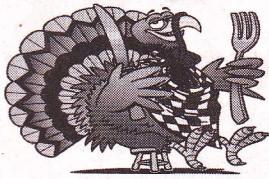


# OPINION

Wednesday, November 18, 2009



## What are you most thankful for?

Thanksgiving is next week. Times are tough for many people right now, and it can be easy to forget the things we are grateful for. Send us your thoughts on what you are giving thanks for this year to [op-ed@idahopress.com](mailto:op-ed@idahopress.com). You can also mail them or bring them by the office (see box below). Responses will be published next week.

### ▼ Your views

#### Those voting for health bill will be voted out

Pelosi's kindergarten class, consisting of 220 sheep, went behind closed doors to create a government-controlled health care bill opposite of what the majority of Americans need or want.

It was clear that when these representatives passed the totalitarian bill, most of us had no representation in the U.S. Congress.

Their indifference to massive spending and enlargement of government is not acceptable, and when the country finally learns the truth, then many of these representatives who do only what the speaker says will be joining the very large (10 percent-plus) unemployment line in 2010.

Adding violation of citizenship representation to the speaker's resume should also see her unemployed.

■ Jim Muldoon, Caldwell

#### Vets must get involved to get assistance they need

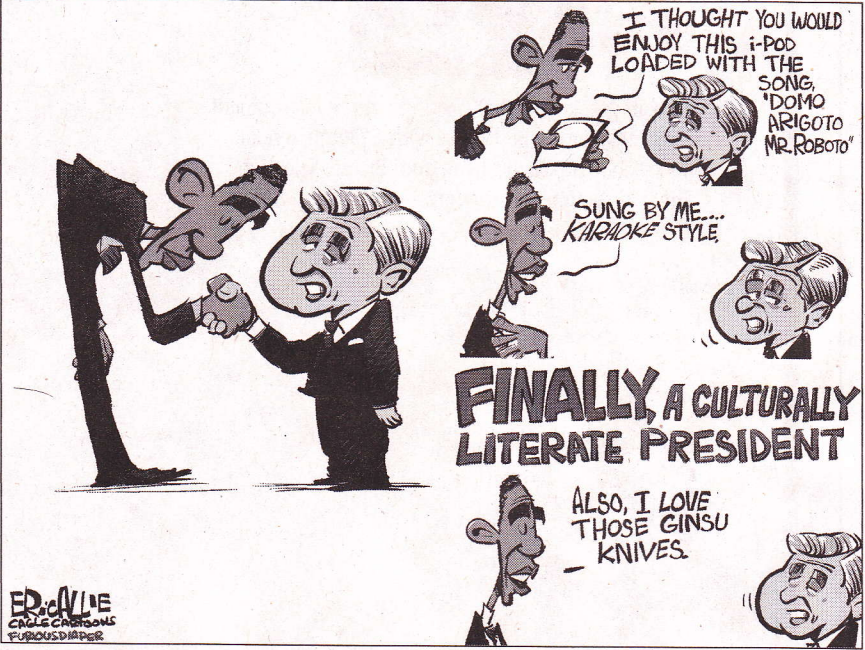
I happen to be one of those fortunate people who loves his job. In this job, I "get to" work extensively with veterans.

Two topics that most frequently come up in this line of work are: What can we as veterans do to assist/help out fellow veterans, and is there anyone out there to help veterans get or increase programs or benefits?

Yes, and the answer to both can be found in the same places. Look up, visit, and/or join one of your local veteran service organizations.

How many veterans out there are frustrated with the lack of programs and assistance available to them, don't know exactly what programs (if any) are there, or just find themselves feeling like a lone voice?

You are not alone. There are others out here.



However, as long as we (veterans) continue to keep doing what most of us currently are, those feelings of isolation and despair will remain. It is critical that we start talking with each other so that pride of service and sense of purpose can return.

When I first attended a DAV meeting, I was surprised to learn that there were not a lot of younger veterans present. Looking around the room at those who have been standing for veterans and trying to get us many of the benefits we have, I realized they will not always be around. Their voices will eventually be silenced, and unless more younger veterans join and stand with these folks, who will be there to remind our elected officials not to forget the sacrifices current soldiers and veterans have made and are continuing to make?

Now is the time for all veterans to start becoming involved. There is strength in numbers, and it should be now just as it was when we wore the uniform. Join a Veterans service organization: Disabled American Veterans (DAV) <http://www.dav.org/>, The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) <http://www.vfw.org/>, the American Legion <http://www.legion.org/>, the Marine Corps League [www.mcleague.org](http://www.mcleague.org/), Vietnam Veterans of America <http://www.vva.org/>, American Veterans <http://www.amvets.org/>, Military Order of the Purple Heart <http://www.purpleheart.org/>, or Boise Valley POW/MIA Corps <http://bvpowmia.org/>.

### ▼ Letters to the Editor

Please limit to 300 words. Include your name, phone number and address for verification. **Guest opinions:** Please limit to 500 words. Include your name, phone number and address for verification. Your photo is welcome. We accept one letter or guest opinion per person every 30 days. You can send them by way of: **Mail:** P.O. Box 9399, Nampa ID 83652; **Drop off:** 1618 N. Midland Blvd., Nampa; **E-mail:** [op-ed@idahopress.com](mailto:op-ed@idahopress.com); **Phone:** Call 465-8115 or 465-8110 for more information.

United we can make a difference.

■ Dave Howerton, judge advocate/Web master, DAV, Caldwell Chapter 1