

Opinion

I am sticking with America and I hope you will too

It should come as no surprise to anyone who reads what I publish in this space on a regular basis that I am not a fan of the current administration's policies and certainly not its leadership. But that isn't the only thing I am unhappy with.

The things I keep hearing from others who have similar views as myself about the present leadership is also troubling. There is this notion that it is okay just to not participate. This isn't the America they once knew and they don't want to be a part of it. Their disillusionment has distorted their senses.

So here is the plain truth from me. Although my Daddy always warned against looking up our family tree because he



Northwest Passage
By Loyd Ford

said we may not like what we find. Well, we did it a couple of years ago. He was right. We have our share of rascals but if what I have read is true, my family has been in this country since 1644. Mostly poor dirt farmers for which life never offered an easy way. That is who I am and I am proud of them. They

lived through a lot, kings, tyrants, oppression, poverty, wars and sometimes peace. We have a long history here and I am not going anywhere else. My family has put too much in this country to let it go down.

My Dad was the kind of guy who would literally give someone the shirt off his back. He never went to church, but he never said anything bad about going to church either. But he certainly knew very well what it meant to have to do without. He helped people when he could.

My Dad never preached to me about how to treat others. He just did it. He never realized he was setting an example for me or anyone else but he did. He was

a veteran and a patriot that worked for veterans and people who could not help themselves. He never sought recognition for what he did, in fact it made him very uncomfortable.

Despite what most of us read in sugar coated history books, America has never been a sweet daisy patch, nor has it been a willing "melting pot". The freedoms we have demand that we stand up to people who want to use fear and ignorance to control us. Walking away from this pile of chaos and hatred is not an option for me.

I know things, things I learned from my mother, include, "two wrongs do not make a right". Jesus told us that it is easier for a camel to go through

the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven. In elementary school I was taught that no man is above the law and that our nation was a democratic republic. The constitution the course it set our nation on and the rights it assigns to each of us is the key to our existence. I do not care what the current administration says or an extraordinarily flawed US supreme court ruling said, it is these things that are right and I am not going to back down on these rock-solid principles.

So, I say this to everyone who wants to walk away and quit just because some bullies scuffed us up a little bit. I am a hell of a lot tougher than they can ever imagine. The pen is mightier

than the sword and I have learned how to use it. I am not going to sit quietly while the agents of greed and hate work to dismantle our country. I intend to keep saying what is right, and oppose the sadistic mistreatment of those who can't fight back.

Each of us who believe what is happening in the United States is wrong have an obligation to stand up and make our voices count. That is what I am going to do, and I hope those who are disheartened by the choices our government is making today will find a new resolve in themselves to fight for America. My folks stuck with American and I am too.



Our View

Political parties are soon going to need independents to win

Kentucky's two major political parties should take notice. For the past few months people who are changing their political party affiliation are not choosing Democrat or Republican. The fastest growing segment of registered voters in the state are "other" or independent voters. People apparently no longer wish to be defined by a political party which may no longer be representative of their individual views.

For decades political parties have tried to pin certain hot button issues to political candidates and to their supporters as well, generally anything they can put a negative spin on. Most of us can't be defined by a single issue we have many things in everyday life that affect us, and we have many concerns not just the ones political parties get campaign donations for.

This shift to independent in Kentucky could very well be tied to individual voters who have needs that are not being met by the current leadership in either political party. The rise of the "independents" is going to have an effect in future elections. You can count on that.

Kentucky has only gone from one lopsided General Assembly to another lopsided General Assembly. The voters are seeking something new, something that represents them. Both parties are soon going to need independents to win. That might not be a bad thing for all of us.

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The Lake News

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Letters to the editor policy

The Lake News welcomes and encourages original letters to the editor about issues of community interest. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less. Letters must be signed and contain the name and address of the author. The Lake News reserves the right to edit letters. The Lake News also reserves the right to reject letters for publication.

Kentucky Press Association Member

'Community For All' evident at Ameribration

I can never fully explain to people that are not from Calvert City the essence of Ameribration. It's more than just an Independence Day celebration. It's a homecoming. A chance to be united by place and experience and love.

My family has found a spot next to Grace Garden, on the grounds of First Presbyterian Church, to view the fireworks display.



By Emily Morrison

There is room for the kiddos to move about and the garden porch chairs are mighty comfortable. At the close of the grand finale cheers of those watching along 5th Avenue carried to us a block away. It was the sound of community.

My heart was filled with joy at the sound. We celebrated together with one spirit. In that moment we belonged to one another.

Our independence is a blessing as individuals and as a nation. However, we must remember that our success depends upon our interdependence on one another. Our efforts to include each other. Our work to support one another. Our compassion to care for one another. These are the things that each of us need and make us one. Community is for all.

When the children of God meet as enemies

As the sun rose on April 6, 1862, hell broke loose in the woods and ravines near Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee. I don't say that flippantly.

The American Civil War had begun one year earlier. Although both sides thought they would quickly and easily win the war, there was no end in sight.

On that day, the Union forces commanded by Major General Ulysses S. Grant were headed south. They intended to take control of the railroad in Corinth, Mississippi. Confederate troops under the command of General Albert Sidney Johnston intended to stop them. Inexperienced men filled the ranks of both armies. It was the first battle for many of them.

As Grant's men were waking, they were caught



Tales of Grace
By Leigh Ann Northcutt

off guard by a Confederate attack. Johnston's troops rushed the unprepared Union soldiers, and the once peaceful woods near Shiloh Church on the Tennessee River became a bloody graveyard.

Cannon blasts echoed through the forest. Musket fire and screams filled the air as the battle raged for two days. When the fighting was over, 23,000 men were dead, wound-

ed, or missing, making the Battle of Shiloh one of the bloodiest conflicts in U.S. history.

Twenty-year-old Amos Mount, a Union soldier from Kentucky, described the carnage in a letter home. "It is a day that I never will forget. To see the dead lying over the field and to hear the groans of the wounded. It was one of the awfulest sites that man ever witnessed."

A few months ago, my husband and I visited the Shiloh National Military Park. We toured the exhibits in the visitor center, watched a movie detailing the chaos and devastation of the battle, and walked around Shiloh Church, pondering the irony of its name. Shiloh means "place of peace" in Hebrew.

Then, we stood on

the battlefield, and my imagination ran images of Shiloh's pain and suffering through my mind. Thirty-five hundred men, blue mixed with gray, lying together dead on the ground. Sixteen thousand wounded men praying and crying for help as they lay among their lifeless friends.

How grievous must that have been?

But, harder to grasp was the thought of what, in one form or another, happened next. Some portion of those men who met as enemies, with the intent to kill each other on that field, rose from death and walked together to meet Jesus. Enemies joined in the Spirit as children of God, embracing as brothers, and seeing each other through the eyes of love.

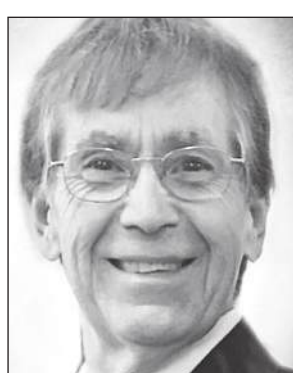
How glorious must that have been?

History of our military deserves recognition

A great big cheer for Calvert City. You did it again. The entertainment, booths, fun things for the kids, food, the museum, the parade and of course the fireworks, and if I forgot something it was probably that thousands of families and friends came to visit.

I have to mention the weather. Just to let you know that in July we will lose 38 minutes of sunlight and in August we lose 1 hour and 7 minutes of sunlight. Then it gets dark and cold.

Late Saturday afternoon (not even close to dark) I was headed out and as I was backing out of my driveway I noticed movement next door. It was a raccoon crossing my neighbors' front porch. I thought he was out early. Barely past my back yard there were three deer standing by the street watching me drive by. Apparently, fireworks didn't bother them.



My Side of the Fence
By Mike Harrell

Still keeping with the 4th of July celebration, I want to talk a little bit about the military. I'm going to start with one branch that tends to get overlooked. It is the National Guard. Of the six branches of military, it is the third largest, just behind the Navy. A couple of Presidents (Truman and Bush) were members. I'm sure you have heard of the Minutemen during the American Revolution (if not, I failed as a history teacher). That was the National Guard. They

were called that because of their quick response. It was established in the 1600s. The Army was formed in 1775 at the beginning of the American Revolutionary War. They have fought in every U.S. war since 1637. They had a division land on Omaha Beach on D-Day, considered the worst landing site of the five.

Although it seems we have been at war so many times, war has only been declared five times. They were the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Spanish-American War, WWI and WWII.

There were only 700 men in the Army when George Washington took office in 1789. It was considered wrong to have a standing army in peace time. Likewise, the Navy was also disbanded but soon restarted because of pirates. Can't say military and not talk about "A Few Good Men". While President, at the age of

73, Ronald Reagan got a recruitment letter from the Marines. He stayed on as President. I've talked about the Air Force before, but this fact escaped me, the Air Force C-5 plane is so large that it can transport a submarine.

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Justin Ross, Jennifer Pidcock, Jonathan Hart, Ella Burrus, Dara Smith, David Maddox, Kathy Ford, Kim Anderson, Garrett Todd and Nicole Walker. Celebrate your day and eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. David Arant, Mr. & Mrs. Chris McCarty, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Futrell and Mr. & Mrs. Joel Barrett. Celebrate!

By the way, I only have a limited source for these greetings and if you know someone you would like to recognize then by all means contact the office here.

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