**Below, are the 2 email exchanges between myself and a journalist who writes for the Los Angeles Daily News, Dennis McCarthy.**

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**A prayer, a salute and a thank you on Memorial Day**

**for those who fought to secure our freedoms**

**by Dennis McCarthy**

**(McCarthy’s statements are in italics**

**followed by my responses in bold)**

Gather around kids, I want to talk to you about Memorial Day. Did you know it's our most important national holiday? Without it, we wouldn't be the United States of America today, and all those freedoms we enjoy and take for granted wouldn't exist.

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial\_Day**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day)

**According to your opening paragraph, America's freedoms did not exist before 1868. You know you may have a point. For millions of African-Americans ... that part is actually true.**

We'd be pledging allegiance to a totally different flag if it weren't for all the brave men and women veterans who gave their lives defending this country from bullies.

**What flag would that be? Do you have any evidence to back up that assertion? Since we both know you don't ... let's move on.**

You kids know all about bullies, right?

**As Americans we know more about bullies than anyone from any other country on Earth. No country in history has bullied more nations than we have. If it ever becomes an Olympic event, we've got the Gold Medal hands down.**

You've seen them at school and in your neighborhoods. Maybe you've been bullied yourself. How does it make you feel? Mad, anxious, helpless? I felt all those things when I was a kid.

**Thanks for explaining where America's bullyism originates.**

**But I imagine that the same can be said for other countries as well.**

**So our history of bullying the world must originate later in the development of our citizens.**

My parents' generation had to fight the biggest bully of them all, a mean, crazed man named Hitler who wanted to take over the world.

**Nearly half of voting age Americans just voted to reelect a man who was as close to imitating Hitler as any American has ever come. The 2 main differences I see between them is that 1) Hitler wasn't caught lying 30,000 times, and 2) Hitler succeeded in overthrowing his nation's Democracy, while Republicans have experienced a temporary setback.**

He had an army of bullies behind him who thought they were better than the rest of us - a superior race, they called themselves.

**You just described MAGA morons ... to a T.**

**And they make up nearly half of America.**

There was nothing superior about them. They were just plain, old bullies.

**See previous response.**

A few other countries joined them and became bullies, too. Early one morning, in 1941, one of them attacked us while we were sleeping.

**Military installations never sleep. There is always someone on watch.**

**You didn't serve ... didja?**

They beat the heck out of us, kids. Drove us to our knees. We didn't know what hit us. What happened next is the important thing to remember because it's at the heart of Memorial Day. We got up from that beating, and went after the bullies.

**If capable, nearly every country that has ever been attacked, fought back, or at least tried to. Your statement implies that what we did (retaliate) was somehow unique ... it wasn't.**

The country wasn't split over that. We weren't thinking political gain, or advantage in the next election. One man's truth wasn't another man's lies, like it is now. There was only one truth then - we either stand up to the bullies or we give up, and let them take over our country.

**Japan made no attempt to "take over our country." Not sure where you got your history from, but the attack was not an invasion but an attempt to disable our ability to retaliate.**

**Were you homeschooled?**

We had a leader, a president named Franklin Delano Roosevelt, FDR to the country. He was no super hero, kids, he couldn't even walk. Polio had taken the use of his legs. What's polio? Ask your grandparents, they'll remember.

**I wasn't aware that there was a requirement that Superheroes be able to walk.**

FDR held fireside chats over the radio to calm our fears, and keep the home front fires burning. He was our big brother, leading us into battle - from a wheelchair.

**Perhaps "Big Brother" was not the best choice for an analogy?**

That's another thing you should remember, kids. You can be physically handicapped and still do a remarkable job. Too many people see weakness when they see that wheelchair, they don't see the courage and strength inside a physically disabled person to persevere and succeed.

**Gee thanks dad. I'll make a note.**

FDR was our commander-in-chief for a war that would determine the fate of the world. You can't get into a fight bigger than that. And, he won it. He beat the bullies at their own game.

**Actually, he died before we won it.**

**Homeschooling should be illegal. It should be considered child abuse.**

**And your writing is strong evidence that we need to pass appropriate legislation eliminating that practice.**

He did it with 16 million young men from all over the country answering his call to arms, and their wives, mothers, and girlfriends filling in for them at home - working and volunteering to make sure their boys had whatever they needed to beat the bullies.

**And since then, America has become the bully.**

**But every time we attack, we claim that we are "defending our interests"**

**so that our citizens won't have a guilty conscience**

**over the monster we have become.**

**We have the most powerful military in world history,**

**yet all these tiny little countries are constantly bullying us**

**and always trying to pick a fight and force us to defend ourselves.**

More than 400,000 American military personnel would die doing just that. They're the reason Memorial Day is our most important national holiday, kids. They kept freedom alive.

**Thanks for the Trump-style propaganda piece.**

**Unfortunately history doesn't support your claims.**

**But fortunately for you, half of America will eat it up;**

**just like they did for the last 4 years.**

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**Email exchange #2**

*Neo, never assume you know someone.*

*I tried to keep politics out of this, but you wanted to bring it in.*

*I thought maybe Memorial Day would get a pass from hate, but I was wrong.*

**There was nothing in my email that mentioned hate.**

**When someone dares to disagree with you, you need to calm down**

**and learn not to automatically take disagreement as an attack.**

*The irony is I agree 100 percent with your feelings on the MAGA crowd.*

*The last four years were disastrous, but to compare Trump to Hitler is a little much.*

**I made it clear that Trump differed from Hitler in at least 2 ways,**

**but in many other ways they were quite similar.**

*Trump attacked his own people. Hitler attacked the world.*

**If you think Hitler didn’t attack his own people,**

**you need to refresh your memory of world history.**

**(pay special attention to the 6 million Holocaust victims for starters).**

*The flag I'm referring to would be the Nazi flag, but I'm sure you know that..*

**What evidence do you offer,**

**to support your assertion that Germany had any plans to invade America?**

**You don’t have any, do you?**

**NEXT!**

*WWII was our first serious external threat from an outside country.*

**All countries are outside countries,**

**so your statement makes no logical sense.**

*If the Nazi's had won, do you seriously think we'd be walking around free today?*

**Still waiting for your evidence.**

**But I don’t think anyone reading this is holding their breath.**

**We both know you can’t produce it.**

*Please cite all the countries we've bullied and i'll cite all the countries we've given aid and refuge to.*

**That challenge reminds me of people who dare me to name one contradiction in the Bible or, like one YouTuber, one lie that Trump told.**

**I didn’t fall for either of those because I know that when people refuse to admit what is clearly proven fact, it is a waste of time to even engage.**

**The list of countries we’ve bullied is too long for this email. The fact that you would even try to deny that puts you in the same category as ... Trump.**

**(btw: ad hominems are only logical fallacies when used in place of evidence)**

*There's a reason people risk their lives to come here.*

*No country on earth has shared it's wealth with poor countries like we have - up to 2016.*

**I’m sure Venezuela would give you an argument on that one.**

**And Cuba.**

**And ... like I said, the list is too long for an email.**

**It is clear that you need to take a GED class in history.**

*Biden will continue our generosity, and I don't see him attacking anyone soon.*

**I leave predicting to those who think they can see the future.**

*Bullying is a serious issue with our kids today, I don't know how old you are, but the kids in my generation weren't killing themselves over it. Today, they are. I lay that at the feet of the MAGA crowd, too, for encouraging violence and hatred.*

**You might want to add the NRA to your list;**

**and Republicans; and ... and ... you get the picture.**

*Military installations should never sleep, you're right, but they were that Dec. 7, 1941 morning, unless you think it was an inside job. We got caught with our pants down. Period.*

*What was unique about us versus other countries that fought back is we won.*

**Try reading what you just wrote again. According to that statement,**

**we are the only country (unique) who has ever fought back and won.**

**Are you drinking while you are writing this?**

**Don’t you bother to check what you write before hitting “send?”**

*Hitler was kicking ass until we got in. You know that.*

[**https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-II**](https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-II)

**Apparently, the Encyclopedia Britannica sees it quite differently.**

**(maybe there was something to my homeschooling question?)**

**You are trying to give America credit that rightfully belongs to the Soviets.**

**(maybe there was something to my “Trump propaganda” reference as well?)**

*I'm glad you think handicapped people are seen in a positive light, but 40 years of writing about how they struggle for acceptance and a fair shot at good jobs tells me too many people look at them as victims and not up to the job. FDR was no victim and he sure as hell was up for the job. That's all I was trying to tell these kids. He may not have lived to finish it, but does that make him somehow less the "big brother" we needed at the time? And, yes, big brother was the perfect description in this context, That was a time when big brothers were looked up to, not feared.*

**You still don’t understand the “Big Brother” reference.**

**Damn, you can be dense.**

**I actually hope that you are drinking**

**because then, at least you would have an excuse.**

*Neo, I don't know you so I'm not going to assume.But we've just come out of four years of negative, lying, bigoted, and hateful bullshit. We can agree on one thing, we're both glad Trump is gone, and hope he stays that way.*

**Trump is not the cause – only the symptom.**

**That lying seditious obese little bastard will be dead soon**

**but his legions of brainwashed morons (74 million)**

**will be screwing us for a long time to come;**

**not to mention those traitors called Republican lawmakers,**

**nearly all of whom should be hung by the neck until they are dead**

**for their betrayal of our country.**

**That’s not my opinion. It was Trump who said**

**“*We used to have a way of dealing with traitors*.”**

**That may be the only thing Trump and I have ever agreed on.**

*Have we pushed our weight around, at times. Sure. But have we also opened our hearts to millions trying to escape tyranny and give their kids a better life, You bet.*

**Life is not a scorecard where your good deeds cancel out your bad actions as if they never happened. The good deeds should continue. The bad ones need to stop.**

*This is who we are, warts and all. If you've got a better place to call home, let me know.*

**I’m not interested in other places. I’m interested in fixing this place.**

**This nation is the center of wealth on the planet**

**and is therefore ground-zero for the worldwide Oligarchy.**

**This is where I need to be.**

**They should hope I never get into a position of influence.**

**It’s sad that you chose to use yours to promote “we-are-better-than-you” blatant nationalism.**

**neo**

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**McCarthy’s third reply was so childish and embarrassing**

**that there was no point in continuing to humiliate him.**

**Now I understand that old analogy about playing chess with pigeons.**

**You are just wasting your time because after they lose,**

**they simply knock over the remaining pieces**

**and then strut around the board claiming they won - before flying away.**

**Game ... Set ... and Match**