

Siuslaw News
 P.O. Box 10
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Opinion

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

LETTERS

BILL 494 IS WRONG

The Oregon Senate voted this past week to approve Bill 494, which would allow health care representatives to withhold feeding and hydration to those who are mentally ill or suffer from dementia or Alzheimer's — without their prior written consent.

This is not for citizens who are terminally ill.

This bill empowers surrogates (i.e. guardian, spouse, a friend or, if none is available, an attending physician) to make life-ending decisions for some of our most vulnerable citizens.

The provisions in this bill would apply even if a patient's advance directive did not give explicit permission or if the patient had no advance directive at all.

Analysts of the bill say the wording was made purposefully ambiguous to allow these life and death decisions to be subject to whatever the people surrounding the patient want to do.

Currently, the bill is headed to the Oregon House of Representatives. I will be calling my state representative and urging her to vote no on SB494.

— Susie Dewberry
 Florence

BALANCE THE COIN

Ponder this quote from our 34th president, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who for those too young to remember was a five-star general in World War II:

“Only Americans can hurt America.”

I don't care about political party affiliations, what church people attend or which war an individual served in.

I care about how we talk to and about each other.

If what divides us could be compared to the two sides of a quarter, I say we should balance the coin on its edge.

We need to not “boo” each other or call each other idiots. Both of these behaviors happened at Ron Wyden's town hall within



Happy Father's Day

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous, argumentative and anonymous letters or poetry, or letters from outside our readership area will not be published.

Send letters to:
 nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

my view and earshot — and both “sides” had a voice in it.

Let's seek what's good in each other and build on that.

Let's listen and pass the olive branch around to give each speaker a chance.

— Ivy Medow
 Florence

SPOTLIGHT ON VALUABLE RESOURCE

Many thanks to Mark Brennan and the Siuslaw News for the story about the Memory Loss Respite Center (May 3). The Memory Loss Respite Center provides care for members of our community who have memory loss as well as support for their caregivers.

As a volunteer at the center, I appreciate the spotlight on this very valuable community resource. The results of the article have included generous donations, a significant increase in the number of families receiving services, and a much appreciated increase in new and enthusiastic volunteers.

However, while the community support has been heartening, the center is still short of meeting the goal of returning to services three days a week.

Presently the center is open only Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. With just a few more volunteers, the center could return to being available on Wednesdays.

I encourage anyone with a caring and giving heart who is interested in helping others to stop by (Florence Senior Center at 1570 Kingwood St.) any Monday or Thursday to see what the program is about.

I am very grateful to live in such a generous and caring community as Florence.

— Pat Duncan

WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN?

At the recent Flag Retirement Ceremony, children were conspicuously absent.

As Wally Shoults read “The Talking Flag,” a complete history lesson was given as to why America is good and great.

America may not be perfect, but perfection is not a requirement of goodness. Throughout history, writers of all cultures — e.g. Voltaire, Shakespeare, Aristotle, Confucius, etc. — have opined that “better is the enemy of good.”

If we are to again come together as a people, knowledge of why America is good and great is essential.

To me, Flag Day is as important as July 4 because, on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes, forever associating “Old Glory” with the desire of man to be free of oppression.

No other symbol in the world so defines freedom.

Next year, let's endeavor to get as many children as possible to attend the Flag Retirement Ceremony so that they can fully appreciate the gift with which they have been blessed.

— Ian Eales
 Florence

TRUMP IS NOT A ‘GENIUS’

In a Letter to the Editor (June 14) by Guthrie Wilson titled “Let the President do his job,” I first thought it was written in jest. But as I was reading it, I realized it was written by someone with a perspective I know little about.

The letter stated things like “The current political establishment is clearly against the President because of fear...” “He is being

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lashed out at by Congress and the political regime...” and “In our Constitution, the federal government has no rights over our money, our alcohol, marijuana laws, education or health insurance...”

I am a bit confused with this because, according to the letter, our government controls everything.

“...[Thanks to President Trump] gas and oil, big pharmaceuticals and industrial farming no longer run our country...”

I don't know where this idea came from since President Trump is the one who wants to start up the polluting coal industry once again.

What bothered me most is that Wilson called Trump a “genius.” A genius is a person who displays exceptional intellectual ability, creative productivity... typically to a degree that is associated with the achievements of new advances in the domain of knowledge.

We have had a number of geniuses visit our world. People like Leonardo Da Vinci, Albert Einstein, Stephen Hawking, etc.

To consider Trump a genius is beyond my understanding.

On the June 13 edition of “The Morning Show on CBS,” Newt Gingrich suggested that Trump is still learning how to be the president because he was a businessman and did not realize the workings of Washington.

I think many can agree that Trump does not know much about the political workings of Washington. But if he wanted to learn, why didn't he surround himself with teachers rather than cronies?

That would seem to me to be the smart thing to do.

— Win Jolley
 Florence

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