

# OPINION

**THE CHRONICLE**  
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Celebrating 40 Years of Community Journalism

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## Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Heed domestic terrorism in its various manifestations

U. S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch delivered a blunt message [recently] that is worth remembering as we assess the risks and hazards in the world around us.

"Hate crimes themselves are the original domestic terrorism" Lynch said in her first official visit to Durham, where she grew up and attended high school, since she became attorney general.

She harkened back to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001, and then harkened back even further.

"I remember literally after 9/11 talking to civic groups about the trauma the country faced with those recent terrorist attacks, and reminding them that many of our citizens had been subjected to similar ones in the past."

Her remarks, in the wake of the massacre of nine African-Americans at a Charleston, South Carolina, church, also touched on tragedy closer to home – the slaying in Chapel Hill of Deah Barakat, Yusor Abu-Salha and Raza Abu-Salha. Lynch said she could offer no updates on the Department of Justice inquiry into whether that was a hate crime ...

In recent months, we've been reminded often that, while not dismissing the threat of international terrorism, we would do well to heighten our focus on the domestic terrorism to which Lynch referred. In February, the Southern Poverty Law Center published a study that concluded the majority of domestic terrorism comes from "lone wolves," disturbed individuals acting alone like the Charleston suspect, Dylann Roof

The center's study "included violence from both the radical right and homegrown jihadists," a press release from the center reported. But the center particularly called on federal agencies to "reinvigorate



Lynch

**"Hate crimes themselves are the original domestic terrorism"**

—Attorney General Loretta Lynch

their work studying and analyzing the radical right," SPLC's Mark Potok said.

The domestic terrorism numbers are widely acknowledged to be understated. Some police agencies fail to report them to national databases. And some victims may not report hate violence because of "a sense that nothing will be done," Richard Cohen, president of the law center, wrote in The Washington Post. "This is particularly troubling," he wrote, "because we're in the midst of a strong – and often violent – backlash to the growing diversity and tolerance in our country."

We've seen too many manifestations of that backlash and will sadly no doubt see more. That's why the new attorney general's admonition to heed domestic terrorism here [recently] was so very resonant.

FROM THE (DURHAM) HERALD-SUN



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Over 3,500 people from across the state and nation gathered in Winston-Salem on July 13 for the Mass Morial Monday March for Voting Rights.

### W-S showed the nation how to handle march, rally

To the Editor:

Greetings and Thanks to All Supporters!

On behalf of the more than 60 members of the March for Voting Rights Winston-Salem Organizing Committee, Kim Porter and I, Mr. Isaac Howard, President of the Winston-Salem Branch NAACP and Rev. Dr. William Barber, President of the NC State NAACP, we would like to simply express our appreciation and say thank you for providing gracious hospitality, protection and professionalism toward the more than 6,000 citizens and visitors last week in preparation for March, Rally and Voter Suppression Trial.

Community leaders and residents from this city and surrounding areas were well received with excellent service. Visitors who came from cities across the state of North Carolina and many other states told us how impressed they were with our city and felt great hospitality as soon as they arrived.

The City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Mayor Allen Joines and the City Council greeted, welcomed and assisted visitors to our city in a courteous and friendly manner.

We especially want to express our profound gratitude to the professional and efficient police officers of the City of Winston-Salem, and others

within our Public Safety Department, who were instrumental in creating an atmosphere for a peaceful demonstration from the start of the week of activities until the end of the week. Participants felt very safe under the vigilant watch of our public safety officials.

The Public Works and Sanitation professionals extended fine service during the week prior to the march until the end of the various events, including an exceptional job rendered the day of the march and rally.

Due to the heat factor, some of the marchers experienced some fainting incidents; however, because of the excellent training and expertise of the Forsyth County Emergency Medical Service and the Winston-Salem Fire Department, people were given prompt attention and these incidents were taken care of in a professional, timely manner. Because these workers took care of these emergencies so quickly, the rally and march continued without interruption.

During the educational teach-ins at various libraries and recreation centers in the city, the recreation workers and support persons from the Recreation and Parks Department and the Public Library demonstrated great expertise and professionalism, and we say thank you.

Servants of the people in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County showed the nation how it is done, to protect and to serve, to be government of, by and for the people. Kudos to all City and County employees who made us proud!

Linda Sutton  
 Winston-Salem NAACP  
 Secretary

### Neely School ribbon cutting set for Aug. 1

To the Editor:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the Neely School Ribbon Cutting scheduled for August 1, 2015 at the school, which is located across the street from 150 Neelytown Road, China Grove, NC.

In the early 1900s, shortly after the end of slavery, Julius Erastus and Katie McKenzie Neely were concerned that their African-American children did not have an opportunity to become educated. They lobbied family and friends along with the superintendent to assist in building and staffing a one-room school.

Over 1,400 children were educated at the Neely School from 1908–1948. In 2010, the grandchildren of the school's founders and school alumni formed a foundation to restore the school building to its prior appearance. The school is located on the Neely Family Home Site, which also includes a nature trail to the original location of the Neely School.

The school has been restored and the public is invited to attend the Ribbon Cutting, which will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 1, 2015. The attire is casual.

Mary Neely Grissom  
 President/Chairman  
 Historic Neely School  
 Foundation Inc.

## We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to [letters@wschronicle.com](mailto:letters@wschronicle.com) before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, [www.wschronicle.com](http://www.wschronicle.com).

We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for clarity or brevity and determine when and whether material will be used.

We welcome your comments at our website.

Also, go to our Facebook page to comment. We are at [facebook.com/WSChronicle](http://facebook.com/WSChronicle).

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