

Letters to the Editor

fear when he is in a position of power that can help dispel much of that fear.

Discussions that are loaded with fear rarely result in much more than reactionary behaviors. Such fearful discussions also tend to exclude any hope of slowing a hasty response. Late last year I wrote to Representative Huelskamp to explain my hope that rash decisions pertaining to the "fiscal cliff" not be made in haste or fear - in spite of "end-of-the-world" declarations of tragedy commonly heard at the time. Whether or not he actually read my letter, I'll never know. What I know is that the world didn't end and from my perspective it didn't get much better nor much worse.

It doesn't matter if I agree with his views or not, what I would expect of a person given such responsibility is that he address the issues in an informative, helpful, and positive manner. One that befits the job of representing Kansans in Washington. For the record, I didn't vote for him. However, no matter who voted for him he should at least have the respect for our good intelligence and not demean us, or him, by keeping to the "lowest-common-denominator" when it comes to keeping his constituents informed.

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Preserve Peace Memorial Auditorium

To the Editor:

Over the past few weeks I have been following the ongoing debate about Manhattan's Memorial Auditorium at City Hall. While I no longer live in Manhattan, my family has had roots there since the Civil War and I still consider it home. As such, this issue concerns me deeply.

In point of fact, a local newspaper of the era (late 1942)

published a prominent article about my grandparents and their five sons serving in uniform wherever needed during World War II — in Europe, North Africa and the Pacific. All have long ago gone to Glory, but their legacy is embodied in the Memorial Auditorium.

When the Memorial Auditorium was dedicated, it was intended to serve as a living reminder for the community of the sacrifices made by its young men and women. Much as the Memorial Stadium at Kansas State served to bring the community together to honor the local veterans who died during World War I, the Memorial Auditorium was built to mark our final victory over fascism, and those who gave their all during the struggle. Whenever events were held there, the community came together and in doing so it embodied why they fought.

It seems a matter of supreme disrespect to the veterans of that second Great War to "repurpose" the memorial that they dedicated to honor their comrades, living and dead. Most of these vets have since passed, and their number declines daily, but their memory should not die with them — and certainly not to address such an ad hoc issue as office space.

While I acknowledge the Commission's efficient and unilateral application of a certain sterile logic, it seems that they should include the community that they ostensibly serve in these deliberations. As an ex-pat I am in no position to disapprove of their decision to dismantle the auditorium, but I certainly deplore it.

It is said that, if you don't know where you've come from, you don't know where you are. Let us come together to ensure that a clear memory of our past informs a comprehensive and inclusive vision for our future.

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Leavenworth