

# Senior Moments

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## The American Dream, Alive and Well

BY EDWIN J. FEULNER, PH.D.

Almost any time you see the phrase “the American Dream” these days, it seems to be in a negative context. The speaker is either assuring us that it’s dead or that it can be salvaged only by a radical redefinition—one that often contradicts the basic principles this country was founded on.

So it was heartening to come across two positive references to it recently.

One was an op-ed by Sal Santoro, a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives. Its title: “My Dad’s Journey to the American Dream.”

In it, Rep. Santoro used the occasion of Father’s Day to relate how his father, an immigrant from Italy, came to America at age fifteen to build a better life for himself. He couldn’t speak English, but in time he became a citizen, got married, and worked hard as a tailor to support his growing family. He even served his adopted country in World War II.

The other positive reference I saw was an article in *Forbes*. “As the world becomes increasingly digital and other nations offer opportunity rivaling ours, many wonder if the American Dream is dying,” contributor Brian Rashid writes. “However, Joel Contartese, an American immigrant entrepreneur, can attest that American Dream is still alive and well.”

Mr. Rashid outlined several lessons that Mr. Contartese has developed. The bottom line: “His experience of coming to the United States and working diligently to better himself and his family is another inspirational tale of the American Dream offering success to those who work for it.”



John Trumbull’s painting, *Declaration of Independence*, depicting the five-man drafting committee of the Declaration of Independence presenting their work to the Congress. The painting can be found on the back of the U.S. \$2 bill. The original hangs in the US Capitol rotunda.

There’s no question that the dream is at least a bit more challenging to achieve today than it once was. Immigrants have long been drawn to our freedoms, whether that meant building a better life for themselves or a better invention for others. America’s business history is full of entrepreneurs who, finally able to pursue their passions, contributed handsomely to the economic engine that is the United States.

But things have changed. For decades, our government has been promoting the wrong kind of prosperity, usually for the wrong motives and the wrong people.

The jet engine of prosperity is economic freedom, especially the freedom to take risks. To most of the country’s chattering classes—guardians of the news but typically detached from commerce—the role of risk in business is

dull stuff, hardly worth reporting. But they miss one gripping drama after another: Behind every great business coup is a huge risk boldly taken.

The high-wire daring of nifty entrepreneurs willing to outperform their competitors is essential to prosperity. “America provides plenty of tools to help you achieve your dreams, you just have to fight for it,” according to Contartese.

He’s right. The question is, do enough people understand that? Our future prosperity hinges on it.

This piece originally appeared in *The Washington Times* and republished here with permission from **The Heritage Foundation**.

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## Look Who Turns 65 This Year!



Angela Cartwright

**Angela Cartwright** (born September 9, 1952) is an English-born American actress primarily known for her roles in movies and television. Cartwright is best known as a child actress for her role as Brigitta Von Trapp in the Academy Award winning film *The Sound of Music* (1965). On television, she played Linda Williams, the stepdaughter of Danny Williams (played by Danny Thomas) in the 1950s TV series *The Danny Thomas Show*, and Penny Robinson, in the 1960s television series *Lost in Space*.

Angela Cartwright was born in England, in 1952. She made her first film appearance at the age of three as Paul Newman’s daughter in *Somebody Up There Likes Me* (1956), and appeared with Rock Hudson and Sidney Poitier in *Something of Value* (1957). After moving to the United States, Cartwright appeared for seven seasons in the CBS TV series *The Danny Thomas Show*.

Cartwright married Steve Gullion in 1976. They have two children, Jesse and Rebecca Gullion. She has been a photographer for thirty years. Her fine art is displayed at her studio in Studio City, Los Angeles.

Article and Photo Source: Wikipedia