

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **Fleischauer supporter takes umbrage at caller**

On the morning of Nov. 3, while driving to work, I was shocked by remarks made to Kay Murray during her radio show. It was O.K. for the caller to be happy about her candidate's win, but the caller, who I will identify as S, went too far in my opinion. S stated that she was glad that Delegate Barbara Fleischauer, D-Monongalia, was defeated and that she had been working for years to get Fleischauer out of office.

How sad it was to hear such disrespect for an individual who has served Monongalia County with unwavering dedication to all of its citizens. Fleischauer's hard work has been recognized by her receiving multiple awards from many different organizations not only locally but throughout the state. Outside her "routinely" assigned legislative tasks, she attended and/or chaired many meetings related to health, child advocacy, farm preservation and much more. Fleischauer gave numerous speeches on a range of topics to a variety of organizations both in-state and out-of-state. She juggled all of these tasks along with legal hearings, family obligations and commitments to friends while responding to volumes of correspondence and phone calls addressing requests and concerns of constituents.

Fleischauer has been targeted each election by those apparently afraid of her ability to articulate her position with clarity and solid facts. Those who ran negative ads and placed fliers on cars in church parking lots apparently feared her intelligence, compassion, sincerity, and determination. They probably knew that other candidates, running on their record alone, compared to Fleischauer's achievements would not fare as well. Fleischauer ran an honest campaign providing some information about her achievements for voters to consider. She did not try to deceive anyone with half truths. Instead, she maintained the highest standards of moral character. It is unfortunate that a few too many citizens apparently chose to believe the negative or misleading ads instead of getting to know Fleischauer.

At one time, I, a Republican Catholic, was not sure about supporting Fleischauer. Then I met her. Seeing first hand her work ethic, how much she cares about her constituency, and her ability to easily communicate with citizens, I volunteered to help her. Now I work for her and am proud to call her my friend. When the election results were announced, Fleischauer conceded with class. It is unfortunate that individuals like S spent so much time working to defeat her instead of getting to know her. Monongalia County lost not only a quality delegate and leader but a person with seniority who was positioned to achieve even more.

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