

OPINION

CHARITA GOSHAY | GUEST VIEWPOINT

Is your Nana worth saving?

The most important person in America right now is 79 years old and we shouldn't be sacrificing anyone's grandparents to jump-start the economy.

Recently, the lieutenant governor of Texas suggested America's grandparents make the ultimate sacrifice for their country's economy.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick urged those Americans who are sliding into third base, so to speak, to stop being so selfish in wanting to live a full life.

During an interview with Fox News host Tucker Carlson, Patrick noted: "Those of us who are 70-plus, we'll take care of ourselves but don't sacrifice the country. Don't do that. Don't ruin this great American dream."

Then, he didn't have enough sense to stop talking, adding:

"We all want to live. We all want to live with our grandchildren as long as we can. But the point is our biggest gift we give to our country and our children and our grandchildren is the legacy of our country, and right now, that is at risk."

It should be noted that Patrick, 71, hasn't given up his six-figure salary and the perks that go with it, to make room for a younger Texas politician.

George P. Bush is one who comes to mind.

Weird how that happens.

The real world

Apart from being insulting, it's the kind of thing one might say when one doesn't live in the real world.

There are an estimated 2.3 million grandparents raising grandchildren; a sacrifice being made to keep many kids out of foster care, or worse.

The American workforce is filled with people in their 60s, 70s, even 80s, not because they're bored, or eccentric, but because they still must work in order to have some breathing room to buy medicine, utilities and food.

Many devoted 30, 40 years

of their lives to companies that grew wealthy from their labor, ran their pension funds into the ground, then parachuted out of communities that bent over backward to accommodate them.

Boomers and retirees are the ones who show up for work. And now we want to bump them off for the sake of people who don't? Facepalm

Those born in the middle of the American Century and during World War II may not ever possess the historical prestige of the Greatest Generation, but they're the ones who knew Vietnam had become a SNAFU and quagmire, even as they fought it.

They're the ones who sniffed out that Richard Nixon was a crook, defying their more-trusting parents at the dinner table and on college campuses.

They're the ones who invented the internet.

Right now, the most important person in America is 79 years old. Not only does Dr. Anthony Fauci epitomize public service, he's willing to tell us the truth, politics be damned.

But we all know truth is a dangerous thing, hence Fauci's need for a security detail amid death threats.

Apart from the "Deep State" conspiracy theories that are too wacky to repeat, according to reports, many of the threats are in response to Fauci doing a "facepalm" while the president was talking about the COVID-19 outbreak.

Well, who hasn't?

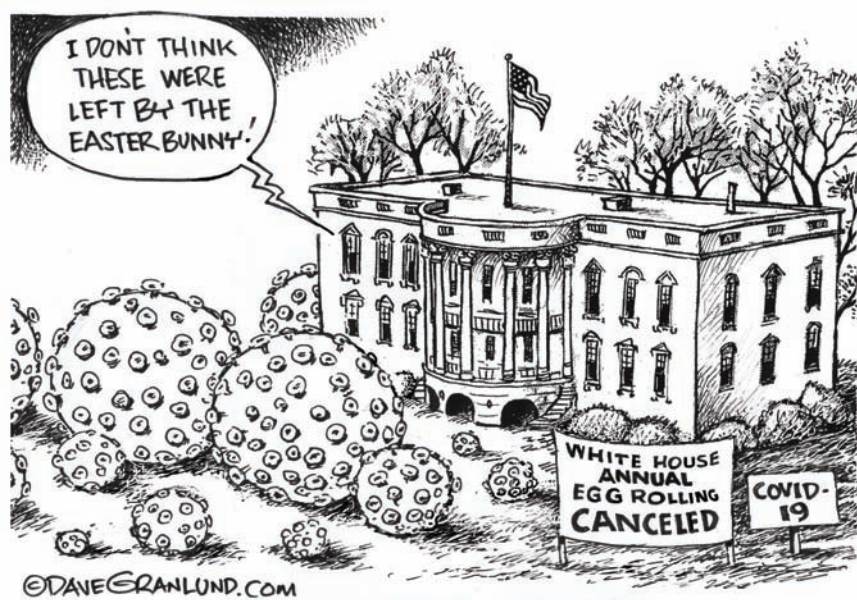
Fauci's level of expertise and experience only comes from time, which comes from living. None of us should be willing to sacrifice such people for the sake of jump-starting Wall Street.

At 73, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine is old enough to be Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' father.

I'll take Mike for \$1,000, Alex.

(Reach Charita at charita.goshay@cantonrep.com.)

ANOTHER VIEW



TOM O'MARA | 58TH DISTRICT

Completing census helps us move forward

There is no taking a break from this pandemic response, we know that. The personal loss, pain, and tragedy in so many places, and in so many lives, is immense. At the time of this writing, we will soon have lost more than 8,000 New Yorkers and it is a death toll that continues to climb.

For the families and loved ones of those lost, I hope that each of us, in our own ways, will extend thoughts of comfort and prayers of strength.

The social and economic costs are enormous, and deep-rooted. It is going to take an historic marshaling of public-private coordination, commitment, experience, know-how, and resources to find solid ground again, fix what is broken, and begin reclaiming the best (and better) ways forward.

For now, on this day, as we all continue doing our part day by day, one day at a time, I will focus on three points.

Point 1: As individual citizens, our commitment to the common good is Priority No. 1. It has to be because until we get this virus under control, there is no moving forward. We all must – and must is the key word – adhere to the “New York on Pause” guidelines that remain in effect until

at least April 29. You can find these guidelines on [coronavirus.health.ny.gov](https://www.health.ny.gov). Please read them again, and then keep putting them into practice. Do not let up, hold the line, and thank you for your cooperation.

Point 2: We stay together in this battle by staying informed – and we have to stay informed in order to continue exercising the personal responsibility the COVID-19 response demands for the foreseeable future, as well as to find the assistance we may need. And assistance is available. Not one of us is alone. I will remind you again that on my state Senate website, we maintain a “One-Stop Webpage” with links to local, state, and federal lifelines of help, recommendations, and support. This includes my office, which remains on call throughout this crisis.

Point 3: We have a high-alert responsibility right now as individuals to stay home and adhere to all of the “New York on Pause” directions. However, there is one other important task we can complete collectively as a community and as a state. It's simple, but it will make a great difference for all of us after we have brought this virus under control. Fill out and return your 2020 Census form. You should have received a copy

in the mail in mid-March. If not or if you've misplaced it, go to the Census website ([2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov)) to complete it online, or complete it by phone at 844-330-2020.

In terms of our long-term, post-COVID19 recovery, completing the census is one way that you can help ensure resources locally and statewide. Yes, it's that important. The once-every-decade census achieves important goals, including determining, among other matters: how many representatives each state sends to Congress; the amount of federal funding state and communities are allocated for roads, schools, emergency services, and other critical services and infrastructure; and economic development decisions made by businesses and industries.

According to Census Bureau Director Dr. Steven Dillingham, “It has never been easier to respond on your own, whether online at [2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov), over the phone, or by mail – all without having to meet a census taker. It's something everyone can do while practicing social distancing at home to make a difference today, tomorrow, and the next 10 years.”

Thank all of you for your continued cooperation and perseverance as we do our best to get through this together.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

God is not to blame

To the Editor,
There have been a number of people recently asking the question: “Is the coronavirus a punishment from God?”

The answer is “No” and this medieval notion needs to be banished in these modern times.

God is not a supernatural policeman high in the sky, watching humanity and ready to pass judgment when the accumulated sins reach a critical number.

God is Love.
All of Creation is a gift we have all been invited to share. Not only is Creation celebrated in every religion, each has Love at the heart of its teachings.

How can anyone place a loving God in the position of a terminator?

Certainly, there are passages in the holy texts where a God of vengeance strikes but when these ancient, pre-scientific stories of God's punishments are allowed to be the dominant way people are taught to understand God, religious faith is simply reduced to living in a state of eternal fear.

God can be known as Mother, Father, Yahweh, Allah, Krishna, Waheguru, Great Spirit and in stories of these deities, humans are the children. We have been given the gift of life which we share intimately ~ not only with our brothers and sisters around the world ~ but with plants and animals within a global ecosystem that has evolved over billions of years.

We trivialize God when we suggest that our existence on Earth is in jeopardy because “God is mad” and the children need to be taught a lesson.

The current havoc created by the coronavirus will not cease when God is no longer angry. The deadly virus will only be contained when we seek the best science and follow the doctors' orders.

Those who prevail will do so by seeking strength and hope from the God of all Creation.

Those who simply try to please a God of punishment will live in doubt and fear all their days.

Rev. Gary McCaslin
American Baptist Minister, retired
Corning

Do not become a fearmonger

To the Editor,
During this time of the Corona Virus, it is very important that we are careful and take precautions not to spread the disease for the sake of the elderly and those with preexisting conditions.

However, I feel that something needs to be said about the sense of panic that has been exacerbated by the actions of the government as well as the mainstream media.

We are a population who has had a steady diet over the years of movies, TV shows, and books depicting some global outbreak that led to the collapse of civilization. These fictional stories are in the back of our mind when we witness the fearmongering slowly being increased

due to severe government action and the news reporting on that action.

As we try to be cautious and not panic, we have to understand how the world will change after the Corona Virus. For that is something that can be far more real than the fear stimulated by overreaction and overreach.

Our future can be one of scarcity and violent competition, imposed authoritarian order, or the emergence of economic cooperation and direct democratic participation.

How we deal with actions and news now can determine which future we will have.

Darin Robbins
Corning

Republicans should return relief checks

To the Editor,
I believe that all conservatives and Republicans in the USA should return their Relief Checks to the federal government so that they do not become “unproductive” and “shiftless welfare recipients” and “bloodsuckers” who are accepting “government hand-outs” and “something for nothing” as well as being “parasites” who are “overly-dependent” on being “subsidized” by the federal government which they hate.

To quote Al Pacino from “And Justice For All”, “I have now completed my opening statement.”

Stewart B. Epstein
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The Leader

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