

## Letters to the Herald

### Spirit of World War II not the same as war in Iraq

At this time of memorializing the dead of our nation's wars, the honors we posthumously bestow should not be diminished by invidious comparisons of the causes for which they died.

Whether the cause was just, or not, they did what they had to do, and they did it for their country.

Regrettably, George W. Bush and his advisors have seen fit to use memorial events to liken this unnecessary war in Iraq to World War II. By invoking the spirit of World War II to defend his policies, he shrewdly compels his critics to bite their lips and remain silent for fear of dishonoring or disheartening our troops in Iraq, while he and his subordinates pour out lies and half truths in electioneering clichés sanitized in the blood of our veterans.

By so doing he blasphemes

#### Send us letters

Send letters to the Bucks County Herald, P.O. Box 683, Lahaska, Pa. 18931, deliver to Hollyberry Square on Route 202, fax to 215-794-1109, or email [brideg@buckscountyherald.com](mailto:brideg@buckscountyherald.com). Letters will not be printed unless a phone number is included for confirmation.

those who sacrificed believing they were defending their country for a just cause - a thought never more poignantly captured than in the words of a soldier about to die in the "war to end all wars," when he wrote "If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep though poppies grow in Flanders fields."

Those of us old enough to remember know very well our cause in World War II. Our soldiers were defending their country from aggression - aggression initiated by a pre-emptive attack against Pearl Harbor by the Japanese, who later claimed it was necessary to prevent us from destroying them.

Every war we fought in the 20th century was a war against aggression and that was the cause for which our soldiers gave their lives. Fortunately, until now none of our leaders has been so arrogantly ignorant as to believe we have the right to initiate mass killings to bring democracy to another nation. So if Mr. Bush wants honestly to compare World War II and Iraq, he need only reverse our role, and, we hope he will recognize that he has caused this nation to break faith with those who died to stop aggression.

This shame must be shared by the two-thirds who polled approval for this war when all was going well. What was wrong at the outset cannot be made right by success on the battlefield. It appears that our country has lost its way and that we can no longer distinguish between right and wrong. While I write this with heavy

heart, if I do not speak out, then I too will have broken faith with those who died.

Joseph J. Duffy  
Salesbury

### Open letter to Roy and Pat Chapman, Stewart Elliott and John Servis

I just wanted to write you and express my sympathy for your loss at Belmont Park. It was a terribly disappointing loss for all of us. I was one of the 120,000 in attendance and heard first-hand the hush of the crowd as Brindstone raced across the wire in the biggest upset of our time.

But I also wanted to let you know that Smarty Jones is still loved and admired, and that all of us, the true fans, will continue to follow his career with avid interest and enthusiasm.

He has certainly inspired me. I work at a New Hope bed and breakfast and rearranged a tough weekend schedule just to make the trip to Belmont Park. My friend and I woke up at 4:45 a.m. in order to guarantee a swift trip to Elmont, where we luckily retained a picnic table on the backstretch by 8:20 a.m., then patiently waited over nine hours for a glimpse of the legendary chestnut colt. And what do I think now? It was well worth it.

I have been a racing fan since I was 8 years old (now 24) and never has a living Thoroughbred inspired me in any proximity. I was the proud owner of a 17.2 hand Thoroughbred gelding, Regal Destoper (or Puppy, as we called him) until his death in

2002. Puppy had a much less impressive five-year career racing six-furlong races in the finger lakes of New York.

Being a stalker, not a sprinter, he rarely won at that distance, but always had a whisp of "fought hard at the end, but outrun."

That is unfortunately how Smarty's run could've been described yesterday. But considering that Smarty held the lead for nearly one and a half miles, completely shut out the contenders of Rock Hard Ten, Eddington, and Purge, and went on to only lose by a length to a horse that had five weeks to train and rest at Belmont, it's still amazing to see what he has accomplished.

His story is highly reminiscent of Seabiscuit, who could not even participate in the Triple Crown, and his Preakness win brought back memories of the great Secretariat. While the timing is most unfortunate, it is important to remember that as horses ever 100 percent unbeatable. This will just make him more human and relatable. Like all the greats, even Seabiscuit and Secretariat, he lost. But he lost fighting like a champion all the way.

I just wanted to say thank you to all of you, Team Smarty Jones, for your continued inspiration to all of us. I look forward to seeing Smarty run later this year. It's my feeling that this will be the only time we ever see this little horse beaten on the oval, and that is something to hope for.

Diana Thoro  
New Hope