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## Letters to the editor for Monday, Sept. 15, 2003

September 15th, 2003

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### Contact Congress

In response to the "Our Voice" column of August 21, ("U.S. troops in Iraq merit full pay"), I have sent a letter to Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer and also to Congresswoman Mary Bono, and would urge all readers to do the same.

In my letter I respectfully requested Congress to extend the pay increase that was given to military personnel in April, retroactive to Oct. 1 2002, which is set to expire when the end of the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30.

The amount of \$225, which goes to the servicemen and women with a portion to their families, is a small amount to show our appreciation for them putting their lives on the line daily for us in Iraq, Afghanistan, Liberia, etc.

I suggested that Congress might be able to find the money needed to do this by rescinding their latest pay increase, or at the very least, not giving themselves another one while we still have our people in harms way on behalf of all of us and our government leaders.

I would again ask all concerned citizens to please contact their elected representatives by mail, phone or e-mail and urge them to extend this pay increase beyond the current fiscal year.

**Keith Hunter**

Palm Springs

### Protect DHS future

This is in regard to Jose Paul Corona's Aug. 24 article, "Council, residents go over long-term goals, master plans."

I was absolutely appalled to read that the mayor and vice mayor of Desert Hot Springs openly chastised Karl Baker for asking the City Council to investigate whether City Manager Jerry Hanson breached the city's code of ethics when preparing a private engineering report for a local general contractor.

One would hope that Mayor Matt Weyuker and Vice Mayor Ruppert would want to know the truth instead of squelching it to save the city manager's job.

Has Weyuker or Ruppert forgotten for whom they work? Obviously so.

If anyone deserves the label of political grandstanding it is Weyuker.

I hope the citizens of Desert Hot Springs vote for new leadership this November. A vote for a new mayor and new council members is a vote for the future.

As it is now, the future is riddled with Weyuker's personal agenda.

**Lou Steinwedell**

Desert Hot Springs

## Recall a good idea

Being new to the state, I can now see why a recall is in process. Gov. Davis and his idea to permit illegal aliens a driver's permit is ludicrous.

What is wrong with this country and state? We have enough problems pertaining to illegal aliens without adding further problems by giving them a license.

The government breaks a lot of promises to us, but it is getting to the point where I wish there was some vacant land somewhere that I could found as a new "United States."

Perhaps the recall in California is a good idea. We don't need folks like Davis providing more taxes and more illegal aliens to an already overburdened system.

Frankly, I'm tired of an already too intrusive and un-responsive government to the needs of its taxpayers.

**Bruce David**

Yucca Valley

## Money better spent

It seems to me that, instead of giving millions to a gubernatorial hopeful, the Indian tribe (and other tribes that operate casinos), should funnel some of their wealth to poor tribes who live in remote areas and are not able to have their own casinos.

Many of the latter live at poverty level and could use the help.

**Ellie Dzuro**

Desert Hot Springs

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