

Auburn Journal

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Reader Input: Wartime memories a priceless lesson

When it comes to addressing “E.V. Cain students get firsthand history lesson,” (Journal, March 4), it is difficult to know where to begin.

In no particular order, one must congratulate teacher Suzanne Scotten, who had the courage and imagination to invite retired U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ted Robinson to address her class for its heroes in literature program. To invite someone from the World War II era to speak with them with firsthand knowledge about events that took place some seven decades ago was an act of genius.

Her students must be commended for soaking it up to the point of filming and recording the presentation, demonstrating a sense of appreciation for history uncharacteristic of children their age.

And it must have left them with a lasting impression of the events so long ago that allow them to live in a free country, at least for a while longer.

For Cmdr. Robinson to so accurately and vividly convey his impression of events so long ago, particularly with the process surrounding the rescue of President Kennedy in the Pacific, was remarkable. His narration provided a firsthand link to a historic event that surely was not lost on the minds Ms. Scotten is so actively engaged in molding.

In light of what we have often been led to believe about school administrations, it is also refreshing to believe school authorities knew about this class, an event conducted with the full knowledge of E.V. Cain as to what was achieved and how Ms. Scotten carried out her mission — an act that should qualify her for a medal in her own right.

A well done to all involved. What if the events of that day in her classroom could be cloned and repeated in each and every classroom in America and imparted to each and every student in those classrooms?

And, thank you to the Journal and Andrew Westrope for reporting on it to your readers. It ranks right up there with one of the best “feel good” stories I have ever read.

Chuck Butler, Granite Bay

Keywords: [Chuck Butler](#), [Granite Bay](#), [E.V. Cain](#), [students](#), [History](#), [lesson](#), [suzanne scotten](#), [world war ii](#), [John F. Kennedy](#), [U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ted Robinson](#)