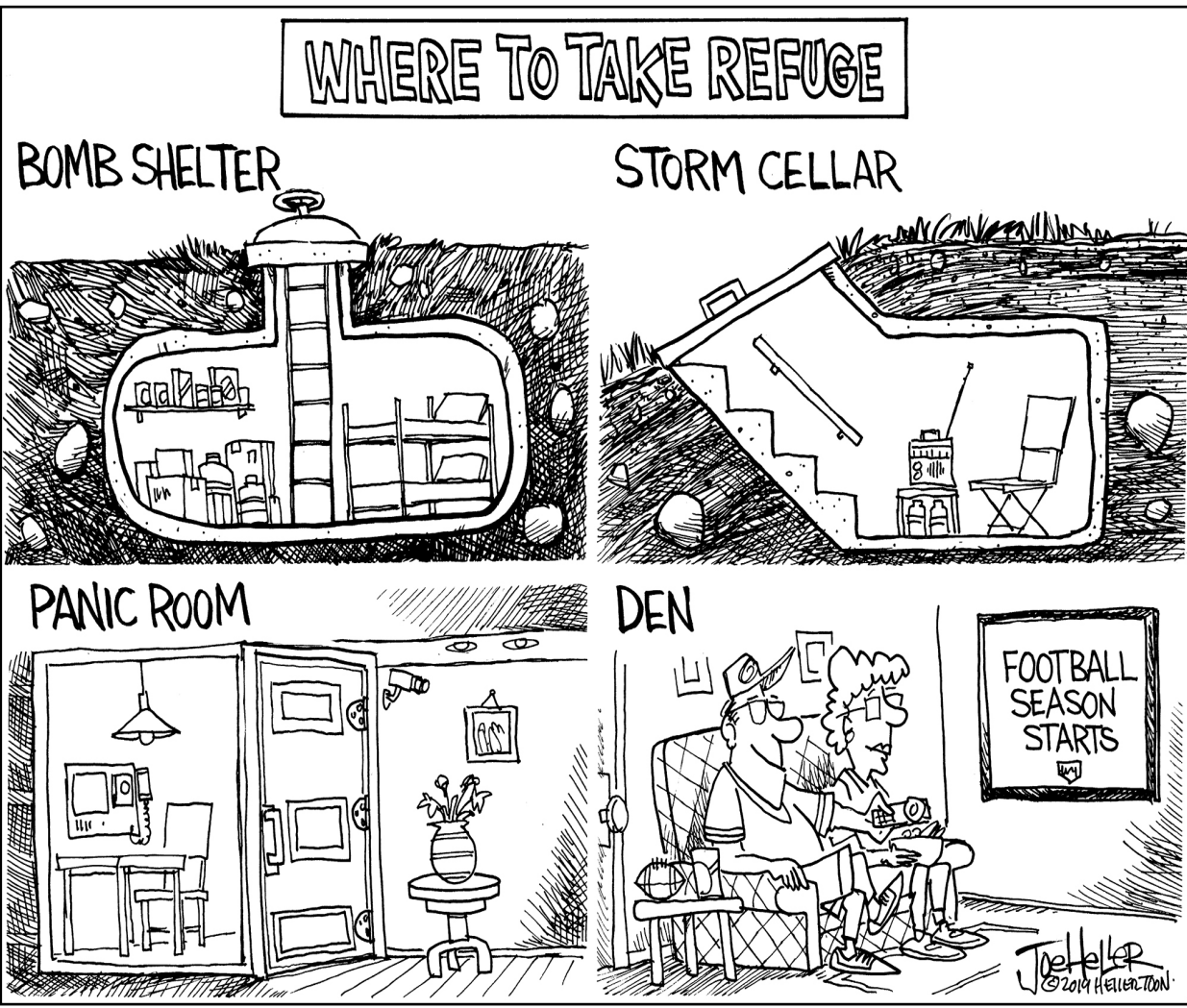


Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
Florence, OR 97439

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)



Remember our nation's POWs, MIAs and Gold Star Mothers

(Editor's Note: Viewpoint submissions on this and other topics are always welcome as part of our goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives.)

Friday, Sept. 20, is POW-MIA Recognition Day. This day and the POW-MIA flag, representing Prisoners of War and those still Missing In Action, are symbolic of our nation's resolve to never leave our warriors behind. Our armed forces will look for the missing until they are accounted for.

Sunday, Sept. 29, is Gold Star Mother's Day. A Gold Star Mother is one who lost a son or daughter while serving their nation in times of war or conflict. These two special days have a great deal in common.

On Sept. 20 and Sept. 29, we should all stop and ponder the losses of our American families through the years. After all, these losses and sacrifices were made to protect our nation. Over the years, about 1 million brave warriors lost their American Dream so that we could live ours.

We should remember that:

- All totaled, there were over 130,000 American Military Personnel who were Prisoners of War in the 20th and 21st century wars; 184 from Oregon.
- About 7,500 warriors are missing from World War I; 19 from Oregon.
- 72,676 warriors are missing from World War II; 886 from Oregon.
- 7,634 warriors are missing from the Korean War; 56 from Oregon.

- As of July 26, 2019, there are 1,587 still missing in Southeast Asia; 33 from Oregon.

Let us all keep these sacrifices at the forefront. That is the purpose of the POW-MIA Flag; that is the reason there are monuments and memorials.

The adage "Let us not forget" is appropriate.

We should support those who are working to help us not to forget. Yes, more monuments and memorials should be built. There is a shortage of memorials that specifically honor our Vietnam

GUEST VIEWPOINT By Steve Bates

Chair of the Committee on Memorials & Remembrance

Veterans.

In our capital city of Salem, on state properties, one can find memorials and monuments that honor the veterans of every war except the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf War of 1991. There are Vietnam War Memorials in Portland, Canby, Newport and a new memorial is under construction in Medford. Many communities have established memorials and parks that honor veterans from all wars.

The community of Boring, Ore., dedicated a Vietnam War Memorial at its Boring Station Trailhead Park on Sept. 21, 2018, which was POW-MIA Recognition Day. A portion of the dedication ceremony included the raising of the POW-MIA Flag for the first time over Boring.

The dedication ceremony also paid tribute to Gold Star Mothers

and Gold Star Families as the community honored 41 Clackamas County warriors who gave the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

A group of Oregon residents is proposing a Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds. This proposed memorial will honor all who served during the Vietnam War Era, regardless of their duty station. Special reverence for those who served in Vietnam and those Oregonians that perished in Vietnam will be included.

Also, this memorial is planned to have tributes to all Gold Star Families, Oregon's Prisoners Of War and those Missing In Action.

Perhaps you can take some time and review the proposed Vietnam War Memorial on the Oregon State Capitol Grounds (www.vietnamwarmemorialfund.org.) The motto for this project is: "Let us honor our warriors and remember the fallen."

Those of us who never wore a military uniform should give special consideration to POW-MIA Recognition Day and Gold Star Mother's Day with a resolve to honor all who served and sacrificed. We must also remember their families.

These sacrifices were made so that we can live as a free people.

Let us never forget.

Steve Bates has resided in Boring, Ore., for 42 years and is a Life Member of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America. He serves as Chair of the Committee on Memorials & Remembrance and President of the Vietnam War Memorial Fund.

LETTERS

THANKS FOR OSPIRG COVERAGE

Thanks so much for the excellent coverage by the *Siuslaw News* ("College Students Pick Up Plastic At South Jetty," Aug. 4) of the OSP-IRG students, the beach clean-up, the push to ban polystyrene foam statewide, and of the participation by us locals.

While we know that what we did won't make a large dent in this enormous problem, we will continue to physically collect this trash on our beaches, as well as politically pressure our elected officials.

We and they must find a solution that will protect our environment

from this pollution.

It's time to join the OSP-IRG students in urging Sen. Arnie Roblan and Rep. Caddy McKeown to also stand up and be part of the solution by promoting and voting to ban single-use foam cups and take-out containers.

—Pat and Mike Allen
Florence

YES, WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH

The Preislars in the recent Letter to the Editor "Have You Had Enough?" (Aug. 4) asked if we've had enough.

We have.

We've had enough of ill-educated, emotional and patently false demonizing.

We are tired of falsehoods and spin by the media and those dumb enough to swallow it without bothering to actually do some research.

We are shocked to read mention of civil war as if it were a paintball game.

We are worried that there will be no United States for our children and grandchildren to inherit.

My grandmother cautioned, "Be careful what you wish for. You might just get it."

—Ian Eales
Florence

USPS# 497-660 Copyright 2019 © Siuslaw News

Siuslaw News

Published every Wednesday and Saturday at 148 Maple St. in Florence, Lane County, Oregon. A member of the National Newspaper Association and Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association. Periodicals postage paid at Florence, OR. Postmaster, send address changes to: Siuslaw News, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; phone 541-997-3441; fax 541-997-7979. All press releases may be sent to PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

Jenna Bartlett
Ned Hickson
Susan Gutierrez
Cathy Dietz
Ron Annis

Publisher, ext. 318
Editor, ext. 313
Multimedia Sales Director, ext. 326
Office Supervisor, ext. 312
Production Supervisor

DEADLINES:

Wednesday Issue—General news, Monday noon; Budgets, four days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Monday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Monday noon; Display classified ads, Friday 5 p.m.

Saturday Issue—General news, Thursday noon; Budgets, two days prior to publication; Regular classified ads, Thursday 1 p.m.; Display ads, Thursday noon; Display classified ads, Wednesday 5 p.m. Soundings, Tuesday 5 p.m.

NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$79; 6-month in-county, \$56; 10-week subscription, \$25; Out of Lane County — 1-year subscription, \$102; 6-month out-of-county, \$69; 10-week subscription, \$35; Out of State — 1-year subscription, \$134; E-Edition Online Only (Anywhere) — 1-year subscription, \$65.

Mail subscription includes E-Edition.
Website and E-Edition: TheSiuslawNews.com

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.

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.

POLITICAL/ELECTION LETTERS:

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.

Email letters to:

nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com

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

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

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
www.merkley.senate.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

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@oregonlegislature.gov

STATE REP. CADDY MCKEOWN (DIST. 9)
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1409
Email: rep.caddymckeown@oregonlegislature.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