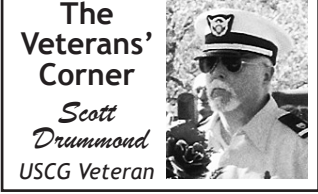


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Honor Vets While They Live!

As I researched military history for personal stories, I discovered more almost forgotten history of yet another wonderful, brave and America loving lady, Stephanie Czech Rader. Her parents, uneducated laborers, immigrants from Poland lived in Poughkeepsie, NY in the 1920s. Because of her expertise in the Polish language and culture, she became a U.S. spy in Europe post-WW II.



The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran

She attended Cornell University, after acquiring a full scholarship and waiting tables to help pay her own expenses. There she received a bachelor's degree in chemistry, and then went to work for Texaco Oil as a translator of scientific studies. As WW II engulfed our nation and the entire globe, she enlisted in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps to be groomed as an officer. Her Ivy League education and natural skills of language led to the OSS interests in her abilities in 1944. She was recruited by the OSS of our War Department, our early version of our CIA to "officially" serve as a "clerk" at our U.S. Embassy in Poland. However her skills allowed her to infiltrate the Soviet dominated country easily. Nevertheless hers was a very dangerous and precarious assignment and her cover was eventually blown by a superior based in Paris due to "gross negligence" and mishandling of official paperwork. (Sounds very familiar, does it not?)

At any rate, Stephanie was able to communicate intricate details of soviet troop movement to our military Command and Control forces right at the beginning of the "Cold War Era". Think about the vital importance and ramifications of what she and untold others like her accomplished. Very possibly they were instrumental in preventing all out nuclear war between the free world and the Soviet Union, which was achieving omnipotence in their controlled empire. After being promoted to rank of major, she was nominated for the Legion of Merit, which was later lowered to the Bronze Star, and both were never awarded, for some unknown reason. She later left the Army with the Army Commendation Medal, amongst several other awards. She later married William S. Rader another American hero who was an aircraft commander of many bombing raids in Midway as well as Europe. Stephanie Rader died at the grand old age of 100 years at her home in Alexandria, VA on January 21, 2016; having never received her well deserved Legion of Merit Award. She was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery, with full military honors, and only then, after her death, finally was awarded posthumously her Legion of Merit Award. Why couldn't our nation have awarded her while she was alive?! There is a message in this tidbit of history for all of us. We need to honor, respect and appreciate all of our Veterans while they are still alive. A smile, handshake or perhaps a grin will work wonders and be forever appreciated. Maybe our bureaucracy and government can't always get it right but you and I sure can.

Semper Paratus

Benjamin Harrison, where are you?

For the past couple of weeks I've taken some time off from politics, the 24 hour news cycle and the network crime and misfortune reports. The farm has been a busy place, with gardens to tend, fields to mow and equipment to repair. It has been almost like a vacation. News in general, and politics in particular, is bad for the digestion and detrimental to a good night's sleep.

Politics has always been ugly, and even a cursory glance at history will reinforce this understanding. Though there are examples of thoughtful campaigns and carefully crafted platforms, the leading edge of a political campaign is usually designed to stimulate emotion rather than thought and to reinforce existing fears and prejudices. Before a candidate has said a word, roughly equal numbers of voters, depending on how their brains are wired, will select either the pot or the kettle. Much of the theater around politics, therefore, is an effort to polarize the undecided and to galvanize a targeted demographic group.

We often refer to candidates and political parties here as "coke and pepsi" or "the pot and the kettle." This is not because we don't believe that there are very real differences between conservative and liberal thought or democrat and republican platforms; rather, we believe that the candidates we are offered who campaign under those banners are selected for us by people who are largely apolitical. It is an illusion of choice.

In a healthier political climate, it would matter much less, or not at all, who we elected as president. This is what our Republic was designed to accomplish. The Legislative, Judicial and Executive branches of government would check and balance one another. We see the ghost of that system still active today, though it has been greatly diminished by lobbyists and crony capitalism and by the ever increasing power of the Executive branch with all the bureaus of coercive power at its disposal.

George Washington was the first and perhaps the last president to effectively resist the temptations of power. Other presidents have sought to expand the powers of the office, or to disregard the system of checks and balances, such as Andrew Jackson's crimes against the Cherokee Nation in defiance of the Supreme Court in 1832. In more recent times, Bill Clinton accelerated the growth of the coercive power of the Executive branch with his use of Executive Orders. George Bush did the same with Executive Orders and Signing Statements and Barack Obama has followed suit, claiming that he must act when Congress will not.

This November, it appears that we will be given the illusion of choice between two corrupt and unlikeable candidates, and it would behoove us to consider what these strong willed and egotistic characters could do at the helm of what has become the Imperial Presidency. Passions run high among the followers of each camp. Each fears what the other side's candidate will do if elected. Will Trump's "shoot from the hip" style and bluster will create chaos? Will Clinton's hawkishness and allegiance to Wall Street perpetuate war and the continued destruction of the middle class?

These are valid questions, and many Americans have been asking them. In fact, polls show that a majority of us would consider a third party candidate, or any viable alternative to Clinton and Trump. A Wall Street Journal editorial calls the Libertarian ticket of Gary Johnson and William Weld an "honorable alternative." James Liddell writes, "They are two successful former governors with unimpeachable conservative credentials, tolerant on economic matters, tolerant views on social issues and bipartisan appeal to boot. In this election cycle, where the major parties offer voters a poor choice, the Johnson-Weld ticket is a no-brainer—or it would be if so many Americans weren't conditioned to dismiss the idea of a third-party candidate out of hand.

I agree. Personally, I believe that it is usually true that whoever governs least, governs best. I would be curious to see what a Libertarian administration, with a philosophy of smaller government, would do with the imperial office, and how they would fare in the corrupt and toxic environment of Washington. When every election seems to be framed as a crisis with civilization itself at stake, many of us have begun to yearn for a sober alternative to all the venom and hype. Save us from the do-gooders, the world changers, the idealists, and the "destined." Where is Benjamin Harrison when you need him? Who's that, you say? Exactly right.

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The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Letters to the Editor should be e-mailed or mailed to: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

Towns County Community Calendar

Bingo	Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Bridge Players	Village Condos Clubhouse	12:30 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Caregiver support	Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild	Calvary Alliance Chapel	6 pm
Lions Club	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club	N. GA Tech	6 pm
Basket Weavers	SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections	Old Rock Jail	4 pm
Mtn. Comm. Seniors	Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party	Civic Center	5 pm
Square Dance Club	Rec. Center	7 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
Water Board	Water Office	6 pm
YH Plan Comm.	YH City Hall	5 pm
Quilting Bee	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA	Call Jack @ 828-321-2896	
Co. Comm. Mtg	Courthouse	5:30 pm
Friendship Comm.	Clubhouse	6 pm
Goldwing Riders	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am

Mason Bees

We're all familiar with those dreaded carpenter bees that chew holes in the sides of our decks, houses and picnic tables. However, many people are not as familiar with the carpenter bee's much less destructive cousin, the mason bee. These little bees are beneficial pollinators of fruiting trees and numerous flowers. They are found throughout North America and while they prefer heavily forested areas, they have adapted well to city life and become closely associated with urban landscapes and homes.

Instead of chewing holes in dried wood, mason bees choose holes and cavities that are already present. You may even see them squeezing through an opening in your siding to form their nests. Though they are beneficial, many people still may not be too fond of the idea of bees living in the outside walls. Instead of spraying harmful insecticides on these beneficial insects, simply use caulking to fill any gaps in siding, fascia or other wooden joints around your home to prevent mason bees from nesting.

These little bees are slightly smaller than the European honey bee. However, their size can vary because it depends on how big their nest was. Males are always smaller than females, have a lightly colored tuft on the front of their face and long antennae. Females are larger and have a clump of hairs on their underbellies known as a "scopa" which is used to collect pollen for their young to eat.

A few days after she emerges, the female mason bee mates and goes in search of a home. When she finds an appropriate tunnel, she will create a plug made of mud at the very end of it. She will then place about 15 to 20 loads of pollen and nectar in the hole, lay an egg, then seal that part of the tunnel with another mud plug. She will repeat this pattern several times in one tunnel, so each nest may contain several bee larvae. After the larvae hatch, it can take about two weeks for it to consume its pollen and nectar reserves and eventually become an adult. Instead of emerging, the bee will remain dormant in its chamber and overwinter there so it can be protected from the harsh winter cold. The following spring, the male bees will emerge first because eggs that are destined to become males are laid in chambers nearest to the outside. The females will then emerge and mate with the males and create a new generation of mason bees.

Much like how we construct bird houses to encourage beautiful and beneficial songbirds in our backyards, we can also build shelters for mason bees to encourage them to pollinate our gardens and orchards. One example of a mason bee house consists of a large square of wood and a grid of holes drilled into it. The holes should be at least three-eighths of an inch wide and three to six inches deep. This will allow the female bees to lay several eggs in each hole. Make sure to provide some shelter from rain by including a roof that extends over the opening of the holes as well. To further protect overwintering bees, you can bring your mason bee house inside during the coldest months and return it to the garden at the end of winter.

Mason bees are neither destructive nor aggressive, and they are some of the most beneficial insects you could have at your home. By offering them a little shelter, they'll make sure your garden will flourish!



From the Ground Up
Melissa Mattee

Letters to The Editor

Letter To The Editor;

A presentation by the TISHCO Organization for a low Income Housing Project, to be located next to the Georgia Eye Center on Main Street, has become the topic of discussion at several Council Meetings. TISHCO was seeking permission from Council to apply for project approval and grants from State and Federal sources. TISHCO would then return to the Council and seek permission to proceed. If the application was not obtained, the project would not proceed, just as it failed to do in 2012. Several Council Members and approximately 40 attendees, reaffirmed TISHCO was only seeking the application for the project. The minutes for that meeting, issued by the City Executives, stated the project had been fully approved. Our three new Council Members immediately called for a special Council Meeting after having time to perform due diligence and identifying issue with this project in City Limits.

Now the fun begins. A special meeting was called. The Mayor invited Ms. Angel Ledford to speak in favor of the project and granted her 30 minutes to speak. That is the maximum time allowed for all speakers. No one else was invited to speak. Why was a guest invited to speak at a Special Called Meeting in the first place? When Council Woman Ordiales tried to challenge some of Ms. Ledford's facts and statements, City Executives declared the meeting to be illegal as Council members were out of order. The Mayor very reluctantly granted Ms. Ordiales 5 minutes to speak. After some loud discussions, the Council Members made their points as to what the original vote was and the low income project was not approved. Council Members are elected to discuss, evaluate and act upon issues that concern the entire community. They have an obligation to speak as long as it is required to do their job. They do not need a time limit.

More fun. Two committees within the City no longer exist. They are the Finance Committee and the Planning Committee. Ordinarily the Planning Committee would take part in the approval of a Project like the Low Income Housing Project. It's gone. So who has approval power in the City? The position is known as the Land Use Officer. The Mayor has stated that person is the City Manager, Rick Stancil. According to GMA Guidelines, that puts him in conflict of interest by serving in both positions. This is the same problem that existed with the Waite law suit.

Is The Low Income Project dead? TISHCO personnel are conducting a telephone campaign to raise support for this project, stating it has been approved. There are existing low income properties in the Towns County/City of Hiawassee area with vacancies that exceed the number of new units of the new proposed project. An additional 52 units are not needed. One of the local units has an undeveloped area with two large concrete pads that were never completed. The Low Income units on Big Sky Drive were recently revalued by the Tax Office from \$2.8M to \$790,000 as a result of a law suit by the low income housing management. That's a property value loss of \$ 2.1 million, along with the reduction in tax revenue. Apply the State Equalized Value Rule to your property folks. That rule works both ways. Low Income Housing does not protect your property values. Is that what we want on Main Street? The initial presentation was for this project to be used for family housing, yet there are 28 units, more than half the total units, that are designed with one bedroom. Some publications list the average family as: Mom, Dad and 2 1/2 kids. Something does not fit. Even more fun. Over the more than two years of attending City Council Meetings, I have seen a trend that is not in keeping with GMA Guidelines for "Government In The Sunshine" or even freedom of speech. That includes having a scheduled, on the agenda, speaker escorted out by the police. It was "justified" by City Executives on the slimmest of technicalities. In City history, that had never been done before. The City Executives seem to have many ways to delay or prevent people, and even Council Members, from speaking on important issues. That is not in keeping with their Fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers.

We have three new and very concerned Council Members trying to make positive changes for our Community. Please attend the Council Meetings and support the efforts of the entire Council and our Executives. They need our help and our input.

John L. Holmes; Taxpayer,
Property Owner; Hiawassee Resident

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