

## **Lower The Drawbridge**

**By Drew Tignanelli, CPA, CFP®**

Our country has serious long-term problems. We have problems in housing, Social Security and Medicare, to name a few. The answer is simple but the chances are slim that it will ever be implemented because the "drawbridge" is stuck in the up position.

Immigration, as experienced in this country at the turn of the 20th century, is critical for the 21st century. Unfortunately, the average American today is afraid to invite immigrants in fear that it will only encourage the less desirable to come.

A mass wave of immigrants between the ages of 18 and 30 would fill a tremendous amount of jobs currently available, both low-tech and high-tech. It would provide a larger work base per retiree to shore up 55+ Medicare. Immigrants will challenge our entitled, younger population to strive and compete in a world that will demand extensive training. People from many nations who would immigrate typically have a strong regard for home ownership which could stimulate our housing market quicker than without mass immigration. A by-product of mass immigration would be the elimination of the current large amounts of illegal immigrants' infiltration of our borders. If an illegal immigrant wants to enter legally, they would be required to return to their home country and seek to enter the U.S. legally. Of course, this would require a change to some of our social service welfare laws as well as the minimum wage laws, at least for these incoming immigrants.

China, a nation of 1.2 billion people is coming alive and a mass immigration to the US would put us in a better position to compete in the long term with China. Great nations are built on population growth and not just the growth of money! To define mass immigration it would mean somewhere between 100 and 200 million by 2015. Yes, it would put a strain on our systems, and yes it would most likely cause problems in the short term, but it is vital to our long-term wellbeing.

My sense is that this scenario will never happen, but now is the time to open the gates and welcome people of friendly nations to America once again. In fact, I believe in the future many immigrants will not be attracted to coming to the U.S. as we digest our foolish waste of the last 40 years. Now is the time to lower the drawbridge.