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VETERANS POST

SERVING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN RETURN FOR THEIR SERVICE TO US

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She Has The Final Say



U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Dannielle Byrum signals for the launch of an F/A-18C Hornet from Strike Fighter Squadron 192 on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility, March 6, 2013. Byrum is a aviation boatswain's mate. The Stennis Carrier Strike Group is conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Apprentice Ignacio D. Perez

Soldier's Work Is Never Done



U.S. Army Sgt. Sydney Hays, Spc. Alexandria Foreman and Sgt. Selvija Bajrami unload equipment from a vehicle during an inventory on Multinational Base Tarin Kot, Afghanistan, March 18, 2013. The three women are assigned to the 3rd Division's Headquarters Company, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jessi Ann McCormick

You Have To Believe You Can Fly



If you happen to be 2½ years old, attending a the 4th Annual MacDill AFB Car Show with your parents on March 16th and all you keep hearing and seeing are Military Aircraft taking off and landing... You just might get the inspiration needed to find some runway space in the parking lot for yourself and try to take off.

VPN Photo by Steven Berry

A VETERAN is someone who, at one point in his or her life, Wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of "up to and including their life"! TM

Prep For Flight



U.S. Army CW-2 Bethany Bump conducts her pre-flight routine in a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and checks with her crew chief before a mission on Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, March 13, 2013. Bump, a helicopter pilot, is assigned to the 101st Airborne Division's Company C, 3rd Battalion, 501st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Brigade Combat Team.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class John D. Brown

In Flight Inventory



U.S. Army Pfc. Laci Lognion, right, inventories her medical equipment while U.S. Army Capt. Ivonne Cartagena, center, adjusts medical items during a pre-flight exercise on Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province, March 13, 2013. Lognion, a flight paramedic, and Cartagena, a critical care nurse, are assigned to the 101st Airborne Division's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 149th General Support Aviation Brigade, 1st Cbt Team.

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class John D. Brown

She's Got Her Eyes On You



U.S. female soldiers secure an Afghan compound while others meet with local elders in the Spin Boldak district in Afghanistan's Kandahar province, March 3, 2013. They are assigned to the 2nd Inf Div's Female Engagement Team 6, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Inf Regiment, & 519th Military Intelligence Bn.

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Shane Hamann



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Bringing In The Goods



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpls. Jayme Copeland, left, and Grant Lee guide a fork lift on Camp Leatherneck in Helmand province, Afghanistan, March 14, 2013. Copeland and Lee, embarkation specialists, support the Reset and Reconstitution Operational Grp.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Alejandro Pena

Sink Or Swim



Marine students jump in the water for a water survival course on Marine Corps Base Camp Johnson, N.C., March 12, 2013. The course creates instructors who can train other Marines to react and survive life-threatening situations in the water.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Daniel Wetzel



Industrial Hemp Bill Passes In Kentucky's Senate

By Jim Corvey, News of the Force St. Louis



Industrial hemp's growth from the fringes to the political mainstream in Kentucky continued on Thursday, with state Senate's passage of a bill to strictly regulate the crop if the federal government lifts its current ban on the one-time agricultural staple in the Bluegrass State.

The bill, which would license hemp growers if the crop gains a federal reprieve, cleared the Senate on a 31-6 vote as supporters promoted its potential to diversify Kentucky farms in an era when tobacco's influence has waned. They said hemp's comeback would create processing and manufacturing jobs in converting the plant into products that include paper, clothing, auto parts, bio-fuels, food and lotions.

Sen. Paul Hornback, a tobacco farmer and the bill's lead sponsor, said Kentucky needs to be at the forefront of giving the versatile crop a chance if the federal ban is lifted. The Shelbyville Republican said he had heard recently from two companies interested in capitalizing on a hemp comeback in Kentucky, including a processing company in Canada looking to expand and offer production contracts to farmers. "Give us the opportunity," Hornback said. "Put us in a position in Kentucky to give us an opportunity to see how this works. I don't think anybody knows exactly what the economic impact's going to be in Kentucky. We don't know what the economic viability is going to be."

MORE GUNS LEAVING LIBERAL STATES

By Michelle Malkin

Obama used his State of the Union address to crusade for a revitalized U.S. manufacturing sector. But while he pays lip service to supporting businesses that build their products on American soil, Obama and his left-wing operatives are hell-bent on driving a key sector of the U.S. manufacturing industry six feet under: the American firearms and ammunition industry.

In NY, democrats imposed radical, ineffectual gun-grabbing measures that are backfiring in more ways than one. Nearly half a dozen gun companies have now announced that they will no longer sell their products to police in the Empire State. In protest of Cuomo's gun-control regime banning citizens from owning rifles or shotguns.

Washington-based Olympic Arms, York Arms, LaRue Tactical, Templar Custom and EFI, as well as sporting-goods retailer Cheaper Than Dirt have also joined the sales boycott of NY. "will no longer be doing business with the State of NY or any govt entity or employee of such govt entity within the State of New York."

Worse news for NY: One local manufacturer, the storied Remington Arms Co., founded in Ilion, NY, in 1816, is in dire financial danger as a result of Cuomo's draconian regulations. The company's innovations in weaponry and ammunition have been used in sporting, self-defense, law enforcement and warfare for two centuries. Now, as a result of hysteria-induced government pandering, nearly 40 percent of Remington's weapons can no longer be sold to citizens legally. Its small-town plant employs more than 1,300 people in a town of 8,000 and generates revenue of an estimated \$400 million from sales in the U.S. and 55 other countries. As an Ilion local official noted, "Remington is not only a major employer, but it's a historic employer. It's been part of our very fiber for 200 years."

What happens after guns if Obama bans Pork to appease muslims? Ya gotta wonder.

Guns And Real Numbers

Two-thirds of all gun-related deaths in the United States are suicides. In 2010, there were 19,392 firearm-related suicide deaths, and 11,078 firearm-related homicide deaths in the United States. That 11,078 includes police, citizens protecting themselves and accidents. But still a total of 30,470.

Also in 2010, there were 38,329 drug overdose deaths nationwide, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Of those 38,329 drug overdoses, there were young children, teens, the elderly and stressed out people.

So why isn't Obama and the liberal congress stopping these drugs that kill almost 30% more Americans than guns???

Because the pharmaceutical groups 'Pay Elected Officials' a lot better than the gun lobby.

Updated Fact Sheet: Tricare Choices For The National Guard And Reserve



An updated fact sheet contains information about Tricare coverage for National Guard and reserve members and their families.

It describes Tricare coverage throughout your career, eligibility, medical and dental benefit coverage options by sponsor status, and much more. More at:

www.tricare.mil/~media/Files/TRICARE/Publications/FactSheets/Choices_NGR_FS.ashx

Company Strikes Back At Anti-Gun NY By Canceling All Of The NYPD's Orders



NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg & Gov Andrew Cuomo are perhaps the two most anti-gun people in the entire nation. They have been responsible for the passage of the strictest gun control laws in the nation. If Bloomberg had his way, no private citizen would be allowed to own a firearm, period, and he is using his billions of dollars towards achieving that goal.

The new gun control laws in New York are so strict that Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott used state funds to run ads in NYC and Albany telling NY gun owners to move to Texas where their Second Amendment rights are protected by the state.

Now, one firearms company, York Arms, is also taking action against the unconstitutional violation of the Second Amendment rights of every NY resident. Located in Buxton, Maine, York Arms specializes in custom firearms and gun-smithing. Among their clientele is the NYPD. However, that's one client that the company is willing to give up because of the city and state's gun control laws.

In a statement released on Valentine's Day, York Arms said: "Based on the recent legislation in New York, we are prohibited from selling rifles and receivers to residents of NY. We have chosen to extend that prohibition to all govt agencies associated with or located within NY. As a result, we have halted sales of rifles, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, machine guns, and silencers to NY govt agencies. For civilian customers residing in NY: At your choice, we will: Complete your order and ship to a dealer of your choice outside of NY; Refund your payment in full; Hold your items here for up to 6 months, at no charge "if you are in the process of leaving NY and taking residence in another state; OR ARE LE/Govt customers in New York: Your orders have been canceled." Now Gedowdaheer!

Feds Admit Gun Laws Won't Slow Crime

By Garth Kant, WorldNetDaily

A study by the Department of Justice's research wing, the National Institute of Justice, has the feds admitting that so-called "assault weapons" are not a major contributor to gun crime.

The study also concluded those weapons are not a major factor in deaths caused by firearms, nor would an "assault weapons" ban be effective.

"The existing stock of assault weapons is large, undercutting the effectiveness of bans with exemptions," it said. "Therefore a complete elimination of assault weapons would not have a large impact on gun homicides." The report finds no significant link between "assault weapons" and murders. "Since assault weapons are not a major contributor to U.S. gun homicides and the existing stock of guns is large, an assault weapons ban is unlikely to have an impact on gun violence," the report said.

The document, titled, **Summary of Select Firearm Violence Prevention Strategies**, also sees no epidemic of mass shootings. "Fatalities from mass shootings (those with 4 or more victims in a particular place and time) account on average for 35 fatalities per year," the report said.

Sanction On Iran Won't Work

Israeli's Prime Minister Netanyahu says failed efforts to stop North Korea's nuclear program prove that sanctions without viable threat of military action achieve nothing.

Veterans Get Letters From VA Prohibiting Possession Of Weapons And Ammunition

By Michael Connelly, J.D.



Department of Veterans Affairs

How would you feel if you received a letter from the govt informing you that because of a physical or mental condition that the govt says you have it is proposing to rule that you are incompetent to handle your own financial affairs? Suppose that letter also stated that the govt is going to appoint a stranger to handle your affairs for you at your expense? That would certainly be scary enough, but it gets worse.

What if that letter also stated: A determination of incompetency will prohibit you from purchasing, possessing, receiving, or transporting a firearm or ammunition. If you knowingly violate any of these prohibitions, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both pursuant to the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, Public Law 103-159, as implemented at 18 United States Code 924(a)(2)."

That makes is sound like something right from a documentary on a tyrannical dictatorship somewhere in the world. Yet, as I write this I have a copy of such a letter right in front of me. It is being sent by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to hundreds, perhaps thousands, of America's heroes. In my capacity as Executive Director of the United States Justice Foundation (USJF) I have been contacted by some of these Veterans and the stories I am getting are appalling.

The letter provides no specifics on the reasons for the proposed finding of incompetency; just that is based on a determination by someone in VA. In every state in the United States no one can be declared incompetent to administer their own affairs without due process of law and that usually requires a judicial hearing with evidence being offered to prove to a judge that the person is indeed incompetent. This is a requirement of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that states that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."

VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION

What the VA is not telling you

You are entitled to a 100% rating if you can't work due to your service connected disabilities.

The VA typically underrates PTSD and mental claims at 30% or below.

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Expeditionary A-10 Unit Racks Up 10,000 Combat Flight Hours



A-10s deployed from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, have amassed 10,000 combat flight hours since arriving in theater last fall, according to a Bagram release. These A-10s, operating as the 354th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, reached the milestone during a Feb. 12 sortie flown by Brig. Gen. Joseph Guastella, commander of Bagram's 455th Air Expeditionary Wing, according to the Feb. 13 release. The Davis-Monthan A-10s touched down at Bagram last October as part of a regular rotation of combat forces. The expeditionary squadron has seen extensive combat in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom, operating both at Bagram and at Kandahar Airfield over the years.

South Korea Suicide-Free For Troops



Even as the U.S. Army recorded its worst year in decades for soldiers killing themselves - with 323 deaths in 2012 - there were places in the service where suicides are rare. One is South Korea.

Al Jazeera Makes Major U.S. Expansion



Seven years after it arrived in the U.S., **Al Jazeera** is putting up its sign. As it launches a major expansion to become a full-fledged cable news channel in the U.S., the Middle East-owned network believes animosity toward its sister Arabic-language news operation has waned. Or at least it has dissipated enough to allow **Al Jazeera** to splash its name across its new Washington broadcast center, which is currently housed in a dingy, unmarked office building.

"Imagine six or seven years ago, trying to find real estate for Al Jazeera in Washington. I'm sure it wasn't easy," says Bob Wheelock, the former ABC executive in charge of setting up **Al Jazeera America**, as the network will be called. But now "We're going to have signage, you know, just like CBS, ABC, CNN, CBN, just like everybody else," he says. "We're psyched."

With the \$500 million purchase of **Current TV** from former U.S. vice president Al Gore and other investors last year, **Al Jazeera** bought a place on cable boxes in 41 million homes. Now the network plans to grow from a news operation of 13 people to 200 people working in cities across the country. To do so, the network recently posted job listings for more than 100 reporters, producers, videographers and the like. It received 13,000 applications. The network has deep pockets: It is owned by the government of Qatar.

Suggestions that the network goes easy on Arabs and hard on Israel is refuted, they say they are straight shooters as much as any major news outlet. There is no unbiased news, says Isobel Coleman, of the Council on Foreign Relations. "The bias is in the selection of what stories you cover and how you cover them. **Al Jazeera** will bring its own bias, but it's no more or no less than what we're used to in this American country."

Burglar Shot By St. Louis Resident

By Jim Corvey, News of the Force St. Louis

Police say the teen who was fatally shot by a resident in a backyard on Tennessee Avenue was killed while trying to burglarize the man's home.

The shooting happened at 1:24 a.m., local time, today in the 3700 block of Tennessee Avenue, just south of Gravois Park. The dead teen was identified as Demetrius Murphy, 15, of the 4600 block of Louisiana Avenue.

Police say Murphy was with a 17-year-old male. They were "forcibly attempting to burglarize the victims' home," police said in a brief summary of the incident. At the home were two people: a 33-year-old man and a 28-year-old woman. The man went outside "to investigate the activity," police say, and shot Murphy as Murphy approached him.

Police did not identify the man who fired the gun, but said his actions appeared to be justified. Under Missouri's castle doctrine, people who encounter an intruder in their homes or vehicles - or their property, under a more recent expansion of the law - can use deadly force without fear of being charged or sued.

Police said detectives will be applying for warrants for felony murder against the dead teen's accomplice. Missouri law allows him to be charged because someone died in the commission of a burglary. That teen's name has not been released.

UN Un-Human Rights Council

Voted in December as vice-presidents of the United Nations Human Rights Council for 2013 were the nations of Mauritania and Maldives, both of which permit the death penalty for renouncing Islam.

In Mauritania, a person so charged has three days to repent for a lesser sentence. An August 2012 dispatch in London's **The Guardian** reported widespread acceptance of slavery conditions in Mauritania affecting as many as 800,000 of the 3.5 million population. Said one abolitionist leader, "Today we have the slavery that American plantation owners dreamed of in that the slaves believe their condition is necessary to get to paradise."

VA Will NOT Comply With NY Gun Law

The new gun laws in NY require ALL medical personnel to report 'ANY' person going through 'ANY' type of mental problem including, stress, grief, hardship and even 'IF' they are a Victim of a crime, they could be unstable.

Since NY now wants to ban ALL guns for whatever reason they can come up with... The VA feels that this type of broad blanket search will prevent Veterans from seeking help from the VA.

Standing up for Veterans, Jessie Jane Duff, G/SGT USMC, Ret. said that this new law would single out Veterans who have the right to defend themselves.

Democratic strategist Mark Hannah says "Anyone seeking mental health treatment poses a clear and present danger"! Those who serve in the Military have witnessed horrific things and should be treated for this.

Clerk's Note: Mr Hannah has never served in the Military and the question arises, do those who served in the Military pose a clear and present danger to whom??? Democrats? Mr Hannah never said if this was the 'Hope & Change' the democratic party was looking for.

Entire F-35 Fleet Grounded



All F-35s have been grounded as a precaution after a routine engine inspection revealed a crack on an engine blade, Defense Department officials said yesterday. Officials call this a "cautionary suspension of flight."

The Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps fly F-35s. Inspectors found the crack in an F135 engine installed in an F-35A Lightning II at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. This is the conventional take-off and landing version of the joint strike fighter. Officials are shipping the engine and its associated hardware to Pratt & Whitney's engine facility in Middletown, Conn., to conduct more thorough evaluation and root cause analysis.

Former Envoy Speaks Of Problems With U.S. Mission In Benghazi

Former American diplomat Thomas Pickering said what struck him most during a review of last year's attacks on the U.S. Mission in Benghazi, Libya, were the frequent personnel changes, second-guessing on security upgrades, and dismissive attitude toward dozens of security incidents. The temporary status of the mission also led to uncertainty about providing additional funding, including for security, he said in an interview. The United States established a diplomatic presence in the eastern Libyan city after the 2011 revolt against former Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi.

"Taxpayer's... Good Sports!"TM It's YOUR Money, How Do You Spend It?

Obama has authorized \$47.2 million for education and social services as part of a total package of \$370 million for 'No Longer Our Ally' Pakistan.

Obama also gave \$250 million to 'No Longer Our Ally' Egypt.

Now if you ask where that money came from, that is easy, it came from the education funds that were cut from the Defense Departments budget for our Military & Veterans!

That's right, as of March 1st, when the 'sequester' went into effect.

Congressman Ted Poe, R-Texas, introduced a bill that would 'sequester' Pakistan and others, until funding was restored to the Military and Veterans.

Clerk's Note: And yet another reason why we suggest that when election time comes around, you look beyond your neighborhood to support those in other states.

Korea Warns U.S. Of 'Destruction'

North Korea has warned the top U.S. military commander stationed in South Korea that his forces would "meet a miserable destruction" if they go ahead with scheduled military drills with South Korean troops, North Korean state media said. Pak Rim-su, the chief delegate of the North Korean military mission to the Inter-Korean truce village of Panmunjom, gave the message by phone to Gen. James Thurman, the commander of the U.S. Forces-Korea, the KCNA news agency said.

Iran Is Going To Be Naughty

Iran said it had found significant new deposits of raw uranium and identified sites for 16 more nuclear power stations.

The reserves were discovered in northern and southern coastal areas and had tripled the amount outlined in previous estimates.

First Littoral Combat Ship Deploys



U.S. Navy officials announced the littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) has begun its first deployment.

"I am confident we are on a path of success for LCS," said Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. "This council will continue to unify our efforts to implement operational lessons learned from our research and development ships to further ensure successful fleet integration."

LCS ships are designed to employ mission packages that address capability gaps in the areas of surface warfare, mine countermeasures, and anti-submarine warfare. Due to its modular design, each LCS ship can be reconfigured to perform one of those three distinct missions in a short period of time.

Freedom's deployment will demonstrate her operational capabilities, and allow the LCS Council to evaluate crew rotation and maintenance plans. The ship will operate forward from Singapore and spend eight months in theater conducting maritime security operations, participate in international exhibitions and exercises to highlight U.S. strategic intent in the region, and reassure U.S. partners through bilateral and multilateral interoperability.

"Taxpayers... Good Sports!"TM

Our govt and Gulf Coast states are considering offering BP a deal under which it pays \$16 billion to settle civil suits the deadly 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill. The deal would cover the company's potential penalties under the Clean Water Act and payments under the Natural Resources Damage Assessment, said sources familiar with the discussions. The Justice Dept declined to comment.

Clerk's Note: NO Where in this press release did it say if the #16 Billion was only for govt agencies, or if American Citizens would actually benefit!

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Organization	Unit	Meeting Location	City/State	Meeting Times	Phone	Commander	E-Mail or Web
American Legion	111	6918 Florida Avenue	Tampa	1st Wed. - 7:00 PM	813-236-2281	Dennis Scruggs	
American Legion	119	130 1 st Avenue Southwest	Largo	2nd Tue. - 8:00 PM	727-584-2038	Mark Bloomer	www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmLeg119.htm
American Legion	125	6440 5th Avenue South	Saint Petersburg	3rd Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-347-6085	John Sloat	Legion125@tampabay.rr.com
American Legion	147	17413 Gunn Highway	Odessa	1st Thur. - 7:30 PM	813-920-4512	Sal Poliandro	
American Legion	252	11433 Park Boulevard	Seminole	2nd & 4th Tue. - 7:00 PM	727-398-2463	Larry Burmaster	post252@tampabay.rr.com
American Legion	273	600 American Legion Drive	Madeira Beach	1st Tue. - 7:00 PM	727-391-3670	Bobby Blanco	
American Legion Auxiliary	111	6918 Florida Avenue	Tampa	1st Thur. - 7:00 PM	813-236-2281	Louise Wilt	
American Legion Auxiliary	119	130 1 st Avenue Southwest	Largo	1 st Tue. - 7:30 PM	727-584-2038	Sue Heisler	www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmLeg119a.htm
American Legion Auxiliary	125	6440 5th Avenue South	Saint Petersburg	2nd Tues. - 7:00 PM	727-347-6085	Cricket Leonard	Legion125@tampabay.rr.com
American Legion Auxiliary	147	17413 Gunn Highway	Odessa	1st Thur. - 7:30 PM	813-920-4512	Dawn Poscich	
Sons of the American Legion	119	130 1 st Avenue Southwest	Largo	4th Tue. - 7:00 PM	727-584-2038	Mike 'Doc' Bowen	www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmLeg119s.htm
AmVets	0001	421 45 th Avene South	Saint Petersburg	1 st Mon. - 7:30 PM	727-896-4122	Gil Davis	AmVetsPost1@gmail.com
AmVets	26	221 South Dover Road	Dover, FL 33527	2 nd Sat. - 10:00 AM	813-662-2626	Boats Johnson	www.amvets26.org
AmVets	98	4629 Bartlett Road	Holiday	2nd Sun. - 10:00 AM	727-943-5863	Rudy Drouin	www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmVets98.htm
AmVets Auxiliary	98	4629 Bartlett Road	Holiday	2nd Sun. - 10:00 AM	727-271-1902	Joyce Chadwell	
Army Navy Union	3697	12850 Wallsingham Road	Largo FL 33774	1st Sun. - 10:30 AM	727-216-6172	Troy Lowe	
Army Navy Union Auxiliary	3697	12850 Wallsingham Road	Largo FL 33774	2nd Sun. - 10:30 AM	727-216-6172	Judi Payne	
Disabled American Veterans	004	2612 North Tampa Street	Tampa	2nd Tue. - 1:00 PM	813-223-4059	Angel Rivera	
Disabled American Veterans	078	6711 Jefferson Street	New Port Richey	1st Thur. - 7:00 PM	727-845-3886	Al Bedor	
Disabled American Veterans	083	115 West Clay	Brandon	1st Mon7pm-3rd Mon6:30Din	813-684-3387	Bennie Golson	
Disabled American Veterans	103	360 Douglas Avenue	Dunedin	2nd Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-733-5108	Carl Kingsley	
Disabled American Veterans Aux	078	6711 Jefferson Street	New Port Richey	1st Thur. - 7:00 PM	727-845-3886	Cheryl Gilliland	
Disabled American Veterans Aux	083	115 Clay Avenue	Brandon, FL	1st Mon7pm-3rd Mon6:30Din	813-684-3387	LuAnna Huddelston	glob4760@verizon.net
Jewish War Veterans	373	James A Haley VA Hospital	Tampa	3rd Sun. - 9:30 AM	813-767-2605	Leon Blumberg	fourhorns1@msn.com
Korean War Veterans Assoc.	014	VFW 4364@ 5773 62nd Street North	Saint Petersburg	3rd Thur. - 7:00 PM	727-345-4845	Joe Slatton	
Korean War Veterans Assoc.	159	VFW 9272 @ 10997 72 Ave N	Seminole, FL	2 nd Thur. - Noon	727-584-7143	Peter Palmer	www.VeteransPostNews.com/FrontPage.htm
Korean War Veterans Assoc.	199	@AmLeg 24 - 2000 75th Street West	Bradenton	4th Thur. - 7:00 PM	941-795-5061	Thomas Hannon	skip-pat-han@hotmail.com
Marine Corps League	1002	@VFW 9236 - 3435 Shoal Line Blvd	Hernando Bch, FL	1 st Mon. - 7:00 PM	352-686-2186	Les Homan	www.VeteransPostNews.com/MCL1002a.htm
Marine Corps League	1226	@AmLeg 148 7240 US-Hwy 301	Riverview, FL	1 st Tue. - 7:00 PM	813-672-1778	Debra Steele	mclriverview@yahoo.com
Mental Health Advisory Council		Bay Pines Bldg 1, Rm A203	Bay Pines, FL	3rd Thur. - 2:30 PM	727-585-5332	Joe Burley	http://mhac-bp.com/
Military Order of the Purple Heart	1980	@Paadise Post 79 5329 Legion Place	New Port Richey	2nd Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-255-4883	Greg Amira	Gregory.amira@us.army.mil
National Order of Trench Rats	446	4801 37th Street North	Saint Petersburg	4th Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-526-9870	John Golden	www.VeteransPostNews.com/NOTR446.htm
Paralyzed Veterans of America	GCC	15435 North Florida Avenue	Tampa	3rd Thur. - 10:30 AM	813-264-1111	Wayne Webber	www.floridagulfcoastpva.org
The Retired Enlisted Association	58	Seascape Beach Club	MacDill AFB	3rd Tue. - 1:00 PM	813-684-5414	Louis Arana	www.VeteransPostNews.com/TREA58.htm
Veterans Memorial Park & Museum		3602 US Hwy. 301 North	Tampa	9:30 AM - 5:30 PM	813-744-5502	Leonard Black	
Veterans of Foreign Wars	39	2599 Central Avenue	Saint Petersburg	1st Wed. - 7:00 PM	727-327-8109	Janice 'JP' Pettit	http://vfwpost39.org/
Veterans of Foreign Wars	2550	360 Douglas Avenue	Dunedin	3rd Tue. - 7:30 PM	727-733-6107	Dutch Grubbs	www.VFW2550.org
Veterans of Foreign Wars	10167	4619 Bartlett Road	Holiday, FL	3 rd Wed - 7:00 PM	727-938-5977	Bill Williams	www.VFW10167.com
Veterans of Foreign Wars	10209	14736 Edward R. Noll Drive	Spring Hill	4th Wed - 7:30 PM	352-796-0398	Louis Lessner	www.VFWpost10209.webs.com
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary	39	2599 Central Avenue	Saint Petersburg	2 nd Sat. - 1:00 PM	727-327-8109	Jean Lee	http://vfwpost39.org/
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary	10209	14736 Edward R. Noll Drive	Spring Hill	2nd Mon. - 7:00 PM	352-686-8657	Kathleen Alonzo	www.VFWpost10209.webs.com
Vietnam Veterans of America	787	4042 Park Oaks Boulevard	Tampa	4th Thur. - 7:00 PM	603-234-3363	Mike O'Dell	membership@vva787.com
Vietnam Veterans of America	1036	Lake Miona Rec Center	The Villages, FL	1 st Tue. - 7:00 PM	352-633-1457	Pete Wagner	www.VVA1036.org
WAVES	104		New Port Richey, FL	3 rd Wed - 11:30 AM	727-943-0265	Gertrude Williams	Sanie@verizon.net

U.S. House Says \$1 Billion Wasted On Veterans' Medical E-Records



The departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs have wasted about \$1 billion in a failed effort to streamline medical record-keeping, the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee said in a hearing yesterday.

"I'm concerned we're taking a step back toward a model that has been tried and failed," said committee Chairman Rep. Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), at a hearing to examine the project.

Defense and VA officials said this month they had abandoned an ambitious plan to integrate medical records for both active duty service members and Veterans into a single electronic system to make the records more accessible for patients and doctors. After cost estimates doubled and technology problems persisted, they decided on a less expensive plan to keep their current systems while making them "interoperable."

The project, which started in 2004, was meant to streamline health care for active duty troops and Veterans as they transition to civilian life. Officials hoped a centralized system would prevent delays in care caused by problems in sharing health records between separate systems. The plan was set to start in 2017 for a total cost of \$4 billion, according to Pentagon estimates from last year.

Committee members criticized the departments for giving up on a program that has already cost about \$1 billion. "It's inexcusable," said Rep. Jeff Denham (R-Calif.). "In the private sector this would be done by now - it would have to be."

A "patchwork of initiatives" tried over the past 15 years has left Veterans short-changed by an outdated system, said Valerie Melvin, director of information management and technology resources issues at the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Congress' investigative arm. Melvin authored a report released yesterday that questions the departments' ability to share health records with existing systems. "This is the result of poor oversight and inadequate accountability," Melvin testified. "The program has not been positioned to fulfill key management responsibilities. More is needed."

None of the testimony or reports "makes me think we won't be sitting here in another 10 years asking the same questions and having the same problems," said Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.).

The new program will be working by the end of the year and save the government "hundreds of millions" of dollars, said Elizabeth McGrath, the Pentagon's deputy chief management officer. However, she could not provide specific cost figures.

Changes in the military health care system led the departments to decide against a unified system, VA Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology Roger Blake told the committee. "We needed to reorder our thinking about what an e-record is," he said.

Feds Release over 3,000 Illegal Immigrants



The DHS released from its jails more than 3,000 illegal immigrants facing deportation in recent weeks due to the budget cuts, and plans to release 5,000 more during March.

American Student Punished For Not Reciting Mexican Pledge Of Allegiance

By Todd Starnes

A Texas high school student has filed a federal lawsuit against her school and her teachers after she was punished for refusing to salute and recite the Mexican Pledge of Allegiance.

The Thomas More Law Center filed the suit on behalf of Brenda Brinsdon, alleging the McAllen Independent School District violated the 15-year-old girl's constitutional rights when she was forced to recite the Mexican pledge and sing the Mexican national anthem.

Brinsdon, who is the daughter of a Mexican immigrant and an American father, refused. She believed it was un-American to pledge a loyalty oath to another country.

Ironically, the school district has a policy that prohibits a school from compelling students to recite the American Pledge of Allegiance. The district also has a written policy that excuses students from reciting text from the Declaration of Independence if the student "as determined by the district, has a conscientious objection to the recitation."

"There is a sad trend in public schools across our nation to undermine American patriotism," said Richard Thompson, president of the Thomas More Law Center. "But it's encouraging to see students like Brenda stand up for America despite pressure from school officials."

What's most troubling is the different treatment for someone wanting to opt out of reciting the American Pledge of Allegiance compared to someone as a matter of conscience wants to opt out of reciting the Mexican pledge," spokesman Erin Mersino said.

The recitation of the Mexican pledge and the singing of the Mexican national anthem was part of a 2011 Spanish class assignment at the Achieve Early College High School. The teacher, Reyna Santos, required all her students to participate in the lesson. When Brinsdon refused to back down, she was punished, the lawsuit alleges. She was given an alternative assignment on the independence of Mexico. The teacher gave her a failing grade and then required the student to sit in class over a period of several days to listen to other students recite the Mexican pledge. The lawsuit states Brinsdon offered to recite the American pledge in Spanish but the teacher refused her request.

"It's astonishing that this Texas school would deny Brenda her right of conscience and free speech not to pledge allegiance to a foreign country," said Thompson. "Too many Americans" including those of Mexican descent "have suffered and died protecting our nation."

And while she is fluent in Spanish and English and is proud of her Mexican heritage, Brinsdon is a "true-blooded American," Mersino added.

DHS Official Resigns as Immigrants Freed

Gary Mead, the senior Homeland Security Dept official in charge of arresting and deporting illegal immigrants, announced his retirement the same day the agency said that hundreds of people facing deportation had been released from immigration jails.

Clerk's Note: That makes about 45 people that have left the current administration after the first term as they begin to realize, 'this is not what we signed up for'. Along with those, about 65 Military leaders have been relieved of command. Now what do YOU the Citizens of America think about this?

Cuts Unlikely To Yield Promised Savings

On paper, there's one thing to like about the ugly spending cuts that started on March 1st: \$85 billion in budget savings at a time when Washington continues to bleed red ink.

In reality, the so-called "sequester" is likely to yield less than half that much in the short term. In part, that has to do with the complex way the government handles its money. But it also reflects the probability that the spending cuts will hurt the economy, which in turn will lower tax revenue and drive up the costs of social safety-net programs like unemployment insurance.

Bob Woodward Tangles With The White House Over Truth

The prominent D.C., journalist said in interviews that a senior White House official warned him he would "regret" publishing a story challenging the White House's account of how the idea for automatic spending cuts originated.

Bob Woodward said in interviews with Politico and CNN that when he informed the White House he was writing a story critical of the White House's handling of a debate over the origin of the cuts, known as sequestration, the official reacted angrily.

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The Small Print

Warning To WW-II Veterans... You Are Not Welcome Here!

By Phillip Meskin

A 9-year-old third grader at Schall Elementary school in Caro, Michigan brought cupcakes to school for his birthday. The parents received a call from the school saying the cupcakes were removed from the classroom as they were inappropriate because they had WW-II Soldiers on top of them. The father, Casey Fountain, who says it was "disgusting" of the school to do that.

The school stands by its decision because they believe that students would be confused between the Sandy Hook shooting and Little Green Soldiers.

That school district should also ban male teachers as they could be confused with pimps or sexual predators. Female teachers should also be banned as they could be mistaken for porn stars or prostitutes.

The other option is to ban the idiots who make stupid decisions!

They Aren't Just Mistakes...

Are you just sitting out there reading this stuff and wondering if it is true? If you find out that the National Secretary of Education who was appointed by our president has a college degree, we are sure that does not surprise you.

But maybe, just maybe you would expect the leader of education of the 'Second Most Powerful Nation' on the planet, should have a Master's Degree, maybe even a PhD???

But its okay, he comes from Chicago and plays basketball with Obama.

John Kerry on his first outing as Secretary of State when asked by students in Berlin about the downfall of America's Education system and why Americans are no longer at the top of world's scientists, doctor's, engineer's, etc. etc... Mr. Kerry responded that Americans have lots of freedoms... Including the right to be stupid!

We hope a bunch of you want to call us liars... We hope hundreds of you will think we just hate that man because he had several self inflicted wounds while serving in the military and got purple hearts for them. We hope thousands of you will want to prove us wrong and go look it up yourselves to stop bashing these people...

Yes, we realize NO OTHER news publication is telling you this. No one is reporting it... Therefore it just never happened.

Well the truth is you are correct. No one else in 'America' is reporting this so here are some links to Britain's Daily Mail; <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2284792/John-Kerry-says-Americans-right-stupid-tells-lost-diplomatic-passport-age-12-sneaking-Soviet-controlled-East-Berlin-1950s.html>

This one has a video with it; <http://news.msn.com/politics/kerry-in-america-you-have-a-right-to-be-stupid>

But in truth, we are stupid... After all, each and every day those Very Highly Paid 'Public Servants' in DC continue to tell us they are doing all of this on our behalf. Yet the average man/woman in the street has more common sense than any four of them.

The right to be stupid is what happened to our criminal justice system. We have repeat offenders going around and around in a system that does not punish.

We see school shootings, mall shootings, work shootings, kids and young adults that make bombs... Then when they do their nasty deed... The Criminal Justice System goes after the Parents and holds them responsible...!!!

So after 5 are dead, it's the parents fault. And if the parent tried to take corrective measures a few years earlier, by punishing the child... The Criminal Justice system 'Punishes' the parents.

We are not saying that all kids are bad, but you don't allow (under penalty of law) the parents to spank, yell at, threaten, ground, lock in room, don't give dessert or withhold their ipad... Then when they get to court... They are told that they were not good parents and its all 'Their Faults'!

The judges have immunity to everything they do. You hear that they take bribes, hold grudges, go out on vendetta's... Then when they are 'Removed' from the bench... NO ONE GOES Back to REVIEW all those cases, they are just swept under the court docket like everything was okay and they have the nerve to say that the attorney for the defendant should have known better, or tried harder, or filed something or other!

Our government judges us, condemns us, counsels us... Then when we do what they say and it turns out wrong... They take NO Responsibility for their words or deeds. We must have an easier way to hold these people responsible for their actions.

The mistakes they make... Jesse Jackson, Jr. takes almost a half million dollars from a foundation and it probably took years to bring him to task... The average Joe would have been dragged into court after the first \$500... Not \$500,000!!!

It is like the entire nation is becoming everyday Chicago politics. Greed, Graft, Bribes, Threats, Intimidation, Falsify Records, Make Outrageous Statements about the Other Guy... Don't worry about lying, you could always retract it later saying you were under duress or just stress.

AND WE AMERICANS JUST ACCEPT ALL THIS AS THE STATUS QUO! It does not even phase us anymore when this stuff happens. And by not being outraged by the actions of these 500 individuals who 'Lead' our nation... They take it as 'Acceptance' of their actions and continue doing the same things to make themselves richer, and we, their constituents, poorer, and lets not forget, stupider!

The Small Print

You Got Questions...?

By Phillip Meskin

Here at the Post, our volunteer staff are also Service Officers who can help you understand the VA Claim system and more importantly, How It Works.

But from a legal standpoint we have given some of the questions received to attorney's who may be able to make it clearer to you. So we present to you two Questions that are most frequently asked.

Q: I am currently rated for two service-connected conditions; one at 30 percent and one at 20 percent. However, the VA is only paying me for a 40 percent total rating. Shouldn't I be paid at the 50 (30 + 20 =50) percent rating?

A: You are being correctly paid at the 40% rating. The VA has a funny way of doing math. When there are two or more service-connected disabilities, the overall percentage of disability is computed by combining the individual ratings, but not by adding them together. To determine the proper combined rating, the VA makes a calculation by considering each disability in order of severity, beginning with the highest evaluation. These calculations are made by using the "Combined Rating Table." The Combined Rating Table and instructions on how to use it can be found here:

<http://www.lawyers4veterans.com/documents/VA-Combined-Ratings-Table.pdf>

Q: My Vietnam buddy died of a heart attack last month and his wife asked me if there were any VA benefits she could get. He did not have any treatment for heart conditions and his death certificate says he died of coronary artery disease. She really is a nice lady. Is there anything available for her?

A: Yes, his wife may be entitled to a monthly death benefit (DIC). To be eligible, the spouse must show

The Veteran was "boots on ground" in Vietnam; and was diagnosed with one or more of the diseases currently presumed to be related to Agent Orange, which was the principal or contributory cause of the veteran's death.

In this case, the Veteran died of Coronary Artery Disease which is a disease presumed to be related to Agent Orange. Therefore, if the spouse can prove he stepped foot on Vietnam soil, she should be entitled to the benefit. It is suggested she immediately apply for DIC at her VA Office. Other presumptive Agent Orange related diseases can be found here:

<http://www.lawyers4veterans.com/VA-Disability/Types-of-VA-Disability-Claims/Agent-Orange-Related-Conditions.aspx>

Questions regarding Veterans disability are answered by Attorney Edward Farmer of Bosley & Bratch: Lawyers for Veterans. If you would like a question answered regarding VA disability claims, please submit them to efarmer@lawyers4veterans.com

Dear Company Clerk,

Hugo Chavez is dead. No doubt he will be "warmly welcomed" to hell and there will be a large fight upon his arrival, over who gets to shove the pineapple up where the sun don't shine every morning and who gets to yank it out in the evening.

Kenneth R Gilder
Saint Petersburg FL

Dear Company Clerk,

I would like to continue getting the Veterans Post. (My husband) Paul has gone to be with the Lord.

We both found this newspaper to be very informative and finally found a paper that tells it like it really is.

Betty Zumpft
Winter Haven, FL

Dear Company Clerk,

I was sitting in the Ford Auto dealership in Saint Petersburg and saw your newspaper.

Being a Veteran of the Viet Nam War I began reading your paper. The more I read of your articles the more I was impressed.

I was thinking; Boy! I wished I had this paper; in Johnson City, Tennessee that is.

So here is my check for a one year's subscription. And thanks for writing articles of interest to Veterans.

Lynn Hodge
Johnson City, TN

VETERANS POST NEWSPAPER

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Veterans Post News Objectives:

- Increase awareness of Veterans activities
- Educate and inform Veterans and citizens
- Increase membership of Veterans organizations
- Ensure that Veterans are not forgotten

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Quote:

"The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him."

-G. K. Chesterton

"Liberals claim to want to give a hearing to other views, but then are shocked and offended to discover that there are other views."

-William F. Buckley

"In 1923, there were no government benefits for immigrants except one: Freedom!"

-Rick Santorum

Veterans Post News, brought to you by the Men and Women of the United States Armed Forces, without their Spirit and Patriotism, we could be just a third world nation. GOD BLESS The USA



You guys are idiots;
they're going to be looking for soldiers.

TRICARE Has Prime Service Area ZIP Code Look-Up Tool



The tool allowing TRICARE beneficiaries to check if they live in a ZIP code affected by Prime Service Area (PSA) reduction has been updated with the latest information on affected ZIP codes. ZIP code listings are regularly updated, so check back frequently.

For all the most up-to-date information on PSA changes, visit www.tricare.mil/psa. Use the ZIP code look-up tool at: www.tricare.mil/psazip

First operations P-8A squadron prepares for deployment

By Rear Adm. Sean Buck, USN, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group



A P-8A Poseidon assigned to Patrol Squadron (VP) 16 is seen in flight over Jacksonville, Fla., on Feb. 6.

USN photo by Personnel Specialist 1st Class Anthony Petry

I have served in our Navy for more than 30 years, the vast majority of that time as a naval flight officer flying P-3 Orions. My dad flew the P2V, and now my son is flying Orions. You could say flying is in my blood.

When I first started this journey, there were 24 active duty operational squadrons and more than 240 P-3s in the fleet. Today, the force consists of 12 active duty patrol squadrons with fewer than 85 of 132 P-3s available on flight lines in the fleet.

Last year, the Orion celebrated its 50th anniversary. To date, the average P-3 in the fleet today has logged more than 17,000 flight hours with one aircraft, No. 158919, aka 'Nine-inch Nails' flying more than 26,000 hours. These numbers significantly exceed the original design life of the aircraft, and substantial structural repairs to the wings have been required over the years to achieve this longevity.

Despite the success of these wing repairs, remaining P-3s continue to age. We are living on borrowed time with our P-3s.

Five years ago, in the midst of managing fatigue-life issues with our P-3 fleet, we developed a plan to transition the fleet to the P-8A Poseidon beginning in spring 2012. I'm pleased to report today that P-8 transition is well underway at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., in accordance with the plan we laid out.

Retired Navy Admiral Says Marine Corps Can Cut An Additional 10,000

The U.S. Navy's former top officer has suggested cutting the Marine Corps by an additional 10,000 personnel, dropping the service's manning levels to approximately 172,000, as part of an aggressive proposal to cut costs.

Budget Cuts Ground The Thunderbirds



An Air Force order involving public events also applies to Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard aircraft. That means no fly-overs at funerals, military graduations, heritage flights, sporting and other events, the Air Force has said.

VA News



To speed eligibility determinations of veteran-owned small businesses for Department of Veterans Affairs' "Veterans First" contracts, VA will allow applicants the opportunity to correct minor deficiencies before an initial denial is issued. Starting May 1, VA will begin providing preliminary findings to applicants before completing a comprehensive review of their submissions. This is expected to greatly reduce the number of VA's initial denials and subsequent requests for reconsideration from companies.

White House Drops Drone Bombshell



The Obama administration said on March 5th, the president has the authority to order deadly attacks on American citizens - on U.S. soil.

Clerk's Note: So the Obama administration, says that Obama, has authorized Obama, to use deadly force, by drones or other means, to attack or kill or maim, American Citizens, at their work place, or home, right here in the United States of America... Land of the Free Obama, Home of The Brave Drone. Well now that you know this... What are you going to do?

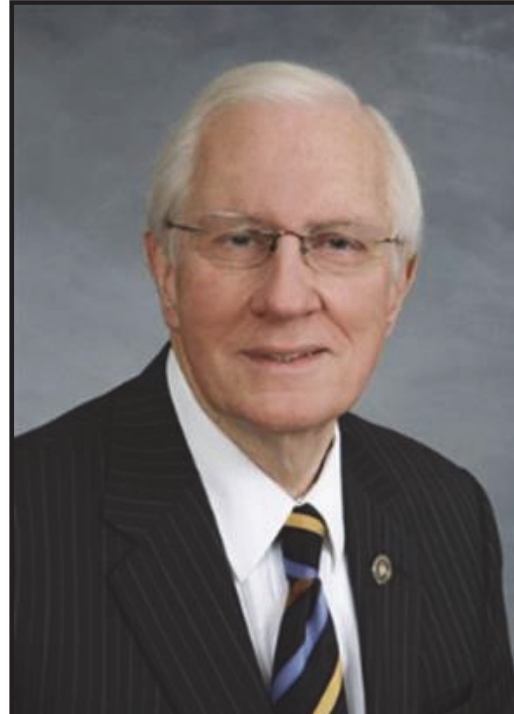
"Taxpayers... Good Sports!"

Biden/congress Grounded By Budget Cuts

Vice President Joe Biden voluntarily gave up traveling on Air Force 2 between Washington and his home in Delaware as part of the budget cuts that began in March. The military airplanes that members of Congress routinely travel on have also been grounded.

Clerk's Note: DC to Delaware...??? Is that like using a 40' limo to go 200'? Remember, republicans spend all of your hard earned tax dollars!

Anti-Gun State Senator Shoots Intruder



Longtime anti-gun advocate North Carolina State Senator (D) R.C. Soles, 74, shot one of two intruders at his home just outside Tabor City, N.C., at about 5 p.m., EST, March 3rd.

Clerk's Note: No guns for you. You cannot have guns to defend yourself or your family. Guns are too dangerous to have around. You family and your children will be in danger if you have guns in your home. But we are sure those two intruders had a strange look on their faces when they discovered that the Gun-Hating Senator and proclaimer of peaceful solution opened fire on them.

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Sen. Paul Trims Office Budget, Returns \$600K To The U.S. Treasury



U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, (R-Ky.) has managed his Senate office budget very closely. He has controlled spending and cut wherever possible. They tracked everything from travel expenses to computers, paper, ink cartridges and every other office expense. In the process, he has reduced his office spending by \$600,000 this past year. The year before, it was \$500,000 he saved.

So what did Paul do with the excess money? He returned it to the U.S. Treasury. In the past two years, he has returned \$1.1 million to the Treasury.

In a press conference, Paul said that one of the problems with Congress and many sectors of the private world is that they are taught to spend every dime allocated to them. If they don't spend it all, they won't get as much money the next year.

**WE, The Veterans of
The United States of
America, Are ALL that
stands between a
Nation that Honors our
Active Duty Military
Or A Nation That
Forgets!**

tcc

Secretary of State John Kerry Tells German Students; 'Americans Have A Right To Be Stupid'

Secretary of State John Kerry offered a defense of freedom of speech, religion and thought in the United States, telling German students that in America "you have a right to be stupid if you want to be.

As a country, as a society, we live and breathe the idea of religious freedom and religious tolerance, whatever the religion, and political freedom and political tolerance, whatever the point of view," Kerry told the students in Berlin, Germany, the second stop on his inaugural trip as secretary of State.

Clerk's Note: Does this guy like the taste of his shoes? Kerry is going to make Obama's bowing to a muslim oil exec look like a grand gesture! Maybe on a trip to Iran Kerry can make a public announcement that Mohammad was Jewish.

ICE Releasing 1,000's Of Undocumented Immigrants Prior To Sequester

Department of Homeland Security officials say they are releasing immigrants held in detention centers because of the government's mandated budget cuts known as sequestration. And the Department of Homeland Security has started releasing illegal immigrants being held in immigration jails across the country.

Arizona officials - from the statehouse to Capitol Hill - were outraged at the Obama administration's release of hundreds of illegal immigrants held in local jails to save money as huge budget cuts.

Pinal County, located in central Arizona, is located between Phoenix and Tucson. It spans about 5,400 square miles and has about 400,000 residents. The Sheriff's Department, with 214 sworn deputies, manages a jail with about 1,500 inmates, Babeau said.

"A lot of these people weren't even arrested in my county," he said. "A lot of them were arrested in Phoenix or somewhere else, and they're brought into my county - and now, they are released on the streets and in my neighborhoods. "It is unacceptable for anyone to believe that's feasible. These are people who have defied and disrespected our law to come into our country - and we've had a problem even stopping them from coming into our sovereign country - so how do they think we're going to be able to handle criminal illegals?" Babeau asked. "They don't respect the law."

And House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte was just as brutal. "It's abhorrent that Obama is releasing criminals into our communities to promote his political agenda on sequestration," the Virginia Republican said. "By releasing criminal immigrants onto the streets, the administration is needlessly endangering American lives," he added.

Obama Stuns Israel With Palestine State

On his first visit to Israel, Obama surprised his host and Jews in America by saying that those peace loving muslims in Palestine (whose own constitution requires the destruction of Israel and death to all Jews) deserve their own nation.

Caught off guard, the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, spoke a few words after Obama finished; he said he agreed whole heartily with Obama and would support the new nation, as long as it was located in the middle of Africa, the middle of America, or the middle of the Atlantic.

Clerk's Note: Not all of the above is true, but after Obama has given away everything America owns, he was testing the waters to see if he could now give away Israel.

DOJ Memo Recommends Registration And Confiscation Of Guns



The National Rifle Association (NRA) has obtained a U.S. Department of Justice memo calling for national gun registration and confiscation. The nine page "cursory summary" on current gun control initiatives was not officially released by the Obama administration.

The memo is entitled, **Summary of Select Firearm Violence Prevention Strategies**, and is dated Jan. 4, 2013.

The DOJ memo states the administration "believes that a gun ban will not work without mandatory gun confiscation," according to the NRA, and thinks universal background checks won't work without requiring national gun registration." Obama has yet to publicly support national registration or firearms confiscation, although the memo reveals his administration is moving in that direction.

The memo stands in stark contrast to the administration's public stance on so-called gun control. White House spokesman Jay Carney said last month that laws proposed by Obama would not "take away a gun from a single law-abiding American."

Clerk's Note: The real questing to ask is... Who decides what a law-abiding American is? The same group who decided what an illegal alien is? The same group that gave thousands of automatic assault rifles to the Mexican drug cartels? The same group that put Veterans on the possible terrorist watch list? OR maybe it's the group that wants your doctor to tell them if you are not thinking straight, so they can take your guns, house, car, money...

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Nintendo Medal Higher Than Purple Heart

VA News

Sequestration Forces White House To Cancel All Public Tours



As part of its ongoing transformation from paper-based to electronic claims processing, the Department of Veterans Affairs has continued to improve the automated payment of benefits for veterans participating in the Post-9/11 GI Bill education program. As a result, VA is now providing benefit payments to currently enrolled students in an average of six days "cutting by more than half the processing time experienced during the spring enrollment period last year. This enhancement to VA's automated processing system, called the "Long Term Solution (LTS)," uses approximately 80 business rules to support end-to-end automation of Post-9/11 GI Bill claims, ensuring accurate payments without the need for manual handling. During the month of February, 46 percent of incoming documents (over 115,000) for enrolled students were fully automated, and an additional 33 percent were partially automated. For enrolled students starting a new semester of classes, processing is taking an average of six days to complete. For new students using the benefit for the first time, the average time to establish their eligibility under the Post-9/11 GI Bill is around 24 days. "We are happy to report that our newest technology has substantially reduced the amount of time it takes to process veterans' education claims," said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "It's a good example of the VBA's transformation that is delivering better service to the fast-growing number of Post 9/11 GI Bill participants." The rules-based processing approach, LTS, uses is also being built into VA's technology for VA's paperless disability claims processing - the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). Over the past three and 1/2 years, VA has provided \$27 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to approximately 938,000 veterans, service members, and their families, and to the universities, colleges, and trade schools they attend. For more info on VA education benefits go to http://www.gibill.va.gov/

The White House announced yesterday it was being forced to cancel all public tours of the president's home until further notice.

Clerk's Note: In addition to the White House, Naval Archives as well as other branches of service will be stopping most if not all, tours and information centers formally open to the public. So, are these budget cuts... OR are they an excuse to prevent American Citizens from gaining access to records, photos and other documents, from this open and transparent govt which appears to be locking everything down?

Cops Ticket Homeless Vet For Searching Trash Can For Food

A homeless veteran says he was just looking for something to eat when he was ticketed by Houston police officers for rummaging through a trash can.

44-year-old James Kelly tells the Houston Chronicle he was cited for "disturbing the contents of a garbage can in downtown business district."

"I was just basically looking for something to eat," Kelly told the paper. "I wasn't in a real good mood."

Houston city officials pointed out in an e-mail to the paper that a charitable food event was happening at the same time Kelly was cited, but referred all other questions on the matter to police.

"The ordinance is specific to the Central Business District," the Houston Police Department said in a statement. "It is a violation for anyone to remove any contents of any bin, bag or other container that has been placed for collection of garbage, trash or recyclable materials. An officer has probable cause to issue such a citation when a person is seen opening a lid and rummaging through contents of a dumpster or trash can."

Kelly, who spent about nine years in Navy, says he does not plan to stay in Houston, but has nowhere to live at this time.

The military has halted production of its new medal for drone- and cyber-warfare, ordering a review in response to complaints about what some have derisively dubbed the "Nintendo" medal.

A Pentagon spokesman confirmed that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has asked Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey to lead a review and report back in 30 days in light of the controversy.

At issue is the newly created Distinguished Warfare Medal, which was to be awarded to troops who operate drones and use other technological skills to fight America's wars from afar -- most controversial was the fact that it has been ranked above medals for those who served on the front line in harm's way, such as the Purple Heart given to wounded troops.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., who has introduced a bill to lower the medal's ranking, said the award is "widely viewed as an award that undermines all other valor awards and the reverence for servicemembers who face the dangers of direct combat."

"It's a fact that those who are off the battlefield do not experience the same risks. Pretending they do devalues the courageous and selfless actions of others, who, during combat, do the unthinkable or show a willingness to sacrifice their own lives," he said in a statement.

Officials said in announcing the medal last month that it would be the first combat-related award to be created since the Bronze Star in 1944. And they said that in recognition of the evolving 21st century warfare, the medal would be considered a bit higher in ranking than the Bronze Star, but lower than the Silver Star.

The Veterans of Foreign War and other groups say that ranking it ahead of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart is an injustice to those who served on the front-lines.

John Bircher, a spokesman for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, has said the Veterans groups are not objecting to the medal -- just the ranking. He said some medals ranked ahead of the Purple Heart are achievement medals that can be earned outside of war time. What bothers many Veterans is that the new Distinguished Warfare Medal appears to be a war-time medal that trumps acts of valor, which he finds insulting.

Much Of The \$60 Billion The U.S. Gave To Iraq For Rebuilding Was Wasted

The final word to Congress from a special auditor says the U.S. hasn't gotten close to its money's worth.

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VA Struggles To Handle Veterans' Claims

The VA is failing to keep up with a torrent of benefits claims, and the backlog leaves many service members high and dry for well over a year after first filing their forms, a new report from the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR) finds.

From the CIR report: "The agency tracks and widely reports the average wait time: 273 days. But the internal data indicates that Veterans filing their first claim, including those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, wait nearly two months longer, between 316 and 327 days. Those filing for the first time in America's major population centers wait up to twice as long - 642 days in New York, 619 days in Los Angeles and 542 days in Chicago. The ranks of Veterans waiting more than a year for their benefits grew from 11,000 in 2009, the first year of Obama's presidency, to 245,000 in December - an increase of more than 2,000 percent.

And the VA is predicting that the situation will get worse, as the number of Veterans waiting on the VA to process their claims is expected to surge past the current 900,000 and toward a million by the end of March.

A spokesman for the VA told the CIR that the VA is being inundated by a nearly 50-percent increase in the number of filed claims. He said the growth was due to a combination of increasing numbers of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans returning home, broadening claims for PTSD and Gulf War illness, and new guidelines allowing Vietnam Vets to request compensation for complications due to exposure to Agent Orange.

The department is also being crushed, quite literally, under claims filed on paper. The CIR reports that 97 percent of all Veterans claims are submitted on paper, a trend that recently led the VA to warn that the weight of the files and cabinets had compromised the structural integrity of one of its office buildings in North Carolina.

The VA acknowledged that its performance was lagging in a recent hearing before the Senate Comm on Veterans Affairs. "Too many Veterans still have to wait too long to get the compensation benefits they earn, and that is unacceptable to us," VA Undersecretary for Benefits Allison Hickey said.

But others are calling for more immediate action. In a column in *Time* magazine, Joe Klein argued that it was time for VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to "step down."

Marine Inducted Into Women in Aviation International Pioneer Hall of Fame



Women in Aviation International announced that Lt. Col. Karen Tribbett Brannen, the first female Marine Corps strike fighter pilot, was inducted into the International Pioneer Hall of Fame, on March 16, at the WAI's 24th Annual International Conference, in TN.

MOH For U.S. Korean War Veteran



On April 11, the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry, will be awarded to Chaplain (Captain) Emil J. Kapaun, U.S. Army, posthumously.

Chaplain Kapaun receives the MoH for his extraordinary heroism while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, during combat operations against an armed enemy at Unsan, Korea, and as a prisoner of war from Nov. 1-2, 1950.

When Chinese Communist Forces viciously attacked friendly elements, Chaplain Kapaun calmly walked through withering enemy fire in order to provide comfort and medical aid to his comrades.

When they found themselves surrounded by the enemy, the able-bodied men were ordered to evacuate. Chaplain Kapaun, fully aware of his certain capture, elected to stay behind with the wounded. As hand-to-hand combat ensued, he continued to make rounds. As enemy forces approached the American position, Chaplain Kapaun noticed an injured Chinese officer among the wounded and convinced him to negotiate the safe surrender of the American forces.

Shortly after his capture, Chaplain Kapaun bravely pushed aside an enemy soldier preparing to execute a comrade, thus saving a life and inspiring all those present to remain and fight the enemy until captured.

Chaplain Kapaun's nephew, Ray Kapaun, and family, will receive the medal commemorate his example of selfless service and sacrifice.

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Department of Veterans Affairs

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Recognition Coming For Britain's World War II Heroes

THE ARCTIC STAR



BOMBER COMMAND CLASP



World War II war heroes who served on the Arctic Convoys and in Bomber Command will begin receiving brand new awards in recognition of their heroism and bravery within weeks, Defense Minister Mark Francois has announced.

Production of the new Arctic Star and Bomber Command clasp will kick start this week. Up to a quarter of a million Veterans and the families of those who have died could be eligible to receive the new awards in recognition of their unique contribution protecting Britain during World War II. Living Veterans and widows will be the first in line to receive the new awards from as early as March.

Eligible Veterans and next of kin are encouraged to apply for the new awards. Details and an application form can be found at www.Veterans-uk.info

First KC-135R Retired



The USAF retired its first operational KC-135R tankers from service after more than 50 years of flying it, announced officials at Altus AFB, Okla.

This KC-135, tail number 61-0312, first flew on Aug 14, 1962, got new engines in 1985, and piled up some 22,500 flying hours over the years, states the Feb. 22 release from Altus' 97th Air Mobility Wing, which trains KC-135 air crews. The aircraft departed Altus for good on Feb. 21, en route to the aircraft boneyard at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

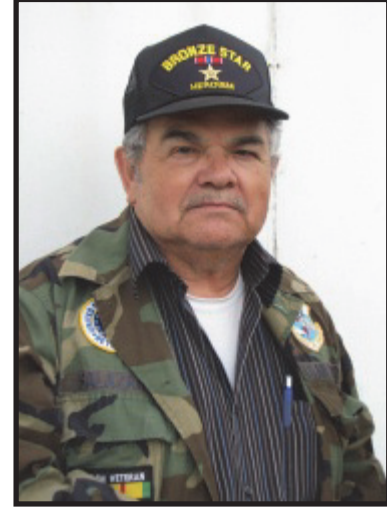
Aircraft 312 is one of the KC-135s that the Fiscal 2013 Defense Authorization Act allows the Air Force to retire.

Gun Control Supporter Backed By New York Mayor Wins Chicago Vote

Gun control supporter Robin Kelly won the Democratic primary for a Chicago area U.S. House seat, propelled by more than \$2 million in TV ads highlighting the guns issue bankrolled by NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Kelly, a former Illinois state rep, said in her victory speech that this was a setback for the gun rights lobby, the National Rifle Association. "I'm telling the NRA that their days of holding our country hostage are coming to an end."

Clerk's Note: The NRA holding us hostage...??? If our govt has ALL the guns, they will hold us hostage. Will someone please remove this Kelly?

Vietnam Veteran Gets Bronze Star



Placido Salazar, a retired airman, earlier this month received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor device for his heroic actions when his air base came under attack in South Vietnam in 1965.

Ret. Col Colin Chauret, former commander of Salazar, pinned the Bronze Star on Salazar during the Feb. 15 ceremony at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, TX. Salazar also received a Purple Heart at the ceremony.

On Aug. 21, 1965, Salazar, who decrypted classified messages as a member of the 4080th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., was deployed to Bien Hoa Air Base, South Vietnam. The base came under attack. Salazar secured an encrypted message he was holding and then brought his previously injured commander from a nearby building to the underground command post bunker. Salazar then helped two other senior officers to safety in the face of the enemy fire. At one point during the firefight, Salazar was knocked unconscious after slipping. Upon waking, he secured more officers and then guarded the command post until relieved.

Salazar retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1976, after 20 years of service.



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Old America Is Gone... And, Sad For The World, It Is Not Coming Back

By Rabbi Steven Pruzansky is the spiritual leader of Congregation Bnai Yeshurun in Teaneck, NJ
This article appeared in *The Israel National News*, and is directed to Jewish readership. 70% of American Jews vote as Democrats. The Rabbi has some interesting comments in that regard.

"The most charitable way of explaining the election results of 2012 is that Americans voted for the status quo - for the incumbent President and for a divided Congress. They must enjoy gridlock, partisanship, incompetence, economic stagnation and avoidance of responsibility. And fewer people voted.

But as we awake from the nightmare, it is important to eschew the facile explanations for the Romney defeat that will prevail among the chattering classes. Romney did not lose because of the effects of Hurricane Sandy that devastated this area, nor did he lose because he ran a poor campaign, nor did he lose because the Republicans could have chosen better candidates, nor did he lose because Obama benefited from a slight uptick in the economy due to the business cycle. Romney lost because he didn't get enough votes to win.

That might seem obvious, but not for the obvious reasons. Romney lost because the conservative virtues - the traditional American virtues - of liberty, hard work, free enterprise, private initiative and aspirations to moral greatness - no longer inspire or animate a majority of the electorate.

The simplest reason why Romney lost was because it is impossible to compete against free stuff.

Every businessman knows this; that is why the "loss leader" or the giveaway is such a powerful marketing tool. Obama's America is one in which free stuff is given away: the adults among the 47,000,000 on food stamps clearly recognized for whom they should vote, and so they did, by the tens of millions; those who - courtesy of Obama - receive two full years of unemployment benefits (which, of course, both desensitizes looking for work and also motivates people to work off the books while collecting their windfall) surely know for whom to vote. The lure of free stuff is irresistible.

The defining moment of the whole campaign was the revelation of the secretly-recorded video in which Romney acknowledged the difficulty of winning an election in which "47% of the people" start off against him because they pay no taxes and just receive money - "free stuff" - from the government.

Almost half of the population has no skin in the game - they don't care about high taxes, promoting business, or creating jobs, nor do they care that the money for their free stuff is being borrowed from their children and from the Chinese.

They just want the free stuff that comes their way at someone else's expense. In the end, that 47% leaves very little margin for error for any Republican, and does not bode well for the future.

It is impossible to imagine a conservative candidate winning against such overwhelming odds. People do vote their pocketbooks. In essence, the people vote for a Congress who will not raise their taxes, and for a President who will give them free stuff, never mind who has to pay for it.

That engenders the second reason why Romney lost: the inescapable conclusion that the electorate is ignorant and uninformed. Indeed, it does not pay to be an informed voter, because most other voters - the clear majority - are unintelligent and easily swayed by emotion and raw populism.

That is the indelicate way of saying that too many people vote with their hearts and not their heads. That is why Obama did not have to produce a second term agenda, or even defend his first-term record. He needed only to portray Mitt Romney as a rapacious capitalist who throws elderly women over a cliff, when he is not just snatching away their cancer medication, while starving the poor and cutting taxes for the rich.

During his 1956 presidential campaign, a woman called out to Adlai Stevenson: "Senator, you have the vote of every thinking person!" Stevenson called back: "That's not enough, madam, we need a majority!" **Truer words were never spoken.**

Obama could get away with saying that "Romney wants the rich to play by a different set of rules" - without ever defining what those different rules were; with saying that the "rich should pay their fair share" - without ever defining what a "fair share" is; with saying that Romney wants the poor, elderly and sick to "fend for themselves" - without even acknowledging that all these government programs are going bankrupt, their current insolvency only papered over by deficit spending.

Similarly, Obama (or his surrogates) could hint to blacks that a Romney victory would lead them back into chains and proclaim to women that their abortions and birth control would be taken away. He could appeal to Hispanics that Romney would have them all arrested and shipped to Mexico and unabashedly state that he will not enforce the current immigration laws. He could espouse the furtherance of the incestuous relationship between governments and unions - in which politicians ply the unions with public money, in exchange for which the unions provide the politicians with votes, in exchange for which the politicians provide more money and the unions provide more votes, etc., even though the money is gone.

Obama also knows the electorate has changed - that whites will soon be a minority in America (they're already a minority in California) and that the new immigrants to the US are primarily from the Third World and do not share the traditional American values that attracted immigrants in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is a different world, and a different America. Obama is part of that different America, knows it, and knows how to tap into it. That is why he won.

Obama also proved again that negative ads works, invective sells, and harsh personal attacks succeed. That Romney never engaged in such diatribes points to his essential goodness as a person; his "negative ads" were simple facts, never personal abuse - facts about high unemployment, lower take-home pay, a loss of American power and prestige abroad, a lack of leadership, etc. As a politician, though, Romney failed because he did not embrace the devil's bargain of making unsustainable promises.

It turned out that it was not possible for Romney and Ryan - people of substance, depth and ideas - to compete with the shallow populism and platitudes of their opponents. Obama mastered the politics of envy - of class warfare - never reaching out to Americans as such but to individual groups, and cobbling together a winning majority from these minority groups. If an Obama could not be defeated - with his record and his vision of America, in which free stuff seduces voters - it is hard to envision any change in the future.

The road to Hillary Clinton in 2016 and to a European-socialist economy - those very economies that are collapsing today in Europe - is paved.

For Jews, mostly assimilated anyway and staunch Democrats, the results demonstrate again that liberalism is their Torah. Almost 70% voted for a president widely perceived by Israelis and most committed Jews as hostile to Israel. They voted to secure Obama's future at America's expense and at Israel's expense - in effect, preferring Obama to Netanyahu by a wide margin.

Dangerous times ahead, under present conditions, it is inconceivable that the US will take any aggressive action against Iran and will more likely thwart any Israeli initiative. The US will preach the importance of negotiations up until the production of the first Iranian nuclear weapon - and then state that the world must learn to live with this new reality.

But this election should be a wake-up call to Jews. There is no permanent empire, nor is there is an enduring haven for Jews anywhere in the exile. The American empire began to decline in 2007, and the deterioration has been exacerbated in the last five years. This election only hastens that decline. Society is permeated with sloth, greed, envy and materialistic excess. It has lost its moorings and its moral foundations. The takers outnumber the givers, and that will only increase in years to come.

The "Occupy" riots across this country in the last two years were mere dress rehearsals for what lies ahead - years of unrest sparked by the increasing discontent of the unsuccessful who want to seize the fruits and the bounty of the successful, and do not appreciate the slow pace of redistribution.

If this election proves one thing, it is that the Old America is gone. And, sad for the world, it is not coming back."

The Pentagon Tries To Protect War Funding And Troops



The U.S. Air Force Space Command cautioned recently that if new budget cuts take effect, some of its round-the-clock missile-warning operations would begin working bankers' hours - raising concerns about detecting missiles targeting America. But when questioned about these dire predictions by a concerned lawmaker last week, Gen. Mark Welsh, III, the Air Force's chief of staff, explained that flexibility in the system would let the Space Command focus the cuts that took effect on March 1 on redundant, back-up radar systems.

Enlistees Indicate Readiness To Leave The Marine Corps If Women Involuntary Posted Into Combat Jobs



Nearly one in four males in the U.S. Marine Corps said they would leave the service if women were involuntarily posted in combat positions, according to the executive summary of a little-known survey commissioned by Marine Corps leaders.

U.S. Marines Welcome 'Chesty,' Their Newest Bulldog

Thanks to the German army, the U.S. Marine Corps has an unofficial mascot. During World War I, many German reports had called the attacking Marines "'teufel-hunden," meaning "Devil-Dogs." The Tteufel-hunden were the vicious, wild, and ferocious mountain dogs.

DOD Bypasses Congress - Again



The Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty, an organization of chaplain endorsers, is expressing dismay that the Department of Defense issued a policy memorandum Monday extending benefits to "same-sex domestic partners" of military members without notifying Congress.

The memorandum allows service members to fill out a one-page form stating they are in a domestic relationship with a person of the same sex. The form allows the named partner to receive a DOD Dependent ID card, which then qualifies the named dependent to an array of benefits previously granted only to military spouses. Heterosexual partners are not eligible under the policy.

"This new policy makes a mockery of the Defense of Marriage Act that is still the law of this nation," said Chaplain (Col.) Ron Crews, USAR (Ret.), executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty. "It is an outrage that the Department of Defense would provide benefits to an unknown number of persons, at significant cost to the military, at a time when the military's budget is being reduced. It is even worse that this is being done without consulting Congress."

New benefits provided to domestic partners by this policy change include a DOD Identification Card, commissary privileges, family center programs, joint duty assignments, disability and death compensation, space-available travel, child care, legal assistance, and other benefits.

Fort Hood Heroine Criticizes Obama, Files Lawsuit



A former police sergeant said President Obama has broken his promise to her that the victims of the Fort Hood, Texas, massacre would be well taken care of.

Kimberly Munley, who stopped the 2009 rampage along with her partner, told ABC News in an exclusive interview that instead of being taken care of, the victims have actually "been neglected." There was no immediate comment from the White House, ABC said.

Munley was shot three times as she and her partner, Sgt. Mark Todd, confronted accused shooter Maj. Nidal Hasan after he opened fire on soldiers being processed for deployment to Afghanistan. Todd fired the five bullets credited with bringing Hasan down, while Munley lay wounded.

Three years after the White House arranged a hero's welcome for the two officers, Munley has been laid off from her job on Fort Hood's civilian police force.

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Always keep your words soft and sweet - just in case you have to eat them.

In order to be an immaculate member of a flock of sheep, one must above all be a sheep oneself.

One of the advantages of bowling over golf is that you seldom lose a bowling ball.

Life is full of uncertainties, but I may be wrong about that.

Two blonde men found three hand grenades, and they decided to take them to a police station. One asked: "What if one explodes before we get there?" The other says: "We'll lie and say we only found two."

Gun Control is like trying to reduce Drunk Driving by making it tougher for Sober People to own Cars.

Atheists are spending a lot of time and energy fighting a God they claim doesn't even exist.

Do Lipton Tea's employees get coffee breaks?

It's a whole lot easier to become older than to get wiser.

There was as knock on the door this past Saturday morning. I opened it to find a young, well-dressed man standing there who said, "Hello, sir. I'm a Jehovah's Witness." So I said, "Come in and sit down." I offered him a fresh cup of coffee and asked, "What do you want to talk about?" He said, "Beats the shit out of me...nobody ever let me in before."

Always proof read carefully to see if we've any words out.

An oral contract isn't worth the paper it's written on.

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

Our Company Clerk says; "I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it."

Don't Die A Virgin! Seriously, there are terrorists waiting up there for you.

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?



Isn't Disney World a people trap operated by a mouse?

There are two secrets to keep your marriage going:
1. Whenever you're wrong, admit it, and
2. Whenever you're right, shut up.

If you're going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.

I've accidentally swallowed some Scrabble tiles. This means my next bowel movement could spell disaster.

The advantage of exercising everyday is that you die healthier.

Just For Easter

What did the Easter Bunny get for making a basket?
Two points like everyone else.

What do you call a line of bunnies walking backwards?
A receding hare line.

What's invisible and smells like carrots?
Bunny farts.

What's black and has a lilly in it's mouth? an Easter Seal.

Roy; I want a tank.

Tom; Well then, why don't you get one?

Roy; Because they cost several million dollars, not including floor mats. I don't have that kind of money.

Tom; Now wait a second, you are a consumer, you have credit cards... Right?

Roy; Yes, but how am I going to pay the credit card company? They'll come after me.

Tom; Don't be silly. You have a tank!

"Taxpayers... Good Sports!"

WE SHOULD STOP CALLING THEM ALL 'ENTITLEMENTS'

Get it straight: Welfare, Food Stamps, WIC... ad nauseum are *not* entitlements. They are taxpayer-funded *handouts*, and shouldn't be called *entitlements* at all. Social Security and Veterans Benefits are 'Entitlements' because the people receiving them are *entitled* to them. They were *earned* and *paid for* by the *recipients*.

911 Operator – This is 911, what is your emergency?

Caller – There are 3 packages of bacon on the floor of the grocery aisle we are on at Food Mart.

911 Operator – Sir, this is not an emergency and I am going to report you for calling emergency and wasting our time.

Caller – But I am muslim and feel threatened by the bacon!

911 Operator – Walk backwards to the end of the aisle and stand by... We are sending 3 patrol units and a SWAT team to your location.

Roy – I heard that U. N. wants to replace the American dollar with a Global Currency.

Tom – Wouldn't replacing the U. N. with Nothing, be a lot better?

Dear God,

Why have you abandoned our schools and allow so much violence in them?

Concerned Liberal

Dear Liberal,

I have little to do with schools as I was banned by Liberal groups for being on the premises.

God

Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement.

I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would look like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress.

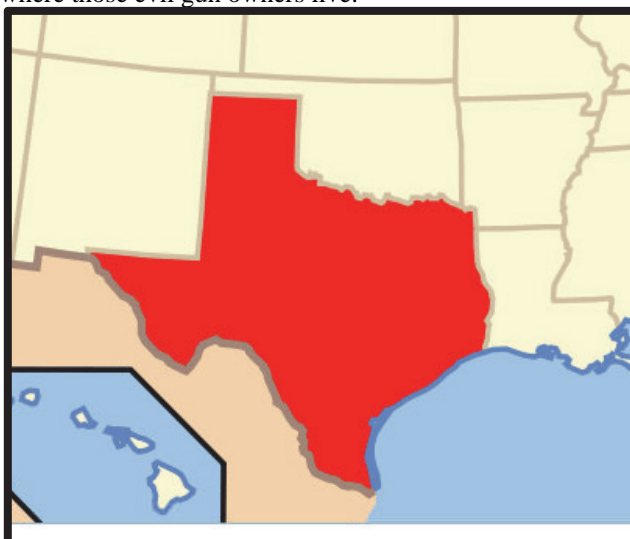
I'm getting so absent minded that sometimes in the middle of a sentence I...

When I erase a word with a pencil, where does it go?

True, But Still Funny:

New York City music teacher Aryeh Eller, 46, has almost reached a milestone in his battle with the Board of Education. Soon, he will have earned a million dollars in salary and benefits since the Board removed him from the classroom 13 years ago and dispatched him to a light-duty "rubber room" after complaints of fondling and sexual harassment in the one year that he actually taught. An arbitrator had found insufficient evidence for his termination, but the Board refuses to let him back in the classroom, fearing he is a danger to students.

A Texas newspaper wanted to show the rest of the nation that there were liberals in Texas even though it is considered a conservative state, has gone ahead and did what the liberal town in New York did by putting a very small Red dots on a map where there were gun owners. Now just like in that small liberal minded town, Texas can also be just as liberal letting the criminal element know where those evil gun owners live.



A high school history teacher was discussing how they chose a new Pope. The teacher explained the process, finishing with, "So, the Cardinals pick him." A student in the back of the class asked, very seriously, "Why would they let a baseball team pick the next Pope?"

My doctor said I look like a million bucks - green and wrinkled.

*** 19,250**
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Hard work pays off in the future, but laziness pays off now.

Never do anything against your conscience, even if the state demands it.



"**If you** don't read the newspaper you are uninformed. If you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed."
-- Mark Twain

Since bread is square, why are most sandwich meats round and some cheese's square?

VETERANS POST NEWS

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State's Legislature Addresses Bills Intended To Enhance Wyoming's 'Military Friendliness'



A Pentagon chart in Washington, D.C., marks Wyoming with a red dot, targeting the state for its failure to give consideration to military members and their spouses who seek professional licenses.

The state House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs has attempted to get the red dot removed by voting unanimously in favor of two bills:

- Senate File 130 provides for the consideration of military education and training when people leaving the military or civil service jobs apply for professional or occupational licenses. It affects people with military service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Commissioned Corps, the National Guard and any reserve or auxiliary component of any of these services.

- Senate File 74 allows military spouses credit for full-time or part-time work experience when applying for a professional or occupational license.

The bills, which previously passed the state Senate, are among six proposals moving through the Legislature that are designed to help military veterans.

During a committee hearing, Wyoming's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Luke Reiner, said the proposals reflect two specific criteria the Pentagon uses in measuring whether a state is friendly to the military.

Holly Galloway told the committee she is a Gold Star mother whose other son is leaving the Marine Corps after eight years of duty. A Gold Star acknowledges a mother who lost a son or daughter on active duty with the U.S. armed forces. Her surviving son, she said, wants to go to school but is not looking at Wyoming because the state isn't friendly to the military.

Afghanistan Can't Handle Direct U.S. Aid, Watchdog Says

Afghanistan's government does not appear able to manage the large amounts of direct aid that the United States and other countries have pledged, the U.S. watchdog monitoring funds spent on Afghan reconstruction said. John Sopko, the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction, raised a red flag over U.S. plans to give Kabul billions of dollars more in direct aid instead of providing assistance through contractors and non-governmental organizations operating on behalf of the American government.

DOD IG Finds F-22 Crash Report Lacking



The Department of Defense's Inspector General has found that an Air Force report stating pilot error as the cause of a fatal 2010 crash of an F-22 Raptor "is not supported by the facts."

The report examined the crash of that took place in Alaska in November 2010, and killed the pilot, Captain Jeff Haney. The crash preceded an Air Force investigation that sought to determine why dozens of Raptor pilots reported suffering from hypoxia-like symptoms while flying the fighter.

The Air Force released its review of the crash in December 2011, discounting oxygen deprivation as a contributing factor and stating that "clear and convincing evidence" showed the crash was the result of Haney's failure to recognize and correct inadvertent control inputs in a timely manner.

The IG said the conclusion failed to meet the Air Force's standards for "clear and convincing" proof, and recommended that the matter be revisited.

U.S. Navy SEAL Who Killed Bin Laden Reportedly Left Without Insurance



The U.S. Navy SEALs' Team Six member who shot and killed Osama bin Laden has opened up about the hardships of life after the mission.

In an interview with *Esquire* titled, **The Man Who Killed Osama bin Laden is Screwed**, the former SEAL told journalist Phil Bronstein that upon leaving the service in September 2012, he lost benefits ranging from current health care to a future pension. And now he's stuck in a months-long wait for his disability claim to be considered.

He had survived his last deployment, and there was a barbecue near his house to celebrate with about thirty close friends from "the community." The Redskins were on, his favorite team, and there was lots of Commando ale, brewed by a former SEAL.

"I left the SEALs on Friday," he said. It was a little more than thirty-six months before the official retirement requirement of twenty years of service. "My health care for me and my family stopped at midnight on Friday night. I asked if there was some transition from my Tricare to Blue Cross Blue Shield. They said 'no.' You're out of the service, your coverage is over. Thanks for your sixteen years. Go frak yourself."

The Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR), for which Bronstein serves as executive chairman, notes that this SEAL's case falls in line with 820,000 instances in which veterans are mired in a backlog for disability help. "It was nearly impossible to believe when he first told me he got such a dearth of support from the U.S. Government," Bronstein said in the CIR report. "Where's the 'thank you?'"

In an interview with NBC's *Today Show*, Bronstein spoke with host Matt Lauer about the crux of his *Esquire* piece - the post-military struggles that veterans face. Even if the SEAL had served a full two decades, Bronstein told *Today* that he would have received just \$2,197 per month. A Navy chorus member with that time of service is eligible for the same package. "It's a nine-month average wait for regular vets to get their disability claim adjudicated," Bronstein said. "In this guy's case, his health care that he got, called Tricare from the military, ended the night he left. He gets no pension, none, zero."

"So the guy in the Navy choir gets the exact same pension as the guy we're asking to be the new face of warfare around the world?" Lauer remarked. "Yes, exactly," Bronstein replied.

Stars and Stripes posted a story yesterday evening, charging that the *Esquire* piece's claim of no available military health care options is inaccurate. The independent U.S. military news source points to a Department of Veterans Affairs program which provides five years of free health coverage post-discharge. When asked by *Stars and Stripes* about that option, *Bronstein stood by his reporting, adding that no one ever told the SEAL "that this is available."*

A previous headline stated that the former Navy SEAL was reportedly uninsured. The *Esquire* article notes that the man, who retired from the military, was planning to buy private insurance for \$486 per month and pay out-of-pocket for certain treatments not covered by that insurance.

Clerk's Note: The departure conversation from the Military is so minimal that this problem of not knowing your benefits happens a lot!

USMC Details Possible Budgetary Fallout



Severe military-wide budget cuts set to take effect March 1 will force the U.S. Marine Corps to cancel training, ground aircraft, delay equipment maintenance and modernization, curtail family programs and consider shedding additional personnel, the Corps' senior leaders have said.

Nigeria Arrests Journalists Over Polio Workers' Killing

Three Nigerian journalists have been arrested for inciting violence by saying on a radio show that polio immunizations were an anti-Islam Western conspiracy, just days before health workers administering the vaccines were killed.

The nine health workers were killed in two separate attacks in Nigeria's main northern city of Kano. Boko Haram, a sect that has condemned the use of Western education, has been blamed for carrying out a spate of assaults on security forces in the city.

Love, USO-Style



For some, USO centers are a place to put your feet up and unwind after a long day. For others, they are a place to hang out with your friends and share a laugh.

For Lindsay and Richard Killough, the USO Center in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas, was a place to find true love and start a new life together. Lindsay was working as a USO volunteer as her way of giving back to the troops. One day, she met an airman who she said "really stood out from the crowd." After four months of exchanging e-mails while he was overseas, they were once again reunited - at that very same USO Center.

A year later, Lindsay and Richard Killough tied the knot in a dream wedding fit for this great American love story.

Coming Soon Under The Sequester

The U.S. Air Force would lose more than 200,000 flying hours for the remainder of Fiscal 2013 if budget sequestration is implemented on March 1, resulting in a devastating loss of readiness, Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh, III, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee yesterday.

Service leaders will do everything in their power to protect flying operations in Afghanistan as well as nuclear deterrence and initial flight training, said Welsh. However, "Roughly two-thirds of our active duty combat air force units will curtail home station training, beginning in March, and we'll drop below acceptable readiness levels by mid-May," he said during the SASC's hearing on sequestration's impact on the U.S. military. "Most will be completely non-mission capable by July," he noted.

Under the sequester, the USAF would be forced to postpone depot maintenance work in this fiscal year on about 150 aircraft and 85 engines - a move that would create "a backlog that could take years for us to recover" from, said Welsh. And, roughly 180,000 Air Force civilians will face an involuntary 22-day furlough, "depriving our Air Force of over 31.5 million man-hours of productivity and specialized expertise this year," he added.

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Airman Saves Life, Earns City's Recognition
By Eric M. White, 910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs



In the early morning, you're driving through the city when you see two men pushing a stalled vehicle. You stop to see if they need help, and another vehicle strikes the two men against their car, fracturing one man's leg and severing the other's below the knee. The victim with the severed leg is bleeding profusely and showing signs of shock. What do you do?

The morning of Feb. 5, 2013, Senior Airman Steve Cresanto, an air transportation journeyman with the Youngstown (Ohio) Air Reserve Station's 76th Aerial Port Squadron, was driving through the city when this scenario became reality, forcing him to make quick decisions.

Jawkwan Rudolph, one of the victims, had the most serious injuries. "His leg was amputated," Cresanto said. "You want to stop the hemorrhaging, so I applied a tourniquet. I didn't have a tourniquet there, so I made one. I made the tourniquet out of the individual's belt and a windshield wiper from the car that struck them," Cresanto said. Cresanto then fashioned a splint for the second victim's fractured leg using an ice scraper and another belt.

When first responders arrived at the scene of the accident, they asked Cresanto where he learned to do what he did, stating that his actions likely saved Rudolph's life. Cresanto credited the self-aid and buddy care training he receives annually as an Air Force reservist. "We do it every single year, do the training, and I never thought I would actually use it in the field. It turns out I did, and I am glad I had the training," Cresanto said.

SABC training includes basic life support and limb-saving techniques to help injured persons survive until medical help arrives.

Charles Sammarone, Youngstown's mayor, presented Cresanto with an award on behalf of the city at a City Council meeting on March 6.

Detective Sgt. Patricia Garcar, one of the first responders to the accident, recommended Cresanto for the award and presented at the council meeting her account of what unfolded the morning of the accident.

"I was just so impressed with what he did," Garcar said. "He did not have to stop and didn't have to offer the assistance that he did, and it just amazed me."

Cresanto is one of more than 1,600 citizen-airmen stationed at Youngstown ARS. "This is just another amazing example of the airmen that we have here and the tie that we have to the community," said Col. James D. Dignan, the 910th Airlift Wing's commander. "There's a sense of family here at the 910th Airlift Wing."

USAF; If You Don't Like It, We Won't Give It.

With debate intensifying in the United States over the use of drone aircraft, the U.S. military said today that it had removed data about air strikes carried out by unmanned planes in Afghanistan from its monthly air power summaries. Because the media is "disproportionately focused" on the remotely-piloted aircraft.

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Sequester This...

The Current Cost Of The White House - Just For Household Expenses - Is \$1.4 Billion A Year

From the MinutemenNews.com



We are now firmly ensconced in the brutal Age of the Sequester, and things in America, are grave. The federal government, we learned, is so strapped for cash that the president has been forced to cut off the people's access to the home he's borrowing from them.

He didn't **want** to have to do this, naturally - "particularly during the popular spring touring season." But then Congress just had to go and acquiesce in measures that the president himself had suggested and signed into law.

We axed 2.6% from a \$44.8 trillion budget, and now the president can't even afford the \$18,000 per week necessary to retain the seven staff members who facilitate citizens enjoying self-guided tours around the White House.

The executive mansion is not in that much trouble, of course. It's certainly not in sufficiently dire straits for **Air Force One** (\$181,757 per hour) to be grounded, or to see the executive chef (\$100,000 per year) furloughed, or to cut back on the hours of the three full-time White House calligraphers (\$277,050 per year for the trio), or to limit the invaluable work of the chief of staff to the president's dog (\$102,000 per year), or to trim his ridiculous motorcade (\$2.2 million).

If Ellen DeGeneres wants another dancercise session or Spain holds another clothing sale, the first family will be there before you can say "citizen executive."

Fear ye not, serfs: Austerity may be the word of the week, but the president is by no means in any danger of being forced to live like the president of a republic instead of like a king.

When Calvin Coolidge was president in the glitzy 1920s, he took the republican ideal so seriously that he ended up in a series of tiffs with the White House housekeeper, Elizabeth Jaffray, over the cost of state dinners, and took to admonishing the Executive Branch for using too many pencils. Such behavior now serves only as a punch line to a joke that is not funny.

The current annual cost of the White House - just in household expenses, not the policy operations for which it exists - is \$1.4 billion. Annually, presidential vacations cost \$20 million (the low estimate for one presidential vacation to Hawaii is \$4 million, but the true cost is probably five times that); the first family's yearly health-care costs are \$7 million; and more than \$6 million is spent on the White House grounds each year. Transporting the president cost \$346 million last year. But as Michelle Obama might say, America is basically a downright mean sort of place, so the tours will just have to go.

One hopes at least that the calligraphers were recruited to sign the docents pink slips.

Clerk's Note: Yeah, it's tough to live in America these days, everyone has to tighten their belts. Except the Obama's.

Southwest Airlines Flies From Branson



SOUTHWEST.COM

Travelers are now flying on Southwest Airlines out of Branson, Mo.

Southwest offers one daily flight each to Chicago, Dallas and Houston, with a flight every Saturday to Orlando, Fla. Airport officials say Southwest will add a second daily flight to Chicago beginning June 1.

The flights begin a year after Southwest bought AirTran Airways, which had been serving the airport.

Good For You Florida, You Are First

I-95 and I-75 will be jammed for the next month or so as druggies and deadbeats heading north out of Florida, because it's the first state in the union to require drug testing to receive welfare. In signing the new law, Republican Gov. Rick Scott said, "If Floridians want welfare, they better make sure they are drug-free." Applicants must pay for the drug test, but are reimbursed if they test drug-free. Applicants who test positive for illicit substances won't be eligible for the funds for a year, or until they undergo treatment. Those who fail a second time will be banned from receiving funds for three years. Naturally, a few people are crying this is unconstitutional. It's a legal requirement that every person applying for a job has to pass drug tests in order to get the job, why not those who receive welfare?

Iraq War Cost The U.S. More Than \$2 Trillion, Study Says

The U.S. war in Iraq has cost \$1.7 trillion with an additional \$490 billion in benefits owed to war Veterans, expenses that could grow to more than \$6 trillion over the next four decades counting interest, a study released on March 14th said. The war has killed at least 134,000 Iraqi civilians and may have contributed to the deaths of as many as four times that number, according to the Costs of War Project by the Watson Institute for International Studies, at Brown University.

Clerk's Note: Do not fear that Iraq will be shackled by this enormous debt. The citizens of Iraq have no money and usually trade in goats, sheep or camels and sometimes their sisters, daughters, cousins, etc. We American taxpayers will pick up their debt, not because we want to, but because out politicians will do it without asking us. After all, it's not their money.

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2012/2013 Season

Raymond James Pops
Tiempo Libre
A SYMPHONIC NIGHT IN HAVANA
Tiempo Libre performs a dazzling array of their high-energy "timba" style music... mixing jazz, salsa, son, conga, cha-cha-chá and even Bach...in a night of hits from their three Grammy-nominated CDs as well as from their latest recording *My Secret Radio*. Sarah Hicks conducts.
Apr 6 & 7

Tampa Bay Times Masterworks
Symphonic Dances & Rhapsodies
It's a concert of folk dance-inspired favorites from Brahms' *Hungarian Dances*, Dvorák's *Slavonic Dances*, Bartók's *Dance Suite*, Kodály's *Dances of Galanta*, John Adams' *The Chairman Dances* and Bernstein's *Three Dance Episodes from On The Town*. Perry So conducts.
Apr 12 - 14

Tampa Bay Times Masterworks
Mozart's Requiem
In an all-Mozart concert, the evening opens with *Ave Verum Corpus* and *Symphony No. 35, Haffner*...followed by Mozart's inspiring *Requiem* with one wave of beauty cascading after another, providing the listener with a breathless yet exhilarating experience. Featuring The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, Xian Zhang conducts.
Apr 19 - 21

Raymond James Pops
A Classic Pops Hit Parade
It's a sizzling celebration of the great American symphonic pops tradition with everyone's favorites...from Ravel's *Bolero* and Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture* to high-energy polkas, marches and more... all showcasing your Florida Orchestra musicians. Steven Reineke conducts.
May 3 - 5

Pops & Masterworks Tickets: \$15, \$30 & \$45
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