

This is an issue that should be of concern to all the Veterans in the entire circulation area of the Standard Times. I would suggest that all Veterans Organizations in the Greater New Bedford area, consider establishing a representative group of Veterans for the purpose of meeting with Bob Unger to discuss this new policy adopted by the Standard Times.

In the event the Standard Times is adamant and refuse to change it's new obituary policy requiring the family of a deceased Veteran to pay for the obituary, the City through the Veterans Office should be budgeted to cover that expense.

Objecting to obituary policy for veterans

I am a Massachusetts embalmer/funeral director. I am having a major problem with the new Standard-Times obituary policy. The obits that were free, we now have to have families pay for. The death notices that used to be paid for are now free with much more editorial control by The Standard-Times. My problem to all you veterans who either were drafted, or enlisted is that The Standard-Times with all of its infinite wisdom feels that what you gave to your country and its freedom to print this paper is worth only a small flag before your name. The paper refuses to put in, for example, U.S. Army Veteran of World War II, not caring what branch of service you served in, or what was your affiliation, or whether you were a peacetime veteran. Case in point, I had a veteran, George E. Carlton, who was a private during World War II. He was in the care of a guardian, who did not know much about this gentleman since the guardian was just assigned to him. I was able to learn from a good friend at the American Legion Office that Mr. Carlton was a veteran. I called the veterans office in Providence and was able to get a proof of service form so I could apply for benefits through the City of New Bedford's Veterans Office. The city will reimburse for some of the cost of the funeral. There was no money for the obituary. We submitted the death notice (which is free) and the first day it was plain, so I called the editor and left a message on his voice mail. A return call stated the paper would place a flag in front of the death notice.

I was able to bury Mr. Carlton at the Massachusetts National Cemetery with his comrades in arms, at no cost except for the hearse's mileage to Bourne. He was buried with dignity and respect, a thing I wished The Standard-Times could show a little more of.

A flag, and service served, and what war, or peacetime, should be placed in the free death notice provided by The Standard-Times. At least I can sleep at night knowing that I have tried to give every veteran dignity at death. I wish I could say the same about The Standard-Times.

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