

April 30, 2006

Dear Editor:

Over the past two years many truths have been "re-invented" and convoluted to fit certain paradigms of a particular publications agenda; well I have finally had enough of this and decided to correct the "record" as reported in the Veterans Post News.

Yes, I understand the Editor, publisher, reporter and owner of that publication *claims* to be reporting the "news" and therefore is exercising his *freedom* of speech and *freedom* of the press as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America, that is by the way the same one that I, as well as every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, Coast Guardsman, and Merchant Marine have sworn a sacred oath to fight to protect, but that "Constitution" does not give him or anyone else the right to "re-invent" the actual facts and present inaccuracies nor report those inaccuracies as supposed actual representations of truth.

Let me correct your "un-truth" about being the "delegate" to the finance committee at the DAV National Convention in Reno, Nevada. Mr. Editor, publisher, reporter and owner: you **WERE NOT** the delegate, you were elected merely as the alternate; therefore, since the actual delegate was attending the meeting you did not need to have access to the proposed budget (notice the word PROPOSED), that was for the delegates to review prior to the meeting and then discuss during the meeting so that a finalized budget could be decided upon at the finance committee meeting by the DELEGATES. Now should anyone want to check the accuracy of this statement, that is as to the whom the delegate REALLY was by all means do so, that information is available in the Congressional Record! Oh, you did not know that Mr. Editor, publisher, reporter and owner; did you that All of the official committee activities at the DAV National Convention are recorded, transcribed and then entered into the Congressional Record to become a permanent record that is available to the general public for their review?

Now concerning the DAV Department of Florida Convention, during which you claim you were stopped from voting. Actually, and I can say this with much veracity, since I was and still am the Credentials Committee Chairman for DAV Department of Florida, you were not an authorized "delegate" from your Chapter at that Convention that is why you were not permitted to cast a vote and that is what caused a recess of the Department Convention, with instructions disseminated from the Judge Advocate of the Organization and the Department Adjutant to the delegates in attendance and the audience, on the proper voting procedures, for a caucusing of delegates prior to voting for candidates for offices being sought for that year.

You claim that your "newspaper" was removed from the Saint Petersburg VA Regional Office because of complaints that children might read the *joke* that you had printed, and you have recently added a caveat that children should not be reading your newspaper, hmmm. First let me point out that your "newspaper" is being distributed in the Saint Petersburg VA Regional Office through the Bay Gulf Credit Union, which has an office located inside the Saint Petersburg VA Regional Office, that hardly seems like it was "removed from the Saint Petersburg VA Regional Office" and secondly you have once again re-invented the facts. During the DAV Department of Florida Mid-Winter Conference five (5) DAV Auxiliary members came

to me (yes me, the author of this letter) and complained about a "particular" item that you considered to be a *joke* (I shall say it was a veiled attempt at bar room humor at best); after hearing these complaints I brought this to the attention of my immediate supervisor, who then consulted with the leadership present, at the "Mid-Winter Conference" and it was decided that your publication was inappropriate for distribution at the "DAV Mid-Winter Conference". That is how your publication was removed from the DAV Department of Florida functions (notice DAV Department of Florida functions)!

You also claim to have "been the only one" that had presented the answer to the problem of back log cases that the VA faces in their work load when the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission conducted their very first Town Hall meeting in Saint Petersburg. Apparently YOU failed to listen to the three plus hours of testimony presented by the myriad group (i.e. very diverse group) of people who spoke, that seems to be contrary to one of the tenets of real journalism (to at least listen). There were many interesting and valid ideas as well as many good insights advanced to the "Commission" that night. In fact Senator "Bill" Nelson had sent his representative to address the "Commission" and he presented an eloquent speech with valid points and easy an easy to follow plan.

You claim that you are a NEWSPAPER and practice FREEDOM of SPEECH and FREEDOM of THE PRESS well it would seem to be a true newspaper you should beyond reproach when reporting the "facts"; that is not re-inventing, or convoluting them to fit your perception of a warped reality. It seems that Ethics and morals are merely "buzz words" which are used at your convenience to conjure up an illusion of propriety for your publication. Apparently the truth is only what those who own a *newspaper* want it to be and not what it really is! Remember responsible journalism starts with honesty.

Sincerely,

  
Ray Raulerson  
Largo, FL 33771