

The Danville New
Robert John Andrews
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"We Finally Agree"
Word Count: 750

Dear Donald: We finally agree that the violence must stop. I look forward to your healing response to Saturday's evil act. Here's praying we don't feed the beast. I've rewritten this column to tone down my rhetoric. I'm glad you weren't killed. Although, as a professional in the God trade, I cannot admit the self-serving theology that 'It was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening,' implying how God was busy sparing you rather than the others who suffered worse. When hustled off to safety, you called out: "Fight, fight." You're right. I'll fight for a saner and safer nation, often with a Three Stooges tweak, which is why I today want to thank the Supreme Court. Thank you, you six members of the Supreme Court. Your recent decisions have made our decision clear for this presidential election. I didn't change the playing field. You did. You echo the Dred Scott decision of the 1857 Supreme Court where the majority argued that slaves are not citizens thus they have no legal rights. Fortunately, wrong and unjust decisions can be reversed. It's Dred Scott again. You adjudicate in favor of abusive state's rights, licensing the rise of the third Confederacy. Did our veterans sacrifice to see the rebel battle flag raised over the Capitol?

It does make one worry if someone is pulling their judicial strings. To wit: "money talks, merit walks." Who really is behind the Heritage Foundation and their power grab? It sure smells as if somebody's got the do-re-mi to disenfranchise the people's will. So thank you Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, Barrett, and Roberts. You made our vote simple. I know where I stand. I remain a pragmatic optimist who trusts the American people. I'd sooner vote for a howler monkey before I'd vote to grant Trumpism any authority. We can agree on renouncing political violence while still arguing our differences, as opponents. I like a happy ending. I'll always choose Bond, James Bond over Goldfinger, Harry Potter over Voldemort, Frodo over Saruman, The Lorax over the Once-ler, puppies over Cruella Deville, Pickle ball over varicose veins, Mr. Rogers over Steve Bannon, Bruce Willis over the asteroid, Chief Brody over Jaws, democracy over the Supreme Court blessing kleptocracy.

Fortunately, I have positive choices. Sure, Biden had an embarrassing debate -- a bad night for a good man, an accomplished President. Problems afford opportunities. We are free to criticize. Joe's earned my vote. I also believe it's Kamala's hour, time for a young David to take out disgusting Goliath. I'm voting for more than a President, I'm voting for the Presidency along with a talented White House team. The crew makes the Captain. Do we really want to see Alex Jones frequenting the Oval Office or Stephen (nickname: Niedermeyer) Miller in charge of anything?

Fortunately, I stand with a growing coalition of Democrats, independents, true conservative Republicans, moderates, who have allied to make sure skill and service, decency and integrity are maintained in office. We prefer our leaders to be men and women of good character, but insofar as we can never guarantee that our judges, legislators, executives, civil servants, law enforcement agents will be virtuous, we can place rules upon them to insure that they act responsibly.

We need a Congress and an Administration that will stand for separation of powers, for gun safety (you might agree with this now), for prosperity for the lower and middle classes, for sound foreign relations, for a chance to address the curse of homelessness and poverty, for bi-partisan solutions for the border,

for informed and scientific approaches to our climate crisis, for promoting access to health care, for health care choice, for civil and human rights, for education unmolested by right-wing sharia laws, for my Christianity renouncing its infatuation with white supremacy and the heresy of Christian nationalism.

I'm glad your rally goers and advisors agree with what we have been demanding since 2015. We too prefer ballots over bullets. Our nation obviously can use some serious polishing of its soul. There's too much smudgy unholiness masquerading as righteousness, as justified. So we join the cries condemning and outraged at any form of political violence. Assassination attempts. Mobs let loose. Hate speech. Violence in schools, temples, grocery stores. Contempt for others. Threatening violence by email or deed. Attacking judges. Vilifying women. Viewing an adversary as an evil enemy. Beware the hunt for scapegoats at the expense of self-reflection. Let's purify the stink of hypocrisy.

We need more Windex. Scrub, scrub