

Siuslaw News

P.O. Box 10

Florence, OR 97439

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.

“I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend.” —Thomas Jefferson (1800)



Remembering those at Pearl Harbor



The importance of never forgetting our ‘Day of Infamy’

Ray Chavez was a quartermaster on the USS Condor stationed at Pearl Harbor the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. This past Thanksgiving Day, he died at the age of 106, quieting one of the few remaining voices from that horrific “Day of infamy” that jettisoned us into the heart of World War II.

Yesterday, Americans took time to remember the sacrifice made by those 2,403 servicemen killed in the attack, along with the 1,178 who were wounded

But this year’s remembrance also marked another somber occasion: It was first time a USS Arizona survivor wasn’t present for the 7:50 a.m. commemoration of the more than 900 servicemen who remain

entombed in the battleship. All told, only five crew members are still alive from that mornng attack: Lauren Bruner, 98; Lonnie Cook,

than 900 men became entombed in the wreckage that now rests like a shadow below the harbor’s surface. I also came to know how

a world at war. In an age when many entertain themselves with gaming systems that center around violent acts of war, the lessons learned from the sacrifices of the past are in danger of becoming diluted by pre-packaged and rewards-driven “acts of valor.” Underscoring this is the gradual and inevitable silencing of those voices who lived through that infamous day in our history.

As a result, the lessons learned from those sacrifices in our past aren’t digging nearly as deep a groove in the minds of our children and our culture as they once did.

History forgotten is history bound to repeat itself. As the voices of Pearl Harbor grow silent, it is more important than ever that we ensure the black tears slowly surfacing from the USS Arizona are never forgotten — nor those for which they are shed.

From the Editor’s Desk

Ned Hickson

98; Ken Potts, 97; Lou Conter, 97; and Don Stratton, 96. This year, old age and failing health prevented any of those USS Arizona survivors from making the trip to Oahu.

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 a quiet Sunday morning was transformed into a fiery nightmare by Japanese planes — and how, in less than nine minutes, more

the morning was filled with as many acts of heroism and sacrifice as moments of unimaginable horror.

Over the years, images in text books, commemorative issues 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 stories that 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

LETTERS

‘IT TAKES A VILLAGE’

I know I have used that analogy previously when describing some element of our military museum’s mission over the years. After a very successful Festival of Trees, I simply cannot name each individual or local business who contributed to that success.

Six different miscellaneous sponsors, over a dozen tree designers and 18 different dessert sponsors; table sponsors numbered 19, tree sponsors numbered 40; and while the core committee numbers only seven, sub-committee members add another 33.

Of course, this doesn’t include all: our museum board members, attendees who spent their dollars, FEC staff or media partners — as you can see, the analogy that it takes a village certainly fits, and we thank each and every one who helped with this year’s event for their time, talent and contribution in keeping our museum doors open.

There is one individual I must name though. It wouldn’t have happened at all without the tireless efforts of the committee chair, Sue Gilday.

As the original architect of this event six years ago while serving on our OCMM board, she knows full

well the commitment it takes, and she stepped up to that task.

Thank you Sue!

—Cal Applebee, Executive Director
Oregon Coast Military Museum

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BUSH PROBABLY DIFFICULT FOR TRUMP

I am not one of those who watch coronations or funerals on the tube. Trying to find some news for the past two-and-a-half days, all the networks were dialed into the memorial services for former President George H. W. Bush.

In one memorial service, I was actually captivated by three of the speakers: Historian Jon Meacham, former senator from Wyoming Alan Simpson and former Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney

In a nutshell, they said that President George H.W. Bush was strong, gracious, loving, loyal and had great leadership, humility, humor and could laugh at himself. It must have been difficult for President Trump knowing that the Bushes did not vote for him, and being seated next to the Obamas — and realizing that he does not possess any of the personal qualities expressed by the speakers about our former president.

—Win Jolley
Florence

COLD WEATHER SHELTER IS GIFT TO OUR COMMUNITY

When the temperature dips below freezing, prized plants are often covered to protect them. Here in Florence, the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (ECMS) offers warm blankets to cover up in and a safe place to spend the night to anyone who has no warm place to be. Dinner and breakfast are provided along with unconditional love.

This past week, the doors of the Presbyterian Church were open to give shelter and respite; guests were appreciative and grateful.

Two guests commented on how wonderful it was to sleep stretched out rather than sleeping while seated in a cold car.

A couple stranded here in Florence on their return to Kansas, due to car trouble, couldn’t say “thank you” enough.

I believe that the Florence Emergency Cold Weather Shelter is a gift to this community in helping meet the needs of people who are facing desperate situations that most of us can’t begin to imagine.

—Janet Hirsch
Florence

WHERE TO WRITE

PRES. DONALD TRUMP 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	U.S. REP. PETER DEFAZIO (4TH DIST.) 2134 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-6416 541-269-2609 541-465-6732 www.defazio.house.gov
OREGON GOV. KATE BROWN 160 State Capitol 900 Court St. Salem, Ore. 97301-4047 Governor’s Citizens’ Rep. Message Line: 503-378-4582 www.oregon.gov/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.ArnRoblan@oregonlegislature.gov
U.S. SEN. RON WYDEN 221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5244 541-431-0229 www.wyden.senate.gov	STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN (DIST. 9) 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301 503-986-1409 Email: rep.caddymckeown@state.or.us
U.S. SEN. JEFF MERKLEY 313 Hart Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510 202-224-3753 FAX: 202-228-3997 541-465-6750 www.merkley.senate.gov	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