

Statesboro Herald

statesboroherald.com

James Healy, operations manager

(912) 489-9402

jhealy@statesboroherald.com

Jason Wermers, editor

(912) 489-9431

jwermers@statesboroherald.com

Letters to the editor

The only thing we have to fear really is fear itself

Editor:

FDR's words are as pertinent today as they were in the 1930s, except this is no Great Depression.

Homicides have been cut in half in the past 25 years. Teenage pregnancies hit a record low in 2012. War is waning with the new century — the past 14 years have been incredibly peaceful compared to any decade of the 20th century and even more so if you go back further. The big "external enemy" country is now China with a single aircraft carrier, horrific environmental problems and a dangerous male/female ratio thanks to ultrasound abortions of females. Don't we owe China a lot of money? Yes, at an inflation-adjusted negative

rate on a good portion of it. Translation: China is sending us free cash!

As bad as our pension problems are, the other wealthy countries have it worse. Those currently retired will take more money out of Social Security than they put in thanks to longer and longer life expectancies. Those helping current retirees with their last year of life will be paid well as that is where over a third of medical expenses are being made. So why all the angst? Perhaps the lack of a viable external enemy is at last forcing us to focus on the real problems here at home, and what we see in the hand mirror isn't so good.

Greg Brock
Statesboro

Reader: Vote, or we'll have more of the same

Editor:

Those who have read my letters in the past know my views on voting — if you don't have enough care for your country to vote, then do not complain about the government when things do not go as you wish. As the mid-term elections get close — early voting has already started — please take the time to learn who is running, what they stand for, and why you should give them your vote. Today we — America — are in a war that effects all sectors of our society.

There are great dangers in the Islamic War being waged against us in the Middle East. While we are told it is not a war against Islam but against certain elements within Islam, I look to our so-called "allies" in the Middle East and see men who hate us, despise our way of life and only want us gone. We should never have gone in and fought the war we did, but that is now water under the bridge.

What is necessary now is to elect men and women who will get us out of the Middle East and other places where we are not wanted. It is time for America to turn within and rebuild our country. We have an infrastructure that is dangerously outdated and in need of major repair, a southern border that is hemorrhaging billions of dollars in taxpayers' money without a clear and defined set of goals, and a national government that is leaderless and in free fall and seems unable to come up with policies that work and

who cannot work together as adult men and women should.

Perhaps it is time to give the U.S. Congress to the Republicans and let them have a turn. As long as the current impasse is allowed to continue, the next two years will be the same as the last four — deadlocked. I wish that I had an easy answer for the negative atmosphere that is our national government, but I don't. I do know what is going to have to happen. We the People are going to have to shake up Washington like it hasn't been shaken in many years. To do that, we have to do away with the current attitude in Washington. Everyone who can do so must write letters to those in elected positions and tell those representatives that they work for us and that we are tired of the lack of results and it is time to get the job done or go home. We *must* tell our leaders that they are not only replaceable, but that we will replace them. Start out by going to the voting booths and continue by holding each person responsible to carry out the promises that they give.

Please take the time to study the men and women who are asking for your vote. Please take the time to vote. Your vote truly counts and if we are to have real change in our country, we must shout from the highest mountains that we have had enough. Let us take our country back.

Respectfully,
Tom Grovenstein

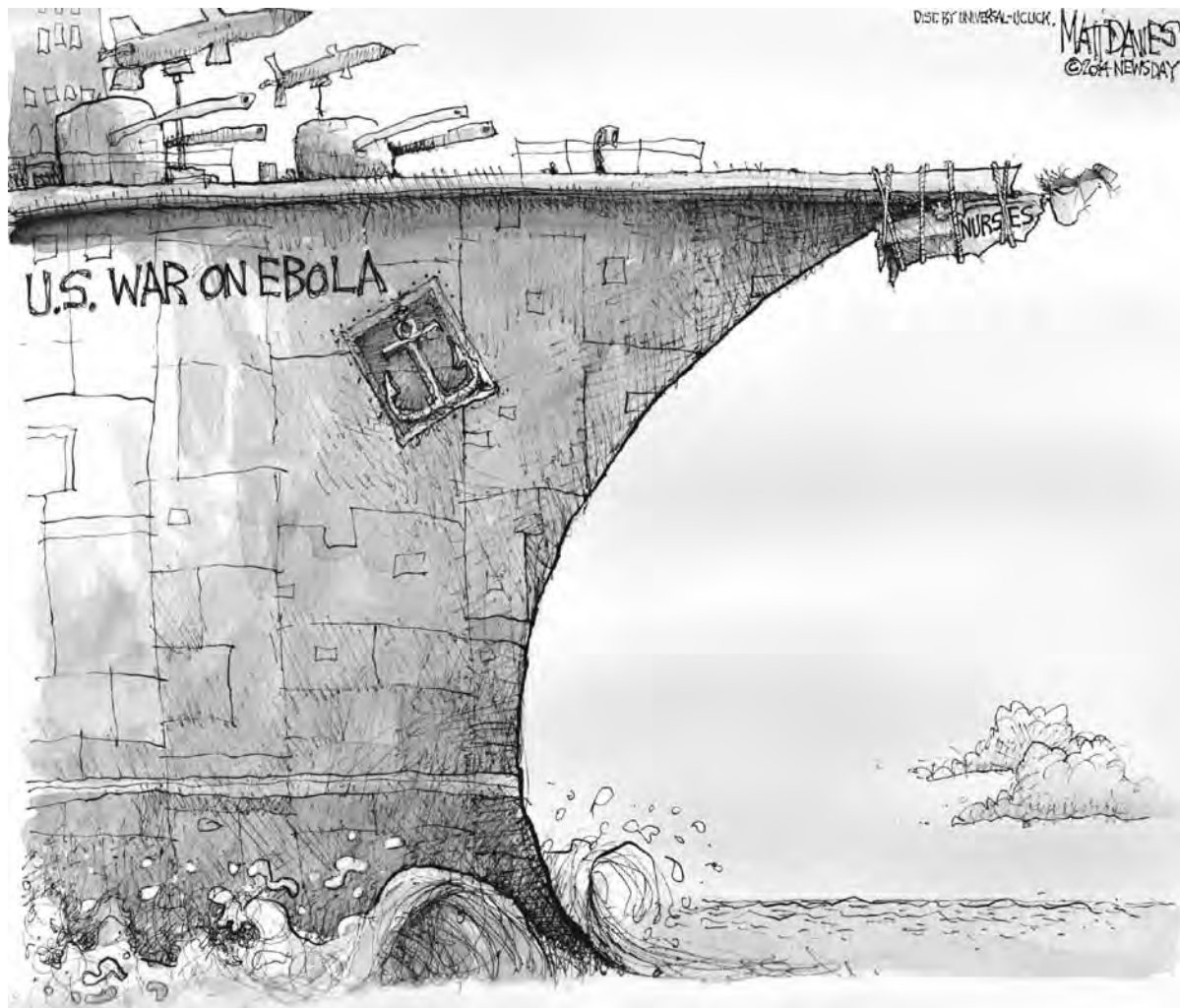
Letters to the editor

The Statesboro Herald welcomes letters to the editor. We ask that you limit your words to 300 or less. The Herald reserves the right to edit or reject any letter submitted for publication. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be considered for publication. Letters may be mailed to P.O. Box 888, Statesboro, GA 30459; faxed to (912) 489-8181; or emailed to heraldnews@statesboroherald.net.

Prayer of the Day

"O thou who dwells in light unapproachable, may the shining of your love drive the shadows from our lives, making them centers of health, cheerfulness, and courage. Break through the mists of doubt, dispelling the clouds that impede our progress and making clear the way that we should follow. In your holy Name we pray. AMEN."

— The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Cravey, retired. Please submit your Prayer of the Day to him at drrev@msn.com.



Make reckless drivers pay

Tens of thousands of Georgians live with lifelong disabilities caused by brain and spinal cord injury. As medical technology, safety and trauma care have improved more people survive traumatic injury, but many then face a lifetime of physical, behavioral and cognitive impairments requiring ongoing support services. On any given day in communities all across Georgia, survivors of brain and spinal cord injury and their caregivers gather together in support groups to share the struggles they face living with these lifelong impairments. Astoundingly, there are over 75,800 newly injured Georgians each year, and close to 50 percent of those injuries are caused by motor vehicle crashes. Many times those crashes are not caused by error of their own, but by other reckless drivers.

With early voting underway, Georgia voters have an opportunity to extend a helping hand to victims of traumatic brain and spinal cord injury who are left to deal with the aftermath of reckless acts.

As proposed on the November ballot, Amendment B would allow the Georgia Constitution to be amended to allow a surcharge to be applied to reckless driving fines that would provide much-needed grant monies for survivors left



Paige
Havens

to cope with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries.

Those funds would be directed to Georgia's Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund, who will judiciously consider applications from qualified applicants and award funds to those who need it most.

Since its creation in 1998, the Trust Fund has granted over \$20 million to eligible applicants that have resulted in over 4,600 grant awards to Georgians in need. To-date Trust Fund revenues have only been generated from a surcharge on DUI fines, but as more and more DUI offenders plead down to reckless driving charges, the funds have significantly waned through the years. Over the last five years Trust Fund revenues have dropped more than 25 percent, which has caused a tragic waitlist for applicants.

DUI plea-bargaining has taken vital funds away from Georgians who need care and rehabilitative services. Amendment B will allow us to fold reckless driving fines into the mix, which will in turn help rebuild the funds that

provide much-needed resources to Georgians with brain and spinal cord injuries.

It's important to realize that this is not a tax on law-abiding citizens.

This fee is only charged to reckless driving offenders. This is one easy way we can ensure that reckless drivers share the cost of their reckless actions and give back to those whose lives will never be the same.

Please go to the polls and vote YES for Amendment B. Share this information with your family, colleagues and friends across Georgia.

Post a note of support on your social media pages. Anything you can do to help educate others about the important need to pass Amendment B makes a big difference to so many.

To learn more about the work of the Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund, visit www.gatrustfund.org. For a flier and Frequently Asked Questions on Amendment B, visit www.braininjurygeorgia.org. On Facebook, visit Georgia Votes Yes for Amendment B.

Paige Havens is the director of planning and development for the Brain Injury Association of Georgia, which is a nonprofit organization serving individuals with brain injuries and their families, friends and service providers.

Simpson, Bowles: Barrow is 'brave'

Our nation needs to get its fiscal house in order, and to do so citizens must fully demand leaders who are willing to put partisan differences aside and come together to present the American people with honest solutions and consensus proposals that put the national interest ahead of special interests. That is why we were so disheartened to learn that John Barrow is being criticized for his support of a budget based on the plan recommended in 2010 by a bipartisan majority of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform which we co-chaired (Simpson-Bowles Commission).

The Simpson-Bowles plan is a comprehensive, tough-minded and pragmatic approach to attacking our national debt and ensuring that Social Security is fiscally sound for future generations.

Because it seeks to tackle the hard problems, it came under savage attack from partisan interests from both ends of the spectrum.

We need Members of Congress who have the guts to ignore these scare tactics and look at the substance of real solutions that will help get our great nation back on track.

Addressing the big problems

Erskine Bowles
Alan Simpson

facing our nation such as our national debt and fiscal soundness of Social Security will require our leaders to move beyond rigid ideological positions in order to work toward bipartisan solutions. By supporting a bipartisan budget based on the framework of Simpson-Bowles, John Barrow demonstrated he has the courage to take that approach to issues before Congress.

We have never claimed our plan is perfect, and we do not expect anyone, including John Barrow, to agree with every single aspect of our proposal, but we continue to believe it provides the necessary framework for bringing our mounting debt under control instead of continuing the trend of inaction and allowing pressing legislation to simply gather dust in Washington.

It is also worth noting that the Simpson-Bowles Commission report was supported by a bipartisan supermajority of 11 of the 18 members of the commission, receiving the votes of five Democrats, five Republicans and one

Independent, including Republican fiscal hawk Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma. In the ability to compromise an issue without compromising themselves we saw the work of the Fiscal Commission serve as an example of what Congress must do to address our national debt.

Congress' inability to make important compromises is truly threatening the state of our nation.

As the two of us travel the country, we find that the vast majority of our fellow citizens understand the grave threat posed by the mounting national debt and are thirsting for political leaders to demonstrate the guts, integrity and common sense needed to make the hard, tough choices so necessary to rein in the dangerous national debt.

John Barrow has demonstrated that he is willing to put partisanship aside and step forward to make those tough decisions our nation needs.

He is a brave leader who deserves the thanks of everyone who really cares about our nation's future.

Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson served as co-chairman of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.