

**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)



## The danger of forgetting our 'Day of Infamy'

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

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.

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.

### From the Editor's Desk *Ned Hickson*

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 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 surface each year — much like the

In an age when many of our 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 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

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.

## Looking forward to leaving the chaos behind

**(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.)**

In reading the Guest Viewpoint by Cliff Worley in the *Siuslaw News* on Dec. 5 ("Without a Voice, We Will Lose Our Democratic Republic"), I agree that we will lose our Democratic Republic if we don't use our voices through our right to peaceful protest and our right to vote. However, my view of where the threats to our way of life are coming from differ from Mr. Worley's. I don't view the Governor's stay-at-home orders, limits on the size of gatherings or mask mandates as "punishment." We are experiencing an out of control virus that is currently killing about the same number of people every day as we lost on 9/11. We have lost nearly 300,000 souls, so far. This is a public health crisis. The current President abdicated responsibility and left each state's Governor to manage the crisis. And every state has a different response. I am grateful for Governor Brown's efforts to flatten the curve and keep our hospitals from being overwhelmed and filled to capacity. If we follow the Governor's directions, we will keep our community members, friends, family and ourselves healthy. The research saying lockdowns

"do more harm than good" are few and far between, or come from folks who have almost no epidemiological background. Scott Atlas, who has the ear of the current President, is a neuro-radiologist. He reads MRIs. While I am sure he is excellent at his job, he has no knowledge or experience with infectious diseases as I understand it.

### GUEST VIEWPOINT By Marybeth Marengo Florence

From my perspective, the current President is the biggest threat to both our health and our democratic way of life. If he mentions the virus at all, he says we're "rounding the corner." Maybe we are. But it's the wrong corner. Cases and deaths are nearly doubling every day in this country. The U.S. represents about 4 percent of the world's population and we are leading the world in the number of cases and deaths. Our President has never acknowledged the massive death toll from this virus, or expressed any real sympathy to the devastated families left behind. Neither Governor Brown nor Portland Mayor Wheeler condoned the violence in Portland; they ob-

jected to the President sending unasked for federal agents to "help." They arrived in unmarked black vehicles, dressed in black, no identifying insignias and no identification. They then proceeded to randomly grab peaceful protesters and violent thugs alike and shoved people into their vehicles refusing to identify themselves or read people their rights, and refused to answer whether folks were being arrested. This is Nazi-like behavior; it is wrong in a Democracy. The President is currently filing one unsuccessful lawsuit after another in an attempt to void the will of the voters. He is working to silence the voices of 80 million voters while he pursues his own interests. He views the Department of Justice as his personal attorney to wield its power to investigate and prosecute his political enemies for phantom crimes while enriching himself from taxpayers' money. He wants to make laws. In a democracy, Congress makes the laws. Watching his rallies reminds me of watching Hitler's rallies in the 30s, or Jim Jones at Jonestown in the 70s. If we ignore the past, we are doomed to repeat it. I may not agree with Joe Biden on all issues, but I am looking forward to a President who will obey the laws and work to protect American citizens. I am looking forward to leaving the chaos behind.

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