

Election 2016

These are my thoughts on election 2016. First, I belong to neither political party. At one time I was a delegate to the county republican convention; another time I was a delegate to the county democratic convention. I found neither to represent what I believe. For the past many years I've been a fierce independent.

I checked the enlistment oath I gave when I entered the military which says "I, Lester Allen Bakke, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the [officers](#) appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God." I swore to obey the orders of the President. It did not require me to respect the President. As Paul Harvey used to say, "here is the rest of the story". President-elect Trump and I are two years apart in age. We both were eligible for the draft. I enlisted, he received four education deferments and finally one medical deferment. Apparently he did not respect military service, therefore he does not deserve my respect. President-elect Trump did not respect the sacrifice of POW John McCain claiming he was no hero. President-elect Trump insulted the family of Army Capt Humayun-Khan who was killed in Iraq. Therefore I do not respect him.

All four of my grandparents were born in Europe and I respect their courage in coming to the US as immigrants, homesteading, becoming successful members of communities in Minnesota and having sons who served in WWI. President-elect Trump has repeatedly shown disrespect for immigrant families, calling Mexican immigrants murders and rapists. Therefore I do not respect him. President-elect Trump has called for a ban on all Muslims based solely on their religion. Apparently he has never read the first article of the Bill of Rights or believes he can ignore our Constitution. Therefore I do not respect him.

The area of greatest concern I have about President-elect Trump is his archaic attitude toward women. The Trump and Billy Bush video showed a deep disrespect for women. President-elect Trump's descriptors of women include fat, pig, dog, slob, and disgusting animal. He said it was OK to grab a woman between the legs. He even referred to his daughter as "a hot piece of ass" In our communities, I have worked with the first woman science professor, worked for the first woman president at MSUM, have interviewed the first woman admitted to UND law school, interviewed the first woman admitted to UND medical school. I have heard stories of the difficulties women have in predominately male professions. All of these are current. I cannot respect a person who ignores this. Therefore, I have no respect for President-elect Trump.