

Another skirmish in the so-called 'War on Christmas'

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Thursday, 22 December 2011 20:14 - Last Updated Thursday, 22 December 2011 20:16

A Capitol Commentary

By Charlie Litton

Nebraska News Service

I've never waged a war, but I presume it takes reasoned strategy and careful planning.

At least that seems to be a common thread in the history books I've read.

So, you'll pardon me if I'm a little confused about this supposed "War on Christmas" I keep hearing about from vapid TV drones.

First, it's a "war." Which is not to be confused with an "Assault on Christmas," or "Christmas Under Siege," or even an "Attack on Christmas."

No, we are told, this is very serious business.

This is war.

Here, for this "War on Christmas," we're talking about people's souls.

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But whose souls are we talking about here?

I'm a Christian, so I know that it's Christmas. I can't escape it, no matter how many people have the gall to wish me a "Happy Holidays."

At home, I have a rapidly dying tree that sheds about 6,000 needles each time the furnace cranks up to weakly churn out its tepid warmth — which is no doubt laced with carbon-monoxide vapors.

Not enough to kill anyone, but just enough to make everyone cranky.

I'm also reminded by our priest, who has made a point to mention the season — and it's meaning — once or twice over the past few weeks. Tree lighting ceremonies here, there and everywhere serve as helpful reminders as well. Then there are the flamboyant decorations and lighted lawn ornaments that have done well to melt our recent snow fall.

And just yesterday, I saw Santa Claus at the mall.

If someone is waging war on Christmas, they sure are doing a lousy job of it.

I've seen enough plaid shirts and tree skirts to conclude one of two things: Either it's Christmas, or some Scottish clan has finally invaded. Maybe it's the Clan MacGregor. I've seen a lot of their red and green tartan in recent weeks.

Perhaps someone should alert Congress, which never got around to actually declaring war on Korea or Vietnam.

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Fewer than 90,000 Americans were lost in those conflicts, but the stupefyingly inane morning TV ninnies find nothing wrong with some shameless hyperbole.

Don't believe me?

The morning program, "Fox and Friends" on the Fox News Channel, best exemplifies the shallow depths plumbed by these types.

Back in 2007, the Fox morning crew reported a story out of Lewiston, Maine, where Muslim children were pranked by schoolmates who tossed some leftover ham in their general direction. In response, the school issued a zero tolerance ham rule.

The problem was that Fox's source for that news was an Onion-like satirical website. They reported on this fake news story to the extent co-host Steve Doocy and company were sued for libel.

The judge ultimately ruled in favor of Fox because, sadly, it's not illegal to be either "unprofessional" or "gullible." Nor stupid, it would seem.

A more recent example? Okay.

Last year, Fox and Friends reported that the LAPD would be adding a new weapon to its arsenal.

Jetpacks. Yes, 10,000 jetpacks at \$100,000 a pop.

"Fox and Friends" co-host Brian Kilmeade, the thoughtful one, cautioned, "You gotta' make some rules because you could have jetpacks flying into choppers."

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That's good advice for the FAA...and free.

Fox's source appears to be the Weekly World News, which you may recognize as the preeminent crack news team that exposed "Bat Boy" and scooped everyone with confirmation that the end of the world would happen back in November.

Later in the same broadcast, co-host Steve Doocy issued this retraction: "Earlier today we were talking about jetpacks...and it looked like the LAPD was going to buy a whole bunch of them. It turns out they're not going to."

Okay. So now they're telling us there's a war on Christmas.

I'll wait for confirmation before stocking up on the ammo.

Happy Holidays.

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