This business card was included with each individual letter sent to every member of Congress :



Front *Back*

Writing and publishing my first book has been quite a challenge for this retired CPA. Developing content, working with a collaborator and AI services, documenting facts, navigating distribution requirements, addressing privacy and legal issues, and obtaining media insurance have all been learning experiences.

Completing this book has made me wonder about the status of free speech in America, which seems to face some unusual challenges. I experienced one firsthand while trying to obtain media insurance. I do believe the freedom to question our leaders, criticize their actions, and express differing opinions is essential to our democracy.

Along the way, I learned something important. People often have strong political opinions, especially with President Trump. Even well-documented facts don't necessarily change minds. But humor might get someone's attention.

That realization eventually led to *What Does It Mean to Be Presidential?*, an illustrated book that combines ten timeless presidential leadership traits, political satire, civic education, and a little classroom humor.

The book includes gradebooks for 44 U.S. presidents, graded on the ten leadership traits by three artificial intelligence services (Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini). It also includes cartoon classroom-style illustrated lessons examining President Trump's words, actions, and social media posts.

Above all, I hope the book encourages readers to think independently, question what they are told, check the facts, and reach their own conclusions. And when they believe something is wrong, I hope they have the courage to speak up and challenge it.

Be an upstander, not a bystander.