

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Prison conditions inhumane

I am writing because the public should find out the conditions at the Lancaster County Prison. I was incarcerated in January 2001 for simple assault.

I was guilty and pled guilty. I am ashamed of it. However, when in prison in February, we went two days without heat. I put on every stitch of clothing I had and was still freezing. We also had no hot water. So you couldn't even take a shower to get warm. Then they took our second blanket away.

While there, I got shingles caused by stress. I had open oozing blisters on the left side of my face. Other inmates on the block put in "request" forms that I should see a doctor. My left eye was swollen shut. They came to take me to a doctor.

Unfortunately, it was an eye doctor. He's the one who diagnosed me with shingles, and then I got antibiotics.

In the meantime, I had been put in isolation. The cell had no running water and a toilet that didn't flush. I couldn't even get a drink of water, even though it was more than 90 degrees in my cell.

This hell hole needs to be shut down. It cannot house any human being in a humane way.

Roberta J. Long, Columbia

Heart-felt gifts on Vets' Day

On Nov. 10, my father-in-law celebrated his 96th birthday. Due to some recent health problems, he now resides at Manor Care on Abbyville Road.

I would like to extend a short note long on appreciation to the staff for their consideration in providing a lovely private room for our family to share this special day with cake, ice cream and gifts.

Gramps expressed to us he felt great honor to be visited that day by veterans. He said: "They looked so fine, every branch of the service was here and everyone of them shook my hand."

After some research I was informed they were the Lancaster Red Rose Honor Guard.

They are a cadre of dedicated representatives donating many hours of their time for our veterans (Gramps is a WWII stateside veteran.)

I would also like to thank Merrilly, RN, and Ellie, CNA, for going above and beyond duty to visit and share his birthday, on their own time. He was thrilled they are employed with Hospice Compassionate Care. They have been key in Gramps' overall improvement.

Our family has comfort in knowing Gramps is under superlative care!

Most, and as usual, the best gifts don't come with a bow, they come from the heart.

Candy Smith and Family, Washington Boro