

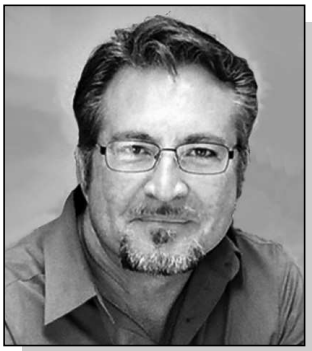
Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

Joe Heller ©2016 THE SIOUSLAW NEWS



The danger of forgetting our ‘Day of Infamy’



ation have come to experiencing war first-hand.

As a child, I was only peripherally aware of the Vietnam War and even less so of the Korean War, which ended before I was born.

Yet, as the last shot was being fired in Vietnam, I already knew what Pearl Harbor was.

I knew how, on Dec. 7, 1941, a quiet Sunday morning was transformed into a fiery nightmare by Japanese planes that claimed the lives of more than 2,400 servicemen.

I knew about the USS Arizona, and how in less than nine minutes more than 1,000 men became entombed in the wreckage that now rests like a

shadow below the harbor’s surface.

I also knew it was a morning filled with as many acts of heroism and sacrifice as there were moments of the horrific. Over the years, images in text books, commemorative issues

surface each year — much like the slowly recurring “black tears” of oil that still bubble to the surface from the USS Arizona — serve as a reminder of the ultimate price demanded by a world at war.

In an age when many of our

the sacrifices of the past are in danger of becoming diluted by pre-packaged valor and conditioned gaming responses.

Admittedly, my friends and I spent countless summer days of our youth as soldiers rescuing our platoon and driving the Nazis out of our backyards. The difference between then and now is that, as kids, we were drawing from those text books, commemorative magazine articles and movies that dug such deep grooves in our memories.

Without knowing it, we were reinforcing our own understanding of war based on what we knew of history — and in particular the sacrifices made by soldiers at places like

Pearl Harbor and the beaches of Normandy.

Today, the knowledge of those sacrifices — and the lessons learned from them — aren’t digging nearly as deep a groove in the minds of our children as they once did.

As they say, history forgotten is a history bound to repeat itself.

Unless we take the time to ensure that each generation understands what our “Day of Infamy” truly means, the black tears slowly surfacing from the USS Arizona will be for more than the servicemen who came to rest within it.

Write Siuslaw News editor Ned Hickson at nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com.

From the Editor's Desk

NED HICKSON

from publications like Time magazine and stories captured in movies impressed upon me the virtues of valor.

At the same time, and perhaps more importantly, those images and the stories that

youth entertain themselves with gaming systems that center around killing enemies with everything from grenades and knives to sniper fire and IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices), lessons learned from

LETTERS

No more fighting and hatred

I’m sorry, but the daily disrespect and rants against President-elect Donald Trump is growing to truly negative proportion. Some people need to take a look in the mirror if they want to see who is causing division in this country.

The letters to the editor and the majority of the news media keep fueling the fire. Eight years ago, when Barack Obama was elected, a lot of people weren’t happy but for the most part they moved forward to give the man a chance.

Now it’s time for people to stop spreading the hatred flowing through the fiber of America and

give this President-elect a chance to do the job set before him in order to see our country thrive.

Just yesterday, while having lunch with friends and having a quiet personal conversation, we were verbally attacked when the man next to us, while he was leaving the restaurant, stopped to ask, “You voted for Trump and you are Christians?”

He sneered as he left saying, “You will get what you deserve.”

This is Florence, a place we don’t think can have those kinds of raw outbursts towards others. It’s true we don’t all think alike, but it’s time to start working together for the sake of the com-

mon good.

Ten years from now, do you want to see success or failure?

What part will we play in it?

At stake are our future families, who deserve to have some of the same opportunities we all have had. For this reason most of all, the fighting and hatred needs to subside.

Donna Dobson
 Florence

Welcome addition

I want to congratulate the City of Florence for

reconsidering the plan and creating the bike and walking lanes along Rhododendron Drive.

The paths now exist exactly the way they were envisioned when first presented at the Greentrees annual meeting a few years ago.

They are completely in keeping with community’s wishes and are a welcome addition to our beautiful Rhododendron Drive. I feel safer walking and bicycling and enjoy the greenway very much.

Thank you.

Kathy Blok
 Greentrees resident

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John Bartlett
 Jenna Bartlett
 Ned Hickson
 Susan Gutierrez
 Cathy Dietz
 Ron Annis
 Jeremy Gentry

Publisher, ext. 327
 General Manager, ext. 318
 Editor, ext. 313
 Advertising Director, ext. 326
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WHERE TO WRITE

Pres. Barack Obama
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
 Washington, D.C. 20500
 Comments: 202-456-1111
 Switchboard: 202-456-1414
 FAX: 202-456-2461
 TTY/TDD Comments: 202-456-6213
www.whitehouse.gov

Gov. Kate Brown
 160 State Capitol
 900 Court St.
 Salem, OR 97301-4047
 Governor’s Citizens’ Rep.
 Message Line 503-378-4582
www.oregon.gov/gov

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden
 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510

202-224-5244
 541-431-0229
www.wyden.senate.gov

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley
 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg
 Washington, DC 20510
 202-224-3753/FAX: 202-228-3997
 541-465-6750

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio (4th Dist.)
 2134 Rayburn HOB
 Washington, DC 20515
 202-225-6416/ 800-944-9603
 541-269-2609/ 541-465-6732
www.defazio.house.gov

State Sen. Arnie Roblan (Dist. 5)
 900 Court St. NE - S-417
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1705

FAX: 503-986-1080
 Email:
Sen.ArnieRoblan@state.or.us

State Rep. Caddy McKeown
 (Dist. 9)
 900 Court St. NE
 Salem, OR 97301
 503-986-1409
 Email:
rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us

West Lane County Commissioner
 Jay Bozievich
 125 E. Eighth St.
 Eugene, OR 97401
 541-682-4203
 FAX: 541-682-4616
 Email:
Jay.Bozievich@co.lane.or.us