

Opinion

Mr. President, you took an oath to uphold the constitution

Sunday morning, in an interview on NBC's Meet the Press, President Donald Trump was asked if he has to 'uphold the Constitution,' and he said 'I don't know'. Well, I know the answer to that question. He does. He took an oath on January 20, of this year to support the constitution. The oath he took for a second time is as follows.

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The constitution requires the oath be spoken and requires that the oath taker either swear or



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

affirm the oath.

It is also important to know that most authorities say the presidential oath requires more than just a general oath of allegiance, they note, "The presidential oath requires much more than that general oath of allegiance and fidelity. This clause enjoins the new

president to swear or affirm: 'I will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'" Presidents are, under their oath of office, are swearing to do to the best of their ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

During a different time, I would say that for any President to say they didn't know if they have to uphold the constitution I would be appalled. Since this confession of ignorance came from President Trump, I am not appalled at all. He doesn't care what the constitution says or what the Supreme Court says and he does not have a clue what the Declara-

tion of Independence meant. He doesn't care and will not stop his quest for absolute power until the people of this country stand up to him at the ballot box.

Most of Kentucky's congressional delegation are more afraid of losing their jobs than they are of the rest of us losing our constitutional rights. President Trump blew off a question about detainees receiving court trials by saying it would take a million trials to get them out of the country.

There is something else the President doesn't know anything about and it is court trials. In 2023 there were an estimated 68.5 million court trials in the United States. While I don't know how

many court trials during 2023 were about the status of illegal immigrants, I am sure some of them were. I don't see how it could have made that much difference to hold hearings for the 200 people our government sent to El Salvador.

If I, as an American, who loves his country and the blessings it has showered down upon him, can not stand up and write these columns about the threat that President Donald Trump is to this country, who will? Our constitution says every person has a right to trial, not every citizen, not every rich or famous person, no it says every person.

President Trump and those who support him

and his policies oftribution are destroying the United States of America. We must stand up to the disinformation that comes from the White House and many members of Congress every day. We must demand that the President and all members of government follow the constitution and the rulings of the courts.

At every breath we must remind every citizen of this country that the United States of American is a nation of laws and not of men. Each of us, including the President, must follow the laws of the land. We didn't get rid of one king in 1776 so we could have another in 2025.

Our View

Trump tariffs are an abuse of power

Tuesday morning Sen. Rand Paul's office sent out a news release which re-stated the Senator's position on the tariffs put in place by President Donald Trump. Sen. Paul said that in his speech in the Senate last week he defended a core principle of the constitution, only Congress not the President is authorized by the constitution to impose taxes. In his speech he said, "Tariffs are taxes, plain and simple, and imposing them unilaterally under the guise of an "emergency" is an abuse of power."

Sen. Paul continued to say, "I support President Trump on many issues, but I will not support any President acting like a king. If we don't reclaim Congress's power to tax, we open the door to even greater abuses, Republican or Democrat."

We agree with Sen. Paul, President Trump's tariffs are an abuse of power and he will not stop this abuse until our elected officials stand up and say so.

Busy schedule brought to you by good intentions

This busy season has caused me to evaluate my life's choices. How exactly did I, a book loving, garden digging, crafting homebody suddenly have a calendar with scheduled events? I don't just have a few things penciled in here and there. I have multiple events, frequently on the same evening, five to six nights per week. As a recipient of the "Choices Lecture," at supper for the first 18 plus years of my life, I was trained to know, I have brought this upon myself.

As I look back on the choices that led me down this frenzied path, I no-



By Emily Morrison

tice a common thread. All of the commitments that lead to activities after 5:00 p.m. sprung from a desire to do good, or be good, or instill good. It was all those good intentions that brought me to this overly committed place.

When the troublesome things come marching

I've been singing this song lately.

"The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah. The ants go marching one by one, hurrah, hurrah. The ants go marching one by one. The little one stops to suck his thumb. And they all go marching down to the ground to get out of the rain. Boom! Boom! Boom!"

I've been singing it because, this week, the ants came marching into my kitchen and would not go away. However, my ants were not marching one by one. They were stepping across my countertop by the hundreds. The little one was leading the procession with a resolute cry to advance the troops. And I was futilely chasing them around my kitchen with a meat mallet and a serious intent to kill. Boom! Boom! Boom!

I pounded those suckers for days! And I used



Tales of Grace
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

long pieces of tape to pick them up by the dozens. Every morning, I set about killing those pests. By noon, their grieving families and all their little ant friends had come to take their places.

So, I turned my pest problem over to an extermination professional. No tape. No mallets. No frustration on her face. No inappropriate words on her tongue. She simply set two ant bait traps on my counter. The unwelcome

bugs picked up the poison from the traps and took it to their colony. The colony was destroyed, and I no longer have an ant problem. Hurrah! Hurrah!

I've also been reading about sin and idolatry lately. Sin is defined as any thought, attitude, or action contrary to God's will and His perfect character of love. Christian or not, most people I know have a variety of sins popping up everywhere. Like the ants in my kitchen, sinful thoughts run through our minds in masses. Sometimes, we act on them.

Also, like me and my meat mallet, Christians often try to get rid of their sins by pounding them with strong blows of morality and guilt. Then we look at the rest of the world and pound on their sins too, spreading around the contempt and shame. This response

because you just can't get enough. You won't believe how quickly two years of work above your master's will go.

Yep, it was those dog-gone good intentions that got me. Every. Single. Time.

I suppose if I am going to be a frazzled mess, dashing from one activity to another, turning in forms, fees, assignments and the like in at the last minute and fashionably late I'm glad it's all for the right reasons. Moving forward, I'm not really going to start questioning my choices until I'm not busy.

does very little to stop the swarms of sin in our lives, but it can crush a soul and shatter a heart. Boom! Boom! Boom!

Once again, like my ant problem, the only way to stop sin is to confront its place of origin. John Piper said, "Sin is what you do when your heart is not satisfied with God. Sin is the glory of God not honored, the holiness of God not revered, the person of God not loved."

So, perhaps we should spend less time pounding on sins in order to eliminate them. Idolatry within our hearts is the source of the problem. Fortunately, it is also the place of redemption.

"Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me. Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. (Psalm 5:10,12, GNT)

Memories of past movies and science fiction

I truly hope all my cold loving friends are enjoying (what? Blackberry Winter? I wore a sweater to church. I somehow thought I put them away for the season. Wrong! On the bright side, May has the most tornadoes on average and the cold air blocks them from happening. Well, that's a good thing. I was also informed at church that they didn't expect to read I was on the patio. They nailed that!

Do you have memories of movies that gave you the creeps? I certainly do. When one of my brother's worked at Calvert Drive-In (he ran the projector), I got to go to lots of movies. Some probably not advisable for a 5-6 year old. Of course these are the ones I didn't go to sleep during the showing. King Kong and Godzilla were



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

big (pardon the pun) in Hollywood, but for whatever reason they were not scary to me. There was another one however that caused me to close my eyes during the film but not when I got into bed. Probably not for a five-year-olds eyes, today they are somewhat funny. After all the special effects in 1954 were not what they are today. The

film was "Creature from the Black Lagoon". I didn't know at the time he had a name; it was "Gill-man".

Oh yes, there was a sequel to the movie, "Revenge of the Creature". Science fiction then was always a grade B movie or even lower. They didn't think there was a real audience or that anyone would take science fiction film material seriously.

Did anyone say "May the Force be with you" on Sunday? This is a take-off on "May the Force be with you" straight out of "Star Wars". Star Wars (the first film) is only behind "Gone With The Wind" as the world's top grossing films. Star Wars has had an income of three billion dollars and Gone With The Wind is somewhat over three billion dollars. Odd that the low bud-

get films like Creature had actors you never heard of (GWTW was full of Hollywood stars). In the sequel there was a lab tech that went uncredited for his part in the film. After all it was his first movie role ever. It was Clint Eastwood, ever heard of him.

Happy Mother's Day. If yours is still here, take her to dinner, visit her or least give her a call.

Happy Birthday greetings are extended to Erin Beliles, Jason Ivey, Andrew Peacock, Tina Johnson, Gary Byers and Mark Story. Celebrate your day and you know how, eat the cake.

Happy Anniversaries to Mr. & Mrs. Jason Siemor and Mr. & Mrs. Todd Devine. Celebrate your day.

Stay safe, stay well and as always, stay in touch.

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