



## Bay Minette church will overcome with God's help (Baldwin Register Letters to Editor)

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**Press-Register staff**

By



Courtesy  
Hyndman family

The Rev. Ernest Hyndman, who before his death was pastor at St. Agatha's Catholic Church in Bay Minette, was known for his warmth, intelligence and humor.

### **St. Agatha's Church grateful for kindness of people of Bay Minette**

The people of St. Agatha's Catholic Church would like to express their deep and sincere appreciation to the city of Bay Minette for their warm and gracious assistance upon learning of the death of our beloved pastor, Father Ernie Hyndman. From the mayor's office to the Police Department and the Fire Department, your kindness to us in our time of sorrow is appreciated more than you will ever know.

Thanks also to the pastors and members of the local Protestant churches that organized a memorial service for Father Ernie and for us and brought food for our nourishment. Thanks to Mayor Jamie Tillery, the Civic Center was made available for this tribute.

Very special thanks to Joe and Mary Lou Roszkowski of The Original Oyster House for their generous contribution of enough food to feed 200 people after the wake on that Monday night.

Words cannot express how devastated our little church has been over Father Ernie's untimely death but with our friends in Bay Minette and the help of God, we will overcome.

**PHILIP AND JEAN KREIS**

**and the congregation of**

**St. Agatha Catholic Church**

## **Bay Minette**

### **Fairhope couple thankful for prompt, courteous aid from fire department**

Three weeks ago, during an afternoon thunderstorm, our house in Montrose was struck by lightning. While we weren't sure if we had more damage than just a hole in our roof, we called the Fairhope Volunteer Fire Department to make sure the house was safe.

Within minutes, two fire engines and other emergency vehicles were in our driveway. My husband and I kept apologizing to everyone involved, hoping we had not overreacted, but all the emergency personnel assured us they would "rather be safe than sorry." They examined the exterior of our home and then took heat sensors into the attic to make sure nothing was smoldering. They were not just prompt but they were courteous and professional and spent the time necessary to make sure our home was secure.

We both want to thank the men and women of the Fairhope VFD. It's apparent that these volunteers spend many hours training to do their jobs. They worked together as a team and left us only after a very thorough examination of our entire premises. Thank you to the city of Fairhope and to the Fairhope VFD for a job well done.

**ROBIN FITZHUGH**

## **Montrose**

### **EPA's new emission standards bode ill for economy and the environment**

The EPA, at the behest of President Obama, is enforcing stringent emission standards on coal-fired power plants. This will cause some plants to be closed while others must undergo multi-billion-dollar modifications.

Consequently, electricity rates will increase significantly.

When presidential candidate Obama said, "Under my plan, electricity rates will necessarily skyrocket," he was not kidding. He also said he would "bankrupt coal companies."

This does not bode well for the electric/hybrid cars that President Obama wants us all to drive.

Meanwhile, the United States is exporting record amounts of coal to other countries, primarily in the Far East, which have much less stringent emission standards than the United States.

When this exported coal is burned, the resulting emissions will enter the atmosphere and will be dispersed around the world (including the United States) by the jet stream and other currents.

Furthermore, much of the mercury emissions from this exported coal will enter the oceans of the Far East. In 2009, imports made up 84 percent of the seafood eaten in the United States, most coming from the Far East. (From NOAA reports)

This example of unintended consequences will: 1. destroy more U.S. jobs; 2. raise the cost of producing goods in the United States; 3. increase home cooling and heating costs, 4. increase the level of pollutants in the atmosphere, more so than if the coal were burned in the United States; and 5. subject American consumers to more mercury in their seafood.

If President Obama and the EPA are so concerned about mercury emissions from U.S. coal-fired power plants, why are they not concerned about mercury-filled light bulbs that are being foisted on the American public by the federal government?

If President Obama had used the \$700 billion in stimulus money to upgrade power plants, instead of rewarding his supporters, U.S. power plants and American consumers would not be facing this costly dilemma.

This EPA boondoggle is just another nail in the coffin of the U.S. economy.

**D.F. GARRETT**

**Daphne**

## **Tea Party puts religion**

### **center stage, not economy**

This letter is in response to Richard Gile's letter in the Baldwin Register Aug. 21, "Citizens can speak their minds at the polls." In his latest letter he lauds the heroics of the Tea Party with his usual and predictable demonizing of President Obama and the Democratic Party. He describes the Tea Party people as "extraordinary American patriotic,

hard-working, everyday folks disenchanting with a government that is failing the people.”

Is that who the Tea Party is comprised of? A new study by Notre Dame and Harvard University published recently in the New York Times reveals a different story. Here is an excerpt from their findings:

*“Our analysis casts doubt on the Tea Party’s ‘origin story.’ Early on, Tea Partiers were often described as nonpartisan political neophytes. Actually, the Tea Party’s supporters today were highly partisan Republicans long before the Tea Party was born, and were more likely than others to have contacted government officials. In fact, past Republican affiliation is the single strongest predictor of Tea Party support today.*

*What’s more, contrary to some accounts, the Tea Party is not a creature of the Great Recession. Many Americans have suffered in the last four years, but they are no more likely than anyone else to support the Tea Party. And while the public image of the Tea Party focuses on a desire to shrink government, concern over big government is hardly the only or even the most important predictor of Tea Party support among voters.”*

So what do Tea Partiers have in common? They are overwhelmingly white, but even compared to other white Republicans, they had a low regard for immigrants and blacks long before Barack Obama was president, and they still do.

More important, they were disproportionately social conservatives in 2006 — opposing abortion, for example — and still are today. Next to being a Republican, the strongest predictor of being a Tea Party supporter today was a desire, back in 2006, to see religion play a prominent role in politics. And Tea Partiers continue to hold these views: They seek ‘deeply religious’ elected officials, approve of religious leaders engaging in politics and want religion brought into political debates. The Tea Party’s generals may say their overriding concern is a smaller government, but not their rank and file, who are more concerned about putting God in government.

This does not describe the good Americans that I know but sounds more like religious zealots and angry bigotry. Mr. Gile goes on in his letter to say it’s time for “good people” to go to the polls and “retire Mr. Obama and his socialist friends.” We’ll do that, Mr. Gile, as soon as you give up your “socialist” Medicare and Social Security.

**JEFF REGUETT**

**Orange Beach**

**War is not answer to these conflicts**

Recently, in discussing war in general, I observed World War I (and one might add, our Civil War) as a reminder of the futility and frustration in its essence: long forgotten as a cause, horrendous casualties and the irrational "stumbling into the abyss." WWII had some of the same, yet seemed necessary in view of the tyrants of Germany and Japan. And those who fought in them, remember.

John Toland called his memory of WWI "No Man's Land" since the battles back and forth were in the main — north, middle and south in France. Typical were the battles along the Somme River and environs.

To John Keegan, the Somme battle in 1916 was the "end of the age of vital optimism in British life that has never recovered." For France it was the emat-grinder of Verdun that year where German Falkenhayn had vision of "bleeding the French soldier ... white." Nearly a million fought each other at both and lost near a half-million. Erich Maria Remarque (All Quiet on the Western Front) asked, "What kind of nation will they make of us tomorrow, these exhausted creatures, emptied of blood, emptied of thought, crushed by superhuman fatigue?" Remarque, a German soldier, told his story — essentially a German infantry squad, through Paul Baumer, but served in the war unlike Stephen Crane whose "Red Badge of Courage" took the young soldier to war with songs and flags flowing, who fought, retreated and often clutched the earth, in fear, as though in motherly arms.

Like Crane's youth (Henry Fleming) and Remarque's (Baumer) I, also a teenager, landed in the battle area, circa D+10 days, an armored replacement on the battered beach, called Omaha, Normandy, France — so young to go to war. Fleming, a Union soldier, feared he might run; he did when the cry came to "fall back," and felt shame and remorse — an example of the "psychology of fear" portrayed by Crane. Enduring nearly four years of war, Remarque's Baumer tells his story as an antiwar argument of trial, error, emotional horror and the added tragedy of the defeat and armistice, humiliation of Versailles and future consequences so true.

As the bridgehead expanded, June 1944, I joined my outfit, Fox Company, 113th Cavalry along with three other replacements for those lost in their first skirmish.

Baumer may have been speaking for us when he ruminated about peace and armistice: "lust for life, desire for home, the blood itself, the intoxication of escaping." Unlike his war, ours became a war of movement from Normandy to the Elbe, meeting the Russians and the total victory over Germany.

Baumer fell in October 1918, the last of his unit, and we looked at our platoon of lost dead and wounded. Irony revealed that three of us in one tank survived: Chris Brocka, John "Fat" Olen and Don "Hoagy" Carmichael, each now a sergeant and tank commander.

War is a paradox, often seemingly jumped into regardless of the consequences, too, ignoring the need to declare it or leave it in a vacuum, which exacerbates the problem. WWI's armistice set forth the rationale for WWII only 20 years later. Spawned by the Cold War, Korea and Vietnam set the adversarial tone of the United States and Russia, with no finality. Gulf Wars were the product of ideology, religion and influence and their residue resonates in Iran,

Afghanistan and the tumultuous choice of Arab spring or winter of discontent. Huntington warned of “wars of civilizations” and in our troubled economic times, strategic trauma this potential must be addressed and resolved, hopefully without a world war, between the ideology of Islam vs. a Western culture of unadulterated freedoms and an understanding of the threat to the world politic and survival.

Stop current conflicts, talk, resolve, or who knows what the future holds.

**DON CARMICHAEL**

**Loxley**

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