

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



LETTERS

ARE THOSE REALLY CHRISTIAN VALUES?

As much as I am worried about the president and what he may have up his sleeves, I am even more worried about those who seem to support his legacy of hatred and bullying.

In a recent Letter to the Editor from David Eckhardt, he said he agrees with the president and had no problem with the shut down “...in the least bit.”

Is he OK with the hatred toward our neighbors? And is he ok with the fact that federal workers could not buy groceries to feed their families?

Christ did not promote hatred. He believed in love, saying to “Love your neighbor.” That includes our neighbors next door and those living in the country next door.

Immigrants are not the problem in this nation. “Not in the least bit.”

The biggest problem this country is facing is greed and a government controlled by selfish billionaires whose only concern is to increase their wealth — without the “least bit” concern for the 99.9 percent of their fellow Americans, the environment, the planet and the animals.

Are those really Christian values?

—Liat Meller
Florence

SHARE YOUR OUTRAGE ASAP

If *Siuslaw News* readers listened last evening to Captain Sullenberger's assessment of the dire risk to the public and the aviation system that the last

shutdown produced (not to mention the estimated \$11 billion dollars it cost the public), then they ought to be part of a public outrage to the suggestion that another shutdown may be on the horizon.

Washington needs to hear from all of us before that becomes a reality.

ASAP.

—Nan Harvey
Florence

WALL IS 19TH-CENTURY SOLUTION TO 21ST-CENTURY PROBLEM

I was sorry to read that some had “No Problem with Government Shut-down” (David Eckhardt, Jan. 16). It cost taxpayers billions of dollars, hurt our economy and caused hardship for hundreds of thousands of people.

It was a total failure on the part of the president because Donald Trump is incapable of governing. Governing requires a leader who can negotiate, compromise, understand complex issues from multiple perspectives, and work with others to find creative solutions.

For two years, members of Congress abdicated their responsibility as a co-equal branch of government by allowing him to dictate. The president clearly is a wannabe strongman who loves and praises dictators (Putin, Kim, Mohammed bin Salman).

But dictating isn't how we roll here in America, and now that Democrats

control the House, the president's incompetence is glaringly obvious.

The shutdown was 100 percent on him; he initially said so himself before deflecting the blame later. Democrats and even some Republicans have offered compromises and bills that would have reopened the government sooner while negotiations on border security continued. Meanwhile, the president has offered nothing but repeated demands for exactly what he wants and nothing else — much like a petulant child.

I, too, would like to see an end to illegal immigration. But a wall is a 19th century solution to a 21st century problem and I know we can do better.

My heart does go out to people who have lost loved ones in crimes committed by people here illegally; but I am also saddened by the many *more* people who have lost loved ones to the opioid crisis and to gun violence committed by legal citizens born right here in this country. Opioids and guns are two problems that two years of Republican rule have failed to address.

I hate that the shutdown hurt our country, but I think Democrats are right to send the message to our president that America is not a dictatorship.

Thank you, Speaker Pelosi, for reinstating the balance of powers that our founders implemented.

—Donna Mlinek
Florence



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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.

Letters that are anonymous, libelous, argumentative, sarcastic or contain accusations that are unsourced or documented will not be published.

Letters containing poetry or from outside the Siuslaw News readership area will only be published at the discretion of the editor.

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Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) Explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

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