

CALL THE EDITOR

Call the Editor gives readers a forum to express opinions on a variety of issues. All calls must be limited to one minute, and we reserve the right to edit each call. You can Call the Editor at 581-8499, day or night.

You can also Speak Out! on www.tulsaworld.com. Go to the Web site, and join Tulsa's forum by clicking on Speak Out!

Why did Kerry enter campaign?

I don't understand where John Kerry ever got the idea that he is presidential material. This guy has got some of the wildest ideas that I have ever heard of in my life.

Face it: Religion, politics don't mix

When you mix religion and politics, the result is always bad religion and bad politics. History reflects this fact. America was founded by people who believed in God, not in religion, not in dogma, not in the will of men and not in the rituals of charlatans and money changers.

Indian statue will raise taxes

Now that the half-naked Indian has found a home, we taxpayers have better be prepared to start paying for roads, parking, landscaping, restrooms and also the lighting bill forever.

Bush sees critics as enemies

George W. Bush's biggest single problem is the sad fact that he thinks all of his critics are his enemies.

Thanks, hospital, for the news

I have been in and out of St. John Medical Center since Feb. 1, and I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate you furnishing the newspapers. Wonderful.

Only solution is destroying city

I am an old ex-Marine grunt. Served my time in hell in Vietnam. We have kids near Fallujah, waiting to go into this city in Iraq and they are sitting on their tails taking fire before they can fire back. They should have wiped out the insurgents in Fallujah two weeks ago. You cannot deal with these animals.

Kerry made a personal choice

Everybody is raising Cain about Kerry throwing his medals away. Whether or not he did doesn't make a flip to me, although my dad did keep his medals. That was a personal choice 30 years ago.

Kids can pick up after themselves

Why do the public schools not have the children clean their own classrooms? It seems pretty disgusting to have them litter to the extent they do and then have janitors clean up after them.

Hatred grows with our help

According to what I have read, we have several thousand starving children in the United States, so why are we sending anything to Iraq? The more we do to help these people, the less we are liked all over Europe.

Obituaries should note death cause

I read the obituaries every morning. I'm not that old, just living in Tulsa for a long time. The first one in Tuesday's paper listed someone who had passed away of cancer and it reminded me that it had been over a year since I had a mammogram and my next phone call will be to my doctor. I wish more of the obituaries would list the cause of death. It might make all of us a lot more aware of our own health care.

State lawmakers' classifications

Our Oklahoma Legislature seems to be composed mainly of two groups — right-wing religious nuts and a lot of spineless legislators who are intimidated by them.

Don't dramatize the weather

I agree with several of your callers that don't mind the weathermen taking as much time as they need to tell us about adverse, violent weather. I think they do get a little overly dramatic. What I also get tired of hearing is how they can't start a sentence without telling me about their Viper Warn 3D, Doppler high definition and Storm Tracker. Don't waste my time with all of that. I don't care if you got the information out of a crystal ball. Just tell me accurately and timely where the storm is.

HMOs at root of problem

When doctors don't practice good medicine, HMOs are usually behind it. Good medicine cannot be practiced with one eye on the clock and one foot out the door. HMOs tell doctors how many patients to see a day and how much time is allotted to each one. When the doctors cannot comply with these inhumane rules, they are punished monetarily or dropped from the list of doctors. People's medical problems are often too complicated to figure out in 15 minutes, so wrong diagnosis and treatment are commonplace. When the patient is harmed, the doctor is sued. Doctors should either form their own unions so they can free themselves from these HMOs run by HMO executives, or HMOs should be sued every time a doctor is sued.

Bush defines patriotism

My grandson is in military intelligence and a highly respected leader. He has served under both Clinton and Bush. While Clinton loathed and set out to decimate the military, President Bush has done just the opposite, rebuilding and restoring honor, integrity and leadership to a military that highly respects him. Being willing to die for our country under a true president's leadership is what patriotism is all about.

CORRECTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS

► A Wednesday Tulsa World Divorces Asked listing — based on incorrect information provided by the Oklahoma State Courts Network — incorrectly reported that Holly Adair is seeking a divorce from Brent Blish. The two are not married and are not seeking a divorce.

► A Thursday Tulsa World photo caption misspelled the name of a man shown helping band a bald eagle. The man's name is Pat Farragher.

► A Thursday Tulsa World "Sounds Like Ours" column item incorrectly reported the date for the upcoming TGIF concert sponsored by the Tulsa Jazz Society. The concert is set for 5:30 p.m. May 7 at All Souls Unitarian Church.

► A Wednesday Tulsa World Midtown Community World story about the Tulsa Cherokee Community Organization gave an incorrect date for LaVerne Stone's support of a candidate for the Cherokee National Tribal Council District 8 seat. Stone helped in Buel Anglen's 2003 campaign.

WWII memorial opens

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► Project organizers open a month before the dedication ceremony because so many World War II veterans are dying each day.

By JENNIFER C. KERR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Gray-haired war veterans sat in quiet reflection. Tourists came by to quietly say thanks. Schoolchildren on field trips crowded around asking for autographs. Decades in the planning, the National World War II Memorial opened to the public Thursday.

Under brilliant spring sunshine, visitors of all ages streamed in to look at Washington's newest memorial and to pay their respects to those who served during one of the country's most difficult and triumphant periods.

The memorial, which sits prominently between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall, was long overdue but worth the wait, some vets said.

"It is beautiful," declared George Lynch, an 81-year-old former Marine from Washington. "To see this memorial after all these years is absolutely marvelous."

Lynch was accompanied by another World War II Marine, William "Abby" Abernathy, 91, also of Washington.

"So many people have stopped both Abby and me and said thank you," Lynch said. "I can hardly talk about this without my eyes watering up. It really touches you."

The granite-and-bronze monument features waterfalls, fountains, and a curved wall bedecked with gold stars representing the more than 400,000 who gave their lives in the war. It has two hulking 43-foot arches at each end, one marked Atlantic and the other Pacific. They symbolize the two theaters of the war.

Fifty-six smaller granite pillars adorned with two bronze wreaths form the oval shape of the memorial and encircle a sunken plaza and pool. Each pillar is engraved with the name of a state or territory from that period.

While the formal dedication ceremony is a month away, project organizers raced to put the finishing touches on the memorial so the ever-dwindling number of World War II veterans could come to see it as soon as possible. World War II vets are dying at a rate of 1,056 a day, the Veterans Affairs Department estimates. Fewer than 4 million of the 16 million who served will be alive at the time of the May 29 dedication.

Fred Smith of Rockville, Md., served in the Army Air Corps, which later became the Air Force. He said the memorial is a grand tribute. "There are an awful lot of guys who I knew that are gone now, but they would have loved this," he said.

Another veteran, Henry Wilayto, said the size of the memorial — which stretches the length of a football field — was especially fitting.

"I think it's far more than I thought they were going to do," said Wilayto, a former Army staff sergeant from Concord, Mass. "I thought it would be a real small one, but they've gone completely into the depths that they should have."

The \$174 million memorial was almost two decades in the making.

Legislation was introduced in 1987 by Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, who was prompted by an encounter with World War II veteran Roger Durbin. In front of



Photos by LAUREN BURKE/Associated Press

At top, the World War II Memorial (foreground) and the Lincoln Memorial (background) are seen from the Washington Monument on Thursday. Above, World War II veterans William Abernathy (left) and George Lynch, both of Washington, read a quote from President Harry S. Truman while touring the memorial on Thursday.

a crowd at a political event, Durbin asked Kaptur why there was no World War II memorial. Together, they worked to get legislation passed to build one.

Congress gave its approval in 1993, but that was followed by court challenges from critics who claimed the monument would clutter the Mall and interfere with sweeping vistas long enjoyed

by visitors. Construction began in 2001.

Durbin died four months before ground was broken.

The U.S. Postal Service plans to issue a stamp depicting the monument. It will be on sale the day of the ceremony.

World War II Memorial:
<http://www.wwiimemorial.com>

Senator pushes for USS Oklahoma site

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A state senator is continuing his efforts to help establish a permanent memorial for the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor.

State Sen. Jim Reynolds, R-Oklahoma City, urged residents on Thursday to write or e-mail U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., to help secure a location for the memorial.

Inhofe, who supports the project,

said more public support could help him sway his colleagues in the U.S. Senate.

"Senator Inhofe knows how important the memorial is but he needs our support," Reynolds said.

"The more public we make our message, the more strength he'll have when convincing other members that the citizens support this memorial."

The USS Oklahoma lost 429 men

during the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

Several survivors recently visited Oklahoma for a reunion and asked for the public's help in establishing a permanent memorial at Pearl Harbor.

"I believe if enough citizens take the time to write Senator Inhofe, we can make that a reality for them," Reynolds said.

Donate old computers to refurbishing groups

Where in Tulsa can old computers find new homes? — A.D., Bartlesville.

The Coalition of Tulsa Computer Refurbishing Projects — <http://helping-tulsa.org/coalition.htm> — is made up of four organizations that take in older computers to refurbish for worthy causes. The coalition is made up of the following.

Tulsa Computer Society Refurbishing Computers Project. In east-central Tulsa, Don Singleton, society president, accepts donations of computers at his residence — 3311 S. 127th East Avenue. Call him first at 622-3417. Society volunteers refurbish these for schools, churches, libraries and nonprofits, including low-income housing projects. Most contributions are "low-end Pentiums, 486s and not enough Pentium 2s."

Bethesda Adult Life Training Center (Bethesda Boys Ranch) — <http://helpingtulsa.org/where/bethesda.htm> —



PHIL MULKINS
Action Line

Tulsa, OK (918) 827-6409 — takes 486s and later models only. Refurbishing work is done by the Tulsa Computer Society. Call Jim Erwin at 637-8631 to see when he or someone else will be at the ranch location. To deliver a computer there from central Tulsa, go south on U.S. 75 to 171st Street and turn right, go two miles west to 49th West Avenue (no street sign but watch for the "RC Field" sign attached to the fence) and turn left (south) and drive one-third of a mile. Just past your first opportunity to turn right, find an opportunity to turn left and turn left. Go to the end of the road, past a house on the right and a

building on the left, to a road that turns off to the right — it passes the building where refurbishing takes place.

Cornerstone Assistance Network — <http://www.htweb.org/tulsacan/> — 1120 N. Peoria Ave., Tulsa, (call 583-3670 for an appointment) is one of four locations where you can donate used computers to help churches and ministries start computer labs to teach kids and adults basic computer skills. Its trainers oversee and instruct needy individuals in hardware and software skills. Contributors get receipts for claiming charitable contributions deductions on their income tax returns. Cornerstone and the Society collect, refurbish and distribute computers to nonprofits, schools, ministries or qualifying individuals.

PC Power — <http://www.tulsapcpower.org/> or call (918) 493-8052 for an appointment — is a nonprofit corpora-

tion — 501(c)(3) pending — established to collect and refurbish used computers, making them available to indigent children, at-risk children and disabled adults in northeast Oklahoma. Its first community-wide computer drop-off was Jan. 31 at The Farm Shopping Center when 300 computers were donated with software, peripherals and spare parts. The need for donations is ongoing and the group accepts all used computers — even those not working. Parts are taken from nonfunctional computers to rebuild computers and those not used are given to a local company that recycles electronics in an environmentally friendly manner. It needs donated software for Windows 98, 2000 or XP.

Submit Action Line questions to 699-8888 or by e-mail at phil.mulkins@tulsaworld.com. Action Line pursues consumer complaints submitted with photocopies of documentation to Tulsa World Action Line, P.O. Box 1770, Tulsa, OK 74102-1770.