

Standard online reader survey



General Motors has announced the return of the Chevy Blazer.

Q: What is your favorite car brand?

Ford
Chevrolet
Toyota
Nissan
Volkswagen

EDITORIAL

At the very least, we can be polite

News coming from the nation's capital Saturday morning indicated White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was kicked out of a Virginia restaurant because she works for President Donald Trump.

Sanders said via Twitter she was told by the restaurant owner in Lexington, Va., she had to leave and she said she politely left.

Sanders said the incident at The Red Hen on Friday night said far more about the owner of the restaurant than it did about her.

"I always do my best to treat people, including those I disagree with, respectfully and will continue to do so," Sanders said in the tweet, which generated 22,000 replies in an hour.

Former Arkansas Governor and Sanders' father, Mike Huckabee, responded in a tweet that the "Hate Plate" must be on the menu at The Red Hen.

This incident is a very sad commentary on how we've sunk, collectively, when it comes to political disagreements. The days where we can hold different political views and still be friends appear to be fading into the sunset.

President Trump remains very popular in Warren County and in Tennessee

overall. This is not necessarily the case in other parts of the country where the president's approval rating is not so glowing.

Regardless of how you feel about a person, it is undoubtedly very rude to ask them to leave because of their political affiliation. We realize private business owners have the right to deny service, but it doesn't better our plight as a nation to throw someone out of a restaurant because they work for Mr. Trump.

On a local level, it was startling when Commissioner Michael Martin yelled at people during a county committee meeting earlier this month and threw one person out of the room.

When there is so much anger on the national level, it trickles down to state and local governments and infects all of us.

Unfortunately, nastiness has become the new norm. The best way for us to move forward and continue to set the standard as the greatest country in the world is to show some concern and compassion for our fellow Americans.

We may disagree on immigration and tax cuts for the rich, but there's no reason to be hateful whether it be in person, or on social media.



WWII veterans fading fast

"D-Day vet dies at 93." That headline in the *Southern Standard* last Wednesday announced the death of World War II combat veteran and former POW William Magness Jordan. He was on the cusp of 94 when he died peacefully last Sunday at his home with his loved ones gathered around him.

The death of the man most we knew as Magness Jordan serves as a poignant reminder of the passing of the WWII generation. As each day passes, the memories of that long-ago war, with its sights, sounds, tragedies and triumphs, fade even further.

Facing the inexorable fate of Father Time, the brave American men and women who fought and helped win World War II are now in their late 80s and 90s. And their numbers dwindle down to a precious few. Of the 16 million Americans who served our nation in WWII, only 558,000 were alive in 2017. And nearly 400 of them are dying by the day in 2018.

To put these numbers in perspective, we need to recall that when these 16 million Americans served and sacrificed so much, the U.S. population was only about 132 million people. That means roughly 1-in-8 Americans were in harm's way.

Nearly 292,000 were killed in action, another 114,000 died in the war, and nearly 671,000 were wounded. Thus, nearly every family in America was touched by the

heavy hand of war.

Numbing as these numbers are, we must never forget that each of these American casualties had a name, and a heart and a soul. All gave some, and those who gave all in WWII left families and loved ones behind who missed and mourned them beyond measure.

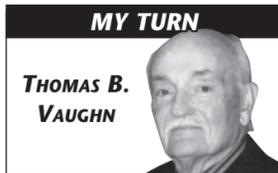
As our beloved WWII veterans continue to pass from the American scene, it is up to us, you and me, to honor them all before they fade away. One way to do that is by supporting our favorite veterans organizations. Another is by contributing to The National WWII Museum.

"There's no time to lose," said Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, President & CEO Emeritus of the Museum. "We want to be able to finish and dedicate our expansion while we still have members of the greatest generation (around) to thank for their sacrifice and service to the nation and to show the world what they mean to the principle of freedom."

Well said, Nick. I'm doing all I can to help honor our WWII veterans, including supporting the museum.

For information on how you can help the museum, too, contact their office online: info@national-ww2museum.org or call 1-504-528-1944.

Retired Army Col. Thomas B. Vaughn can be reached at tbvwm1@blomand.net.



MY TURN

THOMAS B. VAUGHN

It is OK if we disagree

"The problem is not that we disagree, but that our disagreements have become so callous, emotional and inconsiderate," wrote Michael Wear in his book "Reclaiming Hope." Wear used to work for President Obama on faith-based and neighborhood partnerships.

I was reading through "Reclaiming Hope" just hours after a memorial Mass for Michael Potemra, my colleague at *National Review*, the other day. He was an excellent editor, but Mike didn't agree with every word of the magazine published. None of us do, but he'd at least be funny about it.

The same day of Mike's memorial Mass, Melania Trump wore that jacket on the plane to visit migrant children who had been separated from their parents. "I really don't care, do u?" the jacket read. To me, it seemed pretty clear what it was about from the get-go.

Wasn't there obsessive coverage recently about her having "gone missing" from the public eye after surgery? I'm convinced the whole business with the jacket will get her husband's party more votes in the midterm elections.

That's where we are in America today. No Trump started the fire. As Wear put it, "Donald Trump is responsible for his actions, but the table was set for his election by what we deemed acceptable in our politics -- and in ourselves. ... The polarization of our politics and our communities is a defining feature of modern American life. Our inability to understand and empathize with our neighbors is straining our society to its breaking point."

Wear goes on: "Our politics is now

predicated on making those who disagree with us beneath our notice. This is to the benefit of those who run for office and of the interest groups structured to ignore alternative viewpoints. But it is not at all to our collective benefit. We the people cannot allow our neighbors to become invisible, for doing so makes living together peaceably and fruitfully nearly impossible."

Charles Krauthammer died the same day as the memorial Mass for Mike. I only knew him a little, compared to many friends who worked with him day in, day out on Fox

News and elsewhere. But he taught me about things fundamental to Christianity.

In his final column, Charles wrote: "I believe that the pursuit of truth and right ideas through honest debate and rigorous argument is a noble undertaking. I am grateful to have played a small role in the conversations that have helped guide this extraordinary nation's destiny."

Wear cites C.S. Lewis: "A sick society must think much about politics, as a sick man must think much about his digestion. However, if either comes to regard it as the natural food of his mind -- if either forgets that we think of such things only in order to be able to think of something else -- then what was undertaken for the sake of health has become itself a new and deadly disease."

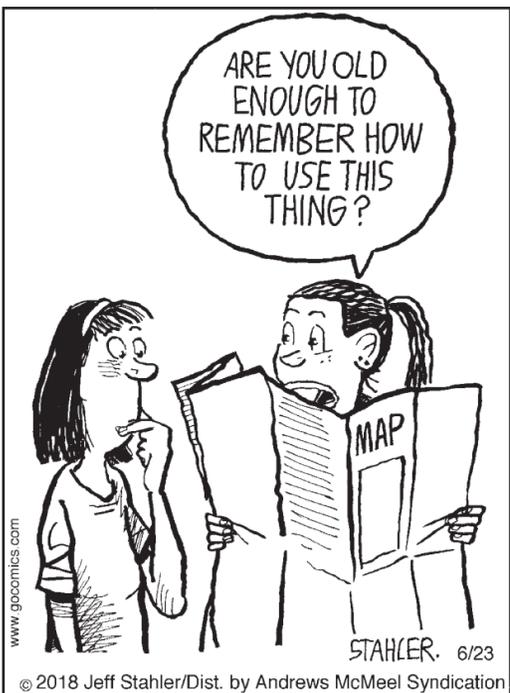
A better politics requires us being better. Good men come and go, daily, who remind us it's possible, even among a nation of pundits.

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COLUMNIST

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