



THE TAOS NEWS

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My Turn

We are being asked to make a very small sacrifice

Ronald D. Ford

I am disappointed and saddened by the recent selfish rhetoric from the mayor of Taos, Town council and Peaceful Skies Coalition. Have we forgotten the non-peaceful skies of 9-11-2001?

As a retired Air Force pilot, I am very familiar with the need for realistic training for our air crews.

I was also opposed to our country's decision to go to war in Iraq. Nonetheless, we are at war as a result of the decisions of our elected representatives.

This war is being fought for us by brave volunteers regularly making extreme sacrifices including extended separations from their families and facing the risk of dying for this country — for us.

Now we are being asked to make a very small sacrifice to ensure they receive the training they need to survive in our war.

And no matter how much any of us may oppose it, we are at war.

And where are the sacrifices normally associated with wars?

Where is the draft, rationing, higher taxes or enemy attacks on our soil? Thanks to the brave men and women who have volunteered to defend our country, we, our family members and our friends are not being drafted and sent into battle.

There is no rationing of goods and services.

Our taxes have not gone up.

There has not been a successful terrorist attack on our soil in almost 10 years.

Should we now step away from the small sacrifice we are being asked to make and deny these brave volunteers the very best training available? Is the only sacrifice to be made by the mayor, the council and the coalition going to be waving of the flag on Independence Day and Veterans Day?

My house is located directly under a current low level training route, and I frequently hear and see C-130s, CV-22s and B-1s come over at low levels. I know that the risk of an accident or crash is much less than the risk of driving through Taos Canyon.

Sometimes they wake me up.

When that happens, I say a prayer of gratitude and pray for the safety of the brave men and women flying the training missions and those flying in combat. I then roll over and sleep better knowing they are well-trained and that I have made a sacrifice in support of them even if it is just

a small one. I strongly urge all citizens of Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado to do the same.

Ronald D. Ford is a retired Air Force pilot living in the Black Lake area.

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