

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor: A daughter's observations on Chatuge Regional Nursing Home; all its staff and residents:

When I needed to sign mom (Myrtle Arrowood) in at the nursing home in 2010, my heart was heavy. At that time I didn't know so many would love and care for her. Kathy at the hospital and Dr. Stahlkuppe felt my pain. I now know they knew what I did not. There comes a time when this is the place our mom or dad would choose depending on the circumstances they are in and the needs they know must be met.

I want to share with Towns County that from that initial day I was so amazed at the kindness and the thorough explanation of the process, programs and care my mom would receive at Chatuge Nursing Home. She enjoyed socializing with her old friends and all the new ones she met. She enjoyed talking with the staff and sharing parts of her life with them all. This is what I had hoped and prayed for, a place for Mom to live and enjoy her last years. I truly believe God led us to Chatuge Nursing Home.

Daily I would call and speak with mom. During the times when she was unable to speak with me all I had to do was call the home. The staff would update me and they understood all my concerns.

Mom said Susanne was her angel. Susanne went above and beyond, going with her to the hospital, even staying once I arrived. During one of my visits Mom became ill and had to go to the hospital. This was in the middle of the night. Although I was there, Mom still felt uncomfortable. Sara called Janet, the Director of Nursing; she got out of her bed at home and rode down the hill to the hospital in the ambulance with Mom (Mom would not go without her). Janet stayed until Mom was stable. Mom always made it her mission to search Susanne and Janet out. When she needed to see them or talk with them, they gave Mom not only medical care but comfort, love and kindness. These are not the only ones. All the nursing staff, kitchen staff and janitorial staff, it did not matter the person's reason for being there. Their love and kindness was always apparent. I remember coming in and hearing the laughter in the voices from stories being told and seeing the smile on Mom's face as Britney and Whitney polished her nails, such simple things. I thank you. I never expected to experience this from a nursing home.

Chatuge Regional Nursing Home is a blessing to Towns County, it is beautifully located. The many windows add to the views and honestly the cleanliness is amazing. I promise if you visit here you would be pleased. The residents here are happy, just as Mom was. She said she felt safe and secure. If she needed help it was there.

It is my hope and prayer that as you read this you take the time to find a moment to visit with your own family or maybe go visit a resident at Chatuge Nursing Home or any facility near you. All the residents are someone's mother, father, brother or sister. It is amazing how just the simple things can have a huge effect on someone's day. The staff here is great but in order for them to meet all the residents' needs they could use donations from monetary to items I am sure we all have lying around. Blankets, slippers, comfortable clothing such as sweat pants, gowns or pj's, reading glasses, books or magazines, neck cushions, pillows, CD players and CDs, radios, pens and paper, light sweaters and jackets and bird seed for the outside feeders. Many of the residents do not have family to help with these things we take for granted but here they are in need. Most importantly please remember the residents and staff in your prayers.

I would like to say thank you and God bless the staff for making my mom's time here as comfortable and painless as possible, thank you for your kindness shown to my mom and to all the residents, thank you for the support and kindness you have all shown me and my family. Thank you to all that do visit the residents here, a special thanks to the church groups that bring the message of Christ and music to them. They are so blessed to be able to join in the church service. The time for my mom to visit with us is over but her memories remain. I know she touched many of you as I know so many of you touched her, each in your own way. Remember my mom as the Christian lady who read her Bible all the time and with love, she loved each of you. We as fellow believers will see her again one day in Heaven.

Carol Billips (Myrtle's Daughter)

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

You likely would describe yourself as a member of America's middle class, right? For a decade a group of social scientists at UCLA has been taking a careful look at how American middle class families are managing their kids. What they have learned is not terribly flattering. And while specifics change, the basic issues seem to stay the same. See how you measure up.

To begin, children from American middle class families are apt to depend on their parents to do things for them that they are perfectly capable of doing for themselves. In fact, in a high percentage of families children weren't asked to do much at all. In some cases, they routinely asked their parents to do tasks, like getting them silverware at mealtime.

Many families displayed a strong child-centered focus rather than parent-focused. Parents claim to want to develop their children's independence, yet end up teaching them to be dependent, even when the kids have the skills to act on their own. The researchers theorize

that this behavior stems from a tendency in U.S. society to focus on the children, rather than teaching children to focus on others.

Chores were often an area of contention with parents needing to remind the children, even plead, as though asking a child to vacuum or wash dishes was asking a favor of the child rather than giving an assignment. Getting homework completed regularly created high stress levels in many of the families studied.

So, what's the take-away here? Pretty discouraging, right? Actually there are few surprises in the report. It's tempting to view the next generation as self-centered, lazy, and entitlement-oriented. Fact is, that pretty much describes the default condition of the human heart. But the good news is that every one of those habits responds to good parenting. Clear expectations, non-negotiable responsibilities, memorable outcomes for disobedience. Yep, rare kids; well done.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

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Guest Columnist What is a Vietnam Veteran? by Mike Priven

What is a Vietnam Veteran? The term military veteran is a common everyday term used to define a person who has served in the armed forces. They are the boys or girls next door. They had families, jobs, lives they were living in peace. The Viet Nam Veteran (VNV) is all that but more. For one he was probably drafted into the service or enlisted because he would have been drafted. Some did volunteer. This was the last war this country fought where people were pressed into service.

Even though drafted, the VNV was full in. He or she served with distinction and honor for America and freedom. They went to help free a country overrun by the evils of communism. That was the naïveté of the American soldier.

The VNV was a very unpopular war. A war that the country apparently didn't want or at least the vocal minority and the media did not want. Demonstrations and riots at home were the norm. The VNV was not aware of this until they return to the states, remember social media did not exist then.

This was the first war where unreasonable rules of engagement were applied to our troops. No such rules had ever been implemented before. They weighed heavily on our troops. Things like "don't shoot until fired upon" were frequently and rightfully ignored. But they existed!

The VNV did not loose the war. The war was lost at home in the media. The horrors of war were highlights on the nightly news. The numbers killed and wounded from both sides were displayed nightly. The numbers killed by our side were frequently exaggerated. The country and our politicians finally felt the pressure to stop the war and finally this horrible war ended. We abandoned those that helped us while we were there; they had no hope of rescue. After we left, they were probably executed.

When the VNV returned home there were no parades, no banners, no welcome home signs. The VNV was the evil perpetrators of this horrible war. Why should they be welcomed home? A fact that has tormented every VNV from the very day they returned home.

The war was over, but the media never let go. Whenever a VNV was involved in a crime, they always managed to mention that a VNV was involved.

Many returned home physically mangled or mentally changed. More than 50,000 died in Viet Nam. Those that had obvious war wounds were treated and added to the ranks of all wounded veterans from previous wars within the ranks of the VA. But many had injuries that were not readily diagnosable. They had what came to be known as PTSD. Back then they were just short tempered, temperamental, or paranoid.

Now is when the unique-

GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.* Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

ness of the VNV tragedy really starts to take shape. While serving in VN, our gov, in an attempt to clear the vegetation and save troop's lives sprayed 100% concentration of Agent Orange through VN. A highly toxic defoliant! To make matters worse a chemical dioxin was added to the mixture making it a formidable killer of anything it touched. It was sprayed everywhere, by planes, trucks, choppers and backpacks. Troop locations were seemingly not considered.

Many of VNV were informed that they might experience medical problems in later life from this chemical, but most ignored the warning. Nothing to do but wait and see!

A few years after the war ended VNV started to develop sicknesses uncommon for such a diverse young group. Many started to die well before expectations. Between 2000 and 2007 nearly 500,000 died. Well above what is statically probable?

It is now almost 40 years after the end of the war, and as predicted veterans are in the midst of an Agent Orange epidemic. The diseases are countless; the VA only recognizes 14. The VA tries to help but many times they are callous and demeaning with responses that can only be called comical if not so serious. One veteran was told that the war was over in 1967, claim denied.

Through all of this the VNV is still among the most patriotic members of our society. Most would still die for flag and country if called upon. When a VNV sees current troops being welcomed back with open arms, they are happy for them, but deep inside their gut knots up from the past. The motto of the Vietnam Veterans of America; "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another". Speaks volumes. -Mike Priven

"IT'S ON MY MIND.." Danny H. Parris

Points to Ponder Well, today is the point of no return for some politicians because they were too busy pointing fingers at their opponents and failed to get their point across. Shucks, that's not the point of this column. Clear, cool fall mornings put me into a relaxing state of mind. In fact, these beautiful quiet fall days have an intoxicating affect on my mind. It's like being put to sleep. I enjoy this time of year so much that my thought processes seem to shift into neutral. I don't want to think about anything. Just sitting, staring at creation is quite satisfying for the moment.

Because of these peaceful mornings it is difficult for me to figure out just what the point of this column is. If it's hard for me to discover the exact point of this article I can imagine that the reader I can probably reach the boiling point before they grasp any point. Stretching a point is not my intention but writing a column and preaching a sermon are quite similar. It is essential that you be brief and right to the point. In writing and preaching you may mention several points before you hit your main point. The advantage you have in preaching over writing is when you reach a weak point, you just shout louder. A sore point for my wife has always been that I spend too much time on the first point of my sermon and I have to rush through the remaining points. Now mind you, I am not pointing a finger at my wife but she has always been helpful in

pointing out ways that would improve my sermons. She especially has great insight in knowing at just what point I need to stop. There is no doubt she is more God-inspired at that point than I am.

For a case in point, this past Sunday as we were walking to our car after service, she commented, "When we entered church it was summer and you preached so long its turned wintertime." I had better be careful not to belabor that point or I will reach a point of no return - if you know what I mean. There is such a thing as the point of death. Just point blank ponder the farmer's advice: The best sermons are lived not preached. - Don't judge folks by their relatives. - It doesn't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep. - Every path has a few puddles. - Life is simpler when you plow around the stumps. - Always drink upstream from the herd. - Letting the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in. - When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging. - Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong. - Sometimes you get and sometimes you get got. - Life ain't about how fast you can run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.

Well, I don't want you to be disappointed in this column so let me get this point across "that it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). That's the reason Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). He became the point man to absorb all of God's wrath against sin so "God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess.5:9).

"Seems like no matter which one of them wins, we taxpayers lose!" VOTING

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-8387 for details. We need your support! Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building. Mountain Community Seniors meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 1 p.m. Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 4th Thursday of each month at the new Senior Center. For more info call 706-994-3919. Democratic Party of Towns County meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5 PM at the new Senior Center. Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse. Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse. School Board Meeting, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Hiawassee City Council 1st Tuesday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall. Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall. The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris. Towns County Board of Elections holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail). Towns County Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Rec Center. Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets

the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse, Hiawassee. The Board meets at 4 p.m., and the Guild at 6. Call us 706-896-0932. Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org. Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com. Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridge-mountains. Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440. Mothers of Preschoolers meets the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church at 706-745-2469. Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m. Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club meets 3 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Jerry (828) 837-7658. The Humane Society Mountain Shelter Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. For more info call Carol at 706-896-6407. The Appalachian Shrine Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Allegheny Lodge in Blairsville. For more info call William 706-994-6177. GMREC Garden Tours every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Shooting Creek Basket Weavers

meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreek-basketweavers.com. Friendship Community Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 PM at Clubhouse, 1625 Hwy. 76. 706-896-3637. Goldwing Road Riders meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Daniel's Steakhouse in Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evening at 7 PM at the Red Cross building on Jack Dayton Circle. Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info. Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Towns Co. Rec. Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Brasstown Woodturners Guild meets 1st Saturday of month at 9:30 AM in HHS shop. For more info call J. C. at 706-896-5711. VFW Post #7807 will be hosting a fish fry they 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month April - October. \$9. all you can eat from 4:30 - 7 PM. Mountain Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of month at 1298 Jack Dayton Cir. (next to EMS), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM. The Board of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce meet the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris. The Quilting Bee at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center - Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy Taylor at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn Bostrom at 706-897-4367. Mountain Coin Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.