

The Passy Press

Letter to the Editor

From: henry.clifford@undisclosed.com
To: Nick Gardiner enpg@thepassypress.com
Date: September 19, 2014 2:45pm EST
Subject: Comments on John MacMurray's Essay on US Education

Dear Sir,

It is certainly desirable to have public education dedicated to, in John Mac Murray's words, "building character evidencing moral sensibility and personal strength." I attended very good schools but cannot remember anything learned there about these qualities. This lesson can only be learned at home or put another way, if the lesson is not present at home it is doubtful that the schools can teach it. That doesn't mean we should not try but some very creative thinking is needed here.

I am in complete agreement with MacMurray that we need to prepare young students for an "active life in democracy." It's a tall order in that most adults do not actively participate in democracy.

The teaching of history is, in some states, burdened with religious or sociological baggage such as the teaching of creationism.

Finally, mandatory military service is highly questionable. Today's modern, high tech military requires lengthy and expensive training. No sooner would they be trained than they would be gone.

Henry Clifford

Henry Clifford graduated from University of Pennsylvania then served in Korea with the Marine Corps.

He has had a business career largely in investment banking and held elected and appointed positions in local government. He is the Co-founder and Chairman of the Committee for Peace in Israel and Palestine, Editor of the local monthly publication, Meadowords, and board member of Connecticut World Affairs Council. He has two children, seven grandchildren, and resides in Essex CT.