

Letters to the Editor

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Islam not behind Fort Hood killings

The moment I heard the news of shooting and casualties at Fort Hood, a silent prayer rose from the depth of my heart. "O' God, let this not be an evil act by a Muslim." But my worst fear was realized.

The horrific nature of this carnage in a place where patriotism and service to our country are manifested at their highest level is what gets you.

We pray for the departed souls and those who were injured in this dastardly incident. How does one ask their loved ones to find closure out of this utter insanity?

Maj. Nidal Hasan's actions were for personal reasons. He was taunted and berated with reference to 9/11, but haven't all Muslims been, in one way or the other?

He reportedly quoted Qur'an frequently to his peers at the base. But his rogue confrontation was contrary to the teachings of Qur'an: Invite (mankind, O Mohammed) to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and elegant preaching, and argue in an excellent way. Truly, your Lord knows best who has gone astray from His Path (16:145).

To what avail is religion if its practice cannot embed love and affection for fellow human beings? Apparently, his devotion could not cure his diseased heart and culminated in bringing more shame to his belief.

I am glad that Muslim organizations have come out openly and have denounced it without reservations. But more needs to be done by Muslims. Much more in fact, both on the individual and community level.

I beseech my fellow Americans to view this act of violence at its individuality and not as some Islamic diktat.

Today, my grief is two-fold: as an American and as a Muslim. I hope my co-religionists are able to see their reflection in the innocent blood spilled at Fort Hood.

Abdul-Majeed Azad
Perrysburg