

LETTER: Edison deserving of Ohio's statutory honor

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Might it be pointed out that Thomas Edison was a great patriot. He carried news of the battle for democracy by printing the first ever newspaper on a rolling train car. His wife Mina threw gala homecomings for returning World War I soldiers at the Edisons' own expense.

Edison served as U.S. Navy adviser during World War I at the salary of \$1 a year and his position contributed significantly to American morale (and the development of American submarines). Is it known that his son served as secretary of the navy and became a state governor? Is it known that his daughter ran a Red Cross chapter during World War II that produced more than 1 million sterile surgical dressings for our wounded troops using only volunteer labor? Anyone who loves America must admire the American spirit represented by the Edison family.

Edison's ties to Ohio were also deep and strong. Not only was he born here -- his beloved wife Mina Miller Edison was the daughter of Louis Miller of Akron, Ohio, inventor of the Buckeye Reaper and founder of Chautauqua. One of Edison's daughters even went to school in Akron and the Edison family remained closely tied to Ohio.

Edison himself bought back his birthplace in Milan, Ohio, so that it could be preserved as an Ohio historic site for the people of Ohio. Could any other great public figure have contributed more to Ohio and to America? It is quite fitting that his statue should stand in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda to represent his home state.

Shucks, folks, I met my own wife in Cincinnati. Ohio is just plain irresistible. Let's do this thing!

David Edward Edison Sloane

great grandson of Thomas Alva Edison

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