

**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)

## LETTERS

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

### IT'S TIME TO BE AN AMERICAN

After reading the Opinion page on Sept. 4, I was truly saddened. The fact that no one seemed to have taken the time to honor the 13 service members who paid the ultimate price to defend our nation and extend the reach of freedom beyond our shores is disheartening.

Can we all just take a deep breath and stop for a few minutes to just be an American, instead of constantly being divided against each for one reason or another?

I would like to take the time to honor the fallen, thank them for their service to our county and send my deepest sympathies and prayers to their families.

The Sept. 2 attack outside the Hamid Karzai International Airport Kabul, Afghanistan, killed 13 U.S. service members supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Eleven Marines, one Navy corpsman and one soldier were killed as the result of an enemy attack while supporting non-combatant evacuation operations.

For the Marine Corps, the deceased are:

- Sgt. Johnny Rosario Pichardo, 25, of Lawrence, Massachusetts, assigned to 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Naval Support Activity Bahrain.

- Sgt. Nicole L. Gee, 23, of Sacramento, Calif., assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 24, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. She was a ground electronics transmission systems maintainer assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 24, a subordinate unit of Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

The other Marines were assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif..

The servicemen were members of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, currently forward-deployed with the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, which deployed in February and scheduled to return later

this fall. They were tasked to assist with the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy, U.S. citizens, special immigrant visa applicants, and those Afghans who worked alongside our troops, served alongside of them, and provided invaluable assistance to them.

- Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover, 31, of Salt Lake City, Utah. His military occupational specialty was 0369, infantry unit leader.

- Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, Calif., a rifleman.

- Cpl. Daegan W. Page, 23, of Omaha, Neb., a rifleman.

- Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez, 22, of Logansport, Ind., a rifleman.

- Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Texas, a rifleman.

- Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz, 20, of St. Charles, Mo., a rifleman.

- Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum, 20, of Jackson, Wyo., a rifleman.

- Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., a rifleman.

- Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikou, 20, of Norco, Calif.

For the Navy, the deceased was:

- Navy Corpsman Maxton W. Saviak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio, assigned to 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

For the Army, the deceased was:

- Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tenn. Knauss was assigned to 9th PSYOP Battalion, 8th PSYOP Group, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

Thank you.

— Lois Worley  
Dunes City

### CONSTITUTION DAY

Sept. 17 is Constitution Day, a day which will live in glory. Both James Madison in #37 of the Federalist Papers and Alexander Hamilton in a later Federalist described "the finger of God" and an "Almighty Hand" in the architecture of such a document, with so many diverse interests and opinions sculpting its every time honored principle.

There has never and will never be such an inspired treatise governing a nation such as America.

In June 1787 at the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin said, "the longer I live, the more convincing proof I see of this truth — that God governs

in the affairs of men."

As an octogenarian, he was so amazed in September 1787 of their success that, as Madison wrote in his magisterial notes of the Convention, "the old man wept."

Therefore must we not weep today as in 2021 our shared Constitution has no resemblance to the "limited" government prescribed by the Framers.

Section 1 clause 8 enumerates Congress limited role on what they can spend. They have long ago violated that enumeration. The general welfare clause in said document only pertains to what is enumerated in the previous section, and therefore has been grossly violated based on faulty Court interpretation. Other things like abortion are not a right, but are a wrong later made up as Constitutional thanks to crackpot judges.

Yes, Sept. 17 should be celebrated as a great day in which an inspirational document has been bequeathed to a great nation.

May our youth learn its lessons and save America for posterity. They can start by putting back Robert E Lee's monument, for truth be told he was for preserving a very important principle of our Constitution, state's rights. But in today's anarchistic climate, American history is being lost and God forbid our Constitution.

May He and we save what's left of our former Republic.

— Joel Marks  
Florence

### A COUNTER PERSPECTIVE

The recent viewpoints concerning the Western Lane Ambulance District appear to be strawman arguments against Mr. Farnsworth and Mr. Marks, who never disparaged the quality and range of service provided by WLAD.

Rather, these brave gentlemen fulfilled their responsibility to notify the public of a salary stratagem that is unsustainable given the current funding of \$0.77 per \$1,000 tax assessed value. Are we on the hook for a massive and growing \$3.4 million dollar unfunded liability?

I challenge these guest viewpoint writers, and Chief Michael Schick, to directly address this unfunded liability with the honesty and transparency our community deserves.

— Bill Shepard  
Mapleton

## Siuslaw News

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The *Siuslaw News* welcomes Letters to the Editor and Guest Viewpoints as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level. 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.

Email letters to [cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com](mailto:cmeyer@thesiuslawnews.com)

### TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION:

Letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large. In addition:

- Letters reflect the opinion of the writer. The *Siuslaw News* cannot verify the accuracy of all statements made in letters. Authors should ensure any information is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay, and include sources where possible.

- Letters have a suggested 300-word limit and may be edited for grammar and clarity.

- Authors must sign their full name and include their street address (only city will be printed), as well as a daytime phone number and/or email address for verification. The person who signs the letter must be the actual author. *Siuslaw News* does not accept anonymous Letters to the Editor.

- *Siuslaw News* will not print form letters, libelous letters, business promotions or personal disputes, poetry, open letters, letters espousing religious views without reference to a current issue, or letters considered in poor taste. Letters also may not be part of letter-writing campaigns.

- Writers are limited to one published letter every two weeks.

### TO SUBMIT TO THE SIUSLAW NEWS:

Emailed submissions are preferred. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed.

The newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

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