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Editorial & Opinions

ENOUGH

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"Create an interactive environment that facilitates debate among readers on issues concerning them," Jeff Jobe, 1998

"Because you have stood with us in the past; we commit to never allow pressures to stop us from standing for you today," Jeff Jobe, 2010

Gratitude



JENNIFER MOONSONG
Central Division,
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In the midst of what many are calling a national crisis, which is probably more aptly defined as a global crisis, a slue of new memes have been circulating on social media.

One group of memes that are popular right now are designed for mothers who are complaining about being home with their kids. They usually depict depressed, irritable moms making a snarky comment about hating having their kids home, and the inconvenience of the non-traditional, home bound studies.

Naturally, all of the changes that flooded into everyone's life with the onset of the COVID-19 crisis have been challenging for mothers and everyone else; But I think it's time to stop complaining, and get a firm hold on reality.

While you're complaining about your kids being home, there are children in hospitals across America who may or may not go back home. Children are dying from this virus, and more still are suffering through it.

For the last week, the days have been long but rewarding.

Waking up early, going to bed late, conducting home school, working at all hours, and cooking three meals a day for a growing boy who is full of questions about pandemic hasn't been easy. But I refrain from complaint.

Conducting home school and building blanket forts means I have a healthy, inquisitive kid.

Cooking three meals a day means I have food. Working at all hours means I have plenty of work, when many people around the country lost their jobs amidst the economic windfall. Getting up early means having reasons to rise and shine.

I think it's important that we all keep that in perspective at this critical time in history.

And keep your routines, it will make you feel better.

Even if you're working from home, get up, get dressed and greet the day. Many are focused on what they can't do. They can't take the kids to the arcade, they can't shop at the mall, or go out for dinner, or plan a trip to the beach.

Here are things you can do: Go outside. Take the time to cook a meal. Eat healthy, take a walk, read a book, create something; Find something constructive for your mind and body. Perhaps in the midst of it, you'll find some gratitude.

Russell County Public Library announcement



Cheyenne Popplewell
The Times Journal

Russell County Public Library Director Lindsey West-erfield made an announcement on Thursday, March 26th, 2020 via Russell County Public Library Facebook Page. She was proud to say that the sun was shining and we as Russell Countians have a lot to be happy about. Bringing to listeners and now to readers she wanted to update the public to some of the new procedures to follow during this COVID-19 Pandemic.

Effective March 26th, 2020 was the last day the Russell County Public Library will be able to offer curbside pick-up. She said that her and the library staff have loved providing curbside service

to everyone. Lindsey stated that the library is going off recommendations to take from the state level. Also, effective immediately the book drop, which is located outside the library will be locked and closed. No returns will be accepted during this period. However, she assured everyone whom have items checked out at the library will have no fines or late charges.

"This is what is best for the safety of our community and our staff" Lindsey stated. She goes on to say, "We at the library put a premium and a priority on serving and protecting."

The library wants all of #teamkentucky to know they look forward to serving you very soon!

OPINION:

America's Finest Moment – Let Us Make It So

by Robert Charles, National Spokesman for the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]

At the height of Britain's defense in WWII against a horrific plague of German bombs and rockets, facing enormous odds, population fearful, deaths mounting, Prime Minister Winston Churchill did an amazing thing – he declared that moment Britain's "finest hour." He was positive, prescient and right. His words have resonance for Americans – for us – today.

Historical analogies are risky, riskier when applied across cultures, borders and wide stretches of time. But they can also be accurate. In June 1940, after Nazi Germany had overrun Poland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, Romania and finally France, the inimitable Winston Churchill took history in hand, as only he could do.

The Battle of Britain ranged before his little country, casualties already projected to be large, even without the benefit of computer models. He knew the scourge had taken out allies, leaving many dead and his own country filled with dread. He also knew that victory is as much a matter of attitude, spirit and unified action as projected numbers of dead.

Accordingly, with a kind of confidence and calm, collected projection of facts, and grip on both leadership and crisis-shaping, Churchill gave a speech. He took to the House of Commons on June 18, 1940. With absolute conviction, he said the following:

"Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duty and so bear ourselves that if the British Commonwealth and Empire lasts for a thousand years, men will still say, 'this was their finest hour'."

The speech was filled with hope, but also with unshakable resolve. It was about facts and the world as it was, but also about how he expected a nation united by the will to win – could and would do so.

What followed was not easy. Many projected the nation would fold, splinter, divide by class or geography, miss the point, or get the point and allow fear to control individual and collective psychology. None of those things happened.

Instead, as if Churchill had willed courage and fiber to his nation, as if he knew the British national character better than many knew themselves, as if he were – by force of faith, will and courage – able to shape historic events, the nation became unified and unstoppable.

The facts did weigh on the nation, and on individuals. They lost thousands in weeks, with others left maimed. They had to wrestle their fears, isolation and loss – as any population under attack does. But they did not succumb to fear. They did not allow international or domestic pressures to erode confidence in themselves, each other, their future or their ability to confront and defeat their foe.

This is the moment in which we live, facing a different kind of foe, in a different time, ripped by different fears, but united in the unrivaled and historically victorious spirit of the British in 1940 – a people who refused to be knocked sideways, refused to give way to circumstance or malice, who resolved not to be divided, but to come to each other's aid and to prevail.

This is also America's spirit, from earliest days to now. What divides us, what seeks to weaken, shake and subdue us – has never been allowed to do so, not for long. We rise and confront our adversaries, external forces unfairly imposed and domestic demons over which we must – as one people – triumph.

So that is it, the seminal historic analogy, or one of them. We have within annals of our history a thousand examples of this spirit, on countless physical battlefields and in the conflict of ideas, at family and platoon level, at division, army and the national level.

The burden on us now, at this exact time, is to put down the sabre of differences that do not matter, to consciously displace fear and carping with resolve and determination – to do what we know is right, listen to national and state-level leaders, put aside pride and politics for compassion, facts and action.

This is our moment, such that if the American experiment should last a thousand years, men and women will look back and say, "this was their finest moment." Let us make it so. We can, we should, we must.

Robert Charles is a former assistant secretary of state for President George W. Bush, former naval intelligence officer and litigator. He served in the Reagan and Bush 41 White Houses, as congressional counsel for five years, and wrote "Narcotics and Terrorism" (2003) and "Eagles and Evergreens" (2018), the latter on WWII vets in a Maine town.



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