



Letters & Opinions

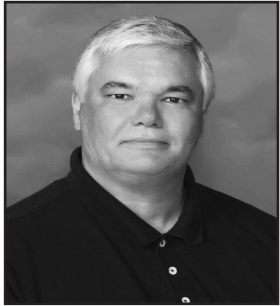
Amendment 1 - "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press ... or the right of the people to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

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Opinions

Fear Not!

Fear not!" These are the most often repeated sentiments of angels to men written in the Bible. Perhaps 2020 is the year we need to hear and heed these words as we approach another year of uncertainty.



Daniel L. Gardner

In "A Charlie Brown Christmas," Linus reads Luke's account of angels announcing God's Gift to shepherds.

"8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

2020 began as just another year in America in which the LEFT would continue its relentless efforts to remove the evil President Trump from the White House. There were the usual impeachment ceremonies as well as the usual negative, whiney narratives on cable and broadcast news. New York Times and Washington Post led the nation in fact-challenged accusations.

And, then, COVID-19 crept into news cycles and

swept the world into a trash heap of fear.

Since March we've been shamed into wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands, and locking down to stem the curve. For two weeks. For a month. For how long? Follow the science, the latest science because the science since March has been a bit unsettled.

Nevertheless, we've seen impossible miracles this year! The evil President Trump announced Operation Warp Speed May 15, and the chattering nabobs of noise and news proved over and over again the impossibility of having a COVID-19 vaccine by the end of the year! This noise and news continued until ... a week after the election when Pfizer announced a vaccine that was 95% effective.

This past Sunday, CNN, perhaps the most disciplined purveyor of The Narrative LEFT, reported the evil President Trump's plan to declare Martial Law. Seriously? Both of evil Trump's predecessors were prepared to declare martial law toward the end of their tenures.

Americans are tired. Many are just plain mad! And about half of us are giddy we've finally deposed the evil President Trump! Yes! Let's send manufacturers to Mexico and overseas! Put our workers back on welfare and food stamps! Pour trillions of dollars into regulations to combat climate change! And, TEAR DOWN THE WALL!

It's Christmas time. Fear not. Relax with family and friends. Give gifts to family, friends, and especially to those in need, commemorating the greatest gift ever given. This world is not all there is. There is much, much more to come!

Thankfully, the world's fate is not in the hand of governments, authorities, or politicians. God has given us a brighter hope. He has given us "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Fear not!

Daniel L. Gardner is a syndicated columnist who lives in Starkville, MS. You may contact him at PJandMe2@gmail.com.

Ocala Installs Florida's First Safe Haven Baby Box

The City of Ocala has installed the first Safe Haven Baby Box in Florida at the MLK First Responder Campus (505 NW MLK Jr. Avenue, Ocala). The Safe Haven Baby Box will be available to the public starting on Tuesday, December 15th after the Safe Haven Baby Box Unveiling Event at 4:00 PM. The Safe Haven Baby Box is positioned on the southwest corner of the fire administration lobby tower. This is the first Safe Haven Baby Box available in Florida and the 53rd in the nation.

The Safe Haven Law allows people to surrender their unharmed newborn without fear of criminal prosecution. The Safe Haven Baby Box provides a last resort option to surrender an infant, eliminating the face to face interaction with emergency medical personnel and ensuring a safe surrender of a newborn infant. Florida ranks fourth in the nation for the number of infant abandonments in the past 4 years with more than 20 reported.

Safe Haven Baby Box Inc. is a non-profit founded by firefighter and paramedic Monica Kelsey. Kelsey was abandoned as an infant and is committed to installing more Safe Haven Baby Boxes in communities across Florida. "We know that education and awareness around the Safe Haven Laws and Safe Haven Baby Boxes save lives. Women in crisis need more options, in more locations throughout the state of Florida. This Safe Haven Baby Box will serve as a new resource available to end infant abandonment in Florida," says Monica Kelsey.

The Safe Haven Baby Box organization also staffs a 24-hour hotline (1-866-99BABY1) to give women the opportunity to talk to a trained professional as they consider safely surrendering their baby. The hotline has received over 5,000 calls from all states in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

"As an organization, we are proud to find innovative ways to serve our community," said Ocala Fire Rescue Fire Chief Shane Alexander. "The Safe Haven Baby Box will enhance our ability to aid mothers in crisis by offering secure and anonymous means to surrender a newborn child safely."

There are currently more than 50 other fire stations and hospitals in Indiana, Ohio, and Arkansas equipped with Safe Haven Baby Boxes. Ten infants have been placed in Safe Haven Baby Boxes, with 6 taking place in 2020. Nationwide, 86 parents have safely surrendered their infants with the help of the Safe Haven Baby Boxes program.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes are equipped with alarm systems to notify 9-1-1 immediately. Safe Haven Baby Boxes also have heating and cooling features and lock as soon as the baby is placed inside. It costs roughly \$15K to install a Safe Haven Baby Box.

For more information about Safe Haven Baby Boxes, please visit www.shbb.org or send questions by email to shbb@safehavenbabyboxes.com.

Letters To The Editor

Letters, or comments, are welcome on any subject. All letters are subject to be edited for length and contents.

In most cases, in criticisms of private citizens, names will be omitted. If the criticism is directed at political or government figures, the names will be printed, if the criticism is directed at their decisions affecting government.

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