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When county went to war

They were car mechanics, stockboys, farmers, many only 17 or 18 years old.

They became soldiers.

More than 16 million men and women were members of the U.S. armed forces during World War II, among them sons and daughters from Sussex County.

The New Jersey Herald compiled their stories and photographs submitted by families and friends, along with news clippings, into a book, "Those Who Served: Sussex County Remembers World War II."

Local headlines help tell the story, starting with the induction process: "Nearly 2,000 Register in Selective Service Call," "Large Number to Leave Newton for Fort Dix Saturday." Then turning more personal: "Father and Son Register," "9 Sons, 15 Grandsons Subject to Call," "Have Five Sons in Service, Three More to Go Soon."

As the war progresses, the news becomes grim: "Montague Man Hurt in Bombing Raid," "Newton Soldier Hurt in Pacific," "Ogdensburg Men Reported Missing," "Netcong Man Missing in Action."

Then, sadly, telling of the ultimate sacrifice for their country: "Killed in European War," "Newton Boy Dies of Invasion Wounds," "Sad News Twice in Three Days ... Listed Missing Then Reported Killed," "Missing Two Years, Is Presumed Dead."

Mixed in with newspaper reports are accounts and personal memories of the veterans in their own words from all aspects and theaters of the war, including here at home.

Most came home to resume their lives, rejoining family farms, starting businesses, becoming factory workers or musicians, or continuing their education to become pharmacists and chemical engineers.

Their stories, as stated in the book's foreword, "help capture the mood and transport readers back to a time when the sense of duty and loyalty to the United States was unquestionable."

ON THE WEB: READER POLL

Question

Sussex County has had its first snowstorm of the winter of 2010. If you could choose, how would you spend a snowy day?

Strap on my skis or snowboard and ride the hills	4.0%	17
Enjoy the time with the kids ... making a snowman, snowball fight	8.1%	34
Curl up on the couch and watch a movie, or read a book	50.5%	213
Cook up some hot soup or other yummy, warm meal	19.2%	81
Cross country skiing	1.9%	8
Walking in the woods just after the snowfall	10.4%	44
Taking photos of the winter beauty	5.9%	25
Total votes		422

Comments

After all that snow shoveling I'd prefer staying home away from the road rage maniacs. Enjoy a nice meal and afterwards relax reading the newspapers and watching TV. This weather brings back memories as a youngster. Walked to school in knee deep snow 'cause we had no bus service.

Stay at home, drink some hot cocoa with the kids and watch some movies like we all did today.

Sit in front of the fire with a good book and a glass of vintage port.

It's sad that nowadays most people just want to curl up and relax instead of enjoying the snow with their kids, etc. Yes, it's been a stressful year, however, we should be enjoying the reason we called out of work to begin with. I had fun playing in the snow with my dog and boyfriend. It was my dog's second Christmas/winter, and she loves the snow. There is nothing better than tapping into your youth a bit and having a good snowball fight.

Nice to have the grandchildren visit for few days.

Hope we get a few blizzards before the season is over.

They can keep their New York City, and what a disaster. They interviewed some and said they never seen anything like this before. Roads haven't been touched since the storm.

Let the snow melt from the roofs to get rid of the weight. Getting hit again with another storm won't bother me 'cause I got machines. I'm retired, and another storm will keep me busy cleaning the driveway and front.

It's a perfect time to reconnect with your inner child — just do it! No one will think the less of you; maybe in higher esteem.

I used to love going out and playing in the snow with my son, until a disease that affects my skin can no longer allow me to be out in the cold. So to "curl up on the couch" is not my choice. I live vicariously through those who can be out in the cold for all hours. So if I can't be out in it, at least I can make hot cocoa and cookies for those who can.

Enjoying nice cup of coffee, reading Drudge, and what a bunch of wimps in New York City ... crying, moaning, no flights. Hope they get another Nor'easter.

Christie and his lieutenant governor were away during this blizzard. How irresponsible. This guy should stay down in Florida for good.

I love it when the emergency is declared and the governor heads to Florida. Shared sacrifice. Christie vacations in Florida and we shovel. Streets are not snowplowed due to his cuts. At least we have a lieutenant governor who will take over. Oh, she left too?

Hey! It snowed in New York city and it all wasn't cleaned immediately. Sue the city, sue the mayor, sue God! Somebody's to blame!

Appears to be an act of terrorism on the part of sanitation workers in New York City. Fire them all.

Libs continue to ignore lessons of history in the tax cut debate

GREGORY J. RUMMO

"An unexpectedly steep rise in tax revenues from corporations and the wealthy is driving down the projected budget deficit this year..." wrote Edmund L. Andrews of The New York Times on July 9, 2006. USA Today echoed this sentiment seven months later explaining, "the government (is) continu(ing) to benefit from record levels of tax collections."

As a result of former President George W. Bush's economic policies, specifically the Bush tax cuts, middle class and wealthy individuals enjoyed lower tax rates, which grew the economy, reduced unemployment to below 5 percent, and allowed the U.S. Treasury to collect record tax receipts.

You can almost hear the former president asking, "Miss me yet?" We won't miss his tax policies thanks to the Tea Party-induced shellacking of congressional liberals on Election Day. This was what forced President Obama's hand to extend the Bush tax cuts for two more years.

Still, Obama and the libs can't resist taking cheap shots dissing the rich, mischaracterizing the economics of a tax cut, and ignoring the record of history whenever they appear in front of a microphone and a camera.

This used to be called "politics" and may have fooled some of the people some of the time. Now it's just called



GREGORY J. RUMMO

stupid. Clearly November proved that this has become a failed re-election strategy.

The "Obama tax cut" is like Grape Nuts: It is neither Obama's nor a tax cut. With the exception of the temporary reduction in the Social Security payroll tax, it is an extension of Bush's hugely successful tax policy.

It was amusing to watch President Obama and former President Bill Clinton standing side-by-side at the same podium making the case for supply-side economics to members of the media. And it must have just killed President Obama to have to concede on several occasions that the "last eight years of failed economic policies" was in fact precisely the medicine our anemic economy needs to put people back to work.

Yet, he simply could not resist warning the opposition that eventually he'd get even, making the rich pay more in taxes. "Now, candidly speaking, there are some elements of this legislation that I don't like. ... There will be moments, I am certain, over the next couple of years, in which the holiday spirit won't be as abundant as it is today..."

And he continues playing the class warfare card at every opportunity. During the White House press conference at the close of the lame duck session of Congress, Obama spoke about "the facts" concerning the rich: "What is ... a fact is that people in the top 1 percent, people in the top 1/10th of 1 percent, or 1/100th of 1 percent have a large

er share of income and wealth than any time since the 1920s. Those are just facts. That's not a feeling on the part of Democrats. Those are facts."

Here are some other facts. According to the latest statistics (2005) from the Internal Revenue Service, 39.98 percent of all tax revenues come from only 1 percent of the wealthiest wage earners. The top 5 percent pay 59.67 percent of the nation's taxes; the top 25 percent, 85.99 percent; and the top 50 percent virtually carry the entire tax burden for rest of the nation. Clearly the rich are paying far more than their fair share of income taxes.

And what of the liberal notion that tax cuts "have to be paid for" because they "drive up the deficit?" The opposite occurred during the Bush administration as well as during Reagan's two terms. That the deficit increased under both was not a function of supply-side "voodoo economics" but from profligate spending and during Bush's eight years, the funding of the war on terror on two fronts and hurricane relief efforts of unprecedented proportions.

But the entire liberal debate over taxes falls apart due to the faulty premise upon which it is based — that taxes belong to the government. They do not. It is our money and keeping more of it is always in the best interests of every working American no matter whether a member of the middle class or among "the rich."

(Gregory J. Rummo is a businessman and the author of "The View from the Grass Roots." E-mail Rummo at GJRummo@optonline.net)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Newest education 'fix' just like the old ones

Editor:

We have heard a lot of comments of late regarding Gov. Christie's proposal to award teacher raises or bonuses to those teachers that are evaluated as exceptional teachers. The implication is that those teachers whose students perform well on evaluative testing will receive a monetary reward for their classroom efforts. On the other hand, the teacher whose students do not perform well (however "well" is defined) will receive no financial-recognition reward for their efforts.

On the surface this proposal sounds like a great idea. Reward those teachers who are doing the best job as evidenced by the progress of their students. This approach should be quite popular with those teachers who regularly teach students who do their work faithfully, are truly involved in school and are trying their best to learn as much as they can.

But what of the teachers who work with the disinterested kids? These are the young people who may be from a dysfunctional family. Who, although they may be in school daily, are not at all focused on getting an education and only want to do the very least they can to just get by. How will the bonus money or salary increases be determined for the teachers of these students? Much has been written concerning the Christie proposal as of this date. But, who has addressed this proposal in terms of its effect on the professional educators that work with the young people at this end of the educational spectrum?

This proposal reminds one of some of the so-called revolutionary educational ideas of the past. Some were considered the greatest new offerings in public education since we left the one-room schoolhouse. The "Whole Language" idea of the '80s that the developers purported would revolutionize the way children would learn to read and write prose. Phonics was said to be out-dated, old-school and no longer valid. After as little as two or three years, the fallacy of this argument became evident.

Likewise in mathematics, the "New Math" of the '60s was touted as a wonderful, refreshing new program for teaching mathematics skills. It too is long gone from the educational scene.

There are a number of other proposals from the past that looked and sounded great when discussed among a large number of interested individuals. Unfortunately, like our governor, many of these outspoken individuals had never set foot in a secondary-school classroom since they themselves were students.

Now, as we pause to examine more closely the Christie proposal, we are prone to admit that it certainly sounds like a wonderful idea. Once implemented it would appear destined to bring New Jersey public-school education to new levels of success. Unfortunately, like so many educational proposals of the past, Gov. Christie's latest panacea for public education is destined to go the way of its predecessors. Based on education's long and varied historical past, the latest public-education "fix" emanating from Trenton will quickly prove to be sorely lacking in merit and thankfully will just as quickly disappear from the educational radar screen.

Barrie Beaver
McAfee

A true, heartwarming Christmas story

Editor:

Just want to entertain your readers with a true Christmas story.

While my daughter Amanda and I were out Christmas shopping on Christmas Eve we stopped in the Bed, Bath and Beyond in Hampton. I was in line to purchase a gift card. My daughter was in the ladies' room hiding from me to talk to my wife about a Christmas gift she wanted to get, but didn't have the money for, and to ask if my wife could bring her back later.

What happened next is usually only heard of in movies. An unknown woman stuck a \$20 bill in my daughter's coat after overhearing her conversation. My daughter wanted to return the money but could not locate the woman anywhere in the store. I did not hear this story until Christmas morning, otherwise I would have also looked for the woman.

Later that day my wife drove my daughter to Modell's so she could buy the gift she wanted to get for her brother, Aaron, who was home on military leave. Aaron currently serves in the U.S. Air Force and was very happy with the gift his younger sister had picked out for him.

To think that there are still people in the world who still believe in the true meaning of Christmas is a great feeling.

Thank you, Mrs. Claus, you are a true inspiration to us all.

E. Scott Danielson
Andover

Ridiculous assertions about multiplying bears

Editor:

I had become tired of writing about the only effective way to control the overgrown bear population here in Sussex County. The state listened and did the right thing — they just need to go a little further and make the season earlier, and if truly serious, I think a spring hunt will be more effective and also allow archery.

I usually don't reply to those that offer emotion, rhetoric and zero facts about how to actually reduce bear numbers down to a healthy level. However the letter of Jean Mollack printed in the Dec. 26 newspaper does elicit some sort of response.

Her topic is "how to stop bears from reproducing" and she then proceeds to spew emotion, yet not one cogent fact on how to stop bears from reproducing. She did however get in the following ridiculous assertions:

1. The NJDFGW feeds and actually stocks bears (last I knew they only stocked game birds and fish).
2. Bear-proof garbage cans (haven't we heard that before?).
3. People keep all food in the house (including animal food).
4. Pick up all fallen fruit from trees (better yet, chop them all down. How dare you attempt to farm your own land in any way you wish, even if it is a few apple trees).

Yep, I'm sure we can all see clearly how that will stop bears from reproducing!

Then she went on:

1. NJDFGW does not want to reduce numbers at all, it wants a number of bears for trophies each year and the Asian black bear gall bladder market (bear with me, I'm laughing very hard as I write this).
2. New York and Pennsylvania bear numbers are increasing with more being killed for their body parts.
3. Now this is the best of them all! Should you ever become lost in the wilderness, bears can aid you! Follow one around and observe his diet; you can eat the same things and survive!

So as usual, more emotional nonsense, with not a single non-hunting method suggested for how to reduce

bear numbers and slow reproduction.

Shame on the Herald for printing such nonsense.

Jack Harris
Fredon

World master plan will be ruin of U.S.

Editor:

I see on TV frequently about relinquishing your guns and receiving a fee. This is advertised by the New York City Police Department. I assume this is being done elsewhere in the country. This is the biggest scam created by our government to disarm the American citizen.

How many times have you read the history of the past century where various governments use this tactic to disarm their citizens? There are three I can think of that have done this: China, Russia and Germany. One big reason Germany never occupied Norway is because their citizens were armed. As we know, the people of the Soviet Union and their satellite countries and China were slaughtered by the millions as their weapons were confiscated. They are slowly disarming us under the guise of a turning in your gun paid program. My Australian friend told me that's what they did in his country and the crime rate went up considerably.

The Soviets had their army of citizens, AKA the KGB, to spy and arrest anyone being suspicious. The Nazis did the same thing to their citizens by having an army of Gestapos to spy and arrest their citizens. The Holocaust happened because the people had no weapons. Do you remember Obama saying that he wants a citizens' army larger than the armed forces to report anyone that may be considered a terrorist or anti-government of sort?

This program is a disguise to control our lives and have anyone jailed and charged with false hideous crimes. Confiscate your properties, etc., as the Nazis and the Soviets did. With this citizen army program, he can issue an executive order to use this army of citizens to enforce his executive orders of martial law. Plus use the U.S. Army as reinforcements. He has already used executive orders on certain issues to circumvent the U.S. Constitution or our liberties. Obama without question is a Marxist, as he is following the Karl Marx manifesto plan.

Citizens will have no rights to have ownership of property or individual rights but will be slaves of the state. The state will control and own the economies through nationalization. Wealth will be equally distributed. Just to mention a few items in the manifesto. So you can say that Communism arrived in the U.S.A. back in 1840s. The leaders of that time thought that Socialism was a good thing, which was propagated by FDR, which prolonged the misery of the Great Depression up to the Second World War, and President Wilson, who invented the Federal Reserve in 1913, and every Democrat and Republican president used it in moderation as they kept issuing our social programs to the underprivileged people, mainly the poor and uneducated immigrants to obtain their votes to stay in power.

These are not free lunches, as the people think they are, but are in reality an enslavement program following the Marx manifesto plan. The purpose of the Federal Reserve Bank is to funnel the wealth of the American people through taxation (by printing more money that causes a devaluation of the dollar, which means we have to pay more for the cost

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How to submit Letters to the Editor

The New Jersey Herald welcomes letters from readers on topics of interest in our region and accepts those delivered by e-mail, regular mail or fax.

The Herald reserves the right to reject or edit letters for clarity, length and concerns of taste or libel. Form letters will not be printed. Writers should limit submissions to one per month unless responding to a local topic of interest.

Letters, including those e-mailed, must contain the writer's complete mailing address and telephone number for verification purposes. Only the writer's name and town will be published. Letters become the property of the Herald on receipt.

Send letters electronically to letters@njherald.com, or by mail to The New Jersey Herald, P.O. Box 10, Newton, N.J. 07860.