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Letters to the editor

Gov. Crist honors veterans

Today, I join Floridians in remembering and paying tribute to the men and women who have paid the ultimate price to secure our freedom. We are able to enjoy a life of liberty because of the courage and selflessness of those in the armed forces, many of whom died to preserve our rights.

From the Revolutionary War to today's global war on terror, Americans have, time and again, defended democracy to uphold the values that make our country the world leader it is today. The United States has been a ray of light, giving hope to those held captive and oppressed around the globe, made possible by the patriotic spirit and valor of our brave service members. We honor our fallen heroes, including the 15 Florida guardsmen who have died in combat since 9/11, our service members and veterans still with us today. We honor them by sharing their legacy and educating our children on our nation's rich history. We honor them by participating in the democratic process by exercising our right to vote. We honor them by recognizing families of the fallen who have given their lives protecting and defending freedom.

I encourage all Floridians to join Americans across our nation in participating in the Moment of Remembrance at 3 p.m. today to reflect on why we commemorate Memorial Day and to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

*Gov. Charlie Crist
Tallahassee*

Why support Jennings?

I was certainly disappointed to read that Bill Evers and Dan Molter have endorsed Christine Jennings. Why? Are you planning to change your party, too? Certainly no one in Manatee County was deprived their voting privilege.

Ms. Jennings has cost the taxpayers huge amounts of money under the guise of faulty machines. It is also certainly delusional on her part to suppose that the "missing" votes were for her. More than likely they were missing because people simply did not like the choice.

However, I would like to state that I believe Congressman Vern Buchanan has done a good job for us. I, for one, intend to vote for him again. Ms. Jennings has done us no favors, as it was proved that the machines cheated *no one of their vote* and cost us thousands of wasted dollars.

*J. Marice Sardo
Bradenton*

Trailer Estates saga

I would like to address "Trailer Estates, quit bickering" (Letters).

I agree with the author on most points. A few need to be addressed. Trailer Estates is not a home owner's association. Trailer Estates is a "special taxing district" created by the Legislature in 1969 and codified in 2002 pursuant to FS 189. We are a government. Our board of nine trustees is elected by the owners of the park in an election held by Manatee County.

Yes, some of the residents are very frustrated. We have to try to address our concerns to a Board of Trustees who we feel directs more attention to the three-minute clock than to the concerns of the residents. The Trailer Estates board controls all of the media in the park. We have a closed-circuit TV station, newsletter and bulletin boards, all under the control of the board. The board runs a Bingo Hall twice a week. The Bingo Hall is a common place for some of the trustees and their surrogates to distribute propaganda that includes but is not limited to character assassination of residents who dare to speak out.

If you have followed the Bradenton Herald you have read about the lack of adherence to the Sunshine Laws by our board. I firmly believe that if it had not been for this newspaper being bold enough to carry the story, our office would still be refusing public records to the residents. The May 10 letter to the editor titled "Trailer Estates info release wrong" was in response to a resident receiving public records. I believe the author of that letter demonstrates the attempted character assassination of those who would speak out better than anything I could say. Maybe the reason the Legislature does not allow the custodian of the records to ask why a public record is requested is that it is none of their business nor anyone else's. Second-guessing motives and publishing that guess as a fact is irresponsible on the part of that author. I would also question the ethics and professionalism of that act.

The residents who dare to speak up are called "dissidents" and apparently they now also suffer from mad cow disease. Much of the business of the park is not conducted in the Sunshine. If we question the board, we are labeled and smeared all over the park. That is why the protection of First Amendment by the press is so important to all of us.

Sharon Denson
Alto, Mich., and Bradenton

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