



Written by [John F. McManus](#) on February 6, 2017

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## Quick Quotes

### **Fifteen Years of War in Afghanistan a Colossal Failure**

"Last year the Taliban controlled 20 percent of Helmand Province. This year, they control 85 percent of the province."

*President Barack Obama's assurance to the nation that, by the end of his eight years in office, U.S. military forces wouldn't be needed in the war-torn nation, except for embassy duty, has fallen flat. As former Congressman Ron Paul has noted, 8,000 U.S. troops remain, and 300 more have just been sent into Helmand Province.*

### **Six-year California Drought No Longer a Threat**

"Most of the state's precipitation and snowpack are far above average, boding well for water this year. In terms of surface water, most of California is no longer in drought."

*As the director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California at Davis, Jay Lund knows as well as anyone the welcome change in California's water situation.*

### **Trial of South Carolina Killer Ends With Death Penalty**

"This trial has produced no winners, only losers. The defendant will now pay for his crimes with his life. But the trial has not been a futile act because the jury, acting as the conscience of this community, has stated clearly and unequivocally that his hate, his viciousness, his depravity will not go unanswered."

*Judge Richard M. Gergel spoke at the close of the trial of Dylann Roof, who was convicted of murdering nine black parishioners in their church.*

### **Owner Announces End of Famous Circus**

"It's a different model that we can't see how it works [for us] in today's world. This has been a very difficult decision for me and for the entire family."

*His family bought the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1967. But CEO Kenneth Feld pointed to declining ticket sales, mounting costs, changing public tastes, and battles with animal rights groups that prompted the Feld family's decision to terminate "The Greatest Show on Earth." Performances in May 2017 — in Providence, Rhode Island, and Nassau County, New York — will be the final shows for the 146-year-old company.*

### **Outgoing Secretary of State Warns About Climate Change**

"No nation will do well if it sits on the sidelines, choking on the fumes generated by obsolete technologies, and failing to share in the benefits of the clean-tech explosion."

*Speaking at MIT, Secretary of State John Kerry insisted that there will be disastrous consequences if the United States refuses to transition from using fossil fuels to creating renewable energy sources, but companies would already be transitioning if doing so were workable and economically viable.*



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## **Hate Crimes Laws Deemed Unsound**

“Though they’ve been in effect since the 1990s, hate crime statutes have always been constitutionally and morally unsound. Criminals ought to be punished for their harmful actions, not for their ugly opinions.”

*Boston Globe columnist Jeff Jacoby stands apart from the many others who think a person should be prosecuted for holding a contrary opinion.*

## **Attorney General Designate Supports Good Police Work**

“Law enforcement as a whole has been unfairly maligned and blamed for the unacceptable actions of a few of their bad actors. [Leading law-enforcement personnel] believe the political leadership in the country has abandoned them.”

*A former prosecutor, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) pledged to use his new office to reverse the growing tendency of people to misjudge law-enforcement personnel.*

— Compiled by John F. McManus



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