On Election Day 2016, I wrote this commentary piece and delivered it in place of my normal sportscast.

If you would like to watch it (instead of or in addition to reading it), you can at… <https://www.cbs19.tv/video/news/politics/elections/vote-2016/my-thoughts-by-keith-leventhal/501-2417821>

One of the most hurtful words is one we use every day. It's not a racial or ethnic slur. It's not profane or something you'd be afraid to say in front of your parents.

It's hate. I hate you. That's powerful. That's strong.

Tomorrow we will have a new president. The campaign ads will stop. The mud-slinging and accusations will stop. The non-stop coverage will stop.

Unfortunately, the hate will not.

Over the weekend, I saw something that really troubled me. This shirt [threatening journalists] was spotted at a rally in Minnesota. This is the kind of hate that has become all too prevalent during this presidential election.

I'm not naïve enough to think this hate hasn't always existed. I know it has. But now it's out of the shadows and in some places, even considered acceptable. While there was much condemnation of this shirt, there was also way too much support for it. That's not okay, not even remotely close to okay.

I've been here for 2 and a half months. You don't know me. You don't know who I voted for. You don't know what I believe in. You don't know my religion or my ethics or anything about me. And yet, if you "like" this shirt, you're rooting for my death. That's blind hate. And that's wrong.

We'll turn a page tomorrow. Maybe we'll have our first female president. Maybe we'll have our first president from outside the political establishment. Either way, tomorrow is the first day of something new.

Maybe we can all turn a page tomorrow as well. Maybe we can live in a place where it's perfectly acceptable to dislike a person's views but not want to kill that person. Is that too much to ask? I don't think so.

Let's be clear...the hate is on both sides of the aisle. Hate comes in many forms. It comes from the person at the Trump rally saying people should go back to their country and it comes from the person at the Clinton rally assuming that everyone who supports the other side is nothing more than a racist and bigot. It's all hate, no matter how you slice it.

Here is my challenge to you. Let's be better tomorrow...all of us. Me, you, \*everyone\*. Go talk to someone who thinks differently from you. Find someone of a different race, a different religion, a different political persuasion, and just talk to them. And you know what...maybe we're not so different after all.

Maybe we can agree that Dak Prescott should start for the Cowboys or that ‘Game of Thrones’ is amazing. Maybe we can agree that pizza is always good, and Dr. Pepper is the best drink ever. And maybe we can talk about tough issues like gun control or immigration or abortion without threatening those who disagree with us.

When I voted today, I felt pride. Not pride in my candidate, rather I felt pride that we live in a country that allows us to vote and speak our mind. Will my candidate win? I don't know. And frankly, it doesn't matter. Both candidates have policies I like and policies I disagree with. And over the next 4 years, there will be laws passed that help me and laws passed that don't. But you know what? 4 years from right now, on November 3, 2020, we'll all go vote again. Because that's what we do as Americans and that's what you should be focused on tonight.

I rarely share personal opinions on anything, so that should tell you how strongly I feel about this. I'd be happy to talk about this with you personally. My contact info is listed on the bottom of your screen. Please, tell me what you think. Am I right or wrong? Am I asking too much or am I not asking enough?

Any opinion is welcome but, as we turn the page tomorrow, there's one rule. It must be civil. Period.