

**GUEST EDITORIAL FROM THE NEWS REVIEW**

## We cannot forget those who served

If you've been reading the newspaper recently, you've read about the heartbreaking story of 28 veterans whose remains sat forgotten for as many as 44 years.

Those remains — some from men who served in World War I — waited unclaimed at Wilson's Chapel of the Roses for decades until a small group of volunteers heard about veterans' cremated remains that had been found at the Oregon State Hospital in Salem.

Curious, the volunteers began asking around, wondering if local funeral homes had any information about forgotten soldiers.

What they found was one of the largest group of unclaimed veterans remains ever to have been recovered in this state.

Even as a mere number, the figure is staggering — especially knowing that it occurred in our county — but the pain cast over the face of Nancy Gile, whose father, Navy veteran Robert Young, was among the collection of lost cremains, is gut-wrenching and beyond comprehension.

Young died in 1982, and until April 20, the veteran's family believed his ashes had been scattered at Lemolo Lake. But while Gile was scanning the list of names, which published in The News-Review, her heart sank.

"We would never have forgotten our dad," she said. "We would never have left him there. We wouldn't have. Our family is too important to us."

But it needs to go further than that — we can't forget.

We honor our veterans every November and remember them every May. In between, we salute them at football games, cover their tab at the local coffee shop, and thank them for their service in the grocery store. Which isn't nearly enough, but it's part of the promise we make to the service members who put their lives on the line for our freedom — to care for them when they come home and to remember their sacrifice if they don't.

Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do to change the past. A ceremony held in downtown Roseburg was a beautiful gesture — and a deserved one — but this type of tragedy simply cannot happen again.

Douglas County Veterans Forum President Larry Hill said he plans to lobby for new laws that would mandate the remains of veterans never be forgotten, unclaimed, or as he put it, being held prisoner.

We vehemently support such legislation because the alternative isn't good enough.

Gile, with tears rolling down her face, said it best: "I just hope this doesn't happen to other people."

A MOTHER IS MORE THAN JUST A LOVING PARENT.  
SHE'S A PATIENT FRIEND WHO IS BRAVE, LOYAL,  
UNDERSTANDING AND UNSELFISH.



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



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## Celebrate Mother's Day, May 12

Happy Mother's Day to my dear wife who is a great mom and to every mother everywhere.

My brothers and sisters were all gone from home by the time I was 8 years old. I missed them but during the summer I had my mother mostly all to myself. My dad worked third shift in the coal mines and slept most of the day. My mother's main job was keeping me quiet so I wouldn't wake my dad from sleep. Fortunately for him, he had built a small place behind our house where he slept during the day. If I didn't bounce the basketball and played quietly all went well.

I was close to my mother growing up. My sisters always said I was "mommy's baby." I came along 10 years after my other brothers and sisters so probably it was a little easier raising one child than trying to raise my four sisters and brothers all at once.

Life was relatively simple. Some mornings during the summer we had to put bug dust on the bean patch in the garden. Some mornings we hoed corn. We raised hogs and often there were middlings to make.

We had sulfur drinking water that was unfit for washing clothes. If we had not caught enough rainwater then it meant carrying water from our nearby creek. We had about a hundred-yard walk to the creek, so we had to make a lot of trips back and forth to the creek for enough water. God forbid if I got busy chasing a crawdad and stirred up the creek water. It always took a while



**GLENN MOLLETTE**  
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

for the silt to settle down and the water to clear up. Of course there was always lots of grass to mow with a push mower.

One of the sweet parts of the day was having lunch with just Mom. Usually it was sandwich, a soda pop and a Reese's Cup or something similar. Once I talked my mom into letting me have a root beer. She said, "You won't like it and if that's what you choose you are stuck with it." I didn't like it and she stuck to her promise.

I once asked her what she wanted me to be when I became an adult. She thought for a minute and said, "Become a school teacher." Looking back I know the reason she said that was because in that era school teachers were the only people in our county who had stable jobs and incomes. My dad's coal mining job was tough and she wasn't wishing that on me. In her way she was saying she wanted the very best for me.

I always felt like Mom was on my side although she never tolerated misbehavior. We had a peach tree in our back yard and on more than one occasion she broke off a limb and used what we referred to as a "switch" on me. I suppose that meant the peach tree limb would assist me in switching my behavior.

However, Mom was great. I remember how hard she worked. I know how passionately she loved our family. She

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took care of my dad and my four siblings. She loved God and prayed and she loved people. I miss my mom. By God's grace and mercy I'll see her again and my dad in heaven.

My children's mother is also deceased. My sons and I miss her every day and I know they miss her love and devotion. They have now lived most of their lives without their mother. Mother's Day is a tough day as they can only remember.

If you have a good mother, take a moment this Mother's Day and praise her. Good words, hugs and any deed that might make her life a little easier are well deserved. Do something that pleases mom and for one day forget about yourself.

Maybe your mom and grandma are deceased. On this Mother's Day maybe there are other special moms that you can graciously wish and express to them in some way "Happy Mother's Day." We can't go wrong celebrating Mother's Day.

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