

The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES*
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6 months.....\$72.53
1-year.....\$133.09
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OPINION

Veterans Day Also Celebrates Peace

Perhaps we too often overlook the other meaning of Veterans Day. Veterans Day was born on the end of a war: the armistice that ended World War I on the 11th hour and 11th day in the 11th month of 1918. That was a war unlike any our civilization had ever seen to that point. It was called "the war to end all wars," but it did not work that way, of course — it never could. Nevertheless, the sense of profound joy, intermingled with the burden and sadness from the conflict, could not be overlooked or dismissed.

This day came to honor all those who have fought for our nation, and it was once a major holiday on our calendars.

But as the years have passed, it has slipped into the hiss of our busy, distracted lives. It's now a mile marker on the expressway between Halloween and Thanksgiving, with Christmas looming like a mountain range just ahead. And our lives have long been consumed by other, subsequent wars, all of which told us in plain terms how wistful the wish was that the so-called Great War could ever be the last war we would see. Indeed, that war have followed a second World War and has ties to all the wars that have been.

But Veterans Days should be remembered not only for the service of soldiers (it was originally referred to as Remembrance Day and still bears that name in some countries) but also for what those soldiers gave us: peace — albeit fleeting and flawed, as it turned out, but preciously revered nevertheless.

It could be argued that every war is a failure — that is, the failure of politicians to keep matters from escalating out of control, the failure of a nation to respect the moral rules of civilization, the failure of diplomacy to achieve an desired end, the failure of a despot to act sanely or in accordance with world law. Sometimes, war is necessary — a needed response to those who see peace as an illusion. In those cases, our soldiers are summoned to address those matters, risking everything for us in the process. And they sometimes die in that process.

This day was originally a commemoration of the end result of those extraordinary, courageous deeds. It was an epic celebration married to a solemn undercurrent of appreciation.

This day, then, should also be a celebration of peace — which is created by the services of our soldiers. It is the end result of their sacrifices; it is part of the notion of victory.

Peace is a special thing. It cannot be achieved at just any price: by surrendering or by submitting to those who see war as a tool for conquest and gain. Because of that, war is sometimes preferable to peace in a short term. But peace is the ultimate goal. It's the prayer of most every man or woman who has ever fought in the defense of this nation; it's certainly the prayer shared by the families of those soldiers. It's the hopeful light that glows hopefully at the end of the long, black tunnel of any war.

It's the whole point, and only through the sacrifices of these men and women can that point ever be realized.

In this war-weary age, peace may seem like an elusive state sometimes. But it must never be forgotten. It must always be the point. And this day should honor that prayer for all time.

kmh



The Rez Of The Story

Seasons And Generations

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Sitting Bull, one of the more famous Titowan Lakota elders, leaves us with these thoughts to ponder as penned by Don L. Coyhis author of "Meditations with Native American Elders":

"I am particularly fond of the little groves of oak trees. I love to look at them, because they endure the wintry storm and the summer's heat, and — not unlike ourselves — seem to flourish by them."

Mr. Coyhis' (who is from the Mohican Nation) thoughts run along these lines: "Every season, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, has gifts that it gives to all creatures. The animals will develop thicker furs just before Winter and will shed this fur in the Spring. Squirrels will store their food in the Fall; other animals build up fat so that they can hibernate during the Winter. We can watch all forms of nature and see all creatures work in harmony with the seasons. The secret for us to learn by observing nature. Watch the trees. Learn from them. We human beings need to learn the gifts and blessings of the seasons."

Perhaps in doing this we will begin to understand that there are four ages to man's life journey. The Spring represents our birth and childhood up to our time when we begin to change from childhood to adulthood. If we are nurtured and instructed in a balanced way during this first stage of our existence we will have been prepared by our family to take our place in the adult world. If we are not provided the basic caring necessary to guide us through our childhood we become twisted and broken.

The Summer represents our adult lives. Here is the time when the bulk of our learning will take place and our understanding of our place as individuals and good relatives will

deepen. We will be setting the example for the next generation to follow. We will emerge as the leadership our communities need in order to maintain and pass on our culture and history. We begin to understand the difference between what is and what ought to be. We can empathize with human suffering and recognize our responsibility to alleviate it where and when ever we can. We are in the throws of sorting out for ourselves what is truth and what is not. If we are successful at these endeavors and others we will become well balanced and ready for the next big change in our life's journey.

The Fall represents our challenges we face as we assume eldership in our families and communities. Child rearing becomes a thing of the past and we begin to practice much of the truths we have discovered or have been taught us along the way. The fact that we are mortal beings becomes more evident with each passing year. This deepens our appreciation for a life well lived. Betty Friedan, the author of *The Feminine Mystique*, says that "aging" is not "lost youth," but a new stage of opportunity and strength.

As I, personally, experience the truth of her assertion I know too that I am preparing for the final stage of my journey. The Winter represents our final sleep as the changing of the guard takes place.

We need all these stages of life represented in our society for they all inevitably complement and support each other making our society whole. Obsessing, as we do in this country, with youth is a mistake. The billions of dollars we spend annually on plastic surgery and other artificial means to "appear" younger than we truly are represents a society that needs to change — change that encompasses all aspects of life and embraces them fully.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

Leonard Pitts

2014: The Year Of No Ideas

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

The first time he said it was 10 years ago. Back then, it seemed a brisk wind in a stuffy room, a reclamation of defining verities somehow lost in the smoke and haze of political expedience. He said it again last week and the effect was starkly different — somehow forlorn, like birthday cake after the party, or a Christmas tree set out on the curb on Jan. 2.

"I continue to believe," said President Obama, "we are simply more than a collection of red and blue states. We are the United States."

The first time he said this, it brought the Democratic National Convention to its feet and made him a rock star. Ten years later, he's a president halfway through his second term and he was speaking at a press conference the morning after the midterm elections, the morning after his party was drowned in a Republican deluge.

Doubtless, the president intended it as a statement of defiant principle. Instead it came across, to these ears, at least, as a rhetorical Hail Mary pass. It wasn't so much that the president's high-minded assertion was untrue as that it seemed immaterial. You wondered if anyone was still listening.

Even by the not-stellar standards of modern politics, the campaign of 2014 was a disappointment. It was the Year of No Ideas. The Democrats had nothing to say and said it ineptly, running from the achievements of recent years — the Affordable Care Act, falling unemployment rates, a soaring stock market — and the president who presided over them like Usain Bolt from a house fire, defending themselves from Republican attack about as effectively as the Iraqi Army defends Iraq. Which is to say, not very. The party presented no compelling argument for itself. It didn't just lack the courage of its convictions; it also lacked its convictions.

The Republicans also had nothing to say, but they said it loudly and with great certitude: "Obama caused Ebola! Obama caused ISIS! Obama is going to give your job to an illegal! GOP: 2014!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Artistic Courage

Pam Koch, Fordyce, Neb.

I would like to thank the Yankton *Press & Dakotan* for their article on young entrepreneur; Jessi Koch and Courage Art Studio (Oct. 17). Art has been important in Yankton and the surrounding communities of South Dakota and Nebraska for decades and needs to be supported. Jessi is committed to showing children and grandchildren of your readers that art can be a career choice, if that is what they are good at and love. In this age of technology, where there is 3D printing and multiple copies, it is important to

remember the power of the "original." All one has to do is walk downtown Yankton to see that evident on every main street; works of art that were designed and created by hand. Even the great masters would not exist if they hadn't had the courage to create great sculptures and paintings. With so many more fields of art available now, the opportunities are endless.

Charitable donations are a part of every company's budget, but instead of only supporting, isn't it just as important to support a new business that will benefit not only the readers, but their future generations and keep Art alive and thriving?

ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the Press & Dakotan's Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you believe the "Great Recession" is over?
No.....72%
Yes.....28%
TOTAL VOTES CAST.....328

The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Would you support sending U.S. ground troops in to combat ISIS?
To cast your vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 11, the 315th day of 2014. There are 50 days left in the year. This is Veterans Day in the U.S., Remembrance Day in Canada.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 11, 1918, fighting in World War I came to an end with the signing of an armistice between the Allies and Germany.

On this date: In 1620, 41 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, anchored off Massachusetts, signed a compact calling for a "body politic."

In 1778, British redcoats, Tory rangers and Seneca Indians in central New York killed more than 40 people in the Cherry Valley Massacre.

In 1831, former slave Nat Turner, who'd led a violent insurrection, was executed in Jerusalem, Virginia.

In 1889, Washington became the 42nd state.

In 1909, President William Howard Taft accepted the recommendation of a joint Army-Navy board that Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands be made the principal U.S. naval station in the Pacific.

In 1921, the remains of an unidentified American service member were interred in a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding.

In 1938, Irish-born cook Mary Mallon, who'd gained notoriety as the disease-carrying "Typhoid Mary" blamed for the deaths of three people, died on North Brother Island in New York's East River at age 69 after 23 years of mandatory quarantine.

In 1942, during World War II, Germany completed its occupation of France.

In 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off from Cape Kennedy with astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard.

In 1972, the U.S. Army turned over its base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese, symbolizing the end of direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War.

In 1984, Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. — father of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. — died in Atlanta at age 84.

In 1992, the Church of England voted to ordain women as priests.

Ten years ago: Palestinians at home and abroad wept, waved flags and burned tires in an eruption of grief at news of the death of Yasser Arafat in Paris at age 75. President George W. Bush expressed hope that Arafat's passing would clear the

way for successful Mideast peace negotiations with new Palestinian leaders.

Five years ago: For the first time since World War I, the leaders of Germany and France held a joint ceremony to commemorate the end of the conflict, saying it was time to celebrate their countries' reconciliation and friendship. Longtime CNN host Lou Dobbs announced he was leaving the network. Taylor Swift won four awards, including Entertainer of the Year, at the Country Music Association Awards.

One year ago: Iran and the United States blamed each other for the failure to reach agreement on a deal to limit Iran's uranium enrichment in exchange for an easing of Western sanctions. Bowing to pressure from Jewish groups and art experts, the German government made public details of paintings in a recovered trove of 1,400 pieces of art that might have been stolen by Nazis and said it would put together a task force to speed identification. Jose Fernandez of the Miami Marlins and Wil Myers of the Tampa Bay Rays were selected baseball's Rookies of the Year.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz singer-musician Mose Allison is 87. Actress Bibi Andersson is 79. Country singer Narvel Felts is 76. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., is 74. Americana roots singer/songwriter Chris Smither is 70. Rock singer-musician Vince Martell (Vanilla Fudge) is 69. The president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, is 69. Rock singer Jim Peterik (Ideas of March, Survivor) is 64. Goffler Fuzzy Zoeller is 63. Pop singer-musician Paul Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 63. Rock singer-musician Andy Partridge (XTC) is 61. Singer Marshall Crenshaw is 61. Rock singer Dave Alvin is 59. Rock musician Ian Craig Marsh (Human League; Heaven 17) is 58. Actor Stanley Tucci is 54. Actress Demi Moore is 52. Actress Calista Flockhart is 50. Actor Philip McKeon is 50. Rock musician Scott Mercado is 50. Actor Frank John Hughes is 47. TV personality Carson Kressley is 45. Actor David DeLuise is 43. Actor Adam Beach is 42. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio is 40. Actor Scoot McNairy is 37. Rock musician Jonathan Pretus (Cowboy Mouth) is 33. NFL quarterback Mark Sanchez is 28. Actress Christa B. Allen is 23. Actor Tye Sheridan is 18. Actor Ian Patrick (TV: "The Neighbors") is 12.

Thought for Today: "When you make your peace with authority, you become authority." — Jim Morrison, American rock singer (1943-1971).

FROM THE BIBLE

This is My body, which is given to you. Do this in remembrance of Me. Luke 22:19. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

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