

‘Go back’ would be fireable offense here

THE BEACON’S MISSION is not to cover national politics. But sometimes an event occurs that simply requires our response because it reaches in an immediate way to the local level.

When the President of the United States tells four duly-elected congresswomen to “go back” to the countries “from which they came” – a blatant and all too common racist taunt – we cannot remain silent. We cannot remain silent publicly any more than we could remain silent privately if such an utterance occurred in our own workplace.

For one thing, it’s morally intolerable to witness such abuse and say nothing. Passivity feels like acceptance and that burns the conscience of anyone who has one.

In addition, such conduct is actually illegal in the workplace according to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. “Examples of potentially illegal conduct include insults, taunting, or ethnic epithets, such as making fun of a person’s foreign accent or comments like, ‘Go back to where you came from’ whether made by supervisors or co-workers.”

We are confident that any such utterances made at one of Sheboygan County’s prominent workplaces would be treated as unacceptable and have serious consequences for the person responsible, up to being a fireable offense.

If such a thing was said by a local elected official, the only acceptable remedy would be clear: immediate resignation.

At issue:
Silence is shame

Bottom line:
Speak no evil

Such a person could not legitimately serve their constituents if they regard some of their constituents themselves as “less than.” It would be a violation of democracy on a fundamental level, because it conveys the grotesque message that some among us are not entitled to their rightful participation in civil society simply because of the color of their skin.

So let’s turn to the one locally elected official who had a chance Tuesday July 16 in the U.S. House of Representatives to affirm that basic point: Rep. Glenn Grothman. He voted no to a resolution condemning the president’s racist taunt and affirming that “immigrants and their descendants have made America stronger, and that those who take the oath of citizenship are every bit as American as those whose families have lived in the United States for many generations”

It is truly unfortunate that Rep. Grothman lacks the political courage to condemn that which he would undoubtedly condemn if it came from his own staff.

He can now answer to his conscience, and to his constituents right here in Sheboygan County, who might themselves have something to say about it.

As for us, we have said our piece, for this is a time when silence is shame. A time, as the philosopher John Stuart Mill said, when “Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.”

OBITUARIES

Vincent “Vince” L. Billings Jr., 86 of Sheboygan died Thursday, July 11, 2019. Ballhorn Funeral Home.

Marian Boedeker, 92 of Sheboygan died Sunday, July 14, 2019. Ballhorn Funeral Home.

Susan L. Bogenschuetz, 70 of Sheboygan died Saturday, July 20, 2019. Olson Funeral Home.

Ronald Bruggink, 78 of Oostburg died Thursday, July 11, 2019. Wenig Funeral Home.

Arlene E. Entringer, 94 of Howards Grove died Tuesday, July 23, 2019. Olson Funeral Home.

Le Roy E. Fink, 83 of Plymouth died Sunday, July 14, 2019. Suchon Funeral Home.

Lloyd W. “Rusty” Fritz, 88 of Plymouth died Monday, July 15, 2019. Suchon Funeral Home.

Jack A. Grade, 73 of Sheboygan died Tuesday, July 9, 2019. Olson Funeral Home.

Bonnie L. Grawien, 63 of Sheboygan died Thursday, July 18, 2019. Olson Funeral Home.

Tommy R. Hammond, 74 of Sheboygan died Tuesday, July 16, 2019. Ballhorn Funeral Home.

James V. Haney, 56 of Random Lake died Wednesday, July 10, 2019. Suchon Funeral Home.

Althea Kaat, 89 of Oostburg died Sunday, July 14, 2019. Wenig Funeral Home.

Carl Kumbalek, 94 of Sheboygan died Saturday, July 20, 2019. Wenig Funeral Home.

Marion Mayer, 93 of Plymouth died Friday, July 19, 2019. Wittkopp Funeral Home.

Sandra A. Mueller, 78 of Sheboygan died Friday, July 19, 2019. Zimmer Westview Funeral Home.

Norman Parrish, 79 of Oostburg died Thursday, July 11, 2019. Wenig Funeral Home.

Bernice A. Richter, 97 of Sheboygan died Tuesday, July 16, 2019. Olson Funeral Home.

Produciana Ruiz, 87 of Sheboygan died Thursday, July 18, 2019. Olson Funeral Home.

Ralph Rusch, 86 of Oostburg died Wednesday, July 10,

2019. Wenig Funeral Home.

Bonnie L. Sanchez, 66 of Sheboygan died Saturday, July 20, 2019. Ballhorn Funeral Home.

Henry Robert Schilling, 57 of Sheboygan died Thursday, July 11, 2019. Zimmer Westview Funeral Home.

Donna M. Sleck, 87 of She-

boygan died Wednesday, July 10, 2019. Ballhorn Funeral Home.

Debora L. Spangler, 59 of Sheboygan died Thursday, July 18, 2019. Zimmer Westview Funeral Home.

James E. Splittgerber, 79 of Sheboygan died Saturday, July

20, 2019. Reinbold-Novak Funeral Home.

Gail Drue Vollrath, 82 of Sheboygan died Monday, July 15, 2019. Zimmer Westview Funeral Home.

Scott S. Zehel, 60 of Sheboygan died Saturday, July 13, 2019. Ballhorn Funeral Home.

Insurance: The biggest risk is not having any.



Anne Woepse
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