

# OPINION

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Be there in their time of need

TO THE EDITOR | On Veterans Day, our nation pauses and reflects on the bravery, sacrifice, resilience, and honor of the men and women who have served in the U.S. military. The day offers us the opportunity to show veterans who are facing challenges – and their families and friends – that one call can make a difference.

If a veteran you know shows signs of crisis, such as hopelessness, anxiety or withdrawal, caring professionals at the Veterans Crisis Line are ready to listen. Veterans and their families can call (800) 273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text to 838255 for free, confidential support, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Honor the veterans you know and love by connecting them with this lifesaving resource. The power of one small act – one call, one chat, one text, or one conversation – can open the door to support. **Karen M. Aikman, LCSW** *Suicide Prevention coordinator, Bath VA Medical Center*

### Crestwood doesn't care about Seneca

TO THE EDITOR | Seneca Lake: spine and beating heart of the Finger Lakes, containing half its precious water. For Seneca Indians, it's where God left his handprint, its ghostly booming "the Great Chief walking."

The Finger Lakes and gorges formed 100,000 years ago as the Ice Age receded. In 1794, John Watkins named Watkins Glen for one of those magnificent gorges.

In the early 1900s, the lakes' sloping banks made them "the berry capital of the world;" then raspberries, now vineyards.

In 2009, Sherman Travel ranked the Finger Lakes as "#1 Lakeside Resort Destination in the World." In 2010, readers of Budget Travel voted the Finger Lakes "Most Beautiful Wine Region in the World."

I wonder what Texas-based Crestwood-Midstream reveres about Seneca Lake? Here's a clue from its own website:

"Our goal is to create long-term value for our unitholders by delivering increasing cash distributions through expansion, development and acquisitions."

Crestwood certainly isn't the first business wanting to make commercial use of Seneca Lake, but it may be the first to show so little feeling for its history, or for us "non-unitholders" who understand the real value of our irreplaceable lake.

**Steve Coffman, Dundee**

### Parking not visitor-friendly

TO THE EDITOR | Signs of free two-hour parking very welcoming. The fine print recedes into oblivion, however.

Who would suspect there are two zones? Reparking in the same zone during a 24-hour period equals a ticket. Ticket's inexpensive, but when paying via phone, a \$3.50 handling fee is added. Another surprise.

As spokesperson for 10 quilters from north central Pennsylvania, we thoroughly enjoyed the shops on the main street and the clerks were very friendly, informative and helpful. Our group made a nice contribution to the city's economy. Our travels also took us to quilt shops in Big Flats and Campbell. After Campbell we returned to downtown Corning to dine.

You know the rest of the story ... we reparked our two vehicles in the same zone. Didn't exceed the two-hour time limit either time.

Apparently this parking protocol is quite lucrative. We witnessed three gentlemen in the same block carrying "electronic tracking devices". This led us to conclude that there was significant profit to cover salaries for the foot patrol.

Reorganizing the sequencing of the wording on the signs could be beneficial to unsuspecting visitors. Start with a diagram showing the two zones, proceed to a description of the two hours only in a zone during a 24-hour period. Sum it up with free parking, compliments of the city.

**Wanda Hendershot, Nancy Celline, Kim Singer, Sally Zehner, Betsy Smith, Bonita Whipple, Mary Fischer, Nancy Bobst, Chris Kroboth, Patti Gardner,** *Pennsylvania*

## POLITICS | SEN. TOM O'MARA

# Stand tall, stand proud



TOM O'MARA

Earlier this year I was proud to pay tribute to one of my district's leading citizens, Korean War veteran and lifelong Watkins Glen resident Anthony J. "Tony" Specchio, Sr., by inducting him into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame.

To build a place that serves as an enduring honor to New York State's veterans was the reason the Senate saw fit to establish an online Hall of Fame for veterans in 2005, nearly a decade ago. We've saluted approximately 300 veterans in this way so far.

We hope we've secured for them a permanent place in state history.

Tony Specchio's nomination this year perfectly expressed the underlying mission and, at the same time, speaks volumes about our annual observance of Veterans Day, "Over the course of the past six decades, Anthony J. "Tony" Specchio, Sr. has become a living symbol of patriotism and honor for veterans in Watkins Glen, our state and our nation."

A living symbol of patriotism and honor. That says it all about a veteran, and so you can read many of these amazing stories through the Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame link on my website, [www.omara.nysenate.gov](http://www.omara.nysenate.gov).

American places still speak to the fundamental reasons for our nation's founding and her endurance as the world's great democracy and guiding light.

But perhaps most powerfully of all, on Veterans Day every year we are drawn to the cemeteries, monuments and memorials in our midst that still, and hopefully always will, rise up to honor those who have served and sacrificed, and still do.

Always on this occasion, I like to recall former President Ronald Reagan standing tall on the windblown coast of France on June 6, 1984, offering words to commemorate the 40th anniversary of D-Day, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

Or remember the words of the great American general, Dwight D. Eisenhower, who said in his June 6, 1944, D-Day radio broadcast to the people of Western Europe, "I call upon all who love freedom to stand with us now. Together we shall achieve victory."

Ten years later in 1954, when he was president, it was General Eisenhower who signed the law designating November 11th as the nation's annual Veterans Day observance.

Always remember. Always be proud. Stand

with us now. Together. Freedom.

Since the tragic events of September 11, 2001 this generation has realized, all too painfully, that freedom here at home can be threatened at any moment. We've all realized, as well, that our soldiers stand ready to protect these freedoms time after time.

Across the days leading up to Veterans Day on Tuesday, individual citizens of every age and walk of life join public officials, veterans and their families to reaffirm our pride in America's servicemen and service-women and, of course, to turn our thoughts and prayers to those young soldiers whom we've lost from here at home.

They are true American heroes, and we are grateful to each and every one of them.

The history of America's veterans, our truest patriots, is a remarkable, inspiring story.

It helps all of us as Americans stand taller, and prouder.

*State Sen. Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats, represents New York's 58th Senate District, which includes Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler and Yates counties, and part of Tompkins County.*

## ANOTHER VIEW



## OTHER VIEW | THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

# Now Obama, GOP must lead

Republicans' resounding mid-term gains include a U.S. Senate majority and greater House dominance, but they still go only so far in achieving what voters really want: superior governance.

The team-sport aspect of American politics, with all its flaws, does produce winners and losers. Now what Americans demand is a government that advances solutions and better solves problems.

Both teams, Republican and Democrat, have been guilty of arrogance and overreach. This election also makes clear that both sides also need each other. Republicans, who will control all of Congress in January, must show they can do more than obstruct

the president and his party.

This means more John Cornyn and less Ted Cruz and his one-way-street approach. It's possible to remain conservative and still work across the aisle; in fact, it's a requirement in today's divided government.

And President Barack Obama needs to do more than pay lip service to compromise if he hopes to build a real legacy in his final two years. This means fewer threats to impose executive action fixes to big problems, like immigration reform, and more coalition-building with actual lawmakers.

Words matter, but actions matter more. We want to believe key figures in both parties sending

signals that compromise is the new player in Washington. Then we remember hearing similar words after every election. Eventually, we catch on.

Instead, what we want is to see our executive and legislative branch leaders actually lead. A good time to test-drive this is during the lame-duck session before the new Congress is seated in January.

One must-do is the matter of funding the federal government, as a stopgap measure expires Dec. 11 - precisely the kind of measure that has caused past D.C. governance to grind to a halt. Other issues are stalled Obama nominations and whether to renew a series of expired tax breaks. These, too, will require

give and take.

Poll after poll shows Congress at historic approval lows. Yet it's also true that voters sent a clear message Tuesday to Obama that the pox is on both houses.

In a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released on the eve of the vote, two-thirds of Americans said they wanted to see "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of change in the way Obama does business. Even among self-described Democrats, 47 percent said they want substantial change from the president.

Americans have seen far too much of government that doesn't work over the past six years. They've also made it clear that they've about had enough.

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