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## A note to our readers

9:36 PM CDT, July 26, 2013

A July 21 story about a blind man and his guide dog contained major inaccuracies.

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The story stated that the man was an Army veteran who lost his sight when a roadside bomb exploded. In fact, the man, John Maley, acknowledged in an interview late last week that he was not in the Army and that he lost his sight to diabetes.

Problems with the story came to light after a reader contacted the newspaper questioning the account of how Maley became blind.

The inaccurate information was provided to the Tribune by Maley, and we failed to seek corroboration for his story.

Because of that, the story contained a five-paragraph narrative of the explosion that was not true. In fact, Maley was not in the Middle East in 1991 and did not serve in the Gulf War, he said. Also, in the headline Maley is referred to as a veteran, which Maley now says is not true.

Army records were not available last week, but other public records and interviews with relatives made clear

that his original story is false.

Maley said he made up the story last year while socializing with co-workers and that it unexpectedly took hold. "I felt I couldn't stop it," he said.

The original contact with the Tribune was made by a co-worker, not by Maley. Maley said he regretted that the newspaper ran the story on Page One.

We have taken steps to correct lapses in corroborating the facts in our reporting.

The Tribune apologizes for these errors.

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