

# Editorial Opinion

## Naples Daily News

"Give light and the people will find their own way"

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### World War II

## When we came of age

Veterans and civilians of the World War II era have their individual memories of that war, but the common memory that cuts across all classes and kinds is the sense of national unity and purpose.

On this eve of the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, we believe no other event in our history touched so many Americans. More than 16 million men and women served in the armed forces, half of all men between the ages of 18 and 49. The war effort added 19 million to the workforce, 35 percent of them women, idealized as "Rosie the Riveter" for filling jobs previously considered too tough and demanding for women.

And this was in a country whose population was barely 133 million when the war started. Youngsters whose previous travel consisted of Saturday visits to the county seat found themselves spread across the globe from the Southern Pacific to Northern Europe and all over the world's oceans.

The experience of the war was that Americans were part of something much larger than themselves and they returned to civilian life determined to stay a part of it. Six World War II veterans became U.S. presidents and others dominated Congress. Now only three remain: U.S. senators Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey and Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, both of Hawaii.

As it did for so many, the war and the GI Bill broadened narrow prewar horizons. Lautenberg, head of a \$9 billion company before becoming a senator, would have been grateful for a job as a bus driver; Inouye, who has represented Hawaii in the Senate for more than 48 years, imagined he'd be a store clerk.

For many, the war enabled them to transcend their nation's failings. Inouye, like other Japanese-Americans, was stigmatized as an enemy alien. Many of their families were cruelly interned in camps, for which the U.S. government formally apologized.

Inouye lost his right arm in combat against the Germans as a member of the heavily decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He and 19 other survivors of that unit were awarded the Medal of Honor.

Inouye spoke for many veterans in a recent interview when he said, "I left the war as an adult — I was a teenager when I got in — feeling rather proud of myself as an American, and to this day I look upon my country as a great country."

Should an ill fate demand it of us again, we must hope we are still the kind of nation that can summon that sense of purpose, unity and national resolve.

### Stars in the Arts

## Tooting band's horn too

Monday's editorial about the 2012 Stars in the Arts program, sponsored by the United Arts Council of Collier County, omitted one of the recipients — the entire Naples Concert Band.

"This is a tremendous organization that has contributed much to our community," the council says.

Naples Concert Band is celebrating its 40th season of entertaining Naples residents and visitors. The all-volunteer band has 90 members. Attendance at the free outdoor concerts at Naples' Cambier Park averages 3,000 in season.

Over the years the group has awarded more than \$80,000 in student scholarships and assisted the city with fundraising efforts to build the Cambier band shell that many local performing organizations and events now enjoy.

### volunteercollier.org

## Linking causes, helpers

Reach out and touch someone.

There are ways to do that other than via the phone.

You can go online to [www.volunteercollier.org](http://www.volunteercollier.org) — a new website with a mission of matching civic-minded volunteers and agencies that can use their help.

It serves a real need. Some people have time and skills to offer, yet don't know which direction to take. Meanwhile, nonprofit agencies say they need volunteers now more than ever and need help recruiting.

Potential volunteers come in all age groups, from high school students, seeking community service credits for scholarships, to retirees.

The potential is huge. Here is one way to quantify it: so far about 50 nonprofit agencies have registered their needs at [volunteercollier.org](http://volunteercollier.org). That may be only one-tenth of the do-good organizations in town.

This effort is a winner. It capitalizes on basic technology and keeps the mission simple.

Hurrah for everyone involved.



## LETTERS

Dan Dougherty, *Fort Myers*

### He's being used

Father Stan Strycharz's so-called supporters are using him to attack Bishop Frank Dewane.

Father Stan's core supporters are members of Catholic dissident organizations like Call to Action and Voice of the Faithful. These groups are all about attacking the church's teachings on homosexuality, ordination of women and celibacy.

Dewane will not put up with their antics, God bless him.

Poor Father Stan. Either he is the dupe or he is one of them — either way, he's not suited to the Catholic priesthood.

Bob and Maureen Broitzman, *Naples*

### The rest of the story

In a recent Sunday column by Editorial Page Editor Jeff Lytle about vanity license plates seen on the road in Southwest Florida, reference was made to a car with the license plate EGO TRP 2.

A reader/observer, Kathy McGrath, was quoted as saying: "This guy really cut me off; he must have some of my paint on his car. He was driving a very expensive black sports car with Illinois plates — EGO TRP 2."

As we told Editor Phil Lewis, my husband and I would never intentionally "cut" someone off and the inference of a hit-and-run is completely false.

We also find it very sad that Lytle found it so important to end his article with such a negative statement and that he never substantiated this accusation.

The most important thinking here is to ask why can't we look for, talk about and write about the goodness in each other and in our lives? Why is it so important to try to find something negative and hurtful?

Now we have been singled out as reckless and irresponsible drivers and our character has been damaged.

If we all took time to focus on the good things that happen in our day, we would all be walking around with smiles on your faces and helping one another, not trying to degrade and belittle one another.

It's amazing what damage can be done by words or jealous thinking!

Charles Cortright, *Naples*

### Championing Fiala

I totally disagree with Doug Fee's letter to the editor.

Donna Fiala has been the most dedicated and honest commissioner the last 12 years, and to say she is out of touch with her citizens is a false statement.

Fee should come down to East Naples or Marco Island and talk to some of the homeowners.

Fiala was on the board of directors for the Naples Botanical Garden in its early days; she had

### Letter of the Day

William G. (Bill) McArthur,  
*Naples and Lewes, Del.*

### Havana journeys

I have joined a group of United States athletes who traveled to the Havana Marathon with Insight Cuba.

I returned to the U.S. with the thought that I'd love to return to Havana or some other Cuban ports on a cruise ship.

Unfortunately, cruise lines are not permitted to go to Cuba if they intend to visit any U.S. port within six months.

This policy, as with the other Cuban boycott rules, doesn't make sense in 2011.

I think that Cuba and Cubans, Florida and Floridians would benefit from an open travel policy and hope that others will raise their voices in support.

a dream for Kelly Road (now Bayshore Drive) when it was a disgrace to Naples and turned it into a beautiful cultural boulevard within her term.

She was deeply involved in starting the Eric Kunzel Community Concert Series for local budding artists which played to a full house at Edison State College, Lely campus, Friday night. Then she started the Bayshore Festival of the Arts, which is Jan. 28 and 29 at Sugden Regional Park, free to the public.

There are many other areas in which she is involved.

For several years Fiala has selected a person from each part of her district and calls it her "Kitchen Cabinet" that meets monthly just to stay in touch with the homeowners. She is always open for suggestions from her district with a prompt reply.

I'm sure if Fee were a commissioner, everyone wouldn't agree with every vote he took. What has this candidate ever done, except slap signs on his friends' cars and trucks and become a part of the Swamp Buggy Parade?

Fiala deserves another term.

Gretchen Schumacher, *Naples*

### Protect our pets

It's just not right!

We adopted a beautiful cat from the Humane Society. She was the joy of our life until we found her dead, savagely attacked and eaten (only head, tail and spinal cord remaining) behind our home at Moorings Country Club.

Realizing that this "kill" was made by a coyote seen frequently in the area, we made calls to the Naples Police, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Humane Society, Domestic Animal Services and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. We were told that none of these agencies trapped coyotes and that these wild animals were free to roam

throughout our city.

Enjoying pets for 20 years in the Moorings and using an invisible fence for our dogs, we always felt totally comfortable with our animals out in the yard. We never gave a thought to a wild animal possibly attacking and killing them.

The other evening our cat did get out. She was never a roamer and stayed within the immediate vicinity of our house. After an hour, when she didn't respond to our calls, we never imagined she was being brutally ripped apart behind our home by a wild animal.

Do these wild, vicious coyotes belong in neighborhoods with domesticated dogs and cats as well as people? Will a child be the next victim?

According to police, coyotes are in neighborhoods from Port Royal to North Naples. It is time to trap and exterminate these coyotes now before it really gets out of hand.

What good are they serving by being here? This is crazy and scary!

Marsha Haas, *Naples*

### In any language ...

I was pleased to see that Barron Collier High School Spanish teacher Michal Durik was included in the list of Teachers of Distinction for 2011-12.

I began studying beginner Spanish this year through the Collier County Adult Education Program, with Durik as my instructor. I have been impressed with what an effective and energetic teacher he is, and I think he should be honored with a Golden Apple.

Collier County should be proud of dedicated teachers like Durik and support them in every way.

V.R. Bennett-Banke, *Bonita Springs*

### More change is in order

As a snowbird from Indiana for the past 12 years, my husband and I have been attending St. Leo Catholic Church.

We loved Father Stan Strycharz and were devastated by all the accusations against him and his ultimate dismissal.

I am thrilled to read that he has finally been vindicated. His having a child may be against the church rules and some may feel he has betrayed their trust; however, as I understand it, Bishop Frank Dewane was aware of the situation and gave Father Stan his word that it would be kept confidential.

If that is the case, the bishop has completely betrayed our trust as well. If we cannot trust the word of our bishop, I truly believe he should be dismissed as well.

We were fortunate enough to find a fine new priest, and I am confident we could find a qualified, competent and, more importantly, trustworthy bishop as well.

Good luck, Father Stan, and God bless!