



SGT. ALBERT E. MOSS JR. MEMORIAL POST NO. 7842
6913 Gehrton Rd.
Linesville, Pennsylvania 16424

May 16, 2017

To the Editor,

After reading "Lisa's Rants & Raves" in the Community News (31st year, No. 14; ^{MAY}~~MARCH~~ 15, 2017) I feel compelled to write. While normally enjoying these columns, I must take exception to the reference of President Trump as "President Agent Orange".

For the lessor informed, Agent Orange refers to a blend of tactical herbicides the U.S. military sprayed in the jungles of Vietnam during the late 1960's and around the Korean demilitarized zone to remove trees and dense tropical foliage that provided enemy cover. Initially ignored as the cause, 15 diseases are now presumed to be related to exposure to Agent Orange including Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, early-onset peripheral neuropathy, porphyria cutanea tarda, prostate cancer, respiratory cancers, soft-tissue sarcoma, chloracne, type-2 diabetes mellitus, light chain amyloidosis, ischemic heart disease, chronic B-cell leukemias, Parkinson's disease, and spina bifida in offspring of veterans.

Veteran's Organizations in general and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in particular have fought tirelessly to ensure our members are identified and given the care needed. This has been long battle with the VA; the most recent update to those eligible for benefits occurred in 2015.

Far be it for me to interfere or censor the Fourth Estate; I'm aware Ms. Houserman is exercising the rights extended her under the First Amendment (...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...) of the Constitution of the United States. All military members "swear to support and defend" our Constitution and "obey the orders of the President of the United States". The President is nameless in this oath for a reason, we respect the office even if not respecting the office-holder. Many Veterans of this community suffer or have succumbed from the lingering effects of diseases caused by Agent Orange. Therefore, while flippant sophomoric descriptions such as "President Agent Orange" may please some readers, it does great damage to others. Should you be unaware of these Veterans in our community, I can supply a partial list.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bob Moser". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Bob Moser
Commander,
VFW Post 7842
Linesville, PA

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.