

Editorial

Observe History's Lessons On Veterans' Day

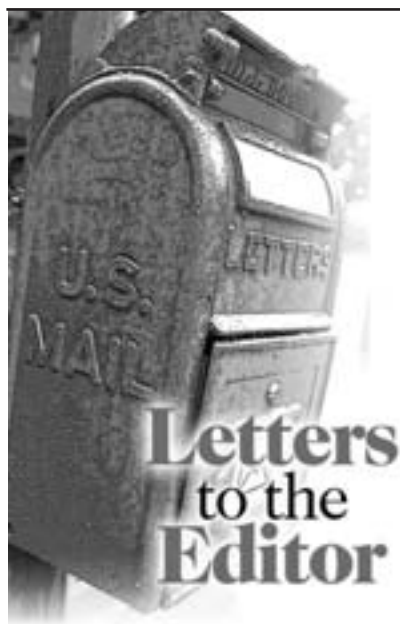
This Saturday, Nov. 11, 2006, is the 88th anniversary of the day when at 11 a.m. one of the first and bloodiest conflicts of the 20th century officially ended. That war, "The War to End All Wars", was by no means the end of anything. The battles went on and 23 years later the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor drew us into the second worldwide conflict of the century. Only five years after World War II ended we found ourselves looking down the barrel of another nation's guns, this time in Korea. Vietnam, Lebanon, Somalia, the Gulf War and after Sept. 11, 2001, Afghanistan and Iraq, followed, with other "minor" engagements the world over in between and sometimes simultaneously. All these conflicts have brought men and women to enter honorable service in our country's military.

Too many times in our eagerness to put

the memories of the conflict, any conflict, behind us we tend to forget that our peace, freedom and security have been won at a heavy price. Even those of our soldiers who came home from the battles outwardly unscathed have been affected by their experiences. Those experiences too often go unacknowledged. Those who have sustained permanent injury from whatever war they fought in too often languish forgotten in veterans' hospitals. We owe them an enormous debt, but we tend to be slow on repayment. The moment of silence commemorating the cease-fire that ended World War I, observed at 11 a.m., too often has shrunk to at most 30 seconds. The monuments and cenotaphs where every year fewer people place wreaths and hold services are inscribed with "Lest We Forget", but all too often, we have.

On this Veterans' Day 2006, it seems to

us that in the midst of all the things we find to do on any busy Saturday, we surely can spare a few moments to pause and reflect on all we owe our veterans, whatever their age and rank and however they earned their status. If there's a parade heading down a street close to you, take a few minutes to pause and put your hand over your heart when the flag goes by. Wave and smile at the veterans marching and tell them "Thank you". And don't let your enthusiasm and appreciation wane when the clock moves on to 11:01 a.m. Visit a veterans' hospital. Listen to the stories. Regardless of how little United States Senator John Kerry thinks of the intelligence of our military, our veterans have a lot to teach us. We will be the richer if we take the time to honor their sacrifice, and by honoring them, learn.



Monument To WWI Dead

To The Editor:

With reference to your informative article, "Thousands of Queens Men Drafted In September 1917" (Sept. 20) and with the coming of Veterans' Day, formerly Armistice Day, which commemorates the end of World War I on November 11, 1918, it is timely to comment on the aftermath of this bloody conflict wherein our armed forces sustained over 80,000 battlefield deaths.

The names of many of these fallen combatants will never be known to history—but there is an exception.

Situated [in the center of] Northern Boulevard between Leavitt Street and Linden Place is a monument dedicated to the fallen soldiers of Queens whose names are known to history and are engraved in grateful memory of their supreme sacrifice. Standing guard over this perpetual roll call of the dead is an august woman of the ages, symbolic of our country's triumph. Her face is grim with sadness over her assigned duty as sentry of the honored dead. On her back are wings fully extended, a sign of triumph. In her left hand she is holding a

sword with the blade pointed down, [a] symbol of the end of the conflict. Across her bosom she is holding an olive wreath, [the] symbol of peace. Below her, at the base, is the mournful epitaph: "The World War In Memory Of Those Who Gave Their Lives."

Who is this iconic lady of classic sculpture. She is Nike, the Greek goddess of victory—our victory.

Hyman Auslander
Flushing

WWII Vet Remembers

To The Editor:

Recently, I attended our annual military reunion of the 328th Infantry Combat Team regiment (part of the Yankee Division which is headquartered at Fort Devens, Mass.) in Atlantic City, N.J. The reunion marked 55 consecutive years of our meetings. The regiment was made famous by "Gary Cooper", who portrayed Sgt. York in the first World War.

Through the years, our ranks have been decimated owing to the death of many of our members. Of the remainder of our group, many suffer with crippling infirmities and are unable to attend. Those who can still manage, join us from far places—California, Oregon, Washington, Florida, the Midwest, etc.

At our general meeting, much of the discussion was devoted to the subject of this last lost generation who are either unaware or indifferent to the heroic sacrifices made by the millions of men and women who served in the armed forces, as well as the civilian population who completely supported the cause to liberate the world from the despots of Japan, Germany and Italy.

There is little mention today in the history books (possibly a paragraph or two), which has minimized the historical events of that era. The youth of today is unaware of the extraordinary events of Pearl Harbor, the war in the Pacific, Africa,

Europe, D day, Buzz bombs over London, the Holocaust, and not to mention the over 50 million human beings which were slaughtered [civilians and military in all theaters].

At the end of the reunion, my wife and I motored to Washington, D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial. I spent an hour reliving the years 1943, '44, '45 and tears came to my eyes as I remembered many of my comrades who had been killed and seriously wounded. Some of us survived and are telling the story. For you, veterans of our era, health permitting, I strongly advise that you visit the memorial which is a living tribute to the war which was fought across four of the world's seven continents.

Name Withheld On Request
Jackson Heights

Science And Religion

To The Editor:

The assumption that science and religion are in conflict is constantly being reported on in the news these days, but is this assumption valid? Does such an oversimplified "war" metaphor encourage us to ignore important details? I believe that it does.

For example, The Big Bang model of the earth's creation, proposed initially in 1927 by Georges Lemaitre, a Belgian priest, offers evidence that science and theological views can "peacefully" coexist. The Big Bang model in its final form upholds the Christian notion of a cosmos with a definite beginning and a creatio ex nihilo ("creation out of nothing"). This article of faith stresses that God alone is eternal and is the creator of everything. Pope Pius XII embraced the Big Bang model in 1951.

Also, while it is true that science has furnished theology with a more verifiable sense of man's place in the world (e.g., scientific evidence showing progressive increases in the age of the earth and size of the universe has progressively undercut

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Business Office and Display Advertising
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