

guestcolumnist

Religious leader should be ashamed

I AM OUTRAGED AND I CONDEMN the reckless statements by fundamental Christian evangelist Jerry Falwell. He claims 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 that won't allow children to pray in school, made God mad. God was so insulted, he says, that he became an active participant in the death of thousands of our fellow Americans in New York and near 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 blasphemous.

I dare 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, that their missing or dead loved ones were killed by God giving America "what we deserve." Tell them face-to-face, Mr. Falwell, that God singled out and chose to kill their loved ones, children, too,

Julie Maslowski

Guest Columnist



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

Falwell is an opportunistic man who constantly uses God to enhance his own ego, boost his power and status among his followers, get his name in print, his face on television and fill his own pockets with great material wealth. He'll gladly take your money while he "prays" for you to a God he now insists was in the grips of a tantrum when he conspired with the likes of Osama bin Laden and killed thousands of innocent people. 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 and assassinated abortion providers and their staff.

Dr. David Gunn, Dr. John Britton, Dr. Bernard Slepian, clinic escort James Barrett, clinic receptionists Shannon Lowney and Leanne Nichols were all killed by anti-abortion religious fanatics falsely claiming authority and guidance from God. These religious fanatics are set in motion by rhetoric from Falwell and others who wrongly label abortion providers as murderers.

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 and bin Laden who, with deliberate forethought, use the name of God to call to arms their violent fringe. Shame on them.

Julie Maslowski is a former Planned Parenthood and Colorado NARAL staff person. She currently serves as a board member for Life & Liberty for Women (www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org), a Fort Collins based nonprofit group dedicated to aggressive and radical abortion rights education.