

Tell it to the Chieftain

VETERAN'S VIEWS ...

Holiday on deployment

On Christmas Eve 1981, I was stationed in Korea with the 4th Platoon 2nd MP Co. at CP Pelham. My patrol assignment was the village Yonju-gol from 6 p.m. to curfew at 11:30 p.m. It was a lively little place with troops from the 7th Cavalry. Things got to feeling festive as the night went on, with many consuming the local holiday cheer.

There were a few who had consumed too much cheer, so you got one of their NCO's to take them back to camp. When the night ended, a corporal and I went back to our camp in Sonju-ri only to find that our whole platoon had been restricted to the camp, due to a minor lapse in judgment by our platoon leaders.

Oh well — talk about timing. I wanted to celebrate too; but with the village just outside the gate, I laughed at our situation.

After going back to my Quonset hut, I thought.



After going back to my Quonset hut, I thought. Thought of loved ones so far from home, of another Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years alone.

Thought of loved ones so far from home, of another Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years alone. Of being side-by-side with my brethren — forever strong, eternal guardians of freedom's song.

No matter where you may be deployed, my thoughts, strength, hopes and prayers are with every other veteran. "Of the Troops, for the Troops."

Terrence Adams
Pueblo

Reflections on Vietnam

To add to the letter of Chris Campos ("Who am I?" Tuesday, Nov. 11).

Pueblo and Vietnam are linked in my life. I did not go there to do my "patriotic duty." I went there because in the summer of 1969, I decided to join the Air Force, as that sounded better than the Army.

I was told I was IV-F. That was great until the next May I came home from Southern Colorado State College and found a letter from the government that began, "Greetings: you are hereby ordered to report to Union Bus Depart on July 3 at 5:30 am in the morning."

I made a beeline for the draft board and told the man sitting there that he had made a mistake as I had been told I was IV-F. When that did not work, I went straight to the Air Force office and told them to get me in. Nope, could not do it until July 8.

So my father and I went to

the Army recruiter who told me, "Son, I have just the thing for you. There are no Army Security Agency personnel in Vietnam, but you have to join for four years."

Sounded good to me. At our first school after basic training, we were told that, due to security reasons, the name was changed to Radio Research. And, we would be the first into Vietnam and the last to leave.

Good morning, Bien-Hoa, Vietnam. I did not want to go, but neither did I want to leave, nine months later.

If Pueblo wants to honor Vietnam veterans, go to Rose-lawn section 41 and walk the rows of stones for the young Pueblo men laying there, and look at their worn out photos.
Terry Mendenhall
Lenexa, Kan.

RESPONSE: ADVERTISEMENT ...

Abortion not a 'choice'

The full-page ad recently run in *The Pueblo Chieftain* by "Catholics for Choice" (Oct. 22) was misleading. The question of "choice" or "life" with regards to the issue of determining the life or death of an unborn child really becomes the issue of self-love and self-satisfaction for women of "choice."

This is a constant theme in today's society — self-absorption. I would invite the women who gave statements for this ad to be brave enough to give their last names. Perhaps they were fictitious.

There is no "or" when determining the future of an unborn

baby for Catholic women. Women who practice the Catholic faith accept without question the moral responsibilities to protect all innocent human life, and at all times to promote efforts that protect both mother and unborn child.

Catholic women do not need to seek the services of abortion clinics as there are pregnancy centers across the country that offer medical services and support to those facing pregnancies. Catholic women are pro-life. Catholic women cherish each unborn child as a gift from God.
Carole Ricotta
Pueblo

Message misguided

There is something especially treacherous about abusing the title "Catholic" to promote a position opposed to the non-negotiable doctrine of the Catholic Church.

Abortion is a unique offense. It is considered such a grave offense that to procure an abortion incurs automatic excommunication. Not even first-degree murder incurs automatic excommunication. Heresy is one of the few other reasons for automatic excommunication.

The uninformed or misinformed, be them voluntary or involuntary so, might be led astray by the recent full-page ad in the paper because of its

use of the word "Catholic" in the title of the organization. There is nothing Catholic about its position on abortion.

Procuring an abortion is never licit. The Church recognizes not only the irreparable harm done to the unborn child who is killed, but also to the parents and to society as a whole.

However, though God may not be a permissive parent, it is fortunate for all of us that He is an infinitely loving and forgiving one. The church always is ready and eager to forgive and comfort the repentant.

Eleanore Boyd
Pueblo

WE WELCOME LETTERS

• **By mail:** Send to Letters to the Editor, Pueblo Chieftain, P.O. Box 36, Pueblo, CO 81002.

• **By e-mail:** tellit@chieftain.com

All letters must not exceed 300 words and must include the author's full name, address and telephone number for authentication. No anonymous letters will be published. The Pueblo Chieftain reserves the right to edit letters to length, taste and clarity.

WINTER STORM

Wintry roads driving dilemmas

This is the Rocky Mountain region. We get snow and ice anywhere from October to May, and sometimes in between.

This is my third year in Pueblo/Pueblo West, and snow and ice removal continues to present challenges leading to unsatisfactory results.

During the inaugural snow-storm of winter 2014-15, my normal 25-minute drive from north Pueblo West through north Pueblo to the airport industrial park turned into 45 minutes. Not once did I pass a snowplow — or have one pass me — or see one grain of sand/salt on any of the major paved roads I normally take.

The minimal amount of

snow and or ice accumulation received overnight on Nov. 12 should not have taken anyone by surprise, or even presented a challenge to morning commuters.

Everyone knew this was coming. Subsequently, conditions deteriorated throughout the day.

Government's basic function is to protect its citizens, whether that government is at the federal, state or local level. Preparation and proactive response by the city and county will demonstrate concern for the safety of the citizens.

As the parent of a first-time winter weather driver, the city and county governments are setting him and other young drivers up to fail (or

worse).

I understand about funding priorities. Not funding adequate snow and ice removal plans means dollars are spent on law enforcement, emergency response and elsewhere. There has to be a concerted effort by our community leaders to address this basic, necessary service for residents who live in this city and county.

I don't know what the solution is. However, you've been elected to find solutions to protecting this community, which includes safe roads. So lets "plow" forward and find a way.

Rick Preece
Pueblo West

EILERS TESTING

Get the facts before the tests

On Nov. 12, members of the public and the Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group met with the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss the sampling process that will occur in the Eilers and Bessemer neighborhoods.

It was reported to the group that 2,600 letters were mailed to property owners and tenants who live within a half mile of the slag pile, requesting permission to enter the properties to obtain soil and interior dust samples. It was further reported that 290 responses had been received giving the EPA authorization to test the soil. Of those,

216 allowed the government representatives to enter the home and collect dust samples, not only in the living but in the attic spaces as well.

I am a tenant and property owner in the Eilers neighborhood, and I am not giving the EPA or its representatives permission to enter either my home, which I rent, or my property that I own. I also encourage others to hold off on giving permission to the EPA and its representatives to enter their property.

The EPA has not released the testing and sampling procedures that they will follow for the cleanup in our neighborhood. The EPA also

is not stating to what level of lead they are going to test in order to determine if a yard is "clean." It may be 400 ppm of lead or it may be considerably different.

Until the EPA can produce to the public the sampling and testing procedures they are going to use, I believe it is risky to allow the EPA or its representatives to pull samples from our properties.

To give permission without knowing all of the facts may be opening a can of worms and giving the EPA a "blank check" access to your property.

David Webb
Pueblo

CITY FLEET

A 'natural' way to cut fuel costs

In view of the recent voting decision by Pueblo to not support taxes for our under-resourced police and fire departments, City Council must quickly find new sources of finances that won't inconvenience the people who voted no.

An easy fix would be to transition our public service vehicle fleet to liquid natural gas or compressed natural gas fuel. Depending on requirements, either may be suitable, and both have tremendous financial benefits.

There is an emphasis on alternative fuels at the state and federal levels, both mandated by law and encouraged by taxing schedules.

The U.S. Department of

Energy provides loan guarantees through the Loan Guarantee Program to eligible projects that reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases, and that support early commercial use of advanced technologies, including biofuels and alternative-fuel vehicles.

The Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration must submit a report to the general assembly identifying alternative fueling infrastructure availability in the state, as well as a plan for the necessary infrastructure development. Government entities may choose to issue tax credit bonds or direct payment bonds to subsidize the borrowing costs.

The PEDCO fund should finance Pueblo natural gas fuel startup, as a startup fits the criteria of our \$42 million-plus account. City Council should require any and all funds be contingent upon the business owners and employees living within the taxing district — there is no other way to go on this question — and it should also apply to all city employees.

Let's spend \$50,000 on a study to implement natural gas in Pueblo and start new Pueblo businesses. Maybe our entrenched trash haulers can benefit too.

Dave Mynatt
Pueblo

RESPONSE: HUNTING

Helping keep wildlife healthy

A recent letter in a *Sunday Pueblo Chieftain* ("Harm beyond the game," Nov. 16) shows the ignorance of Joe Miele and his Committee to Abolish Sports Hunting. It is amazing. He talks facts but knows few.

The facts are that yes, people occasionally are injured in sports and animal hunting accidents, yet they are rare.

But his remark about saving the lives of millions of animals is absolutely ludicrous.

Let me paint a picture for you, Mr. Miele — if animal hunting is abolished, there would be a complete disin-

tegration of the ecosystems that sustain these animals. They would overpopulate, over-browse their food sources and then cause a severe rise in disease, weakness and genetic disorders. They would experience dramatically lowered birthrates and become prey for predatory animals whose numbers would then explode and cause further destruction to more ecosystems.

These starving and emaciated game animals would begin searching in human-populated areas for food, causing damage to crops, gardens

and dangerous interactions with vehicles, and bringing predators into closer proximity with humans. People with your thinking cause more harm than good by playing on emotions rather than truth.

I also read in between the lines in your letter, and saw your desire for gun control. And I noticed you are from Las Cruces, N.M.

Do everyone in Colorado a favor and stay in New Mexico.

James Lutack
Pueblo

2K DOG WALK & RUN

An enjoyable outreach

On Nov. 8, my lab, Missy, and I participated in the inaugural 2K Dog Walk & Run at Roselawn Cemetery.

It was a perfect fall morning and such a surprise to see the great turnout, which included Tundra, the Thunderwolf from CSU-Pueblo.

Considering the number of dogs, they were all well-behaved. Some were dressed in costume. PAWS for Life sponsored the dog costume contest and it was fun.

Some of us walked our dogs, some pushed babies in

strollers and some just wanted to walk and participate. It was a pleasant morning and everyone enjoyed the gorgeous fall scenery.

As we walked, David Browder, the funeral home manager, provided a narrative tour of some of the famous folks buried at Roselawn. A lot of us had no idea that Roselawn has so much to offer, including crematory services for pets and a pet cemetery.

Many folks had cameras and took photos of monu-

ments and the lovely scenery. New friendships were made and old ones rekindled as we enjoyed our walk and visited.

It was a great day, and Missy and I plan to go back and take our walks through Roselawn.

Thank you Roselawn for giving us the opportunity to see your lovely grounds, a place of peace, quiet and solitude. Also, please know the dog treats were appreciated by all the canines present.

Deanna Davis
Pueblo