



## Letters to the Editor

# Trump is not fit to command the military

Dear Editor,  
Watching the political ad showing a Minuteman Missile Launch Center, brought back memories. In 1973 as the Yom Kippur war between Israel and the neighboring Arab states intensified, as a missile crew launch commander, I was in an underground missile launch center in Missouri with my deputy when we received an emergency message to increase DECON to prepare for nuclear war.

As junior officers at the bottom of the nuclear chain of com-

mand, launch keys and codes in our anxious hands, we could only imagine how close we were to the end. But we trusted the President to defuse the crisis and avert a nuclear war, and to call upon us to fire only if necessary for the nation's survival. Since only he could unleash our weapons of mass destruction we felt a trustful, almost intimate connection to the very top of the chain.

We assume that presidents will grasp the power of the nuclear arsenal at their disposal and show the utmost restraint in using it.

Donald J. Trump is of a radically different ilk and temperament from past presidents. If I were back in the launch chair today, I would have little faith in his judgment and would feel alienated if he were commander in chief. I am not alone in this view. A vast majority of former launch officers in my circle of friends and acquaintances tell me they feel the same.

Missileers view their jobs as deterring our enemies from attacking the U.S. and its allies. They also know that deterrence

could fail by intent, accident or miscalculation, and that preventing such failure depends in no small measure on qualities of presidential leadership, responsibility, composure, competence, empathy and diplomatic skill that Mr. Trump evidently does not possess. As a launch officer, I would live in constant fear of his making a bad call.

Mr. Trump is seemingly blind to the importance of restraint in nuclear decision making. He shows no humility toward the civilization-ending devastation of

nuclear weapons, and offhandedly entertains their use.

Under the Constitution, no one could veto a bad call by a President Trump. The 90 launch officers who are always on duty in the Great Plains, along with their counterparts in submarines patrolling the oceans, would have no choice but to execute the most morally reprehensible order ever issued in the history of warfare.

Lt. Col. Joseph W. Hoffler,  
USAF (Retired)  
Hertford

# Republican-led Congress should shoulder the blame

Dear Editor,  
The Doom and Gloom Brothers are at it again (Oct. 13 edition). First, Mr. Calvin Lacy is playing doctor and diagnosing Hillary Clinton from his keyboard. He's never met Mrs. Clinton, but that doesn't stop him from declaring that she has multiple diseases and conditions that "puts her closer to the grave" and will cause her to "die in office." He cites Ed Klein, tabloid writer and gossip columnist, as a source. The British newspaper The Guardian identified a

number of verifiable factual errors in one of Klein's books about the Obamas. In other words, Ed Klein is not a reliable source. Take heed, Mr. Klein and Mr. Lacy. Proverbs 19:9 "A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who tells lies will perish."

Then there's Mr. Claude Milot, who doesn't have enough nasty things to say about our President. Legacies are meant to extend far forward in time, Mr. Milot. And I don't think you are unbiased or qualified enough to be able to

predict how the future will view President Obama.

Mr. Milot conveniently ignores the fact that the Republicans have control of the House and Senate, and they made it clear when President Obama took office that they would obstruct any measures he tried to take. Of course, Mr. Milot doesn't fault Congress at all. I thought we lived in a Constitutional Republic, with built-in checks and balances by the three branches of government, but Mr. Milot seems to think otherwise.

He thinks the President has absolute power and our elected representatives in Congress have had no role in governing our country these last eight years.

Well, in a way, Mr. Milot is correct. The Republican-led Congress hasn't accomplished much. They repeatedly failed to pass the budget on time. They refuse to do their job and hold hearings to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court. They failed the veterans; they failed the Zika crisis; they failed the Flint water crisis; they failed the opioid

crisis. Instead of addressing these critical issues, they chose to waste 4 years and millions of tax dollars on the Benghazi witch-hunt. Another failure.

Luckily, most Americans are not like Mr. Milot. In recent polls, Fox, Rasmussen, and Gallup found a 52 percent-56 percent approval rating for President Obama. That's in line with President George H.W. Bush's final approval rating.

Nancy Theodore  
Hertford

# Voters have a monumental choice to make this election

Dear Editor,  
When this election is over with the media pundits having over hyped and analyzed the truth into an unrecognizable smear of roadkill one undeniable fact will emerge from the carnage that the truth was recognized and established by the most unlikely source—a cartoon strip.

Amidst all the pettifoggery and demagoguery of this campaign the long simmering standoff between

the forces of contemporary conservatism and left wing ideology has been decided but not over the usual issues. They seem inconsequential at this point. Seemingly, no one felt or noticed the world wide seismic shift from a sensible degree of parity between what is considered good or evil. I'm saying world wide because cosmically morality has tanked everywhere.

The Democrats are very clear of where they want to take us and

the people don't care. It's all about the good times and the hell with the consequences. Republicans on the other hand seem constrained to a lesser degree for satiable indulgences with a menu of options they feel certain will lead them in a direction of higher purpose.

Into this roiling maelstrom of buffoonery and discontent comes Doonesbury's Mike and Kim, two cartoon characters who seem to be debating the issues when Mike

ask Kim if she knows what this election is about. Says it's about mental health and if we want or not want a sociopath as president. Kim counters by saying Mike is not a trained mental health professional to which Mike replies... I'm also not a trained ornithologist either but I know a duck when I see one. Continuing on he avers that 'if it rants like a sociopath and lies like a...' At this juncture Kim concedes that it's a 'fair point.'

So there you have it sports fans. A contest of monumental proportions for the soul of this nation between two clowns that's sure to be argued well into the next century. A liar who'll take us down the road to perdition or an unorthodox businessman with a well crafted plan to revitalize the American economy? It's your choice.

Calvin Lacy  
Hertford

# Donald Trump facing Hillary Clinton, the media and himself

Dear Editor:  
In the third debate Donald Trump had a chance to take down Hillary Clinton in front of 60 million viewers. But he blew it. He never brought up Hillary's sordid, scandal-filled past (Cattlegate, White Water, Travelgate, missing Rose Law Firm records, Vince Foster suicide, etc.); he didn't

make the case for her complicity in the criminal racketeering of the Clinton Foundation, especially the treasonous uranium giveaway to the Russians; he didn't expose her contempt for Catholics and evangelicals; and he didn't rebut Hillary's debate lies about the Heller decision and the claim that her advocacy for open borders was

about energy. He didn't even point to Hillary's pathological mendacity by recalling her outrageous lie about the Benghazi video, a lie she repeated to the parents of the murdered Americans as their caskets were rolling by.

Instead, Trump refocused the debate on himself by saying he might not support the winner of

the presidential election. For days that's all the media talked about, while giving Hillary a free pass on the corruption revealed by the WikiLeaks release of Clinton-camp emails.

For the sake of this country Hillary Clinton must not become the next President of the United States. But I don't see how Trump

can defeat her when he is facing three powerful opponents simultaneously: the corrupt Clinton machine, the biased media, and his worst enemy, an uninformed, inarticulate, thin-skinned egomaniac by the name of Donald J. Trump.

Claude Milot  
Hertford

# After the passing of HB2 who is next to lose their rights?

Dear Editor,  
We should think long and hard about returning the supporters of HB2 to office.

They have discriminated against a minority of our fellow citizens in denying basic human services and equal protection. After the transgendered, who might be targeted next? In the last century, someone very wise left these chilling words.

"First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I

was not a Jew.

Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me."

Guy Simmons  
Hertford

## Hertford lost a fine home

Dear Editor,  
The Town of Hertford lost a Grand Old Lady today (Oct. 17). The William R. White House, built in 1911, was described in "The Historic Architecture of Perquimans County" as "an impressive and handsome example of the Colonial Revival."

It was, of course, a contributing structure in Hertford's (unregulated) National Register His-

toric District. But it is no more and its loss is a travesty for the neighborhood, for the Historic District, and for the community as a whole.

The destruction of this historic gem was done by Hertford United Methodist Church. Apparently it cares more about providing unnecessary parking (it has parking areas that are unused) than it cares about its own neighborhood, its neighbors and the Historic District. Neighbors begged

the church not to destroy it, to no avail.

The church indisputably had the right to tear it down. However, having the right to do something does not mean one should do that thing.

The church showed utter disregard for the neighborhood and the Historic District. That speaks volumes.

Melanie Morris James  
Hertford

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