

The death of a soldier

I AM writing to you to comment on your paper's coverage of the unfortunate death of a soldier, Anthony Boneca. The coverage was excessive, exploitive, sensationalized, and a clear case of invasion of privacy.

The coverage over the past eight or nine days is a good example of what is wrong with news reporting today. Get "the story," blow it out of proportion, sell the copy.

One of your headlines read "Slain soldier arrives" (July 15). Do you or your writers know what the word slain means? [Ed. note: slain p.p. of slay v. 1. kill with violence, especially in battle. Gage Canadian Dictionary]

Anthony Boneca was not slain, he was killed in action, representing his country, trying to protect the lives of innocent people. This is a prime example of sensationalism.

My feelings go out to Mr. and Mrs. Boneca and I hope they have some measure of comfort knowing their son died a hero. I also think you and this paper should extend an apology to them, at the very least.

Sam Crago
THUNDER BAY

THANK you to The Chronicle-Journal for its impressive coverage of the last goodbye to Cpl. Boneca ("Until we meet again," July 18).

The military has protocol which details the repatriation and funeral of fallen soldiers, however, the Lake Sups went beyond protocol; they closed ranks around their fallen brother.

This going beyond duty was also demonstrated by those who came from across the country to pay homage. They were not honouring a frightened boy but a man who in the face of heat and dust and bullets stood his ground. Duty he did, valor was

his, honour is his.

This event did not pass unnoticed by the people of Thunder Bay who also paid homage to one of their own. Streets were blocked while the cortege went by and police officers snapped to attention throwing smart salutes. People in cars bowed their heads.

His family will never be the same. They take whatever comfort they can in memories and the knowledge that they raised a man.

The aim of every good soldier is peace, even to the giving of his life for it.

Laurel Clarke
THUNDER BAY

MY husband and I are from Thunder Bay but now are living in Calgary. Our son-in-law is serving in Afghanistan and although we are worried about him being there we know he is well trained and understands exactly the perils of being in that country.

I was upset that Cpl. Boneca's girlfriend's father felt the need to make the remarks he's made. It makes Anthony look like a coward rather than a hero and he is a hero. They all are heroes to go over there and try to help the people of Alghanistan.

Mr. Decorte needs to allow Cpl. Boneca the right he deserves to be remembered as a hero and a soldier who stood up for what is right and good.

Please support our troops.

Marilyn Murray
CALGARY