

JANUARY 2014



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

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Member Florida Press Association

Honoring It



Dakota L. Meyer, a Medal of Honor recipient now serving as a U.S. Marine Corps sergeant in the reserves, autographs a copy of his citation during a visit to Forward Operating Base Shukvani in Afghanistan's Helmand province, Dec. 25, 2013. Meyer and Marine leaders traveled around Regional Command Southwest to visit troops for the holiday season.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Tammy K. Hinline

Celebrating It



U. S. Navy Petty Officers 3rd Class Kyle Bartlett, left, and Damian Liker read cards from their care packages during a holiday spirit celebration on the mess decks of the guided-missile cruiser USS Gettysburg during a holiday spirit celebration while underway in the Gulf of Oman, Dec. 21, 2013.

U.S. Navv photo by Pettv Officer 3rd Lorenzo J. Burseson

Sun Setting It



The amphibious assault ship USS Boxer is shown underway in the Arabian Gulf, Dec. 23, 2013. The Boxer is the flagship for the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, which supports maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark El-Rayes

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"! <sup>TC</sup>



Shoveling It



U.S. airmen clear snow near an F-16 Fighting Falcon on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Dec. 29, 2013.

U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Brian Wagner

Pushing It



U.S. sailors wash down the flight deck of the USS Bataan in the Atlantic Ocean, Dec. 17, 2013. The sailors were underway with Marines assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit for a composite training exercise.

U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Chase Hawley

Loving It



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Chris Rerek hugs his wife and son in Groton, Conn., Dec. 20, 2013. Grayson, assigned to the submarine USS Missouri, returned from a six-month deployment to the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.

U.S. Navy photo by John Narewski

Patrolling It



U.S. Marines survey the area before conducting a patrol in Afghanistan's Helmand province, Dec. 29, 2013. The patrol was conducted to disrupt enemy activity in the area. The soldiers are assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment.

U.S.M.C. photo by Lance Cpl. Zachery B. Martin

Watching It



U.S. Marines conduct a patrol in Afghanistan's Helmand province, Dec. 29, 2013.

U.S.M.C..photo by Lance Cpl. Zachery B. Martin



**U.S. Navy's Blue Angels Set To Fly In 35 Shows Next Year**



The Blue Angels have confirmed that they plan to fly 35 shows next year. There have been some changes to the schedule, but they still plan to open the air show season on March 14 at El Centro Naval Air Station, in California. A 2015 tour is in the works as well.

**Pentagon Has Plan To Close U.S. Military Commissaries**



The Pentagon is floating a controversial plan to close all U.S.-based commissaries in 2015 as part of a massive cost-saving effort after more than a decade of war.

The commissaries are grocery stores that offer food and other necessities at a discount to members of the military, their families and veterans. But as Congress tightens the purse strings, the stores could get caught in the budget battle. Budget cutters say they don't yet know how much money the plan would save, but there are 178 commissaries in the United States - and 70 overseas - which receive a total of \$1.4 billion in government funds.

Other military services - including the Pentagon Channel and the *Stars and Stripes* newspaper - may also face cuts, along with Armed Forces Radio and Television, which broadcasts football games and news for service members overseas. *Stars and Stripes*, an independently-edited military newspaper, has been around since the Civil War and has over 200,000 daily readers. It collects just \$7.8 million a year in government subsidies. To put this number in perspective, the U.S. spent \$135 million in fuel for the Afghan military this year - part of the \$4 billion the nation budgeted to support the entire Afghan military this year.

**Clerk's Note:** Instead, why doesn't congress close the restaurants, barber shops, hair salons, etc. at the capitol that they use? So we support the Afghan military with \$4 Billion but we cannot support our own military?



**Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Linked To Birth Defects**



Water pollution at the Camp Lejeune military base, in North Carolina, has been linked to increased risk of birth defects and childhood cancers, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A study released by the CDC's Agency for Toxic Substance & Disease Registry has confirmed a long-suspected link between chemical contaminants in tap water at the Marine Corps base and serious birth defects such as spina bifida. It also showed a slightly elevated risk of childhood cancers including leukemia.

Dr. Vikas Kapil, a medical officer and acting deputy director of the CDC agency that produced the study, said it surveyed the parents of 12,598 children born at Camp Lejeune between 1968 and 1985, the year most contaminated drinking water wells there were closed.

**Bataan ARG Begins Composite Training Unit Exercise**



Sailors from the multipurpose amphibious assault ship *USS Bataan* (LHD 5) and Marines from 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) departed Naval Station Norfolk, Va., for a two-week underway in order to complete Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) off the East Coast of the United States.

This affords the *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group the ability to interact with other ships including the *George H.W. Bush* Carrier Strike Group and smaller ships like the guided-missile destroyers *USS Arleigh Burke* (DDG 51), *USS Truxtun* (DDG 103) and the guided-missile cruiser *USS Leyte Gulf* (CG 55), among others.

During the exercise each ship will be assessed on command and control techniques, situational response, and a series of scenario-driven exercises including anti-submarine warfare, electronic warfare and maritime interdiction operations aimed at integrating the ships with the rest of the strike group.

"These exercises are extremely important for our sailors and the ship while preparing for deployment; we need to knock this out of the park," said *Bataan* Command Master Chief Kevin M. Goodrich. "The evolutions we will see during the exercise are the same scenarios currently deployed ships are seeing in their normal operations."

This exercise is scheduled as the last underway for *Bataan's* Amphibious Ready Group prior to her deployment and the last opportunity for the ships in her group to interact in a training environment prior to be tested by actual foreign interactions throughout the world.

**Not A Very Bright Idea**

The creator of a popular flashlight app for Android phones hid the fact that the app also shared the precise locations of its users to advertisers, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said.

Brightest Flashlight Free, which has been downloaded more than 50 million times, agreed to a settlement after the FTC found that it had shared its users' geo-location data and the unique identifiers assigned to devices without disclosing the practice to consumers.

The privacy policy for the app, which uses a phone's camera flash as a flashlight, said only that Brightest Flashlight Free collected information internally. Goldshores Technologies, which created the app, also deceived consumers with a fake option of turning off the app's location-sharing service, the federal agency said.

**Clerk's Note:** The settlement amount was not disclosed by the Feds and it would appear whatever the amount is, the folks who downloaded it will not see a penny, only the Feds get the money. Goes back to the old adage that you get what you pay for. In addition the Feds took all the data because no one is allowed to track the whereabouts of American Citizens... Except them.

**Utah Man Allegedly Lied About War Injuries To Collect Benefits**

A federal indictment alleges a West Valley City, Uta, man who worked as a congressional staffer through the Wounded Warrior Project lied about being injured during deployments in Iraq as an Army reservist in order to receive disability payments.

Gilbert Prado, 49, spent 17 years as a mechanic for the U.S. Army Reserve before his first deployment to Iraq in 2005 with the 146th Transportation Company, and worked as a congressional aide in 2010-2011 for Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), according to records available online. A spokesperson for Chaffetz confirmed that the office asked for a federal investigation into Prado's background after becoming concerned about his claims.

A 15-count federal indictment issued accuses Prado of wire fraud and making false statements on disability claims filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The indictment filed in U.S. District Court says Prado falsely claimed he suffered a concussion, broken ribs and injuries to his hands and elbows in 2006 during a stint in Iraq when an improvised explosive device went off and tossed him into the side of a truck. He also allegedly claimed his elbows were injured breaking down doors while doing house-to-house searches in Iraq and that he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder after fatally shooting two men during a convoy mission. But prosecutors say Prado was never exposed to an improvised explosive device blast, never engaged in combat activity during a convoy mission and never participated in door-to-door searches while in Iraq.

In March 2009, Prado allegedly submitted a disability claim for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The department denied the brain injury claim, but determined Prado was eligible for a disability rating of 10 percent based on PTSD. Over the next two years, Prado allegedly submitted more claims for injuries to his brain, elbows and hands and then filed appeals when the claims were denied. In March 2011, he allegedly sought an increased disability rating based on PTSD and the department raised his rating from 10 percent to 70 percent, resulting in an increase in his disability pay-ments. In all, the indictment alleges Prado received about \$18,000 in unwarranted disability payments between August 2011 and March 2012.

Last year, Chaffetz urged the Pentagon to create an online database of veterans. He said he had been misled by two people - including Prado - who misrepresented their military service. The Utah congressman's proposal received support from the VFW, who said such a database would help streamline access to health care, disability benefits and other services. But military officials said such a database was not needed.

## 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.**
- ★ **You are often entitled to additional compensation for various secondary conditions caused by your service connected disability.**

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### The Facts On The Fact Checkers

'PolitiFact' is a group that declares themselves as the last word in telling you the truth about what politicians say.

They have been around since 2007 and have shown that republicans lie 80% of the time while democrats only 20%. PolitiFact is owned by the Tampa Bay Times which sides itself 90% of the time with democrats, no matter what is said.

Starting in the year 2009, they began an annual feature called the "Lie of the Year". If the "Lie of the Year" is about a republican, it goes on the Front Page of left leaning publications around the country. If against a democrat, it gets buried on page 6 or only found on their website.

In 2009 the "Lie of the Year" was given to Sarah Palin when she said that Obamacare would lead to "Death Panels that dictated which types of patients would receive treatment". As we learned more about Obamacare and that the government would decide the types of treatments one will get and who is eligible to receive them... The Wall Street Journal later on agreed with Palin, that the legislation written could allow a small group of people to make decisions regardless of individual needs or preferences. PolitiFact never made a retraction.

In 2010 the "Lie of the Year" would be that the "government would take over healthcare". As we learned more about the legislation behind Obamacare we know that it can take over hospitals, declare what is and what is not an emergency and of course will clearly state what will and will not be paid. PolitiFact has yet to make a retraction.

In 2011 the "Lie of the Year" was that democrats said "republicans voted to end Medicare". It was stated clearly as fact by democrats to get the older generation who were aligning themselves with republicans as a scare tactic to become democrats. During this time period PolitiFact had labeled 9 such statements as false but did not publicize it. No retraction needed.

In 2012 the "Lie of the Year" was Mitt Romney saying on the campaign trail for presidency that Obama "sold Chrysler to Italians who are going to build Jeeps in China". In truth Fiat bought a majority share of Chrysler after a government bailout. In January 2013, writer Mark Hemingway of *The Weekly Standard* criticized PolitiFact's ruling, writing that Romney's claim had turned out to be true. As the Jeep Patriot (Ironic Isn't It?) is now produced in China. No retraction has been made.

In 2013 the "Lie of the Year" was the statement by Obama saying: "If you like your health care plan, you can keep it". PolitiFact cited that in the first 30 days of Obamacare, over 4 million cancellation letters sent to American health insurance consumers. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Obama publicly apologized that his healthcare plan was not intentionally meant to force people into the government health care system. However the plan stays in place, people are being forced to change plans in many cases costing more and providing less. While a retraction is not necessary, the law needs to be repealed or as Russian Prime Minister has said: "President Obama and his fellow Democrats are either idiots or deliberately trying to destroy their own economy."

PolitiFact is truly worth of being on the same level as the Iraqi propaganda during Saddam's regime.



### Deployed Service Members Receive Free Phone Cards, Courtesy Of NEXCOM



The Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) announced that sailors and Marines in 40 ships and submarines deployed away from their home ports and those forward deployed to overseas ports during the holiday season will be given a free \$10 phone card to call loved ones back home.

"This is just one small way that we can thank our service members for their dedicated service to our country," said Thomas Harris, of the NEXCOM Afloat Personal Telecommunications Service Program. "We hope this phone card will bring them closer to their families and friends during the holiday season."

The \$10 AT&T pre-paid phone cards can be used via the Afloat Personal Telecommunications Service system, the ship's Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) system or ashore in the United States or any foreign port where AT&T has a presence. NEXCOM expects to distribute nearly 35,000 free phone cards during the holidays.

Ships that will receive the free phone cards are *USS Bainbridge* (DDG 96), *USS Bulkeley* (DDG 84), *USS Carney* (DDG 64), *USS Gettysburg* (CG 64), *USS Mason* (DDG 87), *USS Monterey* (CG 61), *USS Nitze* (DDG 94), *USS Ramage* (DDG 61), *USS San Jacinto* (CG 56), *USS Simpson* (FFG 56), *USS Stout* (DDG 55), *USS The Sullivans* (DDG 68), *USS Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), *USS Mount Whitney* (LCC 20), *USS Boxer* (LHD 4), *USS Cowpens* (CG 63), *USS Freedom* (LCS 1), *USS Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49), *USS Hopper* (DDG 70), *USS New Orleans* (LPD 18), *USS Rentz* (FFG 46), *USS Nimitz* (CVN 68), *USS City of Corpus Christi* (SSN 705), *USS Houston* (SSN 713), *USS North Carolina* (SSN 777), *USS Santa Fe* (SSN 763), *USS Sea Wolf* (SSN 21), *USS Tucson* (SSN 770), *USS Curtis Wilbur* (DDG 54), *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62), *USS George Washington* (CVN 73), *USS John S. McCain* (DDG 56), *USS Lassen* (DDG 82), *USS McCampbell* (DDG 85), *USS Mustin* (DDG 89), *USS Stethem* (DDG 63), *USS Ashland* (LSD 48), *USS Bonhomme Richard* (LHD 6), *USS Denver* (LPD 9) and *USS Germantown* (LSD 42).

### Washington State Ex-Campaign Director Sentenced For Embezzlement

The former head of a Democratic Party fundraising committee in Washington state has been sentenced to over a year in prison for embezzling in excess of \$330,000 in campaign contributions to feed an alcohol-fueled gambling habit, prosecutors said.

Michael King, 32, pleaded guilty in October to four counts of first-degree theft and four counts of second-degree theft. He concealed the theft from the Senate Democratic Campaign Committee in part by reporting it as a series of phony reimbursements for political polling, according to court documents.

King County Superior Court Judge John Erlick sentenced King to just over one year in prison, to be followed upon his release by an equal term in community custody, the state's version of parole.

**Clerk's Note:** If King was a republican he would have gotten 5 years in prison and ordered to pay back the money!

### Why Me?

I am a smoker and they want to put gruesome images on cigarette packs. Will they put pictures of obese children on McDonalds Fries & Shakes?

How about tortured animals on make-up cases? Or car wrecks with bloody and twisted bodies on alcohol containers? Why not put portraits of corrupt bankers, politicians and wall street exec's on tax returns?

### USS Howard Departs For Western Pacific Deployment



The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer *USS Howard* (DDG 83) departed Naval Base San Diego, Calif., on an independent deployment to the Western Pacific Ocean.

*Howard* is a multi-mission ship designed to operate independently or with an associated strike group. While deployed, *Howard* will conduct theatre security cooperation and maritime presence operations with partner nations.

"Though the crew will miss friends and families, *Howard* is deploying at the peak of readiness," said Cmdr. David Zook, *Howard's* commanding officer. "We look forward to serving the nation."

*USS Howard* is named in honor of Marine Corps 1st Sgt. Jimmie E. Howard, a combat veteran of both Korea and Vietnam who was awarded the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star and three Purple Hearts during his 27 years of service.

### New TRICARE Feature Offers Easy Access To Popular Customer Service Options



TRICARE beneficiaries now have an easy way to access customer service features. The [TRICARE.mil](http://TRICARE.mil) home page has a new "I want to..." section offering beneficiaries a gateway to links that help them manage their health care, from prescriptions to enrollments and much more.

### Delaying Security Deal Creates A Risk To Afghan Forces, U.S. Military Chief Says

The U.S. military could wait months for a political decision on whether troops stay or leave Afghanistan, but delaying a security pact would damage the confidence of Afghan forces and undermine NATO's plans, the top U.S. military officer said. The comments by U.S. Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, came amid an impasse over the security pact, which would allow American troops to stay in Afghanistan beyond the end of 2014.

Obama's administration has said the pact needs to be signed this year, despite resistance from Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has suggested the deal might not be concluded before presidential elections in April 2014.

# FIELD OF HONOR CEREMONY

## January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 11:00am

Hosted by The  
Veterans  
Council of  
Hillsborough  
County

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

3602 HWY 301n  
TAMPA, FL 33619

**Host Organization :** Rolling Thunder Chapter 11, Tampa

**Color Guard:** Rolling Thunder Chapter 11, Tampa

**National Anthem:** Katie & Amber West, Riverview, FL

**Flyover:** Ye Mystic Airkrewe/Dick Arens, Veterans Council

**Invocation:** CMSGT Larry Westcott USAF Retired, Veterans Council Chaplain

**Rifle Salute & Taps:** Marine Corps League, Riverview, Detachment 1226

www.RaffleRescue.org

ANIMAL ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION

**A New Way to "RESCUE" Animals!**

Raffle Rescue Inc is a Pet Food Assistance Program, established in 2009 in Hudson, FL. Providing assistance to pets who's family is struggling to keep them, by doing this Raffle Rescue's help can go beyond the limitations of those of traditional shelters and rescues, they have no walls, no cages to limit their help to animals. **Raffle** - Their main way to raise funds - **Rescue** - Directly in the Home!

They receive no grants, they rely solely on, raffles, fundraisers, events and kind donations from their fellow humans are always greatly appreciated. To learn more about them visit their web site at: [www.RaffleRescue.org](http://www.RaffleRescue.org) [RaffleRescue.org@gmail.com](mailto:RaffleRescue.org@gmail.com)

**Business Opportunity For Semi Retired Veterinarian:**

Located on a beautiful farm like setting in Hudson, FL part of a non profit facility is a beautiful trailer that is ready to come to life, making someone's dream of their own business come true!

Ideally, our non profit would love to have a spay/neuter/vaccination clinic to work with for our pet clients, if that is an area you specialize in or know of someone who would, we would love to hear from you!

Located on 5 acres with roaming paths through wooded oaks and palms, it's like walking through a park. Still close by all shopping, highways, main roads and more... it's truly a lovely place.

Contact Lisa at 727-697-7034



**U.N. Inspectors Visit Site Linked To Iran's Nuclear Program**

U.N. inspectors visited an Iranian plant linked to a planned heavy-water reactor that could yield nuclear bomb fuel, taking up an initial offer by Tehran to open its disputed nuclear program to greater scrutiny.

The increased transparency is the result of a thaw in relations between Iran and the West that culminated in a deal struck last month under which Tehran is to curb its nuclear program in return for some easing of sanctions.

Iran's heavy water work is a big concern for the West because it could be used in the process of making a nuclear bomb. Tehran says its program is for peaceful purposes.

**Clerk's Note:** They inspected the plant knowing it has the capability of making a nuclear bomb and yet did not get it shut down or put limitations on its use. Iran is just stalling for time with this slow negotiation process which will allow it to continue in plain sight.

**TRICARE Customer Service Available, Online And On The Phone**



TRICARE offers multiple, convenient online and telephone customer service options for beneficiaries who have questions about their health care benefit and, if necessary, help them reach out to the regional contractors for assistance. Read more at: [http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/12\\_11\\_13\\_CustomerService](http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/12_11_13_CustomerService)



In Tampa, Fla., the majority of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital's primary care providers, located on the main hospital campus, will be moving to the new Primary Care Annex (PCA) building, off I-75 and Fletcher, in the spring of 2014. All but six providers will be moving to the new location. Please check with your PACT teamlet at your next visit to find out if they will be moving to the new building, or staying on the main hospital campus.

**Despite Warnings, Pentagon Kept Ties To Controversial Helicopter Firms**



After almost four years of allegations that two related helicopter companies in Lithuania and Russia were doing substandard work and should be banned from new contracts, the Pentagon continued to give them business, according to interviews and documents.

As recently as last month, an Army planning document shows, the service was weighing contracting helicopter overhauls from the firms, which have been the subject of multiple internal warnings and two Defense Department Inspector General reports.

A Pentagon spokeswoman said no work was under way on the project, which is under review.

The Pentagon has been working with Lithuanian company Aviabaltika and a sister Russian firm, the St. Petersburg Aircraft Repair Company (SPARC), for more than a decade to buy spare parts and overhaul Russian Mi-17 helicopters for Afghanistan.

**Set Your Goals High Enough To Inspire You And Low Enough To Encourage You.**

LIVE LAUGH  
LOVE FOREVER

**Uruguay Becomes First Country To Legalize Marijuana Trade**



Uruguay became the first country to legalize the growing, sale and smoking of marijuana social experiment that will be closely watched by other nations debating drug liberalization.

A government-sponsored bill approved by 16-13 votes in the Senate provides for regulation of the cultivation, distribution and consumption of marijuana and is aimed at wresting the business from criminals in the small South American nation.

Backers of the law, some smoking joints, gathered near Congress holding green balloons, Jamaican flags in homage to Bob Marley and a sign saying: "Cultivating freedom, Uruguay grows."

Cannabis consumers will be able to buy a maximum of 1.4 ounces each month from licensed pharmacies as long as they are Uruguayan residents over the age of 18 and registered on a government database that will monitor their monthly purchases. When the law is implemented in 120 days, Uruguayans will be able to grow six marijuana plants in their homes a year, or as much as 480 grams (about 17 ounces), and form smoking clubs of 15 to 45 members that can grow up to 99 plants per year.

**EXPLORE VA**

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Military Caps and Pins!

**If you can read this... Thank a Teacher.  
If you can read this in English... Thank a Veteran!**

Organization	Unit	Meeting Location	City/State	Meeting Times	Phone	Commander	E-Mail or Web
American Legion	24	2000 75th Street West	Bradenton, FL	1 <sup>st</sup> Thur. - 1900 hrs		Phil McArthur	<a href="http://www.kirbystewartpost24.org">www.kirbystewartpost24.org</a>
American Legion	111	6918 Florida Avenue	Tampa	1st Wed. - 7:00 PM	813-236-2281		
American Legion	119	130 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue Southwest	Largo 0607	2nd Tue. - 8:00 PM	727-584-2038		<a href="http://www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmLeg119.htm">www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmLeg119.htm</a>
American Legion	125	6440 5th Avenue South	Saint Petersburg	3rd Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-347-6085		<a href="mailto:Legion125@tampabay.rr.com">Legion125@tampabay.rr.com</a>
American Legion	147	17413 Gunn Highway	Odessa	1st Thur. - 7:30 PM	813-920-4512		
American Legion	252	11433 Park Boulevard	Seminole 33772	2nd & 4th Tue. - 7:00 PM	727-398-2463		<a href="mailto:post252@tampabay.rr.com">post252@tampabay.rr.com</a>
American Legion	273	600 American Legion Drive	Madeira Beach	1st Tue. - 7:00 PM	727-391-3670		
American Legion Auxiliary	111	6918 Florida Avenue	Tampa	1st Thur. - 7:00 PM	813-236-2281		
American Legion Auxiliary	119	130 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue Southwest	Largo 0607	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue. - 7:30 PM	727-584-2038		<a href="http://www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmLeg119a.htm">www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmLeg119a.htm</a>
American Legion Auxiliary	125	6440 5th Avenue South	Saint Petersburg	2nd Tues. - 7:00 PM	727-347-6085		<a href="mailto:Legion125@tampabay.rr.com">Legion125@tampabay.rr.com</a>
American Legion Auxiliary	147	17413 Gunn Highway	Odessa	1st Thur. - 7:30 PM	813-920-4512		
American Legion Auxiliary	252	11433 Park Boulevard	Seminole 33772		727-398-2463		
Sons of the American Legion	119	130 1 <sup>st</sup> Avenue Southwest	Largo 0607	4th Tue. - 7:00 PM	727-584-2038		<a href="http://www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmLeg119s.htm">www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmLeg119s.htm</a>
AmVets	0001	421 45 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South	Saint Petersburg	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon. - 7:30 PM	727-896-4122	Gil Davis	<a href="mailto:AmVetsPost1@gmail.com">AmVetsPost1@gmail.com</a>
AmVets	26	221 South Dover Road	Dover, FL 33527	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. - 10:00 AM	813-662-2626		<a href="http://www.amvets26.org">www.amvets26.org</a>
AmVets	98	4629 Bartlett Road	Holiday	2nd Sun. - 10:00 AM	727-943-5863		<a href="http://www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmVets98.htm">www.Veteranspostnews.com/AmVets98.htm</a>
AmVets Auxiliary	98	4629 Bartlett Road	Holiday	2nd Sun. - 10:00 AM	727-271-1902		
Army Navy Union	3697	12850 Wallsingham Road	Largo FL 33774	1st Sun. - 10:30 AM	727-216-6172		
Army Navy Union Auxiliary	3697	12850 Wallsingham Road	Largo FL 33774	2nd Sun. - 10:30 AM	727-216-6172		
Disabled American Veterans	078	6711 Jefferson Street	New Port Richey	1st Thur. - 7:00 PM	727-845-3886		
Disabled American Veterans	083	115 West Clay	Brandon	1st Mon7pm-3rd Mon6:30Din	813-684-3387		
Disabled American Veterans	103	360 Douglas Avenue	Dunedin	2nd Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-733-5108		
Disabled American Veterans Aux	078	6711 Jefferson Street	New Port Richey	1st Thur. - 7:00 PM	727-845-3886		
Disabled American Veterans Aux	083	115 Clay Avenue	Brandon, FL	1st Mon7pm-3rd Mon6:30Din	813-684-3387		<a href="mailto:glob4760@verizon.net">glob4760@verizon.net</a>
Jewish War Veterans	373	James A Haley VA Hospital	Tampa	3rd Sun. - 9:30 AM	813-767-2605	Leon Blumberg	<a href="mailto:fourhorns1@msn.com">fourhorns1@msn.com</a>
Korean War Veterans Assoc.	014	VFW 4364@ 5773 62nd Street North	Saint Petersburg	3rd Thur. - 7:00 PM	727-345-4845		
Korean War Veterans Assoc.	159	VFW 9272 @ 10997 72 Ave N	Seminole, FL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur. - Noon	727-584-7143	Peter Palmer	<a href="http://www.VeteransPostNews.com/KWVA159.htm">www.VeteransPostNews.com/KWVA159.htm</a>
Marine Corps League	1002	@VFW 9236 - 3435 Shoal Line Blvd	Hernando Bch, FL	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon. - 7:00 PM	352-686-2186		<a href="http://www.VeteransPostNews.com/MCL1002a.htm">www.VeteransPostNews.com/MCL1002a.htm</a>
Marine Corps League	1226	@AmLeg 148 7240 US-Hwy 301	Riverview, FL	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue. - 7:00 PM	813-672-1778		<a href="mailto:mclriverview@yahoo.com">mclriverview@yahoo.com</a>
Mental Health Advisory Council		Bay Pines Bldg 1, Rm A203	Bay Pines, FL	3rd Thur. - 2:30 PM	727-585-5332		<a href="http://mhac-bp.com/">http://mhac-bp.com/</a>
Military Order of the Purple Heart	1980	@Paradise Post 79 5329 Legion Place	New Port Richey	2nd Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-255-4883		<a href="mailto:Gregory.amira@us.army.mil">Gregory.amira@us.army.mil</a>
National Order of Trench Rats	446	4801 37th Street North	Saint Petersburg	4th Mon. - 7:00 PM	727-526-9870		<a href="http://www.VeteransPostNews.com/NOTR446.htm">www.VeteransPostNews.com/NOTR446.htm</a>
Paralyzed Veterans of America	GCC	15435 North Florida Avenue	Tampa	3rd Thur. - 10:30 AM	813-264-1111	Wayne Webber	<a href="http://www.floridaqu coastpva.org">www.floridaqu coastpva.org</a>
The Retired Enlisted Association	58	Seascope Beach Club	MacDill AFB	3rd Tue. - 1:00 PM	813-684-5414	Louis Arana	<a href="http://www.VeteransPostNews.com/TREA58.htm">www.VeteransPostNews.com/TREA58.htm</a>
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	<a href="http://vfwpost39.org/">http://vfwpost39.org/</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars	2550	360 Douglas Avenue	Dunedin	3rd Tue. - 7:30 PM	727-733-6107		<a href="http://www.VFW2550.org">www.VFW2550.org</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars	10167	4619 Bartlett Road	Holiday, FL	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed - 7:00 PM	727-938-5977		<a href="http://www.VFW10167.com">www.VFW10167.com</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars	10209	14736 Edward R. Noll Drive	Spring Hill	4th Wed. - 7:30 PM	352-796-0398		<a href="http://www.VFWpost10209.webs.com">www.VFWpost10209.webs.com</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary	39	2599 Central Avenue	Saint Petersburg	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat. - 1:00 PM	727-327-8109		<a href="http://vfwpost39.org/">http://vfwpost39.org/</a>
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary	10209	14736 Edward R. Noll Drive	Spring Hill	2nd Mon. - 7:00 PM	352-686-8657		<a href="http://www.VFWpost10209.webs.com">www.VFWpost10209.webs.com</a>
Vietnam Veterans of America	787	4042 Park Oaks Boulevard	Tampa	4th Thur. - 7:00 PM	603-234-3363	Unknown	<a href="mailto:membership@vva787.com">membership@vva787.com</a>
Vietnam Veterans of America	913	3551 Shepherd of the Hills Expwy	Branson, MO	4th Tue. - 7:30 PM	417-294-0728	Bob Sarver	<a href="http://bransonvva913.com/">http://bransonvva913.com/</a>
Vietnam Veterans of America	1036	Lake Miona Rec Center	The Villages, FL	1 <sup>st</sup> Tue. - 7:00 PM	352-633-1457	Unknown	<a href="http://www.VVA1036.org">www.VVA1036.org</a>



### If It Lasts More Than Four Hours...

A new study suggests that thousands of men seek care in U.S. emergency rooms each year for the painful condition known as priapism - an erection that lasts too long and threatens to permanently harm the penis. The researchers estimated that it costs \$124 million a year on average to treat priapism at hospitals. "We're not talking about a massive problem, but it's more common than we thought," said study author Dr. Daniel Stein, chief resident with the urology department at the Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. It's not clear how many of an estimated 10,000 cases annually are due to a side effect of Viagra and similar impotence drugs, but urologists say they've seen very few men suffering from the infamous four-hour-plus erections that TV ads warn about.

Sickle cell disease actually may be responsible for a much higher number of cases. Stein said the researchers launched their study because there's little information about the number of cases of priapism, which has gotten more attention in recent years because of the warnings related to impotence drugs. Priapism refers to an abnormal erection in which the blood that engorges the penis fails to drain out, Stein said. Blood stagnates in the penis, and tissue begins to die because it's not getting fresh oxygen. "The mood is gone, but the reaction is still there," he said. "It's remarkably painful. All men coming in with priapism are unhappy about it."

In the new study, researchers examined a database of U.S. emergency room visits from 2006 to 2009. Based on their statistics, they estimated that ER doctors treat an average of 10,000 cases of priapism each year; it's not clear how many are men who needed to be treated more than once. The average hospital cost to treat a patient was about \$1,800 for patients treated in the ER, and nearly \$42,000 for those who had to be hospitalized. Twenty-one percent of the patients also had sickle cell disease, in which red blood cells become deformed. The condition can cause the blood in the penis to thicken and not be able to drain, said Dr. Stephen Freedland, a urologist and associate professor of surgery and pathology at the Duke University School of Medicine. Although his clinic may see a case of priapism an average of once per week, Freedland said he can't easily recall treating a case caused by an erectile dysfunction drug like Viagra.

Study author Stein said the drugs can sometimes cause erections that last too long by boosting the blood flow into the penis. Another possible cause is an injection that some impotent men give themselves to have an erection, Freedland said. Stein also said there's no apparent cause at all in some cases. The good news: Priapism can be treated. The bad news: The treatments are anything but comfortable. A blood sample is taken from the penis to confirm that a patient is suffering from priapism, Stein said. The next step is typically to put a needle into the penis and try to flush out the stagnant blood. If that doesn't work, physicians may try flushing out the blood again and perhaps move onto a procedure that cuts into the penis to release the blood, he said. Freedland said another treatment is to give the patient oxygen and fresh blood cells to get things moving. The study appeared in the October issue of *The Journal of Sexual Medicine*.

### Look It's A Bird, A Plane, No It's A Jet

Maintainers from Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, used innovation and flexibility to ensure mission success during the first Israeli Blue Flag exercise. Blue Flag, which took place Nov. 24-28, was a multinational aerial warfare training exercise hosted by the Israeli air force and included forces from the U.S., Israel, England, Italy and Greece. Its objectives were to improve the operational capabilities and combat effectiveness of the participating nations, foster combined relations and cultural understanding, and gain combat experience.

**Clerk's Note:** Must have provided some concern for the muslim countries surrounding Israel to see maybe one hundred combat jets doing maneuvers in visible airspace.

### F-35s Nearing Combat Use



The Lockheed Martin Corp.'s F-35 fighter jet is making good progress as it nears initial combat use by the U.S. Marine Corps in July 2015.

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### Japanese 'Super Submarine' From World War II Finally Discovered



After more than half a century, a mystery of military history has finally been resolved. Researchers at the University of Hawaii and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have discovered a missing World War II-era Japanese mega-submarine under more than 2,300 feet of water off the southwest coast of Oahu. The submarine, an I-400, has been missing since 1946.

It was the largest (400 feet) and most innovative of its day, capable of voyaging one and a half times around the world without refueling and deploying three bombers, each with a 1,800-pound bomb, within minutes of surfacing.

Up until it, submarines had simply been used to destroy ships. The I-400 presented a significant tactical change to have air strike capability from long-range submarines. "Following World War II," said Dr. James Delgado, director of NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program, "submarine experimentation and design changes would continue in this direction, eventually leading to ballistic missile launching capabilities for U.S. submarines at the advent of the nuclear era."

The I-400 submarine had actually been captured by the U.S. military at the end of World War II, but the U.S. had kept it and four other Japanese submarines at Pearl Harbor for inspection. In 1946, as the Cold War was just beginning, the Soviet Union demanded access to the missing submarines under terms of a World War II treaty. The U.S. Navy, not wanting the technology in Soviet hands, scuttled the submarines and then pleaded ignorance, claiming it didn't know where the warships had disappeared to. The location of the I-400 has been a mystery ever since. According to Terry Kerby, an undersea explorer who serves as operations director and chief submarine pilot at the university's Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory, "The I-400 has been on our 'to-find' list for some time. It was the first of its kind of only three built, so it is a unique and very historic submarine.

Finding it where we did was totally unexpected," Kerby said in a press release. "All our research pointed to it being further out to sea." The crew found the site by carefully combing through side-scan sonar and multi-beam sonar data to identify anomalies on a deep sea floor littered with rocky outcrops and other debris. "It was a thrill when the view of a giant submarine appeared out of the darkness," Kerby said. The I-400 was actually discovered in August, 2013, but the announcement came early December after NOAA confirmed its findings with the U.S. State Department and Japanese government officials. The Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory has now successfully located four of the five lost submarines.

### Free Wills For Veterans Aged 60 Or Older Offered At Stetson Law In February



Stetson University College of Law partners with the Community Law Program and the St. Petersburg Bar Foundation in February to prepare free simple wills and advance directives for low income Veterans and their spouses age 60 or older.

Veterans or their spouses must schedule individual appointments in advance by calling 727-562-7393. Walk-in appointments are not available. The deadline to schedule an appointment is Jan. 24.

#### VA news



As a part of the government-wide Open Data Policy, VA launched its open data web page. The page aims to introduce the user to VA's open data, and convey a clear and simple understanding of what open data is.

Obama announced his intention to appoint Kevin T. Henretta as the Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security and Preparedness at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Henretta is currently the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Emergency Management at VA, a position he has held since August 2006, and concurrently serves as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security, and Preparedness at VA. From 2001 to 2005, he served as the executive assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Preparedness at VA. He has held various positions at the VA since 1999, including deputy chief of staff of the department. Before joining VA, Henretta served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1999, retiring as a colonel. He received a B.S. from Siena College and an M.S. from the Florida Institute of Technology.

**Clerk's Note:** Now if they will only announce what all these assistant secretary's actually do for a job description that would be helpful... And is there also an Under-Secretary and do all of these secretaries have assistants as well?

### U.S. Court Declares Detroit Bankrupt



A federal judge formally declared the city of Detroit, Mich., bankrupt, a landmark ruling that clears the way for potentially sweeping cuts to city worker pensions and retirement benefits and for steep and possibly precedent-setting losses to the cash-strapped city's bond holders.

The ruling by U.S. Judge Steven Rhodes, who cited the city's dismal finances and \$18 billion owed to a multitude of creditors in support of his decision, marks a watershed in the history of Detroit. Once known as the cradle of the U.S. auto industry, the arsenal of democracy and the birthplace of Motown music, Detroit now adds an ignominious new title: largest bankrupt city in U.S. history.

Judge Rhodes, in his ruling that Detroit is eligible, accepted the city's contention that it is broke and that negotiations with its thousands of creditors were infeasible. That was enough to declare Detroit bankrupt under Chapter 9 of the federal bankruptcy code, Rhodes ruled.

**Clerk's Note:** We are so confused... They need \$18 billion to save and boost up an American City, instead we spent \$1.2 Trillion in Afghanistan building roads, schools, hospitals, feeding locals, providing free medical care, etc... If we stopped helping the Afghani people for a week, we could have saved the American people of Detroit!

### Spirit Of Hope Award Nominations Due In January



Nominations for the 2014 Spirit of Hope Award are due to the Air Force Personnel Center by Jan. 24.

The award, named for comedian and actor Bob Hope, recognizes a military member, former military member, civilian or organization that epitomizes duty, honor, courage, loyalty, commitment, integrity and selfless dedication.

Organization and base-level personnel must contact their major command, combatant command, field operating agency or direct reporting unit for applicable suspense dates and additional information regarding nomination procedures. Each MAJCOM, COCOM, FOA or DRU may submit one nomination per category.

For more information about the Air Force awards program and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>

### USS Shiloh Participates In Trilateral Naval Exercise With The United Kingdom And The Republic Of Korea



The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser *USS Shiloh* (CG 67), joined ships from the United Kingdom and the Republic of Korea Navy, Dec. 8-9, for a trilateral naval exercise in the waters to the south of the Korean Peninsula.

The naval exercise was aimed at improving teamwork and interoperability between the three navies in theater security cooperation and humanitarian relief operations.

The guided-missile destroyer *ROKS Yulgok Yi I* (DDG 992) and the Royal Navy destroyer *HMS Daring* joined *USS Shiloh* for the exercise.

"This was an exceptional opportunity to bring together three navies that have historically worked very closely together as allies and close friends," said Rear Adm. Lisa Franchetti, commander of U.S. Naval Forces-Korea. "This exercise provides our navies a chance to work together and learn from each other so we may continue to fulfill our common interests in preserving a safe and secure maritime environment."

*USS Shiloh*, with a crew of approximately 400 sailors, is part of the U.S. 7th Fleet and is assigned to Commander, Task Force 70. The ship is forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan, to support security and stability operations and exercises throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

**The Arrow goes forward only after pulling it back.  
 The Bullet goes forward after pulling the trigger back.  
 People knows happiness only after facing difficulties in their life.  
 So face your difficulties... They will Push you Forward!**



The Small Print

**The Iran Nuclear Deal...**

By Phillip Meskin

On the surface it looks like talks will take place to have Iran leave their nuclear bomb plans as just that... Plans!

But the details of the agreement don't say anything like that. It says **"It will not impose new sanctions while it negotiates a final agreement."**

*The plan of action worked in Geneva states that "[t]he U.S. Administration, acting consistent with the respective roles of the President and the Congress, will refrain from imposing new nuclear-related sanctions" during the six-month first step agreement while all sides are working out a final deal.*

In other words, the honest and trustworthy nation of Iran, which would never lie about its nuclear goals has bought themselves 6 additional months of time to do whatever they need to do to secure themselves a position in the nuclear world.

And that 6 month time period is part of the "First Step" of the agreement. It appears that Iran has much better lawyers than the rest of the world. Now the only reason we got them to talk at all was of the financial sanctions that was placed upon them.

Part of the agreement allows for the easing of restrictions so they can get to funds that were in lockdown. Now what could go wrong? We give them 6 extra months to deal with their nuclear goals and we let them have Billions of dollars to work with. What the hell is Kerry thinking??? And why would the rest of the world go along with it... Well not the whole rest of the world!

Unlikely allies Israel and Saudi Arabia are leading the march to not make the deal and just add more sanctions. Iran responded that if more sanctions were added the whole deal is off and they would finish their nuclear goals!!! These are the same goals that for the past 15 years they said they did not have. Nor have they allowed any United Nations group tour their facility, except the one they half built just for show, which never had any capabilities of building anything to do with nuclear energy.

**Obamacare vs Doctors**

A majority of doctors in California, which has a population approaching 38 million are against Obamacare and will not accept it. Obamacare will set limits on what can be charged for a visit, procedure, consultation and surgery, thus taking away any financial incentives for medical personal. Here is why;

1. They will be overloaded with new clients.
2. They will receive a reduced payment for each client.
3. They will see twice as many clients at half the pay.
4. They will have to hire more nurses.
5. They will have to hire more admin staff.
6. New Medical equipment will need to be purchased.
7. They will end up being a meat work shop.

So what will happen when doctors refuse to buy into Obamacare? They can be forced!!!

Under the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) there is a group known as the 'Medical Reserve Corps'. This so called volunteer group is led by Federal Employees Under the Surgeon General's Office (which is a Uniformed Service) and buried deep within congressional legislation can "Draft" personnel into its service during times of emergency.

Who can call an emergency? Well the president can call anything he likes an emergency. (Benghazi was not an emergency) So if there are a shortage of doctors to care for the millions of illegal aliens that sign up for medical care in California, the president can declare an emergency and 'Draft' a thousand doctors into action. The doctors would be paid by on the scale of whatever rank they are forced to be commissioned into.

Now here is where it really gets weird... Because there will not be enough government facilities to medically care for these people, the president has the power to make them open their own offices to serve the masses.

While this may be a great thing for those wanting medical care at no cost... How would you feel if you and your business was forced to operate for significantly less wages, using your own equipment, supplies, office staff???

An example would be a heart surgeon drafted into the Medical Corps and given the rank Major (O-5), his pay would be just over \$5,000 a month. A brain surgeon given the rank of Colonel (O-6) would be just over \$6,000 a month. Do you think that would be a cut in pay? A heart or brain surgeon earning about \$72,000 a year?

What if they drafted a medical records clerk at the rank of Private? (E-3) Could they continue to take care of their family on \$1,800 a month? All these pays are before taxes!

**Tolerance Works Both Ways!!!**

In the 1980's and 90's, gay activists argued that all they wanted was understanding and acceptance of their way of life. To not be judged by what they wear or how they speak. When a gay man would put on a wig, dress, hi-heels and speak his/her mind... We were to be tolerant and accept his/her lifestyle and point of view.

Now the pendulum has swung and now heterosexuals must ask for understanding and acceptance of their way of life. Christians who think that same sex marriage is a sin are told to shut up.

People who believe differently than the gay/lesbian community are told they are being hateful and not tolerant of those who are different.

Gays major complaint was that they wanted equality and afforded the same protection under the Constitutional rights of; Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Well now that they have it doesn't that work both ways? Should not the gay/lesbian community also allow others with a different point of view the same free speech and differing lifestyles as they have been afforded? Are they being 'intolerant' of others?

Is this a case of the tail wagging the dog?

The Small Print

**What Is A Disabled Veteran?**

By Phillip Meskin

What are the standards to be called a Disabled Veteran... Well it depends on who you ask and what they want from you.

The organization known as the DAV will accept into its membership any Veteran with a Zero Percent or higher rating given by the VA.

But the VA sponsored National Disabled Veterans Winter and Summer Sports Clinics say their showcases of winter and summer sports activities are available to injured Veterans.

At these highly marketable and visible events, just having a bullet wound or having your ears blown out from an explosion or internal injuries like a punctured lung, liver or kidney makes you 'Injured'!

Their definition of injured is you must be missing a limb or paralyzed from the waist down.

So, under these parameters are you a Disabled Veteran?

Maybe the DAV should not co-sponsor these events instead have AVAST (Amputee Veterans of America Support Team) co-sponsor these events!

<http://avastonline.org/index.html>

What does that say about the DAV? Do they sponsor events that serve the other 99% of their membership?

What about the Veteran who has a Purple Heart or Two and only walks with a slight limp, or Veterans that have a back injury and walks slowly? Does the VA Sports Clinics consider these Veterans Injured?

How is it arranged that these limited few Veterans get transportation, lodging, equipment and in some cases training? And what about the everyday Veteran, still trying to hold down a job or taking care of a family? Who provides those others with a few days of glory and adventure?

**Ants And Crickets**

Before there were democrats and republicans, before there were words like liberal and conservative... There was a man named Aesop who told stories with morals.

Aesop lived some 2,500 years ago and put things into simple words so that anyone could understand them.

They were called fables which is why sometimes they are considered for children, but today's leaders should re-read them and learn a thing or two.

**THE ANT AND THE CRICKET**

During the wintertime, an ant was living off the grain that he had stored up for himself during the summer. The cricket came to the ant and asked him to share some of his grain. The ant said to the cricket, 'And what were you doing all summer long, since you weren't gathering grain to eat?' The cricket replied, 'Because I was busy singing I didn't have time for the harvest.' The ant laughed at the cricket's reply, and hid his heaps of grain deeper in the ground. 'Since you sang like a fool in the summer,' said the ant, 'you better be prepared to dance the winter away!'

*This fable depicts lazy, careless people who indulge in foolish pastimes, and therefore lose out.*

While no one can totally prepare for the unexpected, ants prepare the best they can, while crickets sing and dance. Does it become the responsibility of the ant to take care of the cricket or its own family? To the ant, the choice is simple. NO.

During a disaster like floods and winter storms, the ant and his family hunker down and wait for the worst to pass at which time they dig themselves out.

The cricket looks for shelter, as he was unprepared for any disaster... He had no planning. If he was able to survive the initial storm he now looks for food.

Bringing this all to reality, people who are crickets would stand in front of TV cameras after a major crisis, yelling for others to shelter them, feed them, clothe them and provide all other needs for them. These same crickets are the ones away from the TV cameras who will loot stores, break into homes of those who are ants, they would steal things that have nothing to do with survival, like taking TV's, camera's, jewelry AND would cause HARM to anyone who stood in their way.

There are cricket enablers who would ask the ants to give the crickets all that they need, even though they did not earn it... AND EVEN THOUGH this is the tenth time a situation like this has happened and it is the nature of the cricket to never prepare and either rely on the kindness of others OR use Brute Force to get what they want.

Are you a cricket or an ant? Do you know any crickets or ants?

**Helping Refugees Is Hard And Costly**

It is truly amazing to us when you read in the liberal press as they criticize a nation for not accepting refugees from a neighboring country in times of war.

In Syria, like a dozen more muslim nations are killing each other daily, there are hundreds of thousands families displaced and looking for safe haven. But what does it take to protect these people?

Do you just blindly take everyone? Maybe some are terrorists just blending in? Where do you put them?

If you set up a plot of land and set up tents, liberals will protest this is not a place for children to be.

Since these people have nothing but the clothes on their backs, they need food, places to cook the food, running water, bathrooms and medical care.

Maybe if the NY Times and the Hollywood crowd would send \$10 Billion along with their complaint...

According to the U.N., there are more than 10 Million refugees in the Middle East all related to the so called peaceful muslims.

The bottom line is that it cost money and resources to house, feed and care for 100,000 people. Resources neighboring nations don't have. Every muslim nation is fighting their own battle for survival so then they can kill infidels like us! Maybe if we gave the refugees weapons they could return home and kill off both sides that were trying to kill them in the first place?

**VETERANS POST NEWSPAPER**

Company Clerk - Phillip Meskin  
[Clerk@VeteransPostNews.com](mailto:Clerk@VeteransPostNews.com)

Director of Advertising - Thomas C Leisse  
[VeteransPostNews@gmail.com](mailto:VeteransPostNews@gmail.com)

Director of Iron Clad Projects - Jack Jarrell  
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- Paul Branesky - Gus Bilirakus
- Dan K. Cedusky - Rebecca Cohen
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- Dave Lawson - Frank V. Liberatore
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**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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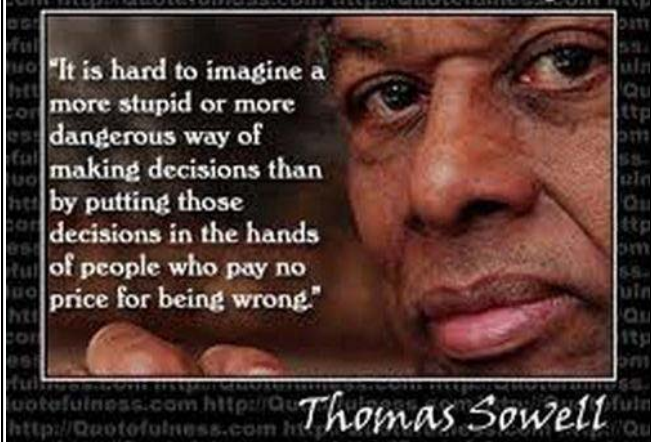
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**Quotes:**



**"When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That's relativity."**

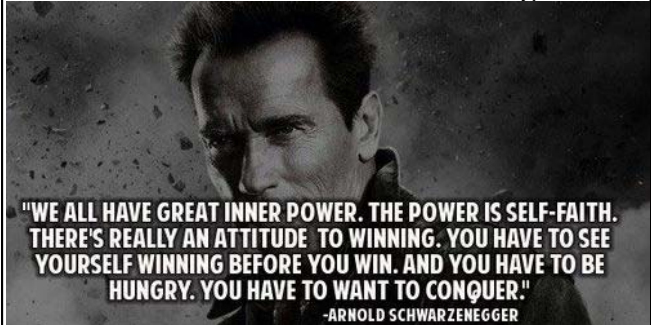
**-Albert Einstein**

**"Good people sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."**

**-George Orwell**

**"Pressure makes diamonds."**

**-Gen George Patton**

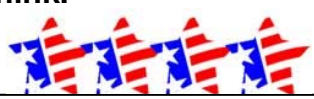


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USS New York Changes Homeport To Naval Station Mayport



USS New York (LPD-21)

The Mayport, Fla., community welcomed over 350 new neighbors to Northeast Florida when USS New York (LPD 21) changed her homeport from Naval Station Norfolk, Va., to Naval Station Mayport, Fla., on Dec. 6.

USS New York is one of three ships that make up Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) the Navy is moving from Norfolk to Mayport. The other two ships - USS Iwo Jima (LHD-7) and USS Fort McHenry (LSD-45) - are slated to arrive as early as 2014. The three ships will bulk up the Navy's fleet at Mayport, as the station's frigates are retiring. USS Underwood and USS Klakring were decommissioned in March.

According to U.S. Rep. Alder Crenshaw, the move is a win-win situation for the Navy and the Mayport community. "As Congress deals with very difficult budget decisions, this is promising news for national security and the First Coast," Crenshaw said in a statement. "This first phase of the amphibious ready group move to Mayport underscores the Navy's commitment to a strategic dispersal of assets - a strategy I have long advocated on Capitol Hill."

USS New York is not the first Navy ship to hold that state's name, but never before has the name had so much meaning. The amphibious transport dock was built with 7-1/2 tons of steel from the World Trade Center. And USS New York is not the only ship that will be named to commemorate the Sept. 11 attacks, but it is the first. USS Somerset is under contract and the USS Arlington will follow.

James Officially Sworn In As Air Force Secretary



Deborah Lee James was sworn in as the 23rd secretary of the Air Force at a private ceremony in the Pentagon. James becomes the second woman to hold the position.

"I think our Air Force is in great shape given that we've been living through some difficult times," James said in an Air Force news release. "I'm enormously optimistic about the future of our Air Force. We have nothing but opportunities to face in the upcoming years."

U.S. Air Force News



The U.S. Air Force will reduce the size of its civilian work force by about 900 positions in addition to maintaining approximately 7,000 vacancies across the force to meet the demands of a constrained fiscal 2014 budget, officials have announced. Specific reductions by location have not been determined. The Air Force will implement civilian work force shaping initiatives, along with continued targeted hiring to comply with mandatory funding targets and to rebalance the civilian work force to meet skill demands for fiscal 2014 and beyond. "The Defense Department used administrative furloughs to meet civilian pay budget demands in the compressed time frame between sequestration and the end of the FY13. We will meet a similar budgetary challenge in FY14 through a reduced work force," said Brig. Gen. Gina Grosso, the director of force management policy for the Air Force. The general added that the Air Force's strategy to meet civilian pay budget targets does not include a furlough. To reduce the number of employees assigned against previously and newly abolished positions, the Air Force plans to maximize the use of Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay to entice employees who are eligible to leave federal service to do so voluntarily. These programs offer early retirement for employees who are considering life outside of federal service and up to \$25,000 for employees whose voluntary separation would save another employee from being involuntarily separated. "Over the last couple of years, the Air Force has gone through significant civilian pay budget challenges," Grosso said. "By implementing voluntary programs now we hope to mitigate future involuntary losses to the civilian work force." For information about civilian employment, reduction in force and other personnel issues, visit the myPers website at https://mypers.af.mil

U.S.A.F leaders announced force management programs designed to reduce the force by thousands of airmen over the next five years as a result of sequestration. Air Force leaders made the decision to announce the overall strategic plan now so that airmen have the necessary time to consider all their career options. During testimony to the House Armed Services Committee in November, Gen. Mark A. Welsh, III, the Air Force chief of staff, said long-term impacts of sequestration could force the service to cut about 25,000 airmen over the next five years.

"We know the Air Force is going to get smaller, but we don't know how much smaller, yet," Grosso said. "Force management programs will enable us to adjust the force size accordingly. 'Routine' voluntary programs have served us well, so far, but we expect to face much more stringent budget pressure and must now plan for and work toward a smaller force."

Clerk's Note: Maybe if the Commander In Chief didn't give away Trillions to bankers & Middle East enemies?

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! PG Meskin/TCC

For Your Health

U.S. regulators announced new guidelines to phase out the use of antibiotics as a growth enhancer in livestock, in an effort to stem a surge in human resistance to these drugs.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the antibiotics could still be used to treat illnesses in animals raised for meat, but should otherwise be pared back over the next three years under a program to keep them out of the human food supply.

It said two of the biggest purveyors of these antibiotics, Eli Lilly & Co., and Zoetis, Inc., had agreed to narrow their use. Doctors and hospitals have become increasingly worried by new strains of bacteria that cannot be controlled by a wide range of current antibiotics.

U.S. Paying For Health Care In Another Country



"Taxpayers... Good Sports!"

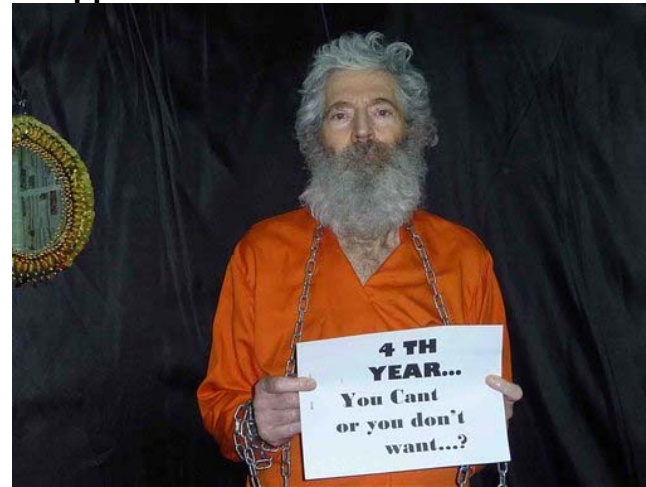
This should frost your cake: A clause contained in Article 31 of the Iraq Constitution states, "Every citizen has the right to health care. The State shall maintain public health..." and the United States is paying \$950 million to make that happen.

The U.N. Apparently Prefers Pro-Palestinian Employees.

The application test for the U.N. Human Rights Council's staff includes a question assuming the validity of the Palestinians' claims against Israel.

Clerk's Note: So if you like Israel you stay unemployed and if you like Palestinians, Muslims, Jihad, anti-women's rights you are a good match for the U.N. So why is the USA a member? More of your US tax dollars at work supporting what you do not want.

American Missing In Iran Was On Unapproved Mission



In March 2007, retired FBI Special Agent Robert Levinson flew to Kish Island, an Iranian resort awash with tourists, smugglers and organized crime figures. Days later, after an arranged meeting with an admitted killer, he checked out of his hotel, entered a taxi, and vanished.

For years, the U.S. Government has insisted he was a private person traveling on business. But that was a cover story. An Associated Press investigation has revealed that Levinson was working for the CIA.



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**Army And Air Force To Honor World War II Pilot At Burial**



Capt. Franklin B. Tostevin  
Westfield, New Jersey

The U.S. Army will provide full military honors and Air Force jets will perform a fly-over when a World War II pilot who died in 1945 is buried at a Veteran's cemetery in Denver, Colo.

Army Air Forces Capt. Franklin B. Tostevin of Westfield, N.J., crashed in 1945 on a reconnaissance mission in Germany. His nephew, Daniel Tostevin of Erie, Colo., says it was his 159th reconnaissance flight.

**Former Army Officer Pleads Guilty**



David Young - a former lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve who in Hernando County, Fla., threw lavish political fundraisers, was known to neighbors as a war hero and bought more than a dozen homes - has pleaded guilty to a pair of federal charges and has agreed to serve between three and four years in prison.

As part of the deal, he also agreed to forfeit the fortune and assets he acquired in his scheme to defraud the U.S. military: more than \$1.6 million cash, 15 properties on the North Suncoast, one in New Hampshire, a 1999 Jaguar and 400 1-ounce gold coins that at current prices would be valued at about \$500,000.

Young, 50, pleaded guilty to disclosure of procurement information and money-laundering and is scheduled for sentencing in March. His trial was set to begin in January, in Utah, where federal prosecutors have handled the case. If he had been convicted on both charges, Young could have faced up to 25 years in prison.

**95th Division Changes Commanders**



Command of the U.S. Army Reserve's 95th Division passed from Brig. Gen. R. Ray Royalty to Col. Daniel J. Christian at a change of command ceremony on December 14<sup>th</sup>, at Ft. Sill, Okla.

**DOD's Reports To Congress To Be Posted Online**

By Steven Aftergood, Project on Government Secrecy Federation of American Scientists



In a slight but welcome incremental reform, reports to Congress from the Department of Defense (DOD) are to be posted online, according to a provision in the pending FY-2014 defense authorization act.

Up to now, such reports were to be made available to the public "upon request" (10 USC 122a). But under section 181 of the FY 2014 defense authorization bill, as agreed to by House and Senate conferees, the reports would have to be posted on a "publicly accessible Internet website" whether they were requested or not.

The online publication requirement would not apply to DOD reports that contained classified or proprietary information, or that are otherwise exempt from disclosure under the FOIA.

**Snowden Offers Brazil Spying Help In Return For Asylum**



Edward Snowden has written an "open letter to the people of Brazil" offering to assist Brazil's government investigate allegations of U.S. spying, but on the condition that he be granted permanent political asylum.

The letter was first published in Brazil's *Folha* newspaper. "I've expressed my willingness to assist where it's appropriate and legal, but, unfortunately, the U.S. Government has been working hard to limit my ability to do so," the letter says.

The letter was first made available on the newspaper's website in Portuguese. *USA Today* read a version of the letter using online translation software. It was subsequently [posted on Facebook](#) by an account apparently belonging to David Miranda, the partner of former *Guardian* journalist Glenn Greenwald, the Brazil-based American journalist who was the recipient of thousands of documents detailing the National Security Agency's spying programs.

It was not entirely clear from the letter whether Snowden was suggesting that the South American nation should grant him asylum in return for help in probing claims that the U.S. has spied on Brazil. "Until a country grants me permanent political asylum, the U.S. Government will continue to interfere with my ability to speak out," Snowden writes in the letter. He says that, "Many Brazilian senators agree and asked me to help their investigations into suspected crimes against Brazilian citizens."

In response to a tweet today, Greenwald said that "if media outlets want to report what they think is the 'sub-text,' that's fine - but they should report its actual content." Earlier, Greenwald characterized many media summaries of the letter to Brazil as "wrong."

Snowden said he felt vindicated by a federal judge's ruling that the collection of data by the National Security Agency was most likely unconstitutional. "Today, a secret program authorized by a secret court was, when exposed to the light of day, found to violate Americans' rights. It is the first of many," the former NSA contractor said in a statement.

**White House Says Snowden Should Still Face Charges In The U.S.**

White House spokesman Jay Carney dismissed the suggestion that the United States could grant amnesty to former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden if he were to turn over the documents in his possession. "Mr. Snowden has been accused of leaking classified information and he faces felony charges here in the United States. He should be returned to the United States as soon as possible, where he will be accorded full due process in our system."

**Clerk's Note:** And a few people (more than 100) believe that Obama should face charges.



**More News Of The Peace Loving Muslims**

A British doctor was arrested in Pakistan - for reading the Koran.

A 72-year-old British doctor is in prison in Pakistan for "posing as a Muslim," charges that reveal an escalating ideological fight that often spills over into violence. Masood Ahmad is a quiet, reserved widower who returned to Pakistan to open a pharmacy in 1982 after decades of working in London to pay his children's school fees, his family said. He is also an Ahmadi, a sect that consider themselves Muslim, but believe in a prophet after Mohammed. Some mullahs promise that killing Ahmadis earns a place in heaven.

**Thirteen-Year Veteran Cop Found To Be An Illegal Alien**



Carmen Figueroa, a 13-year veteran cop, resigned from the Arizona Department of Public Safety after it was discovered that she's an illegal alien.

Her brother, reportedly a member of the U.S. Air Force, was applying for a passport when federal authorities discovered that his sister was working as a police officer.

Figueroa claims she was unaware that she was not a U.S. citizen and that she provided the police force with a written affidavit when she was hired and testified to investigators that she was born in the United States.

The reality is that Figueroa was born in Sinaloa, Mexico. Apparently, her parents brought her to the United States illegally, and forged documents including her birth certificate and Social Security card. It's possible that he parents never told her she wasn't a citizen, but it begs the question: If her brother is serving in the U.S. armed forces and applying for a passport, is he also and illegal alien with forged documents - and does this constitute a national security issue?

**Clerk's Note:** Maybe this is what happened to Obama. Have congress make him get a passport so we can find out.

**And Now The Truth Why The Feds Bought Up 4+ Billion Rounds Of Ammunition.**

If insider trading is illegal how about this; The EPA had plans to close down the 'Last' lead smelting plant in the USA!

The Doe Run Plant in Missouri is now officially closed which will substantially impact the production of ammunition in the USA.

The owners of the plant agreed to shut down because they were being extorted by the feds!

They were told they could stay in business if they paid \$65 Million in violations and an additional \$7 Million in civil penalties.

No wonder we don't hear about the Mafia anymore they have been replaced by the feds!

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Feds Approve U.S. Navy's Sonar Training



The U.S. Navy's five year-plan to use sonar in training exercises off Southern California and Hawaii was approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

But several environmental groups, represented by San Francisco-based Earthjustice and anticipating the approval, immediately filed a lawsuit in a Hawaii federal court to block the training on grounds that the underwater noise poses an unacceptable threat to marine mammals.

NOAA, after a review by its fisheries division, concluded that the promised mitigation measures by the Navy will "minimize effects on marine mammals."

The Navy insists that the sonar training is crucial to prepare sailors to detect the super-quiet submarines owned or being developed by adversaries such as Iran, particularly in shallow waters like the Persian Gulf.

Environmentalists assert that the training could be conducted in places without large numbers of whales and other mammals and by avoiding the use of sonar sending out loud noises that subject the mammals to hearing loss, lung injuries and death.

NOAA, in its decision, noted that the Navy has promised to shut down use of sonar and explosives if marine mammals are spotted "within designated mitigation zones." The Navy has promised to designate a "humpback whale cautionary area" around Hawaii during winter months.

Also, NOAA's approval requires the Navy and federal fisheries' officials to meet annually to "discuss new science" and review whether additional mitigation measures are needed.

U.S. Seeks Unconditional OK For Base



Washington has told Tokyo that the Okinawa Prefectural Government should unconditionally let landfill work begin in Nago so the Futenma air base can finally be moved, diplomatic sources said.

The message, delivered by a senior U.S. official, puts more pressure on Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima, who is to decide this month whether to approve the central government's application to fill in land off the coast of the the Henoko district so a new airstrip can be built.

Washington is worried the lengthy stalemate over moving U.S.M.C. Air Station Futenma out of densely populated Ginowan will drag on if Nakaima attaches conditions to the project, the sources said. Conditional approval could slow the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, given congressional pressure to cut defense spending, a source in the U.S. Government said.

The official also relayed plans to the prefecture to give more support for Okinawa, such as reducing the heavy concentration of U.S. forces there, if Nakaima gives unconditional approval, the sources said.

While the governor's decision is impossible to predict, observers say he could request that the Status of Forces Agreement be reviewed or seek the tentative deployment of Futenma's Marines elsewhere in Japan as a condition for approval. But Nakaima, who wants the Futenma base out of the prefecture, is in a bind because the U.S. has vowed to keep the base where it is unless he approves the plan, and residents fiercely oppose keeping it in Okinawa.

Since taking office for the second time, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has stepped up pressure on Okinawa to accept the unpopular relocation plan.

You Can't Do That

Two Bloomfield, N.J., cops are suspended without pay for serving their country, according to an attorney representing the men. Michael McCracken and Hector Cartagena, who are airmen in the U.S.A.F Reserve, may be fired from the Bloomfield force on admin charges for allegedly misusing military leave time, said their attorney, Catherine Elston. Elston said both are upstanding officers who followed all procedures when they reported for military duty. State Sen. Ron Rice, also speaking at the press conference at the Fraternal Order of Police's union hall, called for the NJ Attorney General's Office to investigate Bloomfield PD's actions against the officers.

The days in question - 15 for McCracken and 29 for Cartagena - go back to 2007 and 2008. McCracken used the days for traveling to a military base, while Cartagena used his days for medical treatments of combat injuries, Elston said. Elston said the PD makes it sound like the two were lounging on the beach. "These men are highly decorated Iraq War Veterans, who have served our country overseas at least twice each, and have served our country with honor and distinction, as well as the Bloomfield Township PD," she said. "The township is saying that now, four or five years after these occurrences that they should not have been paid for the traveling to comply for the military order or for being treated on base."

Bloomfield PD spokesman Sgt. Anthony Servedio confirmed the officers are suspended and facing disciplinary action in an ongoing investigation. He said Police Chief Christopher Goul and the department will not comment on the case. Christmas is right around the corner, and both officers told reporters they are worried about providing for their families. Cartagena, who has served for 19 years in the military and eight years on the police force, said he "can't believe this went as far as it did."

Ten More Women Have Graduated From The Marine Corps' Infantry Course



Ten female Marines graduated from the Marine Corps' Infantry Training Battalion on Thursday, December 19th, bringing the number of women who have completed the program to 13.

Pvt. Cassandra Woodward, Pvt. Brittany Dunklee, Pfc. Rose Rodriguez, Pvt. Mica Hollingsworth, Pfc. Fabiola Perez Zuniga, Pfc. Fabiola Davila, Pfc. Falande Joachin, Pfc. Harlee Bradford, Pvt. Michelle Verduzco and Pfc. Catherine Sanders graduated from the training course for enlisted infantry Marines at Camp Geiger, in North Carolina, Marine officials said.

Two of the women completed almost all of the course with the previous class, but were injured before they could complete the final physical fitness test required for graduation in November. That class was the first to include women.

Though the women were held to the same standards - including physical fitness - as men, they will not be assigned to infantry jobs. Instead, they will go to the military occupational specialty schools to which they were assigned before they arrived at Camp Geiger.

The infantry training course includes a live-fire exercise, a 20-kilometer hike and a 72-hour integrated infantry field exercise, as well as physical fitness tests that involve running, pull-ups, ammunition can lifts and a timed obstacle course. The women must pass by the men's scoring standard in order to graduate, Marine Corps officials said.

Fifteen women began the previous training course; three graduated in November. Thirteen women began the most recent course, said Capt. Geraldine Carey, a Marine corps spokeswoman.

Ten women have attempted the Marine Corps' notoriously grueling training course for infantry officers. None have finished.

Marine Corps officials have said that they are collecting data from the women in the courses and will use that in deciding how to integrate women into combat units.

U.S. Air Force News



Staff through senior master sergeants and captains through lieutenant colonels in certain Air Force Specialty Codes may apply to retire with fewer than 20 years of active service under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority, Air Force Personnel Center officials have announced. For full application instructions, eligibility requirements and a chart showing eligible airmen, go to the myPers website at https://mypers.af.mil and search for "PSDM 13-127" for the enlisted program, or "PSDM 13-128" for the officer program.

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U.S. Marines To Require Service Uniforms Every Friday



The U.S. Marine Corps will require all of its members who aren't deployed to wear the appropriate seasonal service uniform every Friday, starting Jan. 4. This includes Sailors assigned to Marine units, and both active and reserve Marines. Commanders can make exceptions on a case-by-case basis to the new policy.

Bahrain Home Of The US 5th Fleet?

Bahrain, the home of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, has been buffeted by political turmoil since 2011 when mostly Shiite protesters took to the streets calling for political reforms and more say in the Sunni-ruled island kingdom.

Worst Job On The Planet

Recruiters hit the train station in northern Japanese cities before dawn most mornings to prowl for homeless men. The men are potential laborers that can be dispatched to contractors in Japan's nuclear disaster zone.

It's also how Japan finds people willing to accept minimum wage for one of the most undesirable jobs in the industrialized world: working on the \$35 billion, taxpayer-funded effort to clean up radioactive fallout across an area of northern Japan larger than Hong Kong.

Clerk's Note: If they survive the project, they can all get employment as glow in the dark streetsweepers.

And Now For The Rest Of Your Obamacare Taxes

Here comes the ObamaCare tax bill. The cost of Obama's massive health care law will hit Americans in 2014 as new taxes pile up on their insurance premiums and on their income-tax bills.

Most insurers aren't advertising the Obamacare taxes that are added on to premiums, opting instead to discretely pass them on to customers while quietly lobbying lawmakers for a break. But one insurance company, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, laid bare the taxes on its bills with a separate line item for "Affordable Care Act Fees and Taxes."

The new taxes on one customer's bill added up to \$23.14 a month, or \$277.68 annually, according to Kaiser Health News. It boosted the monthly premium from \$322.26 to \$345.40 for that individual.

The new taxes and fees include a 2 percent levy on every health plan, which is expected to net about \$8 billion for the U.S. Government in 2014 and it will increase to \$14.3 billion in 2018. There's also a \$2 fee per policy that goes into a new medical-research trust fund called the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

Insurers pay a 3.5 percent user fee to sell medical plans on the HealthCare.gov web site.

Obamacare taxes don't stop with health plan premiums. Americans also will pay hidden taxes, such as the 2.3 percent medical-device tax that will inflate the cost of items such as pacemakers, stents and prosthetic limbs.

Those with high out-of-pocket medical expenses also will get smaller income-tax deductions. Americans are currently allowed to deduct expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of their annual income. The threshold jumps to 10 percent under Obamacare, costing taxpayers about \$15 billion over 10 years.

Then, there's the new Medicare tax. Under Obamacare, individual tax filers earning more than \$200,000 and families earning more than \$250,000 will pay an added 0.9 percent Medicare surtax on top of the existing 1.45 percent Medicare payroll tax. They'll also pay an extra 3.8 percent Medicare tax on unearned income, such as investment dividends, rental income and capital gains.

Clerk's Note: As you can see this is nothing less than a takeover of the health care industry, giving you less for your dollar with the govt putting taxes on everything you do. And this is only the start as they add limits to what kind of care you can have or you can pay higher amounts and get additional care. You will literally be taxed on all medical care, pills, bandages, and consultations from cradle to grave. This could be worse than the housing crash as it will affect every man, woman and child in the United States.

Another US Postal Service Increase

First-class U.S. postage stamps will cost 49 cents each beginning Jan. 26, but the U.S. Postal Service says the increase in "temporary."

Clerk's Note: The reason it will only be temporary is because they will raise it again in June!

Japan Gets Okinawa's Approval U.S. Marine Corps' Base Move



The governor of Japan's Okinawa approved a controversial plan to relocate a U.S. air base to a less populous part of the southern island, but said he would keep pressing to move the base off the island altogether.

The nod from Okinawa, long a reluctant host to the bulk of U.S. military forces in Japan, is an achievement for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has promised a more robust military and tighter security ties with the United States amid escalating tension with China.

Skeptics, however, said it remained far from clear whether the relocation - stalled since the move was first agreed to by Washington and Tokyo in 1996 - would actually take place given persistent opposition from Okinawa residents, many of whom associate the U.S. bases with crime, pollution and noise.

The approval came a day after Abe visited Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, seen in parts of Asia as a symbol of Japan's past militarism, infuriating China and South Korea, and prompting concern from the United States about deteriorating ties between the Asian neighbors.

Five Brigade Combat Teams To Inactivate This Year

The U.S. Army has identified five new units for inactivation as part of a sweeping reorganization that will cut a total of 10 brigade combat teams and affect as many as 740 units.

U.S. Soldiers Prepare to Leave Afghanistan

U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Eddie Siguenza



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Duane Perez, foreground, carries duffel bags and leads troops to a CH-47 Chinook helicopter as they depart Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 25, 2013. Perez is assigned to the Guam Army National Guard's Company E, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment. He also was part of Task Force Guam, which concludes its historic Operation Enduring Freedom mission.

Majority Of Americans Have Never Heard Of 'If You See Something, Say Something'



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began the use of the slogan in 2010, and has spent millions of dollars to spread the campaign.

Clerk's Note: But we have heard of the exact opposite; "Loose Lips Sink Ships."

Good Government Guidelines

Chinese officials going on business overseas will no longer be able to charter planes or fly in private or corporate jets, guidelines announced today said, part of a broad government crackdown on corruption and waste. "Without exception, any excuse or method for exchanging gifts or souvenirs is not allowed," a statement on the Finance Ministry's website said. "It is strictly forbidden to accept, or covertly accept, subsidies from industry units, and strictly forbidden to shift or allot travel expenses to organizations abroad, subsidiary units or companies." Chinese newspapers frequently report on cases of government officials making spurious trips abroad on the public purse, ostensibly for work when in reality they are going on holiday or engaging in shopping sprees. Since taking over the reins of the Communist Party in November 2012 and the government in March, President Xi Jinping has vowed to crack down on corruption, which he has said threatens the party's survival.

Clerk's Note: Can we implement the same for our politicians? They get a gratuity whenever they appear in public, they call it a speaking fee, sometimes as much as \$50,000 to appear at an event or a fund raiser for another politician. Besides their taxpayer's salary of a quarter million a year, they can easily earn another million a year at speaking engagements. They also build up a private treasury they call a 'War Chest' which contains the funds they raise from you for reelection campaigns and other requests for money from the American public. The 'War Chest' is theirs to keep after they leave office.

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OBAMA CARE. What you were PROMISED... What you're ACTUALLY getting... Image of a life preserver and an anchor.



**Now We Know Who He Is**

John Donald Cody, 67, known by his alias, "Bobby Thompson," was convicted by a Cuyahoga County, Ohio, jury in Nov. on 23 counts, including identity fraud and using a false name in a U.S. navy veterans scam that spanned 40 states. Cuyahoga County Judge Steven Gall sentenced "Thompson" to 28 years in prison, and also fined him more than \$6 million.

**Clerk's Note:** This guy gets \$100 Million in donations and only pays a \$6 Million fine? Oh that's right, he gave \$20 Million to politicians.

**New York Cop Fights Firing**

A lawyer for a probationary town police officer in Clarkstown, N.Y., likely to be fired this week claims he is being let go because of his military service.

The town attorney called the allegation "absurd." The Town Board is expected to terminate Officer Steven Quinones tomorrow, effective Friday, based largely on recommendations by his department supervisors, officials said. Quinones' lawyer, Maureen McNamara, said her client, a U.S. Air Force veteran and a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve, is losing his job because he must take time away from work to fulfill the requirements of his military service. Accommodating his requests would create budgetary concerns for the town, she said.

Town officials described the issue as a "personnel matter," and refused to comment specifically about what has led to Quinones' current circumstances. But town Supervisor Alexander Gromack denied Quinones' situation has anything to do with military service or Clarkstown's budget. "The last four or five years, we've budgeted for 163 officers and we've stayed at that number, meeting that goal time and time again," Gromack said. He said veterans and reservists are encouraged to apply to the department, and that Quinones' pending termination is based "solely on his performance as a police officer."

In a letter to the Town Board and state officials, McNamara said her 31-year-old client was hired in February and, while attending the Rockland County Police Academy, informed a Clarkstown instructor that his military reserve unit could be deployed in 2014. McNamara said Quinones graduated from the academy and served ably in the police department, receiving satisfactory marks daily from his training officers. In April, the Town Board made him a permanent police officer. On Nov. 13, Quinones requested a Saturday off to meet his military reserve duties, McNamara said. Two days later, his most recent performance evaluation was retroactively revised, from "satisfactory" to "unsatisfactory," she said. Soon after, he was stripped of his police authority and told by supervisors to resign or prepare to be fired, she said.

**Another Blush For Obama**

The acting inspector general who was himself under investigation for allegations he misused his office and softened reports to keep from embarrassing the Obama administration, stepped down from his job late Monday, December 11th.

Charles K. Edwards, who was charged with overseeing the vast Department of Homeland Security and its many bureaus and agencies since the retirement of the former inspector general, had faced a broadening Senate probe this year that focused on whether he had altered and delayed investigations to please the agency and the White House.

**U.S. Navy Releases Funds For V-22 Procurement**

Funding for a second-year procurement of Bell-Boeing V-22 Osprey aircraft for the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Air Force has been executed by the U.S. Navy. The funding amount is \$1.3 billion and covers three aircraft for the Air Force and 19 aircraft for the Marines.

"Since Initial Operating Capability in 2007, V-22s have been answering the nation's call traveling into harm's way," a Navy official said. "From combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to the recent disaster relief and humanitarian assistance in the Philippines, the V-22 continues to prove itself as a game-changing aircraft. Ospreys enable our Marine Corps and Air Force Special Operations to execute missions not possible with conventional aircraft."

The V-22 is a multi-mission, tilt rotor aircraft with both a vertical take-off and landing and short take-off and landing capability. It has a maximum speed of 316 miles per hour at sea level and a range of 879 miles. A total of 233 V-22 Ospreys are in operation.

The second-year funding comes under a multi-year funding procurement contract for the purchase of a total of 100 V-22s over the next five years.

**U.S. Government Assisting Child-Smuggling, Federal Judge Says**

By Jim Corvey, News of the Force St. Louis

**Homeland Security**

A federal judge in South Texas said in a recent order that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is assisting in criminal conspiracies to smuggle children into the country when it helps reunite them with parents who are known to be in the U.S. illegally.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen, in Brownsville, made the comments in a 10-page order last Friday, at the conclusion of an immigrant smuggling case. Hanen expressed his frustration in having four cases in which a child who arrived in the U.S. illegally alone was reunited with a parent who was herself in the country illegally pass through his court in the past month. In the most recent case, Hanen sentenced a smuggler to 10 months in prison. But he saved his most withering words for the U.S. Government for not arresting and deporting the mother who hired the smuggler.

The order doesn't have the power to change policy, but it offers harsh criticism from a judge who regularly handles border issues but isn't known for being outspoken on immigration.

The case involved a woman who was arrested at an international bridge in Brownsville trying to use her daughter's birth certificate to smuggle in a 10-year-old girl from El Salvador. The girl was then reunited with her mother who was living illegally in Virginia. "Instead of arresting (the child's mother) for instigating the conspiracy to violate our border security laws, the DHS delivered the child to her - thus successfully completing the mission of the criminal conspiracy," Hanen wrote.

**Veterans' groups fighting Pentagon's proposal to rein in benefits**

The Pentagon's top civilian says it's time to tame burgeoning military personnel costs, but he's facing a test of wills with the nation's powerful veterans' groups, which want no cut in their benefits.

Veterans' groups are fighting curbs in annual pension increases for military retirees under age 62 that are part of the new budget deal passed by Congress last week and awaiting President Obama's signature. After a barrage of protests from the military community, lawmakers said they'll review the cut next year and possibly reverse it.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said that the reform of military compensation can't be avoided. "We all know that we need to slow cost growth in military compensation," Hagel told a Pentagon press conference. "We know that many proposals will be controversial and unpopular. Tough decisions will have to be made."

Retirees want the belt-tightening done elsewhere.

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### OP/ED: A Serious Leader Would Have Abandoned Obamacare Long Ago

By Herman Cain

But not this guy. It's rather frightening when you think about it like this: Obamacare really amounts to the federal government trying to run, not just a business, but an entire industry. We're talking about the administration that appears to have the fewest members in history with private-sector business experience of any kind, and it thinks it can run the health insurance industry. How's that working out? Exactly.

To think some people laughed at me because my experience included running a pizza chain. And that was ironic: The first time Democrats tried this nonsense with Hillary Clinton designing their takeover of health insurance, it fell to me at a town hall meeting in Omaha to explain to Bill Clinton that the economics of small business don't work the way Democrats think they do, and that it wouldn't be feasible for employers to simply suck up the costs the way Mrs. Clinton was counting on to make the whole scheme work.

The Obama administration could use some folks with business experience, but as Donald Rumsfeld might say, you go to the socializing of medicine with the White House you've got. And that's a problem, because business people know something that this administration does not: When it's clear that your concept is fundamentally flawed, you don't waste time tinkering with it. You get rid of it and do something different.

The administration tinkered with Obamacare again on Thursday, now deciding that those who lost their insurance because of Obamacare and can't afford new insurance because of Obamacare will be exempted in 2014 from the individual mandate that is supposed to be essential to making Obamacare work. This is after they delayed the employer mandate because that can't work, and after they back-pedaled on forcing people out of the plans they had falsely promised they could keep, because that wasn't working - and of course after the launch of the web site that hasn't been working from day one. Just a little more tinkering and this whole thing will start working in grand fashion! Trust them! They're totally, entirely, completely, pretty sure, they think. Please!

Obamacare is imploding because it was designed by people who don't understand basic economics, enabled in no small part by health insurance companies that should have known better but were apparently starry-eyed over the idea that the federal government would mandate everyone buy their product. Now that the whole thing is coming apart at the seams and the White House is responding by tinkering with it on the fly, the insurers are upset because they actually do know how health insurance works, and they know these "fixes" don't fix anything. They know you can't mandate gold-plated coverage for everyone regardless of pre-existing conditions and not see premiums go up, and they know the risk pools won't work if those who are young and healthy don't sign up - which they're not.

What they should have known is that you can't lie to people. You can't tell them they can keep their plan when you know that's not true, and then have them just accept it when it becomes clear they were lied to. Politicians pull this crap all the time, but the insurance industry should have known better. Now they're reaping the consequences as the White House panics and takes steps designed to cover themselves politically instead of actually solving the problem.

And that gets to the heart of the matter. A bunch of left-wing ideologues trying to run an industry like health insurance is not going to work because these people have never run a business before. They only enterprise they've run is government, which bleeds red ink like it's going out of style, and they don't even understand there's anything wrong with that. Put them in charge of an industry where you actually have to satisfy customers - well, that's not going to end well.

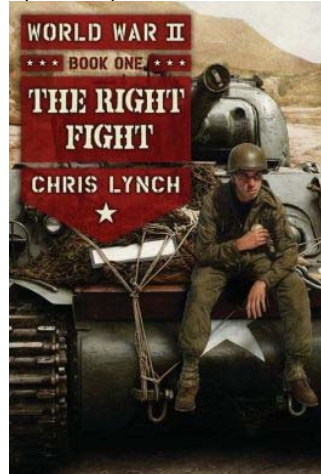
But more to the point, its been clear to everyone for months (and to some of us for four years, but never mind that now) that Obamacare is fundamentally flawed and cannot work, no matter how much you tweak it. Serious business people would cut their losses, abandon the concept and develop a different one. Politicians, on the other hand, are terrified of admitting they made a mistake - especially when the mistake in question has been labeled as a certain president's "signature legislative achievement." Now you've got personal pride in the equation as well.

I think we've all heard that pride goeth before the fall. The Obama presidency is now in a free fall because a combination of pride, arrogance and incompetence render the administration incapable of walking away from a fatally flawed concept. They will tweak. They will delay. They will hide facts. They will blame others. They will out-and-out lie about what's happening. But they won't do what they should do because they're not experienced enough at running things to know that they need to, and they're not humble enough to admit they made a mistake.

Even a pizza guy can see that.

### WW-II, The Right Fight

by Chris Lynch



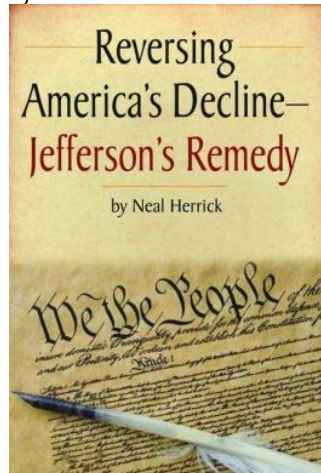
There are few things Roman loves as much as baseball, but his country is at the top of the list. So when it looks like the United States will be swept up into World War II, he turns his back on baseball and joins the US Army.

Roman doesn't mind. As it turns out, he is far more talented with a tank than he ever was with a baseball. And he is eager to drive his tank right into the field of battle, where the Army is up against the fearsome Nazis of the Afrika Korps.

The North African terrain is like nothing Roman has ever known, and desert warfare proves brutal. As Roman drives his team deeper into disputed territory, one thing becomes very clear: Life in wartime is a whole new ball game. 192 pgs, Hard \$15 Ages 10 & Up at [Barnes&Noble](#)

### Reversing America's Decline

by Neal Herrick



The Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Federalist Papers are the driving forces of American government. Thomas Jefferson held that the Federalist Papers contain the genuine meaning of the Constitution.

Author Neal Herrick focuses on the manifest tenor, the general principles, structural principles and operational principles as they are stated and implied in the Declaration and shows how Jefferson's interpretation could be applied to today's government to reverse national decline. 280 pages, \$15 soft at [Amazon](#)

### The Veteran Next Door

by Randall Baxter

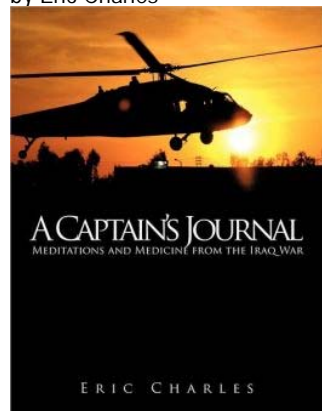


1939 to 1946 By: Randall Baxter

The Veteran Next Door is a compilation of stories from the Nationally broadcast radio show of the same name. The stories are from survivors of World War II. From a Jewish girl being given away at age 2 to save her from Auschwitz, fighting in Bougainville, and Guadalcanal, the experience of being black in our army and navy during this time period. From love stories to fighting across Europe and even being captured on the first day of the Battle of the Bulge, seeing the new German jets shoot down the B-17 flying in front of your own Flying Fortress, earning as many medals as Audie Murphy and not being awarded the Medal of Honor, and being surrounded by sharks for 5 days, being on board a ship that is breaking in half in a typhoon. And coming home to a small Tennessee county that has been taken over by a corrupt political machine. All true stories about our Veterans of World War II, their heartbreaks, and their accomplishments told by the Veterans themselves. 292 pgs, hard \$26 at [Barnes&Noble](#), soft \$18 at [Amazon](#)

### A Captain's Journal

by Eric Charles



A Captain's Journal is a personal account of events from Balad Air Force Base Hospital in Iraq during a six month period from 2006 - 2007. The stories are told from the personal perspective of Eric Charles, an Anesthesiologist. Eric recounts his patient encounters that range from pleasant to gut-wrenching and from laughable to tear-jerking. The descriptions of the events are occasionally graphic, but strike a realistic chord. Eric also weaves into the narrative many personal and philosophical interactions from the everyday events of living in the midst of the Iraq War. 68 pages, soft \$24 at [Amazon](#) or [Barnes&Noble](#)

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### U.S. Embassy in Kabul hit on Christmas Day



The U.S. Embassy in Kabul was hit by indirect fire before dawn on Christmas Day, but no Americans were hurt, as attacks elsewhere in Afghanistan killed at least six people, officials said.

Two rounds struck the sprawling embassy compound but it was not immediately clear which part of the complex, and a U.S. Embassy official said the incident was under investigation. "At approximately 6:40, local time in Kabul, approximately two rounds of indirect fire impacted the U.S. Embassy compound," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations. "All Americans are accounted for and no injuries were sustained." (Indirect fire can refer to either mortars or rockets.)

The Taliban promptly claimed they fired four rockets at the American Embassy and said they inflicted heavy casualties. But the insurgents often exaggerate their claims.

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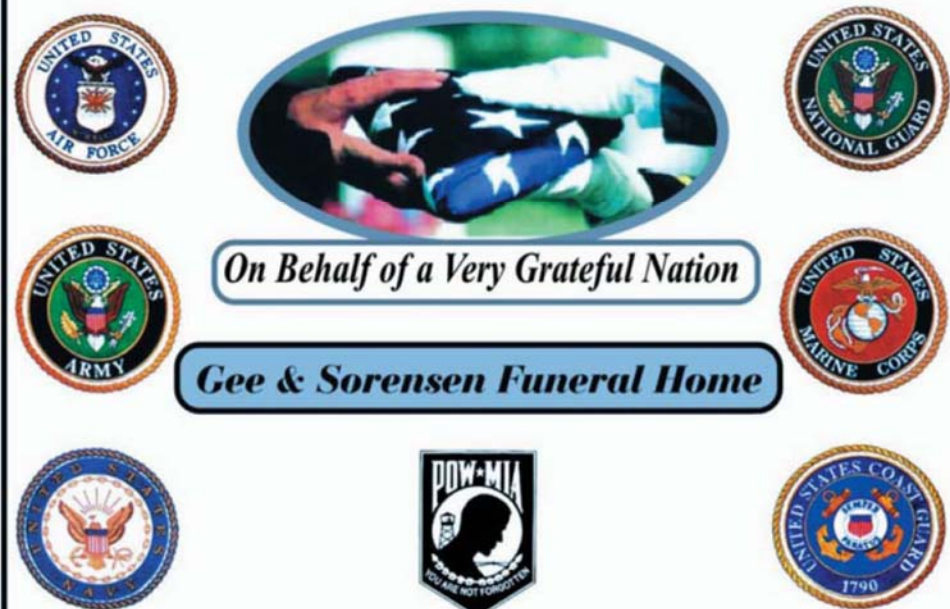
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**An alarm** clock is a device for awakening people who don't have small children.

**Life's golden** age is when the kids are too old to need babysitters, but too young to borrow the family car.

**If money** doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have "branches?"

**Stop waiting** for Prince Charming. Get up and find him. The poor idiot may be stuck in a tree or something.

**Personality can** open doors... But only Character can keep them open. *Elmer G. Letterman*

**When they** discover the center of the universe... A lot of people will be disappointed that they are not it!

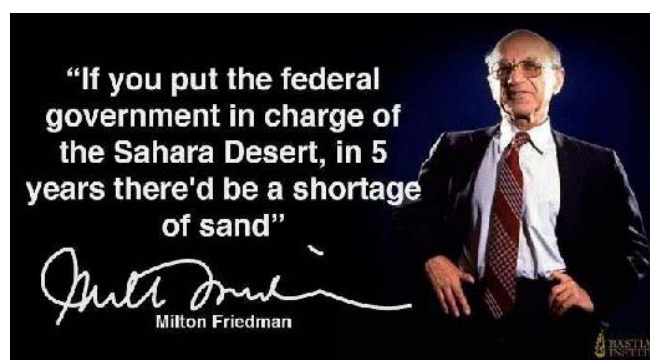
**A man** has reached middle age when he is cautioned to slow down by his doctor - instead of the police.

**Why is** lemon juice made with artificial flavors, but dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?

**People say** that hard work never killed anybody, but did you ever know of anybody who rested to death?

#### Some Fun History News

Edward Teller, the famous theoretical physicist known as the "father of the hydrogen bomb" for his work on the World War II-era Manhattan Project, died in 2003, but his daughter, Rene, said last month that she had recently discovered two of her father's precious mementoes at a thrift shop near Kinston, N.C., during a road trip to visit relatives. "Father's work was so demanding," she said, that he needed "recreational activities" and tried "the things you'd suspect," like chess. However, the two mementoes were competition awards that Teller had won at tractor pulls. "He'd show up at major tractor pulls" riding just a Cub Cadet mower, Rene said, and "leave the competition in the dust." Teller's secret, she said, was using "nuclear fusion-based engines," which sponsors ultimately had to ban.



**Anyone who** told you to be yourself couldn't have given you any worse advice.

**At my** granddaughter's wedding, the DJ polled the guests to see who had been married longest. It turned out to be my husband and I. The DJ asked us, "What advice would you give to the newly-married couple?" I said, "The three most important words in a marriage are, 'You're probably right.'" Everyone then looked at my husband. He said, "She's probably right."

**I was riding** to work yesterday when I observed a female driver, who cut right in front of a pickup truck, causing the driver to drive onto the shoulder to avoid hitting her. This evidently angered the driver enough that he hung his arm out is window and gave the woman the finger. "Man, that guy is stupid," I thought to myself. I ALWAYS smile nicely and wave in a sheepish manner whenever a female does anything to me in traffic. And here's why: I drive 48 miles each way every day to work.

That's 96 miles each day.

Of these, 16 miles each way is bumper-to-bumper.

Most of the bumper-to-bumper is on an 8 lane highway.

There are 7 cars every 40 feet for 32 miles.

That works out to 982 cars every mile, or 31,424 cars.

Even though the rest of the 32 miles is not bumper-to-bumper, I figure I pass at least another 4000 cars.

That brings the number to something like 36,000 cars that I pass every day..

Statistically, females drive half of these.

That's 18,000 women drivers!

In any given group of females, 1 in 28 has PMS.

That's 642.

According to Cosmopolitan, 70% describe their love life as dissatisfying or unrewarding.

That's 449.

According to the National Institute of Health, 22% of all females have seriously considered suicide or homicide.

That's 98.

And 34% describe men as their biggest problem.

That's 33.

According to the National Rifle Association, 5% of all females carry weapons and this number is increasing.

That means that EVERY SINGLE DAY, I drive past at least one female that has a lousy love life, thinks men are her biggest problem, has seriously considered suicide or homicide, has PMS, and is armed.

Give her the finger? I don't think so...

**A young** woman was taking an afternoon nap. After she woke up, she told her husband, "I just dreamed that you gave me a pearl necklace for Valentine's day. What do you think it means?" "You'll know tonight," he said. That evening, the man came home with a small package and gave it to his wife. Delighted, she opened it --only to find a book entitled "The meaning of dreams".

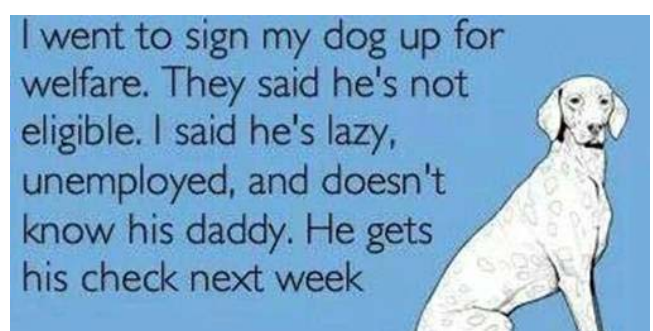
**God saw me** hungry, he created pizza.

He saw me thirsty, he created beer.

He saw me in the dark, he created light.

He saw me being lonely, he created YOU.

If we know the speed of light... Is there a speed for darkness?



**Giving money** and power to the government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

**The only** difference between a rut and a grave is its depth.

**If you** get cheated by the BBB, who do you complain to?

**I meant** to behave, but there were so many other options.

#### Domestic Tranquility Exposed

It may be a cliché of domestic conflict, but physicists recently, earnestly, tackled the dynamics of toilet-bowl "splash back." A stream delivered by a standing male, because it travels five times farther than a seated male's, produces a splash easily reaching seat and floor - even without factoring in the well-known "Plateau-Rayleigh instability" - the inevitable disintegration of a liquid stream "six or seven inches" after its formation. Short of recommending that men be seated, the researchers, speaking to a November conference, suggest "narrowing the angle" by "standing slightly to one side and aiming downwards at a low angle of impact."

#### Obama Rated 5<sup>th</sup> Best President

Lincoln, Roosevelt, Kennedy & Reagan tied for First.

16 Presidents tied for 2<sup>nd</sup>.

22 Presidents tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Jimmy Carter came in 4<sup>th</sup>.

Obama came in 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Do you** want me to accept you as you are, or do you want me to lie to myself and try to like you?

#### Why Men Can't Win

- If you work too hard, there is never any time for her.
- If you don't work enough, you're a good-for-nothing bum.
- If she has a boring repetitive job with low pay, it's exploitation.
- If you have a boring repetitive job with low pay, you should get off your butt and find something better.
- If you get a promotion ahead of her, it's favoritism.
- If she gets a job ahead of you, it's equal opportunity.
- If you mention how nice she looks, it's sexual harassment.
- If you keep quiet, it's male indifference.
- If you cry, you're a wimp. If you don't, you're insensitive.
- If you make a decision without consulting her, you're a chauvinist.
- If she makes a decision without consulting you, she's a liberated woman.
- If you ask her to do something she doesn't enjoy, that's domination.
- If she asks you, it's a favor.
- If you try to keep yourself in shape, you're vain.
- If you don't, you're a slob.
- If you buy her flowers, you're after something. If you don't, you're not thoughtful.
- If you're proud of your achievements, you're an egotist.
- If you're not, you're not ambitious.
- If she has a headache, she's tired. If you have a headache, you don't love her anymore.

**There was a** lawyer and he was just waking up from anesthesia after surgery, and his wife was sitting by his side. His eyes fluttered open and he said, "You're beautiful!" and then he fell asleep again. His wife had never heard him say that so she stayed by his side. A couple minutes later his eyes fluttered open and he said "You're cute!" Well, the wife was disappointed because instead of "beautiful" it was "cute." She said "What happened to 'beautiful'?" His reply was "The drugs are wearing off!"

#### Chuck Norris Facts

Chuck Norris makes onions cry.  
 Chuck Norris can delete the Recycling Bin.  
 Bill Gates lives in fear that Chuck Norris' PC will crash.  
 Ghosts are actually caused by Chuck Norris killing people faster than Death can process them.  
 Chuck Norris can build a snowman out of rain.  
 Chuck Norris can strangle you with a cordless phone.  
 Chuck Norris can drown a fish.  
 When Chuck Norris enters a room, he doesn't turn the lights on, he turns the dark off.  
 Chuck Norris once had a heart attack; his heart lost.  
 When Chuck Norris looks in a mirror the mirror shatters, because not even glass is stupid enough to get in between Chuck Norris and Chuck Norris.  
 Brett Favre can throw a football over 50 yards. Chuck Norris can throw Brett Favre even further.  
 Chuck Norris does not know where you live, but he knows where you will die.  
 Bullets dodge Chuck Norris.  
 Chuck Norris' calendar goes straight from March 31st to April 2nd, no one fools Chuck Norris.  
 If you spell Chuck Norris wrong on Google it doesn't say, "Did you mean Chuck Norris?" It simply replies, "Run while you still have the chance."  
 Chuck Norris can do a wheelie on a unicycle.  
 Once a cobra bit Chuck Norris' leg. After five days of excruciating pain, the cobra died.  
 When Chuck Norris gives you the finger, he's telling you how many seconds you have left to live.  
 Chuck Norris can kill two stones with one bird.  
 Chuck Norris was once on Celebrity Wheel of Fortune and was the first to spin. The next 29 minutes of the show consisted of everyone standing around awkwardly, waiting for the wheel to stop.  
 Leading hand sanitizers claim they can kill 99.9% of germs. Chuck Norris can kill 100% of whatever he wants.  
 There is no such thing as global warming. Chuck Norris was cold, so he turned the sun up.  
 Chuck Norris has a deep and abiding respect for human life; unless it gets in his way.  
 Chuck Norris once shot down a German fighter plane with his finger, by yelling, "Bang!"  
 When you say "no one's perfect", Chuck Norris takes this as a personal insult.

**I Don't Trust Joggers,  
 They're Always the Ones That  
 Find the Dead Bodies.  
 I'm No Detective, Just Sayin'**

**America** is the only country where a significant portion of the population believes professional wrestling is real, but the moon landing was faked.

**Why don't** they just make mouse-flavored cat food?

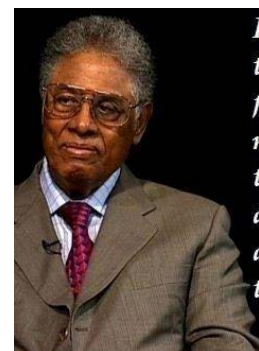
**An "expert"** is someone who takes a subject you understand and makes it sound confusing.

**Talk is cheap** - except when Congress does it.

**The problem** with being my own worst enemy is that we're so evenly matched.

**Wife:** 'You always carry my photo in your wallet.. Why?'

**Hubby:** 'When there is a problem, no matter how great, I look at your picture and the problem disappears.'



*It is amazing that people who think we cannot afford to pay for doctors, hospitals, and medication somehow think that we can afford to pay for doctors, hospitals, medication and a government bureaucracy to administer it.*

~ Thomas Sowell

**Bills travel** through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

**Please, keep** talking. I always yawn when I am interested.

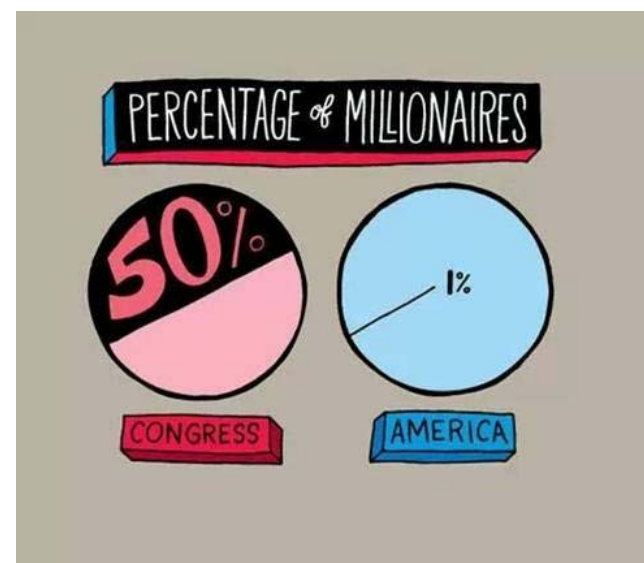
**A man** left work one Friday afternoon. But, being payday, instead of going home, he stayed out the entire weekend partying with the boys and spending his entire paycheck. When he finally appeared at home, Sunday night, he was confronted by a very angry wife and was barraged for nearly two hours with a tirade befitting his actions. Finally his wife stopped the nagging and simply said to him. "How would you like it if you didn't see me for two or three days?" To which he replied. "That would be fine with me." Monday went by and he didn't see his wife. Tuesday and Wednesday came and went with the same results. Come Thursday, the swelling went down just enough where he could see her a little out of the corner of his left eye.

**A man going** through a very bad marriage with a wife best described as a mean shrew takes himself and his last \$500 to Las Vegas. Overnight, he has a fantastic run of luck. He stumbles out of the casino and finds a pay phone. He calls his wife and says, "Honey, pack your bags, I just won over a million dollars in Vegas." His wife say, "That's wonderful, what should I pack for .... Europe, Asia, the Caribbean?" He says, "I don't care, just be gone when I get home."

I wrote your name on sand it got washed.

I wrote your name in air, it was blown away. Then

I wrote your name on my heart & i got Heart Attack.



**A guy walks** into a post office one day to see a middle-aged, balding man standing at the counter methodically placing "Love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them. He then takes out a perfume bottle and starts spraying scent all over them. His curiosity getting the better of him, he goes up to the balding man and asks him what he is doing. The man says, "I'm sending out 1,000 Valentine cards signed, 'Guess who?'" "But why?" asks the man. "I'm a divorce lawyer," the man replies.

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# The Year In Photos 2013



**SNOW TREK** - U.S. soldiers and Afghan border police hike from their landing zone to Observation Point 12 along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, Jan. 21, 2013. The soldiers are assigned to the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team.

*U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Jon Heinrich*



**MISSION ROUND** - U.S. soldiers prepare a round for a support mission using an M119 105mm howitzer on Combat Outpost Wilderness, Paktya province, Afghanistan, Aug. 15, 2013.

*U.S. Army photo by Maj. Kamil Sztalkoper*



**HELICOPTER HOISTING** - U.S. troops prepare for a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to hoist them up during hoist training on Forward Operating Base Farah, Afghanistan, Sept. 8, 2013. The troops are assigned to the 758th Forward Surgical Team, Provincial Reconstruction Team Farah, and the helicopter crew is assigned to U.S. Army's Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Aviation Regiment, General Support Aviation Battalion.

*U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Chad A. Dulac*



**SEARCH OPERATION** - U.S. Army Spc. Austin M. Weyerman and fellow soldiers move into a village with a suspected weapons cache during Operation Southern Fist III in the Spin Boldak district of Afghanistan's Kandahar province, March 3, 2013. The U.S. soldiers, assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, enabled Afghan border police and soldiers to search for weapons caches and eliminate infiltration routes.

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



**DUSTY OPERATION** - U.S. Marines and Georgian soldiers make their way to the extraction point during Operation Northern Lion II in Afghanistan's Helmand province, July 3, 2013. The Marines are assigned to Georgian Liaison Team 9. The Georgian soldiers led the operation to deter insurgents, establish a presence, and gather human intelligence in the area.

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



**FLAG GREETING** - An Afghan child waves a flag at a member of coalition forces as he walks to a medical clinic led by Afghan national security forces in the Panjwai district of Afghanistan's Kandahar province, March 12, 2013. Coalition and Afghan forces held the clinic to promote improved security, governance and development.

*U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua Kruger*



**WATER WATCH** - U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Sean Abrusci provides security during a patrol in Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 5, 2013. Abrusci is assigned to Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment.

*U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. David McKenzie*



**HAND GAMES** - U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Rosato meets with Afghan school children outside Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, March 11, 2013. Rosato is assigned to the 755th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Reaper Team 1, which conducts patrols to counter improvised explosive devices and indirect fire attacks as well as to engage Afghan support in protecting the base.

*U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Chris Willis*

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**Serving Those Who Have Served!**