

Nation's troops need our support

Monday was Memorial Day. A time to honor the fallen, the heroes and victims of a dozen wars from the Revolution to the roads and mountains of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The flags at the cemetery, the salutes, the honors, they're fine. But there should be more.

It's great to honor the Greatest Generation, who saved the world from a dark age. But we need to honor the troops fighting in hostile lands today.

And we need to give them more than lip service. They deserve our prayers and our wholehearted support.

There is something more important yet.

We need to honor America.

It's time to shed the image of America the imperial power or America the loser.

It's time for us, as Americans, to realize that we have to lead the free world because there's no one else out there willing to take up the burden.

And we need to recognize that freedom still has many enemies. We do not live in a nice, neat little world where justice comes to the world even as American justice comes to us.

Despite the fall of communism and the waning of dictatorships and evil around the world, there is plenty to fear. Plenty to fight. Plenty to defend.

That's what our troops are doing in Afghanistan, in Iraq and a dozen other places around the world. They have launched into a war against terror and evil, whether it's al-Qaida or Saddam Hussein.

Above all, it's time for America to finish what it starts.

We fought to a tie in Korea, and felt lucky to escape with that.

We lost in Vietnam. There's not time enough here to debate the why or the wherefore.

We quit the Gulf War with Saddam still in power, still killing and torturing and dropping poison gas.

Now we are engaged in a battle against forces which want to drive us back into isolation and do God knows what mischief in their part of the world.

We can debate tactics and even leadership, but we need to win this fight. If we don't defend the world against terrorists and evil, just who will?

The best way to honor our troops is to give them the support they need. This is war. Losses have been light, but they will continue.

The men and women who are fighting this war for us believe in their cause. We should, too.

We should not be sending soldiers out to die in any cause we do not have the will to win.

— Steve Haynes

WRITE:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

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Force isn't the answer to every problem

I watched in admiration the other day as a young mother talked to her two children as they fought over the choice of car seats,

"The car won't move until you are fastened in" she said. "So when you decide you are ready to go, settle the problem, fasten your safety belts and we'll head home."

And with that, she sat on the edge of the van and waited. Soon the children, ages almost 4 and 5, had settled the argument, were fastened in and they were on their way.

I couldn't help but think how this incident is the groundwork for future conflict resolution.

I listen daily to the news and wonder how our world will ever learn how to resolve their differences when war is raging in so many areas.

For so many children in the world con-

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



flicts are resolved in one manner, force.

What a wonderful lesson the above children learned in solving their own problem without outside interference.

When a larger power becomes involved in conflicts it says, "I don't think you're capable of handling this problem."

And if we thought we had problems before, throw in lack of self-confidence and we have really compounded things.

Each of us likes to feel some control in our lives, regardless of age or nationality. When someone intervenes, we lose

control and the process is not allowed to work.

Sometimes our children will find solutions we might not have considered. Sometimes the solution will not work, but even then they have gained an awareness of their limitations and abilities.

When children learn to solve their problems without force they have begun to form a foundation of peace keeping and negotiation. This is a skill necessary for successful personal relationships and global understanding.

As a mother, I know it would have been much easier for the young woman to assign seats, quickly get in the car and go on their way, but in the process much would have been lost.

Parenting is a full time job and this mother took it seriously enough that day to teach a valuable lesson.

Who knows what surprises there'll be

Every year brings a fresh surprise. One year it was the kitchen floor looking like ocean waves. Then it was the sewer backing up. Another year it was a broken pipe on the hot water heater.

This year it was a broken pipe in the ceiling above the kitchen.

We love our home in Creede, high in the Colorado mountains. It's where we raised our children and where we called home while putting out our first paper, *The Mineral County Miner*.

When we moved, we rented the house for a while, then we turned the renters out and refurbished it with this and that. Now, we go back every time we have a chance.

Of course, you don't just run up to the cabin for the weekend when the cabin is 480 miles and nine hours away. You don't leave the heat on in the winter when the temperatures get to be 40 below, and that's before the wind chill is added.

So each fall, around the end of October, we close the house. We empty the hot water tank, turn off the water, unplug the dishwasher and washing machine and the line that runs the ice maker. The electric-

Open Season

Cynthia Haynes



ity and phone are turned off, the shades drawn and the house sits empty and alone until we return in the spring, around Memorial Day.

That's when we find the surprises.

Last year, we had had the water line replaced. When we arrived, we found that the new line had frozen. The sewer had also frozen, so we were in a pickle on both ends. The city got both working, and we were in business for another summer.

Several years ago, we got a leak in the water line that feeds the ice maker in the refrigerator. When we walked in the kitchen, the linoleum was in waves from where the flooring had swollen and buckled.

That was almost as much fun as the new

water line.

This year, we hoped the new water line and cutoff would work like it was supposed to, and it did. Steve put the big iron key into the eight-foot hole to the water shutoff and turned.

We had water coming out of the faucets we had left open in the fall. I started turning off faucets, but there was still water running.

Then it started raining in the kitchen. Water was coming out of the top of my cabinets and through the ceiling around the light fixture.

This was not good. I yelled at Steve, who turned the water off and called the plumber.

Ron, the plumber and general fix-it man, was on our doorstep in less than 30 minutes and spent the next hour finding the broken pipe and making emergency repairs.

We mopped up the mess, just glad nothing was ruined.

But, now the water is on and the hot water tank is full. Tomorrow, I can take a shower and tonight I can wash the dishes. Life is good.

Congressman to attend ceremony commemorating D-Day

Capitol Views

Rep. Jerry Moran



Congressman Jerry Moran today announced that he will visit Normandy this week to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion during World War II. Congressman Moran will be attending the celebration at the invitation of the Speaker of U.S. House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert.

On June 6, 1944, under the leadership of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, more than 150,000 American, British and Canadian troops stormed the northern beaches of France to stop the advance-

ment of the German Army. The American forces landed on Omaha and Utah beaches. The day of the invasion, known as D-Day, marked the beginning of Operation Overlord and the battle for Europe, which eventually forced the uncon-

ditional surrender of Germany on May 8, 1945.

"Today it is difficult to stand on Omaha Beach and imagine what it was like sixty years ago," said Dan Holt, executive director of the Eisenhower Library and Museum in Abilene. "It is certainly appropriate that Congressman Moran will be in Normandy to represent not only the United States on the 60th anniversary of D-Day, but also his Congressional Dis-

trict, home of the Supreme Allied Commander, Dwight D. Eisenhower."

"As the son of a World War II veteran, I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to join with American veterans in celebration of this historic event," Congressman Moran said. "Kansas is home to about 40,000 World War II veterans, and I am honored to visit Normandy to pay tribute to them and to recognize the contribution they made for me, my family and for all Americans."

As part of the activities while in Normandy, Moran will present a gift on behalf of Kansas and the Eisenhower Center to the American Cemetery in Normandy, where 9,386 American soldiers are buried. Congressman Moran will present a statue of General Eisenhower to the American Battle Monuments Com-