

## SUNDAY TALK • THE PUBLIC SPEAKS

## Why so much hatred in such a great country?

As I sit to write this article, I'm still trying to understand — along with so many other people — the senseless and cowardly killings of last week at Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. How could this take place?

I can't and will not try to speak for others, only myself when it comes to gun violence, and hatred in this great country of ours, (not yours, not mine) but ours. When it comes to guns anyone and everyone that wants

a gun can and will get one, either legally or by any means necessary.

Gun control and gun availability is a major problem in our country. With what can and should be done are high hurdles to cross with big money pushing the envelope; but that's another story for another day.

To something that I'm sadly familiar with only because I've seen it all of my life and that's hatred because of the color of my skin. Contrary to popular belief, humans are not born

that way, it's a taught sad attribute that has been passed down from generation to generation.

From the young man Dylann Roof, the arrested shooter from last week's church massacre, to the KKK and every offshoot organization that thinks they are some sought of superior people, I've got news for you. In the Bible in John 3:16 it states "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but

have everlasting life."

That tells me there are no perfect people, no perfect race, and no one group or organization that's better than the next. The blood that Jesus shed was for everyone — white, black, red, yellow and brown or whatever color you see when you look in the mirror.

Until we the people want better, we will not do better and this type of violence will continue. We have the power to eradicate this epidemic

of hatred, but we've got to want it to end.

Our time is far spent waiting on our government or our so-called leaders to evoke change. We have to be the change that we want to see in others. There's a song that Michael Jackson sang called "Man in the Mirror" personally I'm starting with him; what about you? May God bless you, and may God bless America.

**Eric Doshier**  
Lake Charles



## Remove the ban on oil exports

Ask most people to name the world's largest oil producer, and chances are they'll say Saudi Arabia. Some may guess Russia. Almost everyone would be surprised by the true answer: the United States.

Thanks to technological innovations that have unlocked huge new oil and natural gas deposits both on land and offshore, we are no longer a declining energy power relying on imports to fuel our cars and heat our homes. In fact, we're poised to become one of the world's biggest oil exporters. Just one obstacle stands in our way: a 40-year-old law that bans crude oil exports.

The ban hurts us here in Louisiana especially, where the oil and gas industry supports tens of thousands of jobs and contributes billions of dollars to the state economy. And it's not only big companies that would benefit. Hundreds of smaller industry suppliers also would grow as exports increase.

Passed in the mid-1970s at a time of perceived shortages and OPEC oil

embargoes, the ban was intended to reduce energy dependence and ensure an adequate supply for Americans. That may have made sense at the time, but we live in a very different world today. The ban inhibits U.S. companies from competing successfully in global markets and stymies investment here at home.

By keeping our excess oil here, we allow other producers to grow market share at our expense — and some of these competitors are not countries to which we should be conveying such an advantage: Iran, Russia and Venezuela, for example.

We pay for this ban at the pump as well. Over the last several years, many studies by government agencies, think tanks and universities show that the export ban raises gas prices everywhere. In some states, it adds as much as 13 cents to the price of every gallon. That's billions of dollars that consumers would otherwise spend on other products and services.

Last month, a bipartisan group of 12 U.S. senators introduced the "Energy Supply and Distribution Act of 2015." The bill would, among other things, authorize exports of all crude oil and condensate produced in the United States. While passage should be a slam dunk, given how the oil and gas business has changed since the ban was put in place four decades ago, opposition is strong. I urge our representatives in the House of Representatives and Senate to support the bill.

The current ban on crude oil exports prevents us from taking advantage of our great energy resources and realizing our full potential as a force in international oil markets.

It also stands in the way of new jobs — as many as 7,000 here in Louisiana, according to a 2014 study by the consulting firm ICF — and lower gas prices. What are we waiting for?

**Brady Como**

Executive Vice President  
of Delmar Systems in Broussard

## Jenner should not be called a hero

Jim Gazzolo's article "Changing the Definition of a Hero and Courage," written in the Lake Charles *American Press* on June 14 really blessed me.

He spoke about the transformation of Bruce Jenner, a male to a female ("Caitlyn"). I appreciate his boldness and courage. I also appreciate the boldness and courage of the Lake Charles *American Press*. You all are not going along with the majority and moral decline.

Mr. Gazzolo compared Jenner's

announcement to Renee Richards in 1976, an eye doctor who had a sex change from male to female. Quote: "a giant uproar followed, led by a giant media storm that was the exact opposite of the Jenner commentary."

Richards was not given any award for courage let alone called a hero.

Like Mr. Gazzolo, I have nothing against any person doing what they want with their body; it is hard to think of Jenner being a hero. I agree with him again in his article that a real sports hero would be

Jason Boulais, a senior pitcher for the University of South Carolina at Beaufort, who was willing to give up the final start of his career so that he could help a kid he never met. Boulais donated bone marrow to a 5-year-old French boy with a form of blood cancer that can be fatal. Giving up his own dream to help somebody you never met, that takes courage. I agree with you, Mr. Gazzolo, now that's a real hero.

**Andrew Gallien Jr.**  
Iowa, La.

## Long road ahead before equality for all

Being born in the early 1950s, I grew up in the 60s. I still remember growing up during that era as if it was yesterday. Good memories and not so good.

Before I turned 6 in 1958, my mom took me to Sears downtown that summer to buy me school clothes for first grade. While my mother shopped, I asked if I could get a drink. She said, "Yes, but come right back; you have to try on some clothes."

I went to get a drink and was quickly pulled away from the water

fountain by a woman I didn't know. She told me, "You don't drink that water, it's no good. You drink from this one." She placed me to the left fountain. I remember which one because the one on the right had a big sign above it. Even though I couldn't read I remember the sign. So I drank my fill and returned where my mother was waiting for me. I tried on some clothes then we returned home.

Later that night I asked my mother why can't I drink from the water fountain with a sign above it? She sat

next to me on my bed and said, "Because it's for colored people." I didn't really understand, but as I got older I thought when I was "told why" that it was all so wrong to be that way, for anyone to have to do that.

There is still no justice in America for people of color. Sure we have an African American for president as everyone can see, but there is still a very long road ahead for equality for all people. The struggle continues.

**John Lormand**  
Lake Charles

## Historical markers should stay put

First, my condolences to the victims of the Charleston church murders. The owner of the Carolina Panthers' son is giving the victims \$100,000 to pay for their funerals. The Obama administration has fast-tracked \$29 million to go to the families of the victims and donations are also pouring in.

The media and the government, meanwhile, are fomenting political correctness to the point of taking down everything historical throughout the nation.

Mitch Landrieu, New Orleans mayor, wants the Lee Circle statute taken down of Robert E. Lee, Caddo Parish wants their statues taken down and throughout the land, all vestiges of the South's past will be removed.

Streets and military bases throughout the south are dabbling with the idea of renaming everything. Edward Burke said, "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it." Is that what we really want?

Amazon and Walmart and others are refusing to sell the Battle Flag any longer. So my question is what does our Southern past have to do with the murders in Charleston?

In 2006 a black man entered a church in Louisiana and shot five people. Should we have renamed all the Martin Luther King streets? There seems to be a disconnect here.

If Mitch Landrieu is successful in his bid to take down the statute of Robert E. Lee, I hope that everyone boycotts that city. I hope the Saints games will have empty bleachers.

It appears the media and this administration will not be happy until they begin a race war. Is that what you really want? It's unfortunate that the educational system has promoted the idea that the War Between the States was over slavery. We are at the same stage today as we were back in the 1860's.

We are tired of an overbearing federal government that long ago left the will of the people. We're tired of back-room deals, sending our tax dollars overseas and making us pay for things that are abhorrent to our ideals and morality. If succession were on the ballot today it might be surprising how many people would again be in favor of it.

So we can take down memorials and statutes of all our founding fathers because they had slaves. We can take down everything Southern because of political correctness, but do you really want to repeat the past? Or we could be like Seattle, Wash., and instead put up statues to Vladimir Lenin. This is not the country I grew up in, it left me a long time ago.

**Bonnie James**  
Starks

## Jindal has hurt state

As I read about the increased fees, penalties, etc. approved by the legislators for the citizens of Louisiana, I could not help my hackles being raised.

The people that we elected to look after our best interests have sat on their hands and allowed Governor Jindal to destroy our state during his reign, and have done absolutely nothing about it.

With this sad fact in mind, and the love they seem to have for this presidential hopeful, I can't understand why they don't simply abdi-

cate their position and elevate him to "King Bobby" since they bow to his every whim anyway.

Jindal has been on such an ego trip, particularly during his last term, that he actually believes that his assault on Louisiana citizens have garnered him adoration and support for president. Yeah, right! When in actuality he has about as much chance of getting support for president as a snow ball has in Hades.

**James Strahan**  
Westlake

## Wealth no reason not to vote for candidate

Someone said he would not vote for a certain candidate for president because he was rich.

I've got news for him — some of the founding fathers of our nation were rich for that time.

They argued and fought and at times some even walked out of the meetings, but they ended up with rules and regulations that have made us the greatest nation in the world today.

I think that when a person has

to borrow money or accept donations for his campaign he may feel obligated to return benefits to those who contributed when he gets into office.

Independence can give one a position of being able to be objective and make wise decisions rather than decisions based on perceived obligation in the dealings he has through his elected position

**Dick Waltrip**  
Mermentau

## Plants holding their own

On page A5 of the June 18th *American Press* under "Bridge," Rep. Boustany is quoted as saying, "We are now seeing our refineries for the first time in many decades being competitive."

I don't know who, what or where the competition is, but per reports in the paper and on the air, profits

were out of the roof for ExxonMobil and other big oil companies for several years before crude prices dropped.

Judging by cost at the pump, which inch up every week, they are still doing all right.

**Duane Tower**  
Westlake

## WRITE TO US

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