

EDITORIAL & COMMENTARY



Soaring into summer, Manasquan Reservoir, Wall

SCOTT LONGFIELD

IT'S YOUR TURN

Letters to the Editor

Media Not the Place to Resolve Bad Behavior in Military

To the Editor:

During our growing-up years, we acquire knowledge, appreciation and respect for our military. Later on in life, as we hear more of their achievements and successes, we become proud of our American military forces. Sadly, as time goes on, it's possible, our concept of the military will be changing and not for the better.

We need only to look at the media and read in newspapers of officers and enlisted military personnel who have been investigated for cheating scandals, recruiting violations, even passing military secrets – included are many more serious crimes. This type of behavior certainly cannot be condoned, and every step must be taken to minimize and, hopefully, eliminate such actions. However, the media is not the place to resolve these occurrences, which now only serves as an aggravation.

The place to address such unfortunate behavior is within the military structure and system. The Uniform Code of Military Justice was created and written to effectively process and resolve all violations, as they exist in past years as well as today.

By leaking inappropriate behavior to the media, our elected officials in Washington as doing a disservice to our United States Military. Those senior NCOs and officers currently on active duty will now be developing strong reservations regarding careers in the military. The recruitment of new military enlistments will soon become even more difficult. Last but not

least, the morale of our dedicated fighting forces will be negatively affected.

Before it's too late, our leaders in Washington should be made aware of the fading image of our military. Exposing violations of active duty military to the press is debilitating and harmful to those who have struggled every day to protect our freedom.

Michael V. Canavan
Monmouth Beach

Taking a Stance Against Marijuana Legalization

To the Editor:

I want to applaud Gov. Christie for taking a firm stance against the legalization of marijuana for recreational purposes.

As a longtime member of the Middletown Municipal Drug and Alcohol Alliance, it is heartening to have a governor who refuses to concede the health and well-being of New Jerseyans in the face of numerous states weakly caving into pressure from ill-advised advocacy groups.

Gov. Christie's statement is especially timely as a new report conclusively shows that even casual marijuana use results in significant brain abnormalities.

Moreover, marijuana has been proven to be a gateway drug to such horrifically addictive and deadly drugs as heroin, cocaine, crack, methamphetamine and countless others.

On a larger scale, the United States cannot afford to create an unmotivated and less-

productive populace and expect to remain competitive as a nation on the world stage. One need only look at the chaos ensuing in Colorado since its legalization of marijuana to get a sense of the damage that can and will occur. Legalization, in the eyes of many, also will be a signal from the government that marijuana is safe and acceptable and encourage people who may otherwise stay away from it, to become involved.

In addition, whatever short-term revenue benefits the government realizes will be dwarfed by the long-term costs to society in lost productivity, increased DUIs and other crimes, increased medical costs, skyrocketing addiction rates, higher accident rates and increased government dependency.

Gerry Scharfenberger, Ph.D.
Middletown Township Committee

Christie Lauded for Letting EMTs Administer Narcan

To the Editor:

With news outlets reporting daily about New Jersey's escalating heroin epidemic and resulting increase in overdose deaths, we commend Gov. Chris Christie for signing the waiver to allow EMTs to administer Narcan to help reverse the potentially fatal effects of opioid intoxication.

If not fatal, an opioid overdose can cause devastating brain injury. In essence, "time is brain." Because EMTs, who provide basic life support (BLS), often are first to reach patients, it makes sense to equip them with such a life-saving tool.

We stand ready to work with the governor, his staff and Health Commissioner Mary O'Dowd in developing training and implementation guidelines for this new policy. With such a tremendous need for early intervention during this state's heroin crisis, we can't afford to wait.

Howard Meyer
President, New Jersey State First Aid Council

Joining the Fight Against Alzheimer's

To the Editor:

Women are at the epicenter of the Alzheimer's disease epidemic.

The recently released Alzheimer's Association 2014 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures reveals that almost two-thirds of American's living with Alzheimer's disease are women and that more than 60 percent of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers are women. A woman's estimated lifetime risk of developing Alzheimer's at age 65 is 1 in 6, compared with nearly 1 in 11 for a man.

While breast cancer is a very real and important concern for women and it deserves continued attention and investment of

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Letters To The Editor

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resources, the Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures reveals that women in their 60s are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease over the rest of their lives than they are to develop breast cancer. In New Jersey, it is estimated that by 2025, the number of individuals with Alzheimer's disease will increase by 24 percent from 2014.

The statistics are startling and frightening, and the impact on our families is real. Alzheimer's disease changes families forever as fading memories impact everyday relationships. The emotional impact is overwhelming and the cost of care is devastating.

The Alzheimer's Association is launching a national initiative this spring to highlight the power of women in the fight against this disease. I ask readers to join me in advocating for an end to Alzheimer's disease. We can have a tremendous impact when we work together.

Learn more about Alzheimer's disease at www.alz.org/nj or contact us at njadvocacy@alz.org. Thank you.

Kathleen Townshend Dugan
Board Chair
Alzheimer's Association,
Greater New Jersey Chapter

Keep Pets Out of Parked Cars in Warm Weather

To the Editor:

Warmer temperatures are a welcome change after a long, cold winter – but as the mercury rises, it's crucial to protect our animal companions by never leaving them in parked vehicles.

Every year, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) receives dozens of reports of animals suffering and dying in hot, parked cars. Cruelty-to-animals charges are routinely filed in such cases.

It only takes minutes for a parked car to cook an animal alive. On a warm day, even with the windows cracked, the temperature inside a parked car can reach more than 160 degrees.

Parking in the shade and/or leaving water in the vehicle won't help. Symptoms of heatstroke include restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, lack of appetite and coordination, dark tongue and vomiting. Dogs can succumb to heatstroke in just 15 minutes, resulting in brain damage or death.

Please, when it's even a little warm outside, never leave any living being in a parked car, even for "just a minute." If you see a dog left in a car, have the owner paged or call 911 immediately – the dog's life depends on it. Visit www.PETA.org to learn more.

Martin Mersereau
Director, Emergency Response Team
Cruelty Investigations Department, PETA,
Norfolk, Va.



COURTESY DORN'S CLASSIC IMAGES

Two River Moment

Christ Church on Broad Street in Shrewsbury was the site in 1885 of a reunion of members of the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternal organization of soldiers who served in various branches of the military during the Civil War.