

To the Editor,  
RE: Battle of the Bulge photo and story

I just wanted to comment on the amazing photo and article about the dedication ceremony for the 70th Anniversary of the World War II Battle of the Bulge in the May 20 Volunteer. In my opinion, that is an award winning photo to be submitted to national military associations!

If one looks closely, there are four men in the photo in various states of health just as they were in battle. While they are all focused on their job of unveiling the commemorative plaques, they are all physically linked by either the covers or actual support of one another. Additionally, though one is with a cane, Joe Landry is supporting his arm. It is amazingly symbolic of the effort these men exhibited in the awful and ferocious conditions of the Battle that staggered over the Christmas Holiday through a snow storm. How they survived by pulling together and supporting one another just as the amazing photo captures but never losing focus of the task at hand. Helping and supporting each other was second nature to them. You captured it one more time!

The other ironic part of the Volunteer article, and I quote, "The unveiling of the two memorial stone markers was conveniently done during the break in the weather by four veteran survivors of the Battle of the Bulge." The article is not attributed to any author and I do not know if they were aware of the power of that quote and how it applied specifically to the ferocity of the Battle of the Bulge. The Battle lasted quite a long time and never really finished until there was a "break in the weather," just as had happened at the unveiling ceremony. The Nazis and the Allies laid everything they had down on that battlefield. It was a decisive victory with relentless sacrifice.

On this Memorial Day weekend, on behalf of myself and my family, I want to express my deep gratitude to those four men, all World War II veterans (especially my deceased father), all veterans alive and deceased, and also to The Shirley Volunteer for so artfully capturing the essence of the Battle of the Bulge in both photo and story. It was gratefully appreciated. To the servicemen: thank you for your service and sacrifices.

Sincerely,  
Dr Arthur F. Eddy