

The face of mourning

I READ with great regret and sorrow the completely unnecessary and bitter letter Sam Crago wrote regarding Cpl. Boneca's funeral coverage. ("The death of a soldier," July 19).

I was one of the more than 1,100 people packed into St. Patrick's Cathedral on Monday morning to bid farewell and show support to Mr. and Mrs. Boneca. As a man, I am not ashamed to say there were tears streaming down my face the entire time.

The media were there, but were unobtrusive, non-invasive, and extremely respectful of the ceremony and the family. So pictures were shown of grieving family. This is the reality of war. We all felt that at the funeral. The hundreds who waited silently outside the cathedral, the dozens of cars that stopped in the middle of the street, and drivers who got out to bow their heads, the multitudes who watched from the parkade across the street; we were the ones who showed what feelings of loss and pride we have for a man, one of our own, who fought a war not of his choosing, did so valiantly, and paid the ultimate price. I don't have to agree with us being there, but I sure as hell support our men and women who are doing the job so very few of us would have the guts to do.

The media were not sensationalizing this. They were showing the face of a nation in mourning.

Our government does not support our troops enough. Mr. Crago, while you are entitled to your opinion, please do not speak for the rest of us. I for one, hope Antonio and Shirley know how we feel; and that we stand beside them through this horrible period, and beyond. The silent majority, who stood outside the cathedral, speak to this sentiment.

Dale J. Hache
THUNDER BAY

I WANT to say how amazed by and proud I am of the citizens of Thunder Bay for the respect they paid to Cpl. Anthony Boneca and his family and friends. As Cpl. Boneca's funeral procession travelled down Arthur Street and the Expressway, hundreds of motorists stopped, stepped out of their cars, and residents came out of their homes to salute their own hometown son. Never before have I witnessed such a moving tribute — a city standing togeth-

er in selflessness, admiration, and gratitude for a man who championed, advocated, liberated, protected and defended in our names. He deserved nothing less. I am so proud of my city, and so proud to say this is the place and the people I come from.

Tony, may you rest in glorious peace forever in the shadow of that mighty mountain that watches over us all. Never forgotten. Never! THANK YOU.

Kyle Poluyko
THUNDER BAY

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