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Your View: Letters to the editor

Jun 21, 2017



Neosho cross should remain

The Wisconsin Freedom From Religion Foundation supports a radical strict separation of church and state (never intended by the Founding Fathers) and not currently recognized in any U.S. Supreme Court law.

They would erase and expunge our Pledge of Allegiance, "One Nation Under God"; the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier "known but to God"; and Thanksgiving and Christmas national holidays would need to go. Also gone would be our national motto, "In God We Trust." Our military would have to fire all military chaplains. We would need to climb the Washington Monument and chisel out all references to "Judgments of the Lord are Righteous," and the Liberty Bell would need to be melted down because it refers to Leviticus 25:10.

The prayer room in Congress must go, all religious paintings — including Jesus on the cross — would have to be removed from all state and national museums around the nation, Sundays could no longer be the Sabbath and now must be ignored. Our Declaration of Independence would have to be erased because it refers to God four times, and we would have to change the Missouri Preamble which reads: "With profound reverence for the Supreme Rules of the Universe, and grateful for His goodness."

Must we do away with the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and indeed our national anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner," which refer to God?

Our Constitution never required a total separation of church and state. Our laws require an affirmative "accommodation, not merely a tolerance of all religions." The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly cautioned against such a "callous indifference" which the Constitution never intended.

The Big Spring Park Cross (since 1928) is legal and should remain. Neosho city officials should be congratulated for recognizing Neosho's history, culture and traditions.

Dee Wampler

Springfield

You can't have our guns

John Crisp's column (Globe, June 20) on the opinion page attempts to confuse the public by stating guns are not the cause of the latest shooting attack on congressmen but continues to talk about the ills of gun ownership, citing many statistics concerning guns and the ills guns cause.

I doubt that Crisp is aware that more people are killed in autos than by guns. Are we to forbid autos, Mr. Crisp, or would we be wise to understand that the real culprits are those behind the wheel and those holding the firearm?

You can't have the guns. We have them, and we will continue to own them and carry them. We will defend ourselves from our government if it comes to that, as the Founding Fathers saw possible, and we will defend our families. We may even kill a deer and contribute the meat to the needy.

David Turner

Lamar, Mo.

System of care failing

National Alliance on Mental Illness knows that the U.S. system of mental health care is failing to engage many people who seek help. The first interaction between a service provider and a person seeking care for a mental health condition can start a journey to recovery and a satisfying life or leave a person unsure or hopeless about the future. With the upcoming Senate vote on health care on the horizon, NAMI-Joplin has concerns that further cuts to Medicaid will be detrimental for people seeking mental health care.

Medicaid is the single most important financing source for mental health services in the United States, covering nearly 27 percent of all mental health care in the United States and nearly half of the public mental health spending. Federal law requires state Medicaid programs to provide physician care, laboratory services, partial hospitalization and, for children under 21, early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment. State Medicaid programs typically cover a wide variety of mental health services such as case management, peer support services and psychiatric rehabilitation that are rarely, covered by private health insurance.

NAMI urges Congress to fully fund federal programs including Medicaid and supports legislation that expands access to care and services for Medicaid beneficiaries, including people seeking mental health care services.

Suzanne Gray

NAMI-Joplin board president

3 comments

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 **sethfriedman1** Jun 22, 2017
Dee Wampler,

Thank you for demonstrating just how widespread Christian privilege is. Is Christian faith so weak that it cannot stand without governmental support?

Like Reply

 **DoorknobHead** Jun 22, 2017
Dee Wampler does not understand why a secular government is so important for the freedom of religion. Yet, this isn't too uncommon -- many religion people are taught to shoot themselves in the foot by not supporting secular government.

1 Like Reply

 **Phil_Monroe** Jun 21, 2017
Mr. Dee Wampler enumerates the various ways that religion, specifically Christianity, has become so intertwined with our secular government. I'm sure he would object if the same things were changed to the Muslim religion. The Freedom From Religion Foundation educates the public about our secular constitution and tries to keep religion and government separate. The cross in question is unconstitutional as other courts have ruled on similar cases. Mr. Wampler needs to brush up on his constitutional law.

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THU 13 **Family Storytime**
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