

11-03-04



DONNA TERESA

# Veterans rights inspire call to action

On Nov. 11, Americans will reflect on the service and sacrifices our veterans have made. Earlier this year, during the dedication of the World War II Monument in Washington, D.C., I joined efforts with others to help the Library of Congress preserve stories from war veterans. My goal was to try and save stories from veterans who live in Monterey County. Thanks to the staff at the California International Air Show, my family and I were allowed to distribute information at the event.

One man walked up and quietly picked up a brochure. He was wearing a veteran's hat. He didn't make eye contact so I respected that and he walked away.

My son asked me if the man was a veteran. I told him he was. He followed the man and asked, "Are you a veteran?"

The man stared at him and said, "Yes, I am. I served in Vietnam."

My son put his hand out to shake his hand and said, "Thank you for serving, and I'm glad you were able to come back home."

The man walked over to me and said, "No one has ever said thanks to me." He became teary-eyed and so did I, and he walked away as quietly as he had come.

We continued our project by joining USA Weekend's "Make A Difference Day," a volunteer event, for the second year by cleaning and weeding veteran headstones. Our day started at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in north Salinas. I'll never forget the moment when I was placing

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Veterans, families salute children

I would personally like to thank members of the community and children from Boy Scout Pack No. 370 from Gonzales, Rose Kershing's class from Mission Park, and Nancy Ravizza's class from Roosevelt School in Salinas, for helping decorate and make ornaments for the remembrance trees at the Monterey County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Salinas on Sunday.

On behalf of the veterans and families who visit this memorial year-round, it is truly meaningful and very heartfelt that young people in our local communities care enough to help honor and remember our veterans.

There are a lot of great things being done by young people locally, and this is certainly one of them. If you haven't had a chance to come see the trees decorated with their holiday lights, I encourage you to do so.

These children did a wonderful job.

Donna Teresa, veterans volunteer  
Salinas

Dec. 10 - 2008

## First Amendment

"Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

— Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution