

Opinions

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Congressman
Tom Emmer

Dear Friend,

This past week was a challenging week for my family following the passing of my father, Thomas Earl Emmer Sr. He was a loving father, grandfather, husband and mentor and will be remembered for his commitment to God, his wife of 60 years, Patsy Emmer, his family, and his country. Thank you to everyone who sent their sympathies and well-wishes over the last few days; they mean a lot to me and my family.

Visiting the Hess Farm

Last week, the Hess family invited me into their home and their farmstead in Foley. The Hess Farm was going to be one of the Sixth District Farms honored as one of this year's State Fair Century Farms, but due to the fair's cancellation, I still wanted to take some time to recognize their legacy in agriculture.

The Hess Farm was founded over 120 years ago, when August Hess purchased eighty acres of land for just under \$250 dollars. What began as an amateur venture became a family legacy. Today, the Hess family still operates the farm, which has grown to include 100 cows, 140 heifers and 950 steers.

I shared with the Hess family information about legislation I introduced to provide flexibility for dairy farmers who rely on the Dairy Margin Coverage program. My legislation will allow them to adjust their production history to more accurately utilize this vital tool. You can read more about this bill at: https://emmer.house.gov/press-releases?ContentRecord_id=B1B35CEA-A1AE-441A-9420-612C3BF66FB7.

This month, I will be highlighting several farms who would have been honored at this year's State Fair celebration. While this year may look different, the recognition of these outstanding farm families should carry on. I want to thank the Hess family for having me to their operation to see the outstanding work they do. Stay tuned for more highlights from my farm visits this month!

Recognizing Health Center Week

This week marks National Health Center Week, which highlights the important care Community Health Centers (CHCs) provide for millions of Americans. Community Health Centers provide primary care and public health services for low-income and uninsured individuals. They operate with federal grant funding and serve as an important role providing health care services to those in need.

Now more than ever, these centers are critical to fulfilling the health care needs of so many Minnesotans. The Coronavirus outbreak has led to 94% of CHCs adding capacity to offer Coronavirus testing, relieving the strain on local hospitals by caring for COVID-19 patients.

In honor of National Health Center Week, I signed on as an original co-sponsor to a resolution highlighting the importance of CHCs and advocating for their continued federal support. CHCs have supported those in need for over 50 years, they deserve to be recognized for the important role they play in keeping Americans healthy.

Supporting Community Credit Unions

Last week I introduced the Credit Union Governance Modernization Act, which updates the procedures of our nation's credit unions and provides for enhanced employee and member safety.

The bill also simplifies the member expulsion process while ensuring a fair process for reinstatement.

Currently, the law requires a federal credit union to hold a vote of its entire membership before it can expel a member who engages in egregious, sometimes dangerous or illegal conduct. This can include physical damage to property, harassment, or threats.

I've seen the effort championed in Minnesota and know that it will make credit unions safer for both employees and members. Our community financial institutions support us, and it's time we support them by eliminating this burdensome regulation. Local neighborhoods and businesses rely on credit unions, and more than 1.8 million Minnesota consumers are member-owners of their credit union.

This legislation will prioritize safety and give credit unions the latitude to serve their members more effectively. Last week, I caught up with the Minnesota Credit Union Network to discuss this nonpartisan effort and share my continued commitment to serving smaller financial institutions and their members.

Visiting the St. Cloud VA Hospital

During my time in Congress, I have made it a priority to regularly engage with the St. Cloud VA Medical Center to ensure our veterans are receiving the care and attention they deserve. Last week, I had the honor of accompanying Acting Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Pamela Powers during her visit to St. Cloud.

During our tour of the St. Cloud VA, we discussed an important piece of legislation I introduced in February, the Same-Day Accountability Veterans Enhancement (SAVE) Act, which would ensure the Veterans Administration has mechanisms in place to successfully offer same-day physical and mental health treatment to our veterans in need.

In recent years, Congress has studied the large amount of complaints from veterans regarding inadequate and delayed treatment. In response, the Veterans Administration offered same-day services in all 166 medical centers. This effort aims to provide prompt and improved care to our nation's heroes. However, the Government Accountability Office has highlighted the need for oversight and metrics to make sure this care is provided to our veterans.

The SAVE Act would provide for accountability measures to ensure proper care is provided. In addition, the SAVE Act places special attention on those who need immediate mental health treatment.

Veterans deserve timely care, and it is Congress' job to ensure they can provide it. Far too often we hear of veterans falling through the cracks, and not receiving the care they deserve. I am committed to ensuring veterans receive the same-day mental and physical health care they that is rightfully due to them. To learn more about this legislation, visit my website at: <https://emmer.house.gov/press-releases?id=22FAB477-C288-4640-B015-25FD7E291069>.

For veterans in need of assistance with the Veterans Health Care System, the Veterans Benefit Administration or any other federal agency, my casework staff stands ready to assist you. Whether you are waiting on a claim decision or would like to apply for a service medal, you can learn more on my website at: <https://emmer.house.gov/case>

work.

Donate plasma today!

As a nation, we continue to combat the Coronavirus, and search for medical solutions to stop this virus and its spread. Minnesotans who have tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) and recovered can assist in this effort by donating plasma as part of the federally sponsored Expanded Access Program for convalescent plasma, a potential treatment program for COVID-19.

Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood that is collected from patients who have recovered from COVID-19. Patients develop antibodies in the blood against the virus, which might help fight the infection in others.

Learn how you can help:

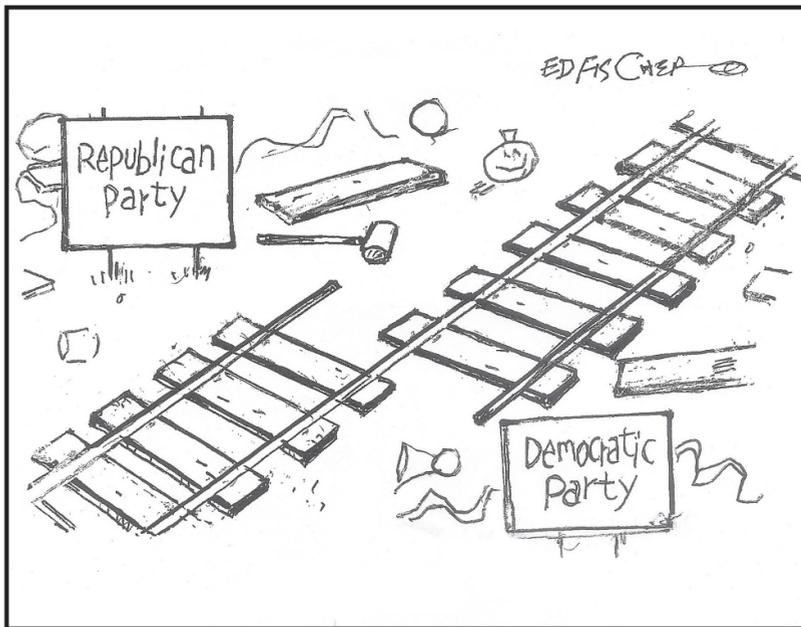
Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Am I eligible?**
 - You must have had COVID-19 documented by a laboratory test and recovered.
 - You must no longer be experiencing symptoms for at least 14 days prior to donation.
 - You must be at least 17 years old, and weigh 110 lbs. or more.
- **Where can I donate?**

- American Red Cross
 - American Blood Centers
 - Advancing Transfusion and Cellular Therapies Worldwide
 - Blood Centers of America
- Until next week, if you are in need of assistance or would like to share your thoughts with me, please write me an e-mail.

To keep up with what we're doing in Washington, follow me on Twitter and Facebook for more updates!

Sincerely,
 Tom



Community Corner

By Shelby Hulstein



Save the children

Human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry. One hundred fifty BILLION dollars; let that sink in. More than 30 million people are currently trapped by modern-day slavery; did you know this? I wouldn't be surprised if you don't; I wasn't even fully aware of the magnitude of this industry until recently. For some reason, the news thinks awarding airtime to rioters is more important than this industry of slavery, so it's up to us to raise awareness. Making a show of tearing down statues of people from centuries ago isn't going to help, so what will? Demanding social media platforms stop censoring #savethechildren, supporting anti-trafficking groups, and realizing we have the opportunity to reclaim the future for these victims is how we save lives and build a better tomorrow.

I want to talk specifically about children. Right now, there are 2 million children around the world being sold as sex slaves. Disgusted? I won't get into the details of why there is a high demand for young victims or how men seek out young boys to abuse. It's important to understand, though, that this is happening everywhere, not just third-world countries or across the globe; this is happening in America, too.

Do you know why human trafficking is such an insanely huge and profitable industry? It's because, unlike drugs, humans can be sold and abused repeatedly. And, for many victims, their abusers and sellers are usually people they know. Can you even begin to fathom a mother selling their daughter into the industry?

It is absolutely heart-breaking to think about what these innocent children are subjected to.

Thankfully, there are many who refuse to sit by and do nothing. I was recently introduced to Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.), a group comprised of "former CIA, past and current law enforcement, and highly-skilled operatives that lead coordinated identification and extraction efforts." This team works with local law enforcement to rescue victims and take down the perpetrators; since the operation was founded in December of 2013, they have rescued 4,000 children. I could go on and on about this incredible team, but for now, I encourage you to check out their website and see how you can get involved: ourrescue.org.

One thing we all can do is start having conversations. Be aware of what is happening, not just what the media is telling you. Educate yourself and your children to recognize potential threats and speak up when you see something. Donate to groups like O.U.R. that work tirelessly to bring these children home. Question social media platforms for trying to hide the #savethechildren movement; again, if they have the technology to censor free speech and differing opinions, what's stopping them from exposing pedophiles and traffickers who use their platforms?

We know we can never fully eliminate trafficking or evil in this world, because there will always be wicked people wanting to cause pain. But we can make it a whole lot harder for them to profit from slavery and do as much as we can to wreak havoc on the industry.

"You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again that you did not know." -William Wilberforce

The Eazy-Peazy Way to Vote and Avoid Fraud: VOTE BY MAIL

By Sherry Sweetnam, Annandale

Do you want your children and grandchildren to inherit the mess we're in today? Here's a long list. A life of not being able to hug our grandkids and friends, feelings of personal isolation, feeling we're on the brink of economic disaster—people can't afford to keep their homes, unpredictable climate change, and George Floyd's shocking murder in our wonderful town of Minneapolis. And as a result, not surprisingly, each of us is experiencing a collective, national psychological depression. (Not to mention the people in refugee camps in Syria.) The whole world is in the same boat.

What can we do about this mess we're in? Don't forget our Minnesota history. A history of devastating droughts and tornadoes, the Great Depression, wars, and we survived them all because we Minnesotans are a resilient, educated people who mask for our neighbors. Throughout world history there are reoccurring patterns of great change and chaos. Pick up the Old Testament. And now, the Covid 19 War is our wakeup call. It reminds us of how vulnerable we are and, ultimately, that we don't have control. Covid makes life REAL and the whole world wakes up and suffers.

What can we do about it? Listen to the wisdom of the ages, the stories, the myths, the billions of people who have come before us and sur-

vived. Listen carefully to wise people you know of such as your respected journalists, artists, and spiritual people. These people have an explanation for this mess and they call it "Phoenix Time." This term refers to a 2,000 year old Greek myth about how a magnificent, fuller-than-life, humongous bird called a Phoenix, who flew too close to the sun and was smoked, plunged to its death. Miraculously, out of its dark, cold ashes there came a pause for reflection to think new thoughts how to live life differently and better. We are experiencing the re-set phase right now.

Covid 19 is opportunity time. We all have 2 choices: whine about how life is, or get off our duffs and take action. As my father used to say, "You can sit in the corner and suck your thumb" or get involved. Get involved in that dirty word, "politics." Politics simply defined means "people". Get involved with the people and politics of Wright County. We are the most blessed and privileged people on the face of this earth because we were born in this country. By accident of birth, the majority of us were born privileged because of being the right color of white, and being the right gender of male. So be it. Get involved anyway.

This year VOTE!!!! Whoever you are, speak up with your own voice and be counted. To say, "Why bother?" is a defeatist cop-out. Michael Jordan says "TRYING 100% is the difference between winners and losers."

Letters to the Editor



(Editor's Note: Sending your letter to us by email speeds up our production work because we spend less time typesetting. Whenever possible, please send letters to the editor by email to ads@thedrummer.com or business@thedrummer.com, attention Tom or Shelby. Please include address and daytime phone number. Thank you.)

To The Editor

Some definitions:
 Authoritarian: a form of governmental or political system, principle, or practice in which individual freedom is held as completely subordinate to the power or authority of the state, centered either in one person or a small group that is not constitutionally accountable to the people.
 Autocracy: government in

which the political power is held by a single, self-appointed ruler.

Corporatocracy: government where a corporation, a group of corporations, or government entities with private components control the direction and governance of a country.

Demagogue: a person, especially an orator or political leader, who gains power and popularity by arousing the emotions, passions, and prejudices of the people.

Kakistocracy: government by the worst persons; a form of government in which the worst persons are in power.

Kleptocracy: government or state in which those in power exploit national resources and steal; rule by a thief or thieves.

Oligarchy: government in which all power is vested in a

few persons or in a dominant class or clique; government by the few.

Plutocracy: government or state in which the wealthy class rules.

Geniocracy: government which advocates problem-solving and creative intelligence as criteria for governance.

Meritocracy: government wherein appointments are made and responsibilities are given based on demonstrated talent and ability.

Republic: Rule by elected individuals representing the citizen body and exercising power according to the rule of law.

Progressive: Making progress toward better conditions; employing or advocating more enlightened ideas. Favoring or advocating progress, change, improvement, or reform, as opposed to wishing to maintain things as they are.

Arthur Gorr
 Buffalo, MN

To The Editor

VOTE -- YOUR VOTE --- WHAT IS A VOTE? Better question might be, WHO should vote. Should it be MEN only? Only WOMEN? Only MEN with property or money? Only people with a First grade education? Only people that have NOT committed a crime? Only people who have PAID for that crime in jail or prison? Only people who agree with YOU about OUR country's future? Only "LOW INFORMATION" people who watch just one source for news about how we are governing our country? These are just a few of the questions that have been discussed during our history.

We, as a country, have tried to make VOTING as OPEN as possible, over time. At least that is what we have TOLD ourselves and our children.

Letters

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Letters to the Editor

We encourage letters to the editor about public matters. Please state your views briefly in your own words. Letters must be signed by the writer and include the legible name, address and daytime phone number of the writer. Only your name and town will normally be published. All letters are subject to editing for clarity, space and appropriateness of content. We reserve the right to refuse publication of any letter. Address letter as follows: Letters to editor, Wright County Journal-Press, P.O. Box 159, Buffalo, MN 55313.

During political election campaigns, we prefer to reserve space in the letters column primarily for our readers and not necessarily for the candidates or campaign committees. We ask that candidates and people who are active on their committees, please identify themselves when submitting material during a campaign. We will consider publishing that material elsewhere on the Opinion Pages. This is not a perfect system. Sometimes candidates feel entitled to respond within the letters column to what they see as serious false charges or significant factual errors made against them in someone's early letter. This newspaper tries to be fair in those cases. Do not wait until election eve to raise a serious new issue, when insufficient time remains for a reply.

Advertising Policy Notice to Advertisers

Policy on Errors - Normal and reasonable care is taken to avoid errors or omissions during preparation and printing of the Wright County Journal-Press and The Drummer. Other than this care, NO guarantee of accuracy or performance is made. The best insurance against errors or omissions is for the advertiser to request a PROOF copy of the advertisement, which the advertiser can carefully check before publication. If special circumstances place greater than normal importance on a particular advertisement, the advertiser MUST call this fact to the personal attention of the publisher. The advertiser MUST personally read and approve a PROOF copy of that particularly important advertisement before the press run begins.

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Errors in Copy - The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold the publisher harmless in any litigation or claim arising out of advertising copy or content supplied to the publisher by the advertiser or his agency or agents.

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