

Religious fanatics exist in United States, too

I am outraged, and I condemn the reckless statements by fundamental Christian evangelists Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. They claim that the horrific, cowardly terrorist attack upon the United States was because gays, lesbians, abortion rights supporters, NOW, the ACLU, non-Christians, television, pornography on the Internet, and courts who won't allow children to pray in school, made God mad. God was so insulted, they say, that he became an active participant in the death of thousands of our fellow Americans in New York and Washington, D.C by "lifting his veil of protection."

Those statements aren't just reprehensible, irresponsible and, as the White House said, inappropriate, they are unequivocally immoral and outright blasphemy.

I dare these so-called "intelligent men of God" to go to the streets of New York and Washington, D.C., stand face to face with survivors, loved ones of those missing and dead, and volunteers, and say those words. Tell them face-to-face Mr. Falwell, Mr. Robertson, that their missing or dead loved ones were killed by God giving America "what we deserve." Tell them face-to-face Mr. Falwell, Mr. Robertson, that God singled out and chose their loved ones, (children, too,) to

kill because the groups you listed have "insulted" him. Tell them face-to-face, I challenge you.

Falwell and Robertson are opportunistic men who constantly use God to enhance their own egos, boost their power and status among their followers, get their names in print, their faces on television and fill their own pockets with great material wealth. They'll gladly take your money while they "pray" for you to a God they now insist was in the grips of a tantrum when he conspired with the likes of Osama bin Laden and killed thousands of innocent persons. That turns my stomach.

The tragedy that befell this nation on Sept. 11 has nothing to do with gays, lesbians or abortion rights. It has everything to do with religious fanaticism. While religion has a place in the landscape of human existence, fanaticism doesn't. It breeds hate, which is always destructive.

All across this country, anti-abortion religious fanatical terrorists have bombed abortion clinics



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Soapbox

and assassinated abortion providers and their staff. Dr. David Gunn, Dr. John Britton, Dr. Bernard Slepian, clinic escort James Barret, clinic receptionists Shannon Lowney and Leanne Nichols. Anti-abortion religious fanatics falsely claiming authority and guidance from God set in motion by rhetoric from Falwell, Robertson and others, which wrongly labels abortion providers as murderers, killed them.

The responsibility for the death of abortion providers and thousands of our fellow Americans in this terrorist attack lies solely with the religious fanatics who perpetrated them and opportunistic fundamental religious fanatics like Falwell, Robertson and Bin Laden, who with deliberate forethought use the name of God to call to arms their violent fringe. Shame on them.

Life and Liberty for Women demands Falwell and Robertson publicly apologize to the American people in a meaningful and sincere manner and cease and desist making any more immoral, hurtful, false, self-serving, opportunistic and unconscionable statements.

Peggy Loonan is president of Life and Liberty for Women A new non-profit organization dedicated to aggressive abortion rights education: www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org.