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# LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

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## **'Blame game' a pointless exercise**

Recently, local columnist Carol Petersen wrote, "A baby boomer's lament." She asserted that people of her age have been unfairly blamed for America's financial catastrophes. Instead, she suggested shifting blame to America's "lazy" and "spoiled" youth.

The U.S. Census defines the baby boom generation as Americans born between 1946 and 1964. Using this information (and Ms. Petersen's own words), it becomes very easy to dispute many of her assertions.

Quote: "Boomers didn't send U.S. industries to foreign countries. Politicians with their North American Fair Trade Agreement did that. CEOs and business managers did that."

Fact: President Bill Clinton (born 1946) signed NAFTA into law.

Fact: Three of the American corporations responsible for the most outsourcing -- General Electric, Wal-Mart and Microsoft -- are all currently run by boomer CEOs (Jeff Immelt, born in 1956; Bill Simon, 1959; and Steve Balmer, 1956).

Quote: "Boomers didn't cause the housing bubble and boomers didn't burst the housing bubble"

Fact: Many of the largest American mortgage companies are run by boomer CEOs. For example, Michael Perry (born in 1963) led IndyMac Mortgages at the time of their infamous downfall and bankruptcy.

Quote: "Boomers didn't run up the U.S. debt, politicians did that, paying for wars and for their out of control spending."

Fact: President George Bush (born in 1946) initiated the wars into both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Fact: The national debt has increased over \$4 trillion under President Barack Obama (born in 1961).

Even though many of these individuals are directly responsible for our current economic mess, it would be both inaccurate and unfair of me to blame their entire generation. Ms. Peterson and others are encouraged to follow suit. In these extremely difficult economic times, we must stop playing the blame game.

Ben Franklin said it best, "We must all hang together, or most assuredly, we will all hang separately."

Rich Mehrenberg, Millersville

## **'One nation under God, indivisible ...'**

Each state, city, borough and municipality has allowed the socialist and progressive movements to subtly rob us of our Founding Fathers' heritage of "Trust in God."

The Pledge of Allegiance to our flag says it all:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

As a nation, we are a constitutional republic, not a democracy. We are one nation under God, who has blessed America with liberty and justice for all. As long as we stand as one nation under God, we are indivisible.

Our leaders are telling us to depend on the government to provide what God alone can give. Promised entitlements have robbed us of God's truth in the Bible. We have allowed the public forum to become void of God, his wisdom and his word.

The presence of God's word and golden rule, "Love your neighbor as yourself," is scorned and ridiculed in public and political forums.

It's time to wake up and stand for truth, justice and the American dream of liberty for all. It is only through our faith in God and our willingness to walk in his truth that America will regain its greatness.

God honors those who honor him. Inviting God to live in our hearts enables us to receive God's grace. God's grace enables and empowers us to walk in his light.

America's greatest days are yet to come, but only as "one nation under God."

John B. Stipe Jr., Manor Township