

**THE
LITITZ RECORD EXPRESS**
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-by-

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Letters to the Editor

Blessed

Editor, Record Express,

I am blessed to have grown up in Lititz during the 1950s. I was in the last class to graduate from Lititz High School. At that time, all grades from first through twelfth were in the same building which was located where the Lititz Elementary School is now. We started each day with reading the Bible, saying the Lords Prayer and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. On Mondays teachers did not give homework because that was the evening for church activities such as choir practice and catechism. There was a respect for the Bible and biblical principals were evident in the culture and morals of the people.

Since banning prayer and Bible reading in the schools, America is a changing nation. Just a few decades ago I never imagined that we would live in a time like today. Where we

are today would have been absolutely unthinkable back in the 1950s. In the not too distant future we will likely be in a place considered unthinkable today. Many Christians do not realize that we need not be ashamed to defend our faith.

Because of the supposed narrowness of our views, many Christians have become hesitant about quoting the Bible for fear of offending anyone. May God grant his church the discipline to stay focused to manifest the relevance of Jesus Christ to a needy world. We need revival today. Revival happens one person at a time. We must let it begin with us. The local celebration of the 2017 National Day of Prayer will be held at 6 p.m. on May 4 at WJTL Junction Center in Manheim. Join our community and worship together.

*Roberta Diehm
Elm*

**Meals on Wheels
not in danger**

Editor, Record Express,

Recently there has been a spate of "fake news" stories regarding Meals on Wheels in the context of the federal budget. As a participant in this program and having witnessed firsthand some of the hysteria generated from these recent "news" events I feel compelled to help set the record straight.

As a national program serving communities across the country my understanding is that no federal funds are ever directly used to fund Meals On Wheels. Many states choose to participate in assisting, such as Pennsylvania. To be clear, that is a state choice, not a federal one.

In Lititz, we are blessed to have a great and wonderful 100 percent volunteer organization that supports our client base providing both a hot meal and a cold meal five days a week for just over \$5 a day. The vast majority of our funding comes from our paying clients. We

do have several clients that are funded by the Pennsylvania Office of the Aging.

As I understand it, the primary source and bulk of their funding comes from the Pennsylvania Lottery, although I think that changes some year to year. If however, Pennsylvania elects to contribute some Federal Funds to the Pennsylvania Office of the Aging, that is a state choice, not a federal mandate.

I find it amusing that both politicians and many in the news media jump on stories such as this without doing any diligent research and jumping to non fact-based conclusions.

If you want to know more, browse the internet by searching on the subject of Meals on Wheels and the federal budget. Also please feel free to help correct the misconception and mass hysteria brought about this series of events.

*George Nickel
Meal Planner
Lititz Meals on Wheels*

**American's Creed
Celebrating the 99th year**

Editor, Record Express,

On April 3, 1918, the American's Creed was adopted by Congress. William Tyler Page, a clerk in the U.S. House of Representatives was selected as the winner of a nationwide contest proposed to promote the creation of creed which would set forth faith in American freedom principles — something that would reflect our cherished traditions and loyalty.

Out of 3,000 statements submitted, Page's creed is remarkably comprehensive. It reflects American ideals, history and tradition. The words are not those of Page, but the words of America's greatest statesmen and authors.

It is interesting to not how the original thoughts were chosen and arranged by Page. Here they are and where they originated:

"I believe in the United States of America." — Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

"A government of the people, by the people, for the people." — Preamble to the Constitution of the United States, Daniel Webster's speech in the Senate on Jan. 26, 1830 and Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg speech

"Whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed." — Declaration of Independence

"A democracy in a republic." — No. 10 of the federalist by Madison and Article X of the amendments of the Constitution of the United States

"A perfect union." — Preamble of the Constitution

"One and inseparable." —

Webster's speech in the Senate of Jan. 26, 1830

"Establish upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity." — Declaration of Independence and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

"For which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes." — Declaration of Independence and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

"I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it." — Substance from "The Man without a Country" by Edward Everett Hale

"To support its constitution." — Oath of Allegiance, section 1757 of the revised statutes of the United States

"To obey its laws." — Washington's farewell address and Article VI of the Constitution of the United States

"To respect its flag." — National Anthem, Star Spangled Banner, Army and Navy regulations and War Department circular on flag etiquette on April 15, 1917

"And to defend it against all enemies." — Oath of the allegiance, section 1757 of the revised statutes of the United States

The National Department of PA, District 9 VFW and the Auxiliary of local Lititz Springs Post 1463 urge all citizens to fly the National Flag on April 3.

*Anne Loechner
Patriotic Instructor
Lititz Springs VFW Post 1463
Auxiliary*

Old fool

Having spent most of my career in marketing and advertising related pursuits, I fancy myself pretty savvy in understanding and resisting the lures we are constantly teased with. But, despite my experience and sensitivity in this area, I can sometimes be just as susceptible to manipulation as the next person. Case in point:

I've played a cat and mouse game with our warehouse store of choice for years. I would absolutely prefer to go without my favorite granola and pasta sauce (both of which must be bought in 55 gallon drums) than pay full price for an annual membership that we barely use. Our purchases may be insignificant, but they are still plus business, and I figure they're not going to let us escape. So I've always waited patiently for the Free 90-day trials they eventually offer, then stock up on the things we actually use. But, this past Fall, I waited and then waited some more for my annual Xmas season trial membership. It never came. I felt like chopped liver.

So when I stopped in one day, to inquire whether my veteran's status entitled me to a membership discount, I was informed that it did, but for just a scant \$5 more I could get a year-long membership AND a FREE \$50 RESTAURANT.COM GIFT CARD. Wow. "I'LL TAKE

IT!" I hadn't gotten out the door when I began to realize I'd just violated the two cardinal rules of beating the marketing game: "Nothing is Free" and "Never Buy on Impulse." I was left waiting for the axe to fall.

Of course, it had already fallen. As my wife, a genetically endowed shopper, has always pointed out, she can get the same per sheet value on paper towels at Stauffer's if she waits for a sale, and she doesn't have to buy a boxcar load to get it. Ditto with those gigantic bottles of Listerine I always seem to have hogging space on our bathroom shelf. Plus, we don't have to trek halfway across the county to get those deals. Some weeks later, with her admonitions ringing in my ears, and my own arguments in defense of my membership purchase beginning to sound less convincing even to me, she inadvertently pulled the rug completely out from the illusion that I was smarter than the machine. "Let's go out to eat tonight," she said. "Do you still have that gift card?"

Ah, yes. The gift card. Now where had I put it? Seems like the stats are all over the place, but anywhere from 2-20 percent of gift card value is believed to go unredeemed — over a billion dollars per year. More to the point, people with gift cards tend to spend 40 percent more than their value when they DO redeem them. So, knowing that, I began a frantic search. Whew! Found it!

Off we went to dinner, af-

ter I'd spent a half-hour on the computer looking for restaurants that would accept this card (there were few), having to register my personal contact information (engendering a future torrent of email solicitations) and, finally, printing out two \$25 certificates. Fine, I thought, we'll spend \$60 on a nice dinner for two and only be \$10 out-of-pocket. Wrong again, coupon dupe!

When we got to the nice Manheim Township eatery, we asked the guy at reception, "Does this coupon include alcohol?" It did. I felt so smart for asking, because often it doesn't. Then the zinger: "Just you have spend \$45 each person." Oi, musta' missed that in the fine print; there went our \$60 total. After we were seated and started looking at the menu it didn't seem so hard that we could run up a \$90 bill. But the object of the evening immediately switched from having a quiet, pleasant, nearly FREE dinner, to calculating every thing we ordered and keeping a mental tab of where we were so we neither went too far over or under our magic figure,

When the final bill came it was \$105. I presented my card to the waiter along with the two \$25 certificates. "I'm sorry, sir, you can only use one of these per table." The ensuing "discussion," with me citing the implied approval of the man at the front reception (of course, he'd left for the night), finally resulted in the waiter going to see his

**Thinking
Out Loud**



Dave Bucher

manager. It was much like the experience of buying a car. After a long period of uncertainty, he returned, condescendingly admonishing us that "Just this one time we'll go along with this." Whew! Still, after the requisite 20 percent tip we'd ended up \$75 out-of-pocket.

This was nearly double a coupon-less trip to that airport restaurant, my original suggestion for the evening, would have cost. We should have cried, but we've both come a long way in our emotional response to being hosed. That, after all, is the norm in our current marketing-driven culture. Although our dinner had been ruined by the need to evaluate the cost of each mouthful, we simply burst into laughter. All of my preaching about the evils of marketing and how stupid people are to fall into its trap and here I was, learning that age-old lesson anew: There is no such thing as a free lunch...or dinner. Caveat Couppontor!

Caution urged in wake of Tennessee avian flu case

The United States Department of Agriculture last week confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic H7 avian influenza (HPAI) of North American wild bird lineage in a commercial chicken breeder flock in Tennessee. This is the first confirmed case of HPAI in commercial poultry in the United States this year.

This issue is critical to Lancaster County's economy as we raise 33 percent of all the commercial poultry in Pennsylvania. There are also many families in our area that maintain "backyard" flocks that could become infected if a worst-case-scenario plays out.

As a result, our own state Department of Agriculture is urging poultry producers and backyard poultry enthusiasts to take important safety measures.

Since 2015, the Pennsylvania agriculture department has spent considerable time preparing and practicing its high-path avian influenza (HPAI) response plan, working with counterparts at the state and local levels, as well as industry partners.

The department also issued two interstate quarantine orders which remain in effect. The first requires poultry moving to live bird markets and eggs destined for a commercial breaking operation, from states with infected HPAI flocks, to meet 72-hour testing, paperwork and reporting requirements that certify the shipment tested negative for avian influenza.

The second order requires that all vehicles, conveyances, containers and materials that transport poultry and related products be completely cleaned and disinfected using commercial truck wash-

ing equipment or other equivalent cleaning and disinfecting equipment prior to entry onto a new premises or poultry operation. Additionally, written documentation of cleaning and disinfection must be maintained.

Given the deadly and potentially devastating nature of HPAI, experts are stressing that prevention and preparedness are essential because the virus spreads rapidly and flocks could be wiped out by the time the diagnosis is confirmed.

Poultry owners who see signs of potential HPAI infection are urged to call the department's Bureau of Animal Health at 772-2852. For more information about HPAI, including biosecurity measures and premises registration, visit the department's website at agriculture.pa.gov and refer to the "Avian Influenza" box on the right side of the homepage.

**Pa.'s 97th
Legislative District**



State Representative Steven Mentzer

Steven C. Mentzer was elected to represent the citizens of the 97th Legislative District, which includes Lititz, in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. His office is located at 1555 Highlands Drive #110, Lititz, and can be reached by calling 626-1776. Visit repmentzer.com to learn more.

Ongoing effort to save Leib House

The following are position statements in regard to the Leib and Michael Groszman House in Warwick Township, shared by Gary P. Klinger, president of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County.

The Leib house is a historic property located in the Traditions of America development, near the Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center. Its future is in doubt and momentum to save the structure is building.

Klinger's statements:

I was very heartened to see front page coverage of the Lancaster County Planning Commission decision to oppose the Leib House demolition. This was an incredibly bold statement which I hope will encourage not only the leaders in Warwick Township, but other local municipalities as well to take an active role in the preservation of our historic and architectural resources.

As president I personally appeared before LCPC on Monday, March 13, in order to state our case for saving the historic Leib and Michael Groszman homes. In that statement I reminded the commissioners that the mission of Historic Preservation Trust is to preserve and protect the county's rich historic and architectural resources, but also emphasized that since becoming president I have gone to great lengths so show how this mission in no way

means HPT stands in the way of progress.

Quite the contrary. I explained that the Traditions of America project was just such an example of where progress and the preservation of such historic architectural resources could, in fact, work hand-in-hand. Over a year ago, I had personally discussed with Traditions representative Nathan Jameson a plethora of suggestions for adaptive re-use of the Leib House rather than simply demolishing it because somehow it did not fit neatly with their currently land development plan.

As a freelance journalist who had covered Warwick Township meetings for many years, not only had I already developed a great rapport with Jameson, I had a good working knowledge of the long, detailed process of getting land development and subdivision plans approved. That said, I was somewhat sympathetic to the situation faced by Traditions of America. And yet, I was not, seeing as how that corporation had clearly not done their due diligence researching not only the natural and topographical resources of the tract of land, but the historical and architectural resources as well.

How ironic that a corporation such as Traditions of America would show so little regard for the traditions of America in

wanting to tear down these buildings with such key ties to our local culture and our American heritage!

That Traditions had not done their due diligence prior to purchasing this tract of land, that they had not fully considered all options for the adaptive re-use of these irreplaceable resources and were now unwilling to spend the money necessary to preserve the buildings where and as they stand should not be at the cost of forever losing yet another piece of Lancaster County heritage. Further, I pointed out to the commissioners that it was the opinion of the Historic Preservation Trust that Traditions of America had not fully exhausted every option for adaptive re-use of these buildings, ranging from use as a welcome center or field house to use as a bed and breakfast, a guest house for out of town guests of residents, or even in a worst-case scenario moving it.

It should be pointed out that moving the house is not a great option due to the fact the house was built over a colonial era natural spring which should likewise be preserved.

In our opinion, there is simply no reason these two irreplaceable historic structures need to be demolished. They are not standing in the way of progress. As they are in sound structural condition, they are not in danger of demoli-

tion by neglect. They are not an eyesore.

As stated during my appearance before LCPC, my administration has sought to forge a new vision of how the Historic Preservation Trust can work with local government through planning and zoning commissions, with local architects and designers, with businesses, property owners and homeowners to maintain the historic cultural feel Lancaster County is known for. I explained how through creativity, cooperation and communication, progress and adaptive re-use can actually work quite well together. Additionally, I pointed out that preservation and conservation are in fact two sides of the same coin. The Historic Preservation Trust does take into account the changing times and evolving needs of the community, but must also act as an advocate in protecting the historic architectural and cultural nature which makes Lancaster County so unique. Once such a resource is lost, it is lost forever!

This project at Traditions of America acts as an object lesson underscoring each of these points perfectly, if only all parties concerned will choose to find a creative solution which will allow the Leib and Groszman houses to remain standing.

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day

Editor, Record Express,

On Jan. 27, 1973 the document now known as the Paris Peace Accord was signed. This agreement was to end the war and restore peace in Vietnam. The last POWs were to leave Hanoi for return to America on March 29, 1973, many POWs were not returned and the search goes on for them today.

To those service men and women who did return to America, they were caught in the cross-fire of public debate about involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War.

In 2008, to recognize the honor due to all the United States Armed Forces who fought in the Vietnam War, the House of Representatives approved Res-

olution 586, which proclaimed March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Pennsylvania, for those who have had to fight for it. Freedom has a special meaning that the protected shall never know.

On the ninth anniversary of the passing of Resolution 586 the National Department of PA, District 9 and local Lititz

Springs Post 1463 and the Auxiliary urge all citizens to fly the American Flag to honor all Vietnam veterans.

*Anne Loechner
Patriotic Instructor
Lititz Springs VFW Post 1463
Auxiliary*