

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## August 6 - 9: 75 Years Ago

Debate continues concerning our non-politician Commander-in-Chief, Harry Truman's decision to use the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He rightfully demanded unconditional surrender from the fascist ideologues who initiated those actions. Both Japanese and NAZI aggression SHOULD HAVE BEEN STOPPED back in the 1930s! Si vis pacem, para bellum!

Two things to bear in mind, we did not have a genuine Commander-in-Chief as president with FDR. His non-actions landed us between a rock and a hard place. We did not have a large enough military presence in America to defend America much less plunge us into war! FDR, like Britain's Neville Chamberlain erroneously were of the mindset of "making friends" with everybody on the planet. That only enrages those with a nefarious agenda. But I digress.

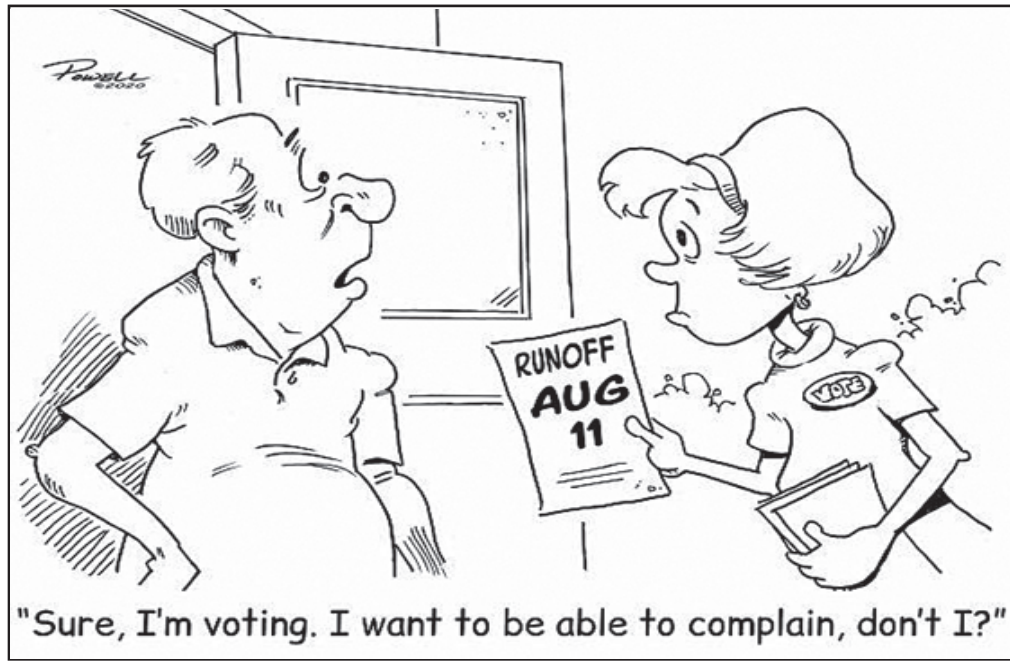
Our CIC after the death of FDR, Harry Truman set the Soviet leaders straight on a few issues and after consulting many advisors, he secretly made the decision to have our military use the atomic bomb, for two good reasons. He and most, not all, of our top military leaders did not trust Stalin and his supposed "friendship" to aid us in defeating Japan, going in through Manchuria, which turned out to be another brutal encounter. PLUS estimates of US military forces deaths of all branches were estimated to cost us anywhere from hundreds of thousands to upwards of a million or so, if we invaded Japan. I have a book written by an older "brother" Coastie who was there throughout the up close and personal fighting, and he estimates the higher number.

Thus the painful decision was made, once again depending on our valiant men and women of our military forces to finish the final construction of the bombs on Tinian Island and deliver this hellish device to Hiroshima on the Enola Gay of our US Army Air Force, to convince the Japanese people to cease/desist and SIGN the document of unconditional surrender. Nagasaki was a repeat on August 9, after silence from Japanese leaders. This also let the Soviet leaders know that Japan would not be divided in half, as post WWII left Germany with the Soviets owning Eastern Germany. Resulting that representatives from the Japanese government and Allied forces assembled aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay to sign the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, which effectively ended World War II on September 2, 1945.

A BIG PLUS... the Treaty of Peace with Japan. The treaty was formally signed on September 8, 1951, and the occupation of Japan ended on April 28, 1952, unlike what the Soviets Socialists foresaw for Japan. Japan is today our ally.

Thus our military forces were saved from more bloodshed and American deaths. America wouldn't have survived without our "Greatest Generation" and leaders who took their oaths such as Commander-in Chief of those military forces to heart. Yet, there are those anti-military types who would say that the Cold War of nuclear aggression was initiated by this action. However a couple of those civilian scientists had already leaked information to the Soviets on how to build a nuke.

*Semper Paratus*



"Sure, I'm voting. I want to be able to complain, don't I?"

## Roadside Beauties

In the mountains, you don't have to look very far to see the beauty of the land. Whether it's fog rolling off the mountains or the sun shining off the water, the beauty is apparent. However, you really don't have to lift your eyes to the horizon to see some brilliant colors. Oftentimes, the roadsides will have some great colors for you to see in wildflowers growing on the side of the road. My wife has yelped at me more than once for veering slightly off the road trying to get a better glimpse of something flowering. Let's talk about some of those plants that often bloom along the roadside.

Joe-Pye weed is a perennial plant that grows to about 3-7 feet tall. It has leaves that come out in a whorl at each node. Usually there will be about five leaves in each whorl. It likes to grow in partial shade, so you'll see it beneath trees. It puts on flowers starting in late July through September. The flowers range from pink to purple in groups of 4-7. The flowers are found at the top of the plant.

Jewelweed is a self-seeding annual. It also likes semi-shady areas. It is actually in the impatiens genus, which means it's related to the impatiens that people like to plant around their house. They'll grow 3-5 feet tall. The flowers are sa-like with an orange-yellow color. In the early morning, they are covered with dew, which gives them a jewel like appearance when the sun glints off them.

Ironweed is a perennial that grows to be 3-10 feet tall. You can often find it in overgrown pastures. It blooms from August to September. It can look similar to Joe-Pye weed but the flowers are a darker purple. The leaves are also a darker green.

Goldenrod is a perennial that will grow to be 2-7 feet tall. We actually have several different species of goldenrod, but they all look very similar. The flowers are yellow and create a plume that lays over at the top of the plant. It blooms in August and September. This is another one that you'll commonly see in old fields. Sometimes people confuse it with ragweed. Ragweed pollen can cause allergies, but goldenrod is not as much of an allergen.

Butterfly weed has brilliant orange flowers. This perennial is an important pollinator plant. It grows to be about 2 feet tall with clusters of flowers at the top. As part of the Asclepias genus, it is a native milkweed. Milkweeds play a pivotal role for monarch butterflies, because they will only lay their eggs on milkweeds. Monarch caterpillars only eat milkweeds. Butterfly weed needs full sun.

Sourwood trees have finished blooming for the year, but you can still see some of the leftover seed capsules, where blooms were. The flowers look like small white bells that hang in a line. Sourwoods are found from Pennsylvania to Florida, but southern Appalachia is where they are most common. Sourwoods leaves also turn to a deep red during the fall.

If you have questions about wildflowers contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.



Watching and Working  
Jacob Williams

## The Worrier Code

Our intention this week is that we should expand our comfort zones and step outside the boxes we draw around our thinking. Laugh, if you can, whenever you can. Not the derisive laughter of the playground, but with humility. Laughter is good for the circulation, and it diminishes self-importance. If you can't laugh, then we hope that you get mad. Anger is caused by self-importance, but it is also good for the circulation. Circulation delivers oxygen to the brain, which enhances thinking - and diminishes self-importance.

Bushido is a Japanese term which describes the warrior code of the samurai. It allowed the violence inherent in the samurai lifestyle to be mitigated by wisdom. Bushido was characterized by values that were also once embraced by the west, such as integrity, honor, respect, courage, compassion - and self control. Comedians have often used a caricature of the samurai and his Bushido code. Picture the John Belushi version of the samurai: self righteous, easily offended and given to dramatic demonstrations.

Which brings us to the present day, where we seem to have forgotten that Belushi's character was meant to be a farce. Move aside Bushido, the warrior code of the samurai. Enter Bullshido, the worrier code of the snowflake. Did I hear a few snickers (mainly from the right side of the aisle)? Not so fast! The right is growing it's own snowflakes these days. Not only are we offended by the improper use of pronouns (he, she... they?), we are now offended by improper body posture (as in standing or kneeling). Social justice worriers who can't change a tire (but who have memorized the entire menu at Starbucks) are ready to wear masks and attack people at rallies. Armchair quarterbacks who have never served anything but another helping at the buffet table now sit in judgment on ritualized patriotism. In Bushido, worshipful attention was given to duty and loyalty. In Bullshido, we worship celebrities. From the left, we obsess on the lives and opinions of famous people who pretend to be other people. If they do this well, we call these pretenders "great."

From the right, we obsess on the lives and opinions of people who play games: millionaires who run and throw balls and catch them (or kick them or hit them with sticks). If they are good at playing games, we consider these people to be "great" also, and like the celebrities who act, we believe them to be experts on life itself.

Symbols are important; somewhat arbitrary, but important nonetheless. The flag and the national anthem are, for many of us, symbols of sacrifices made in good faith. This is why that, as a former Marine, I choose to stand during the anthem. It is a personal choice.

But for most of us who have served or who do so now, "choice" is at the heart of the reasons for that service. Among the freedoms we value is freedom of speech and the right to dissent, and a civil society which prides itself on these things has no business dictating what we respect, or disrespect, or how we demonstrate those sentiments. We don't like bowing to royalty in America, yet we insist on compliance to forms and practices in a public ritual? If you don't bow to the Queen you're being disrespectful. If you don't stand for a song, you're also being disrespectful?

On the other hand, the millionaire celebrities who play professional football are heavily subsidized, as is the entire "non profit" NFL, by billions of our tax dollars. (We get to pay for their new stadiums whether we watch football or not.) A football game is not a free speech rally or a demonstration. When the players take the field, they are at work, on the job. When you take a job, some of your rights are naturally constrained by your contractual agreement with your employer. These players are employed by the team owners, by the people who buy tickets, and by the tax payers who subsidize the whole enterprise. Kneeling is generally considered to be a posture, not of defiance, but of prayerful attention. Kneeling at football games was first done to call attention to a perception by some African Americans that blacks are intentionally victimized by police brutality. The numbers don't support that opinion, but the perception is important and worthy of discussion. Sadly, that important discussion has now been lost in the babble of Bullshido, the opinions of celebrities and the WWE style tweets of the social media president. The derisive howls of "racist" and "unpatriotic" are tossed from left and right, and we are distracted from historic human suffering and an economy poorly managed for the majority of our people.

Was the world due to end in September or has that now been pushed forward to October? The worrier code does not say. New worries will merge with our ongoing concerns over terrorism, climate change and social injustice; white supremacy, Black Lives Matter, antifa and all the issues guaranteed to generate ad revenue.

Meanwhile, people will be hungry and homeless in Puerto Rico, and thousands across the nation will attempt to rebuild their lives, but those headlines will be pushed aside as we risk becoming caricatures of ourselves. There is nothing funny about that.

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By: Don Perry  
onthemiddlepath.com



The Veterans' Corner  
Scott Drummond  
USCG Veteran

## Letters to The Editor

### Win/Win for Farmers and Environment

Dear Editor,  
Farmers deserve our utmost respect for their hard work to provide food for our nation, but it is a profession fraught with difficulties. The Growing Climate Solutions Act has been introduced in both the House and the Senate. This bill can be a great help for farmers, and, incredibly enough, it has an equal number of sponsors from both sides of the aisle. This legislation provides the incentive for farmers and farmers to engage in sustainable practices by helping them to access lucrative carbon credit markets. This can aid them in developing farming practices that can be more lucrative in the long run, but which have hefty upfront costs. This is good news for farmers and for the planet.

At a time when it has been hard to get Democrats and Republicans to agree on anything, perhaps this can be a bridge to help them work together for the good of all. Not only that, perhaps it will serve as a basis to see that caring for our environment does not mean hurting our nation financially. Please consider contacting your Congressman and Senators and asking them to cosponsor the Growing Climate Solutions Act.

Vernon Dixon, MD

### Their Utopia

Dear Editor,  
I agree wholeheartedly with a recent writer concerning a Biden presidency. Our nation would be completely destroyed, which of course is what the radicals want. Their first order of business would be allowing illegals to vote so their allegiance would permanently belong to the democrats, with palms up. Their Utopia would be realized. The land of plenty would be at their offering; no work and getting paid to do it.

My wife and I have discussed this dilemma thoroughly and have not ruled out a number of options. Hopefully, it will not involve leaving this great nation we so dearly love. In the meantime, I sleep with my revolver next to my bed, waiting for someone to say they have come to take my arms.

Dale Sissell  
Lt. Col. USAF (Ret.)

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Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM

## Firefighters Can't Do It Alone

Every year, brush, grass, and forest fires burn across the U.S. and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk. NFPA recently published a report "Wildland/Urban Interface: Fire Department Wildfire Preparedness and Readiness Capabilities, based on a survey and interviews with local fire departments across the U.S. to better understand how they are addressing wildfire in their communities.

During a wildfire that threatens multiple homes, firefighting resources are often limited, and firefighters must make quick decisions on which homes they can work on defending. A few of the factors that affect how firefighters respond to wildfires include: a. Budgetary constraints b. Geography/topography of the fire c. Suppression vs. pre-fire risk reduction strategies. Despite some limitations that fire departments have when fighting wildfires, there are ways departments are partnering with communities to raise more awareness around preparedness and risk reduction projects that can make a difference when it comes time to fight a fire.

Here are a few examples of how you can help your fire department help you: Provide more public outreach and education about wildfire prevention, mitigation and emergency situations to residents, including one-on-one meetings with homeowners, giving community presentations, and using social media. Assist property owners with chipping brush (dead leaves and branches) that property owners collect on their land. Assist local residents in adopting and implementing community-based programs like NFPA's Firewise USA™ recognition programs/. It is important that homeowners help prepare their property and neighborhoods for the next wildfire. For your preparation well in advance of a fire: Complete a home inventory - this will assist in talking with your insurance provider should you suffer a loss due to a wildfire. Consider making a video walk-through of your possessions and keep that in a safe off-site location. Sign up for local Emergency Notifications/Alerts. Have an Evacuation Plan and a designated meeting place where family members will reconnect after the evacuation. Ensure everyone in the household knows the plan and meeting place location. Know where evacuation centers will be in your community. Have an off-site phone number, (relative, etc.) where family members can check in and provide status information. Have a plan and supplies for your pets. Some key points to know when conditions are right for wildfires: The National Weather Service issues fire weather watches or warnings, known as Red Flag Days, when weather conditions will support increased wildfire activity and rapid fire growth. A Fire Weather Watch is issued when conditions will be present within 12-72 hours. A Fire Weather Warning (Red Flag) is issued when the conditions will be present within 24 hours. Be ready for A Red Flag Day! When returning home after evacuation: Even if your home survived the fire, there may be the need to clean-up and restoration of your home and property from retardant, damaged trees or smoke damage.

Contact your Insurance Agent for assistance with restoration from retardant or smoke/fire damage to your structure. It's not hard, just common sense; remove the fuel and the fire will go somewhere else. For more information on Firewise.



RC&D  
Frank Riley  
Executive Director

## Towns County Herald

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