

O P I N I O N



Thoughts of a Sisters veteran

By Earl C. Schroeder
Guest Columnist

Today is Veterans Day: November 11, an official holiday that originally was established in recognition of U.S. military soldiers, Doughboys, who fought in The Great War — A War To End All Wars, now referred to as World War I. The Armistice was signed in 1918 to end this war, on the 11th month, the 11th day and the 11th hour, in the Forest of Compiègne, France.

After the end of World War II it was thought that some changes were needed so as to remember and honor more recent veterans. Dates were changed and politicians got involved. Then President Eisenhower, in 1953, became involved in the melee. He thought he had solved the date issue. Not so! The Uniform Holiday Bill was signed in 1968, establishing all Federal holidays to fall on a Monday, creating a three-day weekend for workers, and caused Veterans Day to be held on Oct 25, 1971, a Monday.

Nobody was pleased, and much confusion occurred. Then, in 1975 President Ford signed a law that would return Veterans Day back to 11-11. In 1978, the new law went into effect — regardless of what day of the week November 11 falls. Veterans Day now has been restored to preserve the historical significance to honor all of America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice, for the common good.

This day, November 11, has been set aside to be known as "Veterans Day," a day to honor and remember ALL veterans.

But let's ask the question: "What is a Veteran?" They are Soldier; Sailor; Marine; Airman; Seabee; Coast Guardsman — artillery; infantry; medic; machinist mate; armor; ordnance, and more. Regardless of gender, male and female alike, all are veterans. They have the quiet dignity of a one who knows the pride of freedom. They have the clear eyes of

a person who has courage, and takes pride in living on Main Street, and understand the value of freedom.

Many have seen the good and the bad, yet still possess a positive smile and attitude.

They are Veterans. They are mechanic, logger, banker — Catholic, Protestant or Jew, Republican, Democrat, Independent, rich, poor or half-way between. They are the ones who love peace — because they know the price-tag of war. They know that war is 90 percent boredom and 10 percent sheer terror. They've been there.

They are Veterans. They love the majesty of our mountains and the tranquility of our forestlands. Like to see the flag go by, and yet feel sadness when "Taps" is played. They are citizen soldiers, peacetime leaders, eager volunteers, and the last to come home.

They are Veterans. They like the legends of America's greats: Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Roosevelt, Patton and Eisenhower, along with all the other patriots who have marched thru our history books.

They are Veterans. Many were camped at Valley Forge; saw the charge at Gettysburg; stormed the sands of Iwo Jima; waded ashore onto Omaha Beach; feared Pork Chop Hill; and parachuted into Grenada. They stood watch in Beirut and Panama; in the Middle East and Southeast Asia; and felt the hot sands during Desert Shield.

They are Veterans. Their heart will always know pain and sorrow of the memories of lost and departed comrades. No matter how gray their hair may become or how many inches are added to their waist, they will always walk with distinctive pride. As an American, with an honorable discharge. Proud of democracy, with a good conduct medal. Protector of freedom, with a Purple Heart.

As an honorable citizen, with a quiet walk and a sentimental grin. They are Veterans.

Opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the writer and are not necessarily shared by the Editor or The Nugget Newspaper.

Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is noon Monday.

To the Editor:
Re: "A past that is never past," (*The Nugget*, November 4, page 2):

Posed in Mr. Cornelius' opinion is an apologetic for not supporting a holiday, or for that matter, a sports team, name change respecting First Nation history/tradition.

Though not Native American myself, I'm yet compelled to respectfully point out what I feel is the false comparison that was offered. First World conquering the Third World with advanced weapons, usually slaughtering many for the sole purpose of economic gain with exploitation cannot compare to the usual case of one Indian tribe challenging another with similar weapons for hunting/fishing privileges. Usually permission for this or for passage was sought and granted, or when times were poor for sharing, skirmishes would occur, but never on the scale of conquest.

True, the Iroquois Six Nations harassed its way to harness a vast territory from New York to S. Carolina, but many various tribes continued to thrive peacefully within this domain.

With no white man's guilt, I heartily agree that in most cases, a name change is called for.

With respect I must challenge Mr. Glode's fostering the myth that a candidate without big money backing is "...probably totally unelectable." Yes, though much of our national policy falls within the "socialist" concept of government (e.g. Veterans Affairs), many Americans balk at the term.

Fortunately I've been able to vote my conscience several times, not "second worst." Bernie is the longest-term Independent in Congress who is respected enough as Democratic Progressive Caucus member to

See **LETTERS** on page 17

Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Rain 43/21	Mostly sunny 48/30	Chance rain 53/34	Chance rain 54/32	Chance rain 50/31	Mostly cloudy 47/na

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