



Friday's letters: Border wall, troop withdrawals and more

January 4, 2019

If you want a border wall, send the president a check

There are approximately 126.22 million households in the United States.

Assuming that the "build the wall" issue is evenly divided, as are most issues these days, then there are about 63 million households that support construction of a wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

If each of those households would immediately send a check for \$80 to the Build the Wall Fund, Mr. Trump would have enough money to start construction.

That way they could have their wall without imposing the cost on those of us who think it's a terrible, unnecessary and unwelcome idea.

Barbara Birks, Sarasota

Leaders should seek solution to immigration crisis

Regarding "the wall": It seems obvious to me that we have an immigration crisis that needs attention. That situation does not need explanation.

It also seems clear to me that the immigration crisis is a perfect situation for leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties to come together, make a comprehensive study of the situation and come up with a meaningful solution.

This could be the opportunity that the *thoughtful* leaders of both parties, and certainly the citizens of the United States, have been waiting for.

Neil Sheehan, Englewood

Instead of funding wall, fix roads and bridges

Politicians have the bad habit of adding to their claims of one kind or the other "it's what the American people want."

I am an American, and I don't recall that I said I wanted to spend \$5 billion for a wall — not that I was asked.

And the last poll I saw indicated that more than 50 percent of Americans don't want to spend \$5 billion on a wall.

I'm one of those Americans. And one who believes that \$5 billion could be better spent on fixing bridges, roads and dams — and anything else that need fixing.

Arnold L. Rothenbuescher, Venice

Rather than attack Trump, Democrats should cooperate

I just have one question that keeps reappearing in my head: Why don't the Democrats spend more time working with the Republicans on getting a fair and decent immigration policy instead of this continual pursuit of the impeachment of President Trump?

He won. Get over it.

He has done more for this country in two years than the last two presidents did in their eight years each! People have jobs. The economy is steady.

We need an immigration policy, *period*. Focus, people.

Karen Snyder, Boca Grande

Troop withdrawal from Syria a common-sense decision

The article "Timetable of Trump's pullout from Syria being questioned" (Jan.1) describes criticism of President Donald Trump's common-sense decision to withdraw 2,000 U.S. troops from Syria, a place where we didn't belong in the first place. Trump also called for reducing our troops in Afghanistan by one half.

These are good first steps and should be followed by also removing all of our soldiers from Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Somalia, etc.

Most of the criticism of Trump's decision on Syria comes from Israel, the wealthy pro-Israel lobby and its bought-and-paid-for lackeys in Congress like Sens. Lindsey Graham and Marco Rubio. Graham foolishly stated, "Don't turn Syria over to the Iranians. That's a nightmare for Israel."

Hopefully, President Trump will have the courage to do what is best for America by standing up to Israel, which has been trying to drag the U.S. into a potentially disastrous war with Iran.

Israel has bombed Syrian and Iranian targets over 100 times while never once attacking the international terrorist group ISIS.

Columnist Doug Bandow summed up our current situation: "The one reason America can't police the world anymore: Washington is broke."

Ray Gordon, Venice

Global warming will persist, so planning for it is critical

In a recent timely Herald-Tribune column, Mark Buchanan argues that businesses should start planning for the effects of climate change because it has recently risen to 69 percent of market capitalization.

As an MIT-educated meteorologist, I want to advance the following reasons why such planning should not be delayed.

The current climatic warming cannot be controlled by man and furthermore it is likely to continue for thousands of years. The reason is that this warming is an interglacial phenomenon.

Interglacials are warm periods that have been interspersed with glacial periods for the past 3 million years of earth history. For example, in the last 680,000 years, there have been seven glacial and seven interglacial periods.

The average duration of interglacials has been 50,000 years, and the current one began about 13,000 years ago.

This means that, if the current one is average, it has some 27,000 years to go, which far exceeds the probable duration of mankind.

Since we humans will be living in a warm climate forever, I submit that there is no better time to start planning for it than today.

Eugene M. Darling Jr., Sarasota