

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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Founded October 16, 1875

OUR VIEW

We can never forget their sacrifice

The local community came out in force Monday to honor area veterans, a clear sign that Umatilla County hasn't forgotten those who made a sacrifice and a commitment to our nation.

That says a lot about our area and a lot more about the type of people who live and work and play in our great part of the state.

There are more than 18 million veterans in the United States, and Monday allowed the entire nation to take a collective moment to recognize their sacrifice and commitment.

For many of us, Monday was a welcome day off or part of a three-day weekend.

For millions of others, though, the day carried a special significance and marked one of the few times during the year when the great nation they defended stopped and tipped its hat.

Veterans Day is more than just another day off. The day began as Armistice Day, which recognized the anniversary of the end of World War I. Later, the day was made an annual observance.

The day is rightly a celebration to recognize our veterans for their patri-



Staff photo by Ben Lonergan
Bob Daniel carries the American flag as a part of the honor guard during a Veterans Day breakfast at the Hermiston Community Center on Monday morning.

otism and service, but it should also serve as a reminder that we owe all of those who participated in our Armed Forces a debt we will probably never

be able to repay.

Men and women have gladly stepped forward throughout our history to defend what is, in a real way,

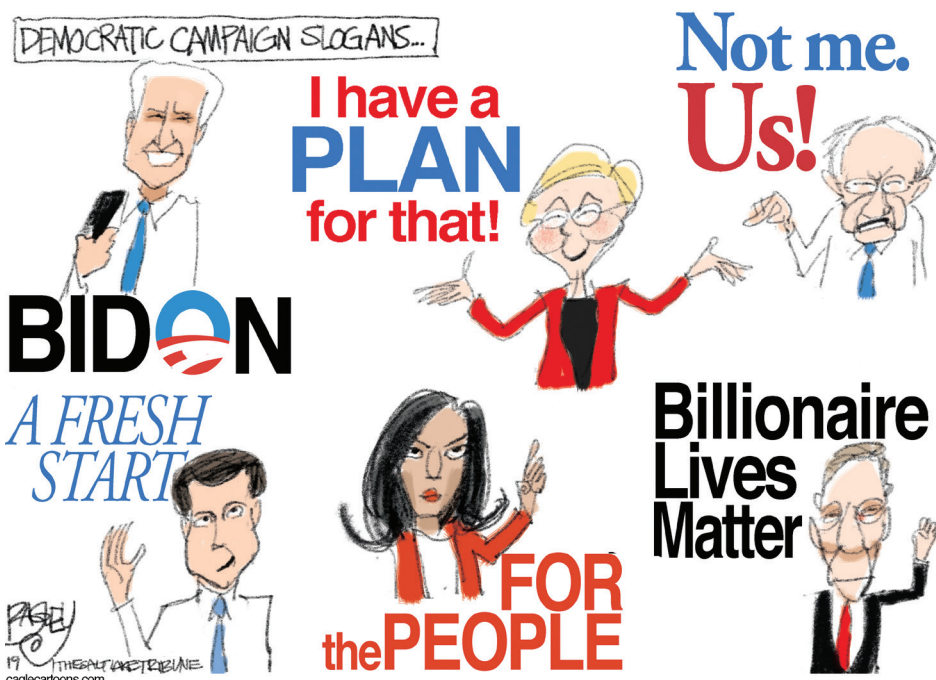
a collection of concepts. The Constitution and its Bill of Rights are words supported by a philosophy of democracy that remains an experiment. Yet each year millions join our Armed Forces, and they swear an oath. Not an oath to the president. Not an oath to Congress. They pledge their souls to defend the Constitution.

That makes us unique in many ways from nations across the globe. Our men and women make a choice to lay it all on the line for words. For a philosophy.

Our veterans deserve to be recognized and lauded. Each one made a conscious choice to sacrifice their time — and in many cases their bodies — for their nation. While many of us built lives, raised children and attended youth sports events, our veterans were far away from home. They were sometimes stationed on foreign shores, in harm's way, while the rest of us went along with our lives.

We can't forget their sacrifice. So as the 2019 Veterans Day recedes, we must all collectively remember their sacrifice and endeavor to ensure their needs — mental and physical — are met.

OTHER VIEWS



Republicans remain tethered to toxic Trump

The lesson of the 2019 state elections confirmed the lesson of the 2018 congressional midterms: Donald Trump can stage all the demagogic rallies he wants, but he's powerless to reverse the GOP's hemorrhaging in the populous suburbs.

Let's borrow one of his favorite metaphors. On Tuesday night, his captive Republicans died like dogs. Or, as party strategist Alex Conant told the Associated Press, "Republican support in the suburbs has basically collapsed under Trump."

Today's suburbs, once typically lily white, are racially and ethnically diverse, and bursting with people (especially women) who have college educations. This means they're bright enough to read the news, see Trump for what he is, and be rightly repulsed by a craven Republican party that abets and excuses his serial abuses of power.

And now we're seeing the pay-off. One year ago, Democrats recaptured the House in an historic blue wave that subsumed Republican suburban seats even in red redoubts like South Carolina, Kansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, Georgia, and Utah. And in this week's 2019 elections, Virginia Democrats snatched both legislative chambers for the first time in a generation, wiping out every last Republican (including a state House GOP leader) in the Washington, D.C., suburbs. A Muslim woman even won in the Richmond suburbs, ousting a Republican state senator who'd long sought to weaken Obamacare.

Most of Virginia's Republican candidates tried to distance themselves from Trump, but the voters punished them anyway. Down in ruby-red Kentucky, incumbent Republican Gov. Matt Bevin tried the opposite tack, embracing Trump and stumping with an anti-impeachment banner, but voters in the Louisville and Lexington suburbs punished him anyway. Most notably, in the vicerich suburbs across the river from Cincinnati — the same suburbs he'd won easily back in 2015 — he was wiped out.

Kentucky will surely vote for Trump in 2020, but it's far less certain that pivotal Pennsylvania will do so for the second time. Republicans have long been losing clout in the Philadelphia suburbs, but Trump's toxicity has greatly accelerated that trend, especially at the grassroots level. In the 2019 elections, Democrats took control of suburban Delaware County for the first time

since the Civil War, captured a governing majority in suburban Chester County, and did the same in suburban Bucks County for the first time in 36 years. Those results may well foreshadow a titanic blue turnout when Trump is (presumably) back on the ballot, where his rural and small-town fans may not be numerous enough to hold back the wave.

And that's the Trump team's core quandary. It aims to maximize rural and small-town turnout (especially among non-col-

lege white men) in the handful of states that will sway the Electoral College, in order to offset massive losses in suburbia and, of course, in the cities. But that math may not work, because suburbia is where the most votes are. Tom Davis, a former national Republican leader, warns: "What's happening is that the fast-growing areas (are) where the Democrats are doing better. There aren't enough white rural voters to make up the difference."

Dennis Bonnen, the speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, recently put it more bluntly. In an audio recording obtained by *The Washington Post*, Bonnen was heard whining to an ally: "I just think we've got to get through 2020. ... With all due respect to Trump, who I love by the way, he's killing us in the urban-suburban districts."

True that. Spiking Democratic turnout in the Texas suburbs — and the defeat of two GOP House incumbents in the 2018 midterms — have prompted at least five House Republicans to announce their "retirements."

Reality-based Republicans are well aware that they need to reconnect with educated white-collar suburban voters, especially women. But, alas, they're tethered to a font of intolerance who becomes more toxic with each Orwellian lie. And they're tragically too timid to revolt.

Twice now, in successive years, the suburbs have sent Trump a message, but he's too pig-headed to hear it. And I'm reminded of a scene in "Citizen Kane," when a political boss warns the megalomaniacal mogul: "If it was anybody else, I'd say what's going to happen to you would be a lesson to you. Only you're going to need more than one lesson. And you're going to get more than one lesson."

Dick Polman is a nationally syndicated columnist.

Fallen journalists deserve a memorial

Journalists relentlessly pursue the truth in order to provide citizens with the information they need to be self-governing. And yet, for journalists, doing that work can be risky, dangerous and even cost lives.

Just 15 months ago the deadliest attack on journalists in U.S. history took place at the office of the *Capital Gazette*, the local newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, when a gunman shot and killed five employees and wounded two others.

It is an all too frequent and unfortunate reality that reporters and photojournalists must face and even run toward danger when seeking the truth. That's why so many have died while covering war and conflict, from Ernie Pyle in World War II, to Francis Sully, Larry Burrows and Dana Stone in the Vietnam War, to David Bloom, Michael Kelly, Elizabeth Neuffer and Daniel Pearl in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is also why so many have died around the world when the powerful wanted to silence them. Jamal Khashoggi was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Turkey just over one year ago. Anna Politkovskaya was killed after her reporting on the Russian war in Chechnya angered those in power.

Washington, D.C., has many monuments honoring those who have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedoms; yet, there is no memorial on public land to recognize the journalists who have made the same sacri-

fy. Such a memorial would demonstrate to our citizens and to visitors from around the world that our country values a free press, honors the sacrifices of journalists and supports the family, friends and colleagues of the fallen.

To make this memorial a reality, federal legislation is needed but federal funds will not be used. The Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019 would authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to lead the effort to design, develop, construct and maintain a memorial on federal land in Washington, D.C. The memorial would be funded entirely by private donations and without the use of any taxpayer funds.

Once completed, the Fallen Journalists Memorial will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices that have been made — and that will continue to be made — to preserve a free press. It will also be a source of education, awareness and pride

for our entire nation.

This important effort is only beginning. We need the help of newspaper readers and others who value the role that journalists play in our democratic society. We encourage you to contact your representatives and senators in Congress (202-224-3121) and ask that they co-sponsor the Fallen Journalists Memorial Act of 2019 and help us make this memorial a reality.

Barbara Cochran is the president of the Fallen Journalist Memorial Foundation.



BARBARA COCHRAN
COMMENT



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