

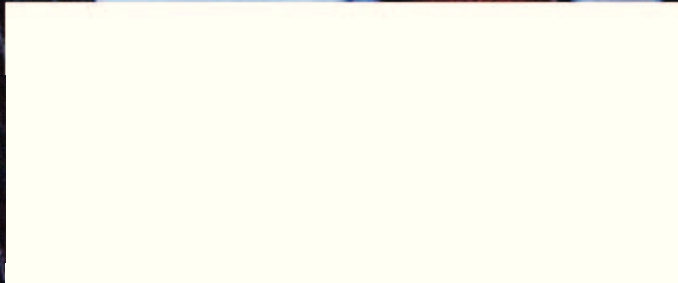
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Cover image: DHS

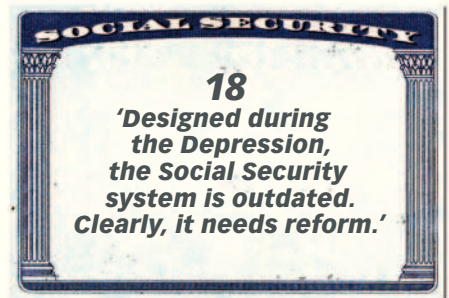
Barry Bahler

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



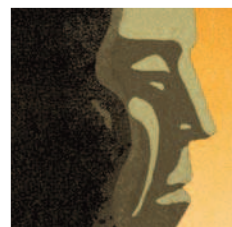
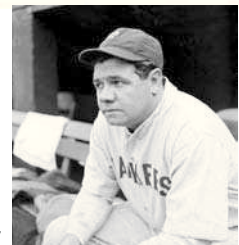
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Still willing to serve

I wish to thank you for the cover photo of the young Marine on the May issue. It brought tears to my eyes and made me proud to have been a Marine. Thank God that our young men and women are still willing to serve in our military and to defend our country and our way of life. May God continue to bless America and all those who serve, and have served, our great nation.

– Greg Petro, South Daytona, Fla.

The ravages of war

The May cover photo of the young Marine saluting with a prosthetic arm affected me more than any other you have published. It should be permanently mounted in the halls of the White House and Defense Department to remind the so-called “hawks” of the ravages of war, on body and spirit. My heart goes out to this young man and others who have suffered devastating injuries. Let’s make sure the country doesn’t forget them on the long road ahead.

– Theodore Brewer, Bellevue, Neb.

The cover of the May issue took my breath away. No image could say better, “Hate the war, love the warrior.”

– Tom Guirey, Sterling Heights, Mich.

The May cover is one of the most poignant and evocative photographs I have ever seen. It is worthy of a Pulitzer Prize, and every American should see it. I pray that young man is doing well.

– Don Jones, St. Louis

‘The Homecoming’

“The Homecoming” (May) is not only heartbreaking, but enlightening. These boys were so brave. Not only are they coming home without body parts, they are coming home with terrible memories to keep for the rest of their lives. One sentence particularly stood out:

“They seem too young to have endured such trauma.” It should, in fact, read, “They *are* too young to have endured such trauma.”

– Joann C. Hutton, Philadelphia

“The Homecoming” should be mandatory reading for everyone in this great nation of ours. Most see war as the movies and not VA hospitals and the mentally and physically disabled veterans who gave so much and get so little in return. Jeff Stoffer writes about the real sacrifices our military make every day. God bless those from all the wars and, sadly, those that will come.

– Pete Yancick, Morton, Ill.

Your May issue is something to crow about. I found it helpful in understanding our troops’ suffering. Being a veteran of World War II and Korea, I realize how lucky I was not to get a scratch. Thanks.

– Ivan Ferguson, East Grand Forks, Minn.

Thanks, American Legion

Once again, The American Legion came through for veterans and those still serving on active duty with your Memorial Day issue. On behalf of the USO, I want to thank members of both The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary for your steadfast support of our activities to ensure U.S. troops know they are supported by the

people of the United States. You allow us to bring a touch of home to more than 120 locations where American troops serve, and we do it entirely through the generosity of donors. The troops thank you, and we thank you. Keep up the great work.

– John Hanson, senior vice president for marketing and communications, USO World Headquarters, Arlington, Va.

After getting secondhand copies of a friend’s *American Legion Magazine* for several years and reading about the Legion’s pro-Second Amendment, pro-Boy Scouts, pro-national defense and anti-flag desecration stands, I decided the Legion is looking out for the things that are important to me and is an organization I want to support. I have joined and now get my own magazine. Keep up the good work.

– Dale Ebersbacher, Fort Meyers, Fla.

Social Security reform

In May’s Big Issues, Rahm Emanuel claims, “Privatization will add \$1.4 trillion to the federal debt over the first 10 years – and trillions more thereafter – as the government takes money out of the Social Security Trust Fund to invest in private accounts.”

Why would the government “invest in private accounts”? Do they not understand the meaning of “private”? I’ve heard many naysayers make the same claim as Emanuel but have yet to hear a cogent explanation why it would occur under any scenario yet introduced.

– Doug Spittler, Kalama, Wash.

Rep. Rahm Emanuel is right when he says privatization isn’t the answer. No more important task faces the United States today than preserving Social Security

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for generations of workers and families to come. That's why we should continue to oppose any measure that drains money out of it for private investment accounts or any other reason.

Yes, the world is different now than 70 years ago, when Social Security was established. Adjustments must be made sooner rather than later to ensure the program's long-term solvency. With no changes at all, however, Social Security will be able to make full payments to all beneficiaries through 2042 or beyond. The looming crisis you keep hearing about is actually 37 years away. But that's no reason for complacency.

Reforming the program is not the same as dismantling, which is what diverting payroll taxes into private accounts will do. That's a solution much worse than the problem, like pushing your car over a cliff the first time it needs a brake job. Millions of Americans depend on Social Security payments as part or all of their household income. Remember, it is not an investment program. What supporters of private accounts would like you to forget is that Social Security is a family insurance program. That insurance has kept millions of retirees, disabled workers, widows and surviving children out of poverty.

— Henry G. Hendrickson,
Viroqua, Wis.

'The Law Against Values'

God bless The American Legion for its continued commitment to unmask the American Civil Liberties Union as a genuine threat to America's core values. The interview with attorney Rees

Lloyd ("The Law Against Values," May) is a powerful instrument to inform veterans of the ACLU's determined agenda. It is unimaginable that an organization of less than half a million members can orchestrate a persistent and systematic attack on treasured traditions, beliefs, institutions and old-fashioned common sense.

The Legion was instrumental in creating the Citizens Flag Alliance to protect our flag from acts of physical desecration. I challenge The American Legion to step up again by spearheading a coalition of organizations and citizens who embrace America's traditional values and whose purpose would be to combat the insanity of the ACLU.

The American Legion is made up of men and women who have fought injustice all over the world. It is time for us to again defend America by supporting an army of attorneys to check ACLU fanaticism.

— Walter A. Ross, Rio Rancho, N.M.

I am dumbfounded to learn that my tax dollars are paying the salaries of people in the ACLU who are trying to tear the Constitution apart. The Legion should petition to get 42 U.S. Code Section 1988 repealed.

— Robert Fisher, Indian Lake, N.Y.

Chipped beef, not ground

For shame! Trying to pass off recipes for Hamburger Helper as SOS is beneath the memory of this hallowed mixture. SOS is made with dried chipped beef, not ground beef. After hacking apart the beef pack, brown it in butter. Slowly add milk and flour. Use moderate heat and stir slowly and constantly. Add salt, pepper

or smokeless powder to season to taste. Serve over burnt toast. It's not something for Cub Scouts, as are the recipes in the May issue.

— Kent Hadley, East Hampton, Conn.

I feel I must reply to those apparently younger veterans who never had real SOS. I served in the Army starting in 1965, when it had actual military cooks and not civilian contractors. During that time, until the government changed the recipe to save money, we were served SOS using salted chipped beef and gravy over toast, and it was very good – never ground beef. Yuck.

— T.L. Davis, Bowling Green, Ky.

Media mistake

Your article "Men of Mettle" (Rapid Fire, May) reminded me of what irritates me most about the media. During the TV news spots telling of the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Army Sgt. First Class Paul Ray Smith, only one network I watched got the name of the medal right: ABC. All the others called it the Congressional Medal of Honor. It's simply the Medal of Honor.

It seems disrespectful to me that people cannot get right the name of our nation's highest military award for valor. That's like calling Great Britain's highest award, the Victoria Cross, the "Parliamentary Victoria Cross." I believe "congressional" got tacked on around the time of the Spanish-American War by a news media looking for a grander title and has mistakenly continued since.

I'd encourage all Legionnaires to help correct this mistake when they encounter it.

— Donald A. Smith, Thayer, Mo.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

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Friends of terrorists, foes of Scouts



National Commander
Thomas P. Cadmus

James V. Carroll

Here's a riddle: How do you get the American Civil Liberties Union to stop defending terrorists? Tell the ACLU that the detainees are really Boy Scouts. Sadly, I am only half joking. This is the same group, after all, that defends pedophiles in the North American Man/Boy Love Association yet sues U.S. servicemembers engaged in a war.

The latest outrage from the "America-does-nothing-right" crowd is a series of lawsuits against Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski and Col. Thomas Pappas. The March 1 news release, in which the ACLU announced the lawsuits, would be laughable if not for the serious impact it is already having on military operations. Among the alleged abuses committed by our troops against the peace-loving detainees is "degrading treatment" and "restraint in contorted and excruciating positions." It would be easy to make a comparison to Western hostages who have been beheaded by Islamic terrorists, but we are, and should be, held to a higher standard. In fact, most military servicemembers and veterans were horrified by the photographs taken at Abu Ghraib prison. The military, however, is investigating these abuses and has court-martialed or nonjudicially punished those already determined to be responsible.

These lawsuits represent the latest salvo in a pattern of "lawfare" used by the ACLU and fellow litigant Human Rights First. These groups, along with the Center for Constitutional Rights and Veterans for Peace, have exploited the Freedom of Information Act by requiring the Pentagon to release documents to the tune of 15,000 pages per month. All of these documents need to be gathered and reviewed by intelligence personnel and other troops before public release. I suppose these intelligence specialists don't have anything better to do, like maybe prevent the next 9/11 or keep our troops safe in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The effects of Rumsfeld's policies have been devastating both to America's international reputation as a beacon of freedom and democracy, and to the hundreds, even thousands, of individuals who have suffered at the hands of U.S. forces," said ACLU Executive Director Anthony D. Romero. Thousands? Of the 50,000 detainees processed between September 2001 and August 2004, 300 allegations of abuse have been made. After 150 investigations, only 66 cases have been confirmed – that's a whopping 0.132 percent. Two-thirds of the 66 confirmed abuses occurred in battle, not during the interrogations.

DoD policy forbids requiring a prisoner to stand more than four consecutive hours. Under this more-than-generous rule, nearly every waiter and waitress in the United States could claim "abuse through stress positions." War zones are dangerous places and people do get hurt. A detainee bumping his head while being handcuffed and put in a Humvee should hardly be considered abuse, yet according to some it's a war crime.

The United States "does not permit, tolerate or condone any such torture by its employees under any circumstances," William Haynes, DoD's general counsel, said in a 2003 letter to Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

Many war critics claim that the detainees are entitled either to due process in U.S. courts or Geneva Convention protections. I fail to see how foreign terrorists who have never set foot in the United States are being deprived of their "U.S. constitutional rights." Yet some wish to micromanage military operations by judicial fiat at the instigation of the ACLU and other radical organizations.

The protections of Geneva did not come from one convention but actually a series of meetings that date as far back as 1864. It is a body of laws passed piecemeal. It requires a clear distinction between combatants and civilians. For example, combatants must wear uniforms and carry their weapons openly during military operations. As the Society for Professional Journalists correctly states, "Combatants who deliberately violate the rules about maintaining a clear separation between combatant and noncombatant groups – and thus endanger the civilian population – are no longer protected by the Geneva Convention." Despite this, the U.S. military has given Geneva Convention protections to Iraqi soldiers who met the criteria. Unfortunately, some who are released return to fight our soldiers again.

In April, the military released a comprehensive report citing 4,000 interrogations of Guantanamo detainees. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, "captives have described how Al Qaeda trained them to spread deadly poisons and at other times armed them with grenades stuffed inside soda cans, bombs hidden in pagers and cellphones, and wrist-watches that could trigger remote-control explosions on a 24-hour countdown." It's nice to know that while our intelligence officials are gathering information from detainees on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, the ACLU would advise these terrorists to "lawyer up."

Now back to the Scouts. The legal attacks on Boy Scouts of America are similar to the ACLU's hostility toward the military. Scouting is a valued experience sought by recruiters searching for candidates at the U.S. service academies. The Defense secretary and the Pentagon's top lawyer are Eagle Scouts. Support for Scouts runs deep aboard U.S. military bases worldwide. Yet because Boy Scouts of America does not share the ACLU's secular, homosexual-rights agenda, activist judges are trying to destroy the organization.

Several recent court decisions, if allowed to stand, will prohibit the military from supporting the National Boy Scout Jamboree. The bonding that occurs between soldiers and Scouts as they camp, eat, hike, study conservation and work together instills values that benefit military and civilian society alike. The Pentagon has already succumbed to ACLU pressure by resurrecting a long-forgotten policy to bar the military from officially sponsoring private groups, including Scout troops. Hundreds of troops, many of them overseas, now have to find new sponsors.

The American Legion will stand with the Boy Scouts all the way to the Supreme Court if necessary. The ACLU has successfully used the courts to tear down a cross that was intended as a soldiers' monument in California. Moreover, the ACLU is soaking taxpayers with its legal fees. The city of San Diego recently paid \$940,000 in ACLU legal fees after the organization chased the Boy Scouts out of Balboa Park. Nationally, taxpayers fork over millions to ACLU attorneys. To stop this greed, Congress must amend 42 U.S. Code, Section 1988, of the Civil Rights Act, which is being exploited by these radical lawyers.

We are not engaged in a fight over legal doctrine or constitutional interpretation. This is a war on values. It is one The American Legion intends to win.

Prominently displayed on the ACLU's official Web site is the phrase "Keep America Safe and Free." Ironically, if America were to follow the ACLU's lead, it would be neither.

Thomas P. Cadmus

MEMORANDA

BOYS NATION 2005: A program that has produced American leaders at every level since 1946 resumes July 22 in Washington. Boys Nation draws two delegates from each of 48 states to the nation's capital. There, they learn the legislative process according to the rules of the U.S. Senate, conduct hearings, and elect a president and vice president. This year's Boys Nation concludes July 30. More information may be obtained by writing or via e-mail:

**American Legion Boys Nation
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
acy@legion.org**

COMMANDER'S NEF CHALLENGE: Aug. 1 is the deadline for American Legion departments to submit their fund-raising numbers for the Commander's Challenge competition to generate money for the National Emergency Fund. In addition to department goals for the drive, one more dollar per Legion post member is asked, in light of the devastating storms that hit the Gulf Coast in fall 2004. Donations may be sent to:

**National Emergency Fund
P.O. Box 6141
Indianapolis, IN 46206**

SHAD STUDY: VA has contracted with the Institute of Medicine to study the current health of veterans who participated in the 19 Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense tests in the 1960s. Details about the study may be found by calling the institute toll free or visiting the Web site.
(800) 556-9896, iom.edu

The Real ID bill for foreign visitors



SUPPORT

Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., R-Wis.

■ Sensenbrenner is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.



OPPOSE

Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, D-III.

■ Gutierrez is a proponent of legal protections and benefits for immigrants.

The 9/11 murderers exploited U.S. security vulnerabilities, primarily by deceiving government at every level into thinking they were casual tourists and harmless foreign students. Without real federal standards for state-issued drivers' licenses and identity cards, the terrorists easily obtained a variety of state-issued IDs and drivers' licenses that allowed them to freely move around the country and, finally, to carry out their evil intentions. To combat the threat of future attacks, a solid bipartisan House majority voted for the Real ID Act.

The Real ID Act addresses the loophole that allowed Mohammed Atta to obtain three different state drivers' licenses while holding only an expired six-month visa. The law limits foreign visitors to possess temporary drivers' licenses for one year or less. The licenses expire on the same date visa validity ends.

The 9/11 Commission asserted, "For terrorists, travel documents are as important as weapons," and recommended the federal government set national standards for the issuance of drivers' licenses. The legislation does not allow an illegal alien to use a driver's license to verify an identity for federal official purposes. U.S. citizens have the right to know who is in their country, that people are who they say they are, and that the name on a driver's license belongs to the real holder, not some alias.

Currently nine states – including my home state of Wisconsin – issue drivers' licenses to illegal aliens, creating not only a national-security problem but a public-safety one as well.

The choice is clear: Congress can address vulnerabilities open to terrorist exploitation by supporting the Real ID's effort to disrupt terrorist travel, or it can cross its fingers and hope terrorists don't strike again.

Imagine legislation that deports victims of torture and persecution back into the hands of their oppressors. Imagine a law that makes our roads more dangerous by denying people the opportunity to obtain auto insurance. Together, these fundamentally flawed proposals make up the so-called Real ID Act. It is truly a trifecta of defective policy proposals.

Our immigration system is badly broken. However, the piecemeal proposals offered in this bill will do nothing to address the larger issue of immigration reform and, more importantly, will not make our country safer.

A comprehensive homeland-security policy must start with comprehensive immigration reform. Recently released statistics show that more than 10 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States. Study after study shows that these workers are doing jobs that Americans will simply not do.

So, to keep our nation safe, let's stop targeting cleaning ladies and start targeting the real terrorists. By reforming our immigration laws, we will give our frontline forces the resources they need to focus on real threats to our national security.

It is my hope that as more people learn about the Real ID Act, the more they will see it for its true intent: legislation designed to unfairly punish our nation's immigrant community.

Immigrants have served in every war since the American Revolution. Immigrants are veterans. They are soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they are part of the fabric of our nation as surely as those who came before them. Let's not turn our backs on our nation's proud history of welcoming immigrants to work, to escape torture and to make a better life for their families. The Real ID Act will cause real damage to America.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE
Designed to prevent another 9/11-type attack by disrupting terrorist travel, the Real ID proposal is said by critics to violate the rights of immigrants and refugees.

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

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MANUFACTURER'S COUPON EXPIRES 11/30/05

The Military and the Law

Pentagon's top attorney condemns use of torture.

Department of Defense General Counsel William J. Haynes II, the Pentagon's top lawyer, is as respected within the Bush administration as he is deeply opposed by some human-rights groups. Nominated as a judge to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in 2003, Haynes still awaits an up or down vote in the Senate. People for The American Way, a liberal advocacy group, claims to have more than 35,000 signatures opposing Haynes' nomination. The American Bar Association gives Haynes a "well-qualified" rating, and many believe he would be confirmed if given a full Senate vote. Most controversial is a March 2003 report produced by a working group appointed by Haynes. The memo, in part, stated, "In order to respect the president's inherent constitutional authority to manage a military campaign ... (the prohibition against torture) must be construed as inapplicable to interrogations undertaken pursuant to his commander-in-chief authority." Haynes spoke about military legal issues with *The American Legion Magazine*.



The American Legion Magazine: *Has the reaction of the international community and human-rights groups to Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo been appropriate?*

William J. Haynes II: Well, everybody comes into the world with a different perspective, and I don't

like to attribute that to improper motives. I think we should all be concerned, even outraged, when we see photographs like we saw come from Abu Ghraib. That's just not what we're all about. That's the reaction we had in this country, and I'm sure that's the reaction the soldiers in the field had. It is

Courts differ on Gitmo detainees

Justice Department plans appeal.

BY JOHN RAUGHTER

In a decision that has confounded legal experts concerned with America's national security, a federal judge ruled earlier this year that detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have U.S. constitutional rights and valid claims under the Geneva Conventions.

The ruling by Judge Joyce Hens Green contradicts an earlier ruling by a judge on the same court and sets up a potential Supreme Court showdown.

Green, a Carter appointee on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, ruled that

the detainees – most of whom have never set foot on U.S. soil – have a Fifth Amendment right to due process.

"The district court's order conflicts with a ruling by a judge of the same court two weeks ago dismissing the same claims made by other Guantanamo detainees," the Justice Department stated in a release immediately following the Jan. 31 decision. "These conflicting rulings will ultimately have to be resolved by the Court of Appeals, and the Department will explore options for expeditiously resolving the issues."

Judge Richard J. Leon ruled Jan. 19 "that no viable legal theory exists" for the court to issue a writ of *habeas corpus*, an order that would require that the detainees be charged before a court.

Green's decision also seems to contradict a 1950 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Johnson v. Eisentrager*, which held that Nazi agents captured and convicted by a U.S. military commission in China were not entitled to U.S. constitutional protections.

In *Johnson*, Justice Robert Jackson wrote for the majority, "We are cited to no instance

appropriate to be offended by it, and it's also appropriate to do what we're doing now, which is to fix any problems that we find and to do that in a way that is appropriate. We have an organization that is self-policing. Remember, this came to light because a soldier on the ground found something that was wrong and went to his leadership, and the leadership reacted appropriately. They immediately began an investigation. What we are seeing, and what those photographs bring to light, is a product of the Army and the command dealing with the problem. That's the way our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are trained.

Q: *Civil-rights attorney Alan Dershowitz often gives a ticking-bomb scenario to describe a situation where torture may be appropriate to prevent mass casualties. Do you see a scenario when harsh measures should be taken?*

A: The president has said we do not torture. That's the commander in chief speaking, so that question is answered categorically. What we saw on Sept. 11, 2001, was how to kill as many innocent people as possible in the most treacherous fashion possible. This enemy has demonstrated obviously its willingness and ability to do that, and they

have declared their intentions to do more of it – including, as you say, ticking time bombs with enormous potential to kill.

So yes, we worry about those situations, and that illustrates a number of things. It illustrates how important it is to take the fight to the enemy, to keep those ticking time bombs and other threats as far away from America as we possibly can. It illustrates the importance of information in this war, because the normal lineup that one has in a war with a nation-state with armies, battleships and tanks and people in uniform, is just not present in this conflict. We have this surreptitious enemy that is against everything that Americans and people who love freedom value most. So, faced with that threat, collecting information is extremely important. But the president has made it very clear: torture is not an option.

Q: *Excerpts from your working group's report that appeared in The Wall Street Journal seem to indicate that the commander in chief can approve, in extreme cases, measures that most would consider torture. What are your thoughts on this?*

A: The passage that you are alluding to was based on some legal work that the Justice Department did. As you may know, that Congress has charged the Justice Department with making definitive interpretations and not what the law is. So it was only prudent for people to ask questions like,



According to some legal experts, U.S. District Court Judge Joyce Hens Green contradicted previous court decisions when she ruled that Guantanamo Bay detainees have rights under the U.S. Constitution and the Geneva Conventions. *DoD*

where a court in this or any other country where a writ (of *habeas corpus*) is known, has issued it on behalf of an alien enemy who, at no relevant time and no stage of his captivity, has been within its territorial jurisdiction.” Jackson also famously pointed out in 1949 that the Constitution is “not a suicide pact.” Even so, the Supreme Court did grant court-

access rights to detainees in its 2004 *Rasul v. Bush* decision. In response, the government allowed detainees hearings in military Combatant Status Review Tribunals (CSRT).

Green went even further in her decision and wrote of “the fundamental unfairness of the CSRT’s reliance on classified information not disclosed to the detainees” Granting detainees

access to classified information could have a profound effect on the intelligence community’s ability to fight the war on terror.

Green referred to sacrifices made by U.S. military veterans when she wrote, “Although this nation unquestionably must take strong action under the leadership of the Commander in Chief to protect itself against enor-

SEE **GITMO** PAGE 14

‘What does the law say?’ about certain things. But as you may know, the Justice Department has issued a subsequent opinion that has withdrawn that portion because it was unnecessary to discuss that hypothetical.

The president has said torture is not an option, so that is no longer an expression. In fact, it was not considered or needed. But the broader question of trying to divine what Congress meant when it passed a certain law is something that lawyers are supposed to do, particularly in an environment with less certainty than one normally has in a traditional conflict. So that is like many things that lawyers have to deal with in this kind of war. An example of the need to look at what are the rules and principles that guide us.

The 9/11 Commission said at great length when looking at a different legal question about how does one treat intelligence information and law-enforcement information and should there be more sharing between the communities. So also, we must as a country look at the rules that we have in place and see how they apply in the new conflict.

Q: *Can U.S. citizens who are enemy combatants be detained without charges or face military tribunal? Birthplace alone doesn't make them less of an enemy.*

A: It's an unfortunate fact that we have found some Americans who have taken up arms against the United States. It's something you don't like to think about, but it's a matter of fact. Your question crosses a number of different concepts.

There is a military commission option available

to the president to prosecute terrorists. He asked the secretary of Defense to create such a structure and develop the rules for when the need arises. When the president asked the secretary of Defense to do that, he made a choice at the outset (that American citizens will not be tried by military commission. He has made that call already. As for detaining enemy combatants, there is a basic principle that has been around forever – certainly for hundreds of years – that if you're fighting with someone who is trying to kill you, it is lawful to stop them and to keep them from going back and trying to kill other people. That's what you do. If you capture someone on the battlefield, it only makes sense. Now the president said to us, “Treat people humanely,” and that's what we do. And it's lawful. It's been recognized in treaties and is certainly customary in international law. It makes sense. That is not the same thing as punishing somebody. That is not the same thing as applying the criminal process. And so many people mix the two concepts and express concern about holding people without charging them.

One way to think about that is to remember World War II. The United States captured hundreds of thousands of prisoners, many of whom were brought back to the United States and kept in camps all around the country ... The huge majority were never charged with crimes. They were kept in camp, and that was perfectly logical. In fact, it would be quite silly to release somebody who would come back and try to kill other people.

Now we have found Americans – one American

GITMO FROM PAGE 13

mous and unprecedented threats, that necessity cannot negate the existence of the most basic fundamental rights for which the people of this country have fought and died for well over two hundred years.”

Leon, however, had an opposite view of the president's authority. Congress passed the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) on Sept. 18, 2001, which Leon believes allows the president to hold the detainees. “When Congress, through the AUMF, authorized the President ‘to use all necessary and appropriate force against those ... persons he

determines planned, authorized, committed, or aided the terrorist attacks (of 9/11)’ ‘to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States by such ... persons,’ it, in effect, gave the President the power to capture and detain those who the military determined were either responsible for the 9/11 attacks or posed a threat of future terrorist attacks. Indeed, the President's war powers could not be reasonably interpreted otherwise,” wrote Leon, an appointee of President George W. Bush.

Green's subsequent ruling was in response to *habeas* cases filed by 11 detainees currently held as

“enemy combatants.” Green's ruling does not require the release of the detainees, just that they be given access to civilian courts and counsel.

“I think Judge Leon clearly had the better argument and that it's likely that Judge Green's decision will be overturned,” said Paul Rosenzweig, an attorney with the Heritage Foundation. “The Supreme Court mucked it up with the *Rasul* decision, but if Judge Green's decision stands it could really hurt our ability to gather intelligence and prosecute the war on terror.”

John Raughter is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

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is more than we would like to find fighting against America – but we have found some. And being an American is something special, and in the cases where we have captured Americans, we have tried to bring them back to the United States, for example ... Mr. (Yasser) Hamdi was captured on the battlefield, and it was discovered after we brought him to Guantanamo that he was an American, so we brought him to the United States ... John Walker Lindh is another who was captured in Afghanistan and was brought to the United States. A third was Mr. (Jose) Padilla, whose case was heard by the Supreme Court. He is now contesting his detention in the federal courts as the Supreme Court has said he is entitled to do. It's just a sad fact.

Q: *Since the terrorists don't wear uniforms or represent nation-states that have signed the Geneva Conventions, why are we expected to treat them as if they are entitled to these rights?*

A: Well, in fact, this president and previous presidents have determined that they are not. I don't think this is subject to serious dispute as a matter of law. The Geneva Conventions are treaties. They are agreements between states, and they reflect time-honored custom and practice that if combatants fight honorably, fight according to the rules, they are entitled to certain privileges. But if they don't, they are not entitled to those privileges. This country considered that in the context of a treaty negotiation in the 1980s, for example. And when President Reagan made the decision it was applauded in *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* in 1987.

Terrorists – people who don't abide by the laws of war, don't wear uniforms or insignia visible at a distance, don't operate as part of a command structure that can hold them accountable or be held accountable in turn – do not qualify in terms of the conventions themselves and should not get the privileges of prisoner-of-war status. As a matter of law, they are not entitled to it. As an expression of policy, the country has said that for quite sometime. In fact, that makes sense.

What those treaties reflect is not just habits. It reflects a desire to put some boundaries on the horrible tools of war, to incorporate as much civilization as one can into the horrible business of killing. And it creates an incentive system. If the fighters behave honorably, they will get certain treatments. If they don't, then they aren't entitled to them. Now that doesn't mean they won't be given them. What President Bush said in this war is ... the U.S. Armed Forces shall treat them humanely and, to the extent consistent with military necessity,

consistent with the principles with Geneva ... They are given culturally appropriate meals and religious items and many comforts that one would expect a humane society to do. But we must keep them off the battlefield and keep them from going back and killing more innocent people.

Q: *There was a lawsuit filed against Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in Europe for "war crimes." What is being done to protect our servicemembers from such lawsuits?*

A: That's a big concern for all of us here. Each one of those come up in a different context. The one you are referring to, I think, was the recent one filed in Germany. Similar ones were filed a couple of years ago in Belgium. When it became apparent that that type of forum can be abused, the Belgians re-examined their laws and actually changed them to be more careful. We have a similar situation with the ICC. President Bush made clear when he came into office that he did not want servicemembers threatened by this. We have not ratified the (ICC) treaty. Congress has spoken on this. As an administration, we are doing a number of things to mitigate that risk and, hopefully, remove it entirely. But that's not something entirely in our control. One of the things we are doing is seeking Article 98 agreements, country-to-country agreements in which other countries agree not to turn over any Americans to the International Criminal Court should any charges be lodged against them, but rather allow the United States to take them. But it's very important to protect our soldiers ... One of the very highest priorities that we have is to protect our fighting men and women around the world who are putting their lives at risk for the good of the country. And, unfortunately, the risk of lawsuits is yet another thing to worry about.

Q: *Is it to the point now where the average soldier in the field needs a lawyer next to him in order to make split-second decisions?*

A: I hope not. One of the things we can be very proud of is that our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines on the ground around the world are great ambassadors for America. They are well-trained, principled, well-read. The last thing I would suggest is that they have to have a lawyer at their side. My brother recently retired from the Air Force as a senior master sergeant. I think about him and people like him, really out there on the frontlines. The idea that we need to have a lawyer watching over them all of the time is not very appealing. 🇺🇸

Interview: John Raughter



Max Stührling's big mistake

When quality isn't enough to take on the big guys.

The fine horologists (watchmakers) at Stührling just built a super luxury watch for this Christmas. Using one of the most complex regulator movements ever designed, they engineered the Regulator Series 3. With its large separate minute dial and small hour dial, this watch was built to take on the likes of Rolex™ and Patek Philippe™ and was to retail for \$5,750. Well, Max made a mistake. The other luxury watch manufacturers had locked up the shelf space at the high end jewelers by offering large advertising contracts, so Max is left with 3,435 of these magnificent "Regulator Series 3" watches.

Max needs to liquidate these luxury watches so he came to us at NextTen. You see, NextTen has become synonymous with high quality

watches at extraordinary values. We are offering the Regulator for a miraculous price—\$349.⁷⁵. Max is in tears, but he needs the cash. When the 3,435 watches are sold, that will be the end of them. I am keeping three for myself since I'm convinced that the rare design will make this watch sought after by collectors in years to come.



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SOCIALS

THE RETIREMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY

BY KERRY LYNCH

The Social Security reform debate has become increasingly political and confusing. President Bush says the program is “headed towards bankruptcy.” If we don’t act soon, he says, “Social Security will not be there for our children and grandchildren.”

Critics of the president’s reform plan point out that Social Security currently collects far more in payroll taxes than it pays out in benefits. They say the huge Social Security trust fund can cover benefits for another 40 years and suggest that relatively minor changes could fix the program.

Both sides base their arguments on long-term actuarial projections. Such projec-

tions, however, are just best guesses, based on assumptions about things no one can confidently predict, including future birth, death and immigration rates, future labor force, productivity and wage increases, interest rates and price inflation.

Social Security trustees make projections that cover not just five or 10 years into the future, but 75 years. No matter how reasonable, such projections will almost inevitably be wrong. Think back 75 years. Who in 1930 could foresee the severity of the Depression, the baby bust of the 1930s, World War II, the postwar prosperity and the baby boom? Why should current projections be any more accurate?

Modest changes can restore solvency.

By
**Henry J.
Aaron**

Henry J. Aaron is a senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution.
Brookings.edu

Social Security currently is running massive cash-flow surpluses – more than \$150 billion a year. These surpluses are expected to last until 2028. Currently legislated revenues, plus accumulated reserves, are unlikely to cover all future benefits. The shortfall, according to Social Security actuaries, equals 12 percent of projected outlays over the next 75 years. The following measures would more than close the projected 12-percent gap and improve the capacity of Social Security to assure basic income to retirees, survivors and the disabled.

Percent of projected financial gap closed by the following measures:

40% – Raise the taxable wage base to include 90 percent of earnings. In 1983, Congress set the ceiling on taxable wages at a level that covered 90 percent of all cash wages and salaries. Since then, growing inequality of earnings has reduced the proportion of total earnings subject to the payroll tax. Raising the ceiling back to 90 percent would cover all earnings.

29% – Dedicate revenue from estate tax at levels set for 2009. The estate tax is gradually being reduced as a result of tax legislation enacted in 2001. Under this proposal, estate-tax provisions would be frozen at a maximum rate of 45 percent on

DECORATIVE



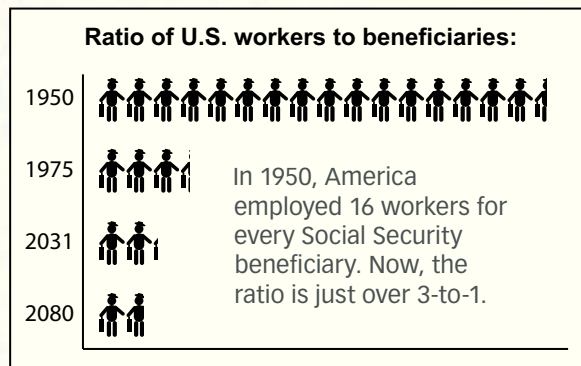
The Trust Fund. Discussions about the Social Security trust fund, which consists entirely of U.S. Treasury securities, are not much more helpful.

The trust fund exists because payroll taxes have more than covered Social Security benefits for the past 20 years. In 2003, the Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) program collected \$450 billion in payroll taxes and paid out nearly \$400 billion in benefits and adminis-

trative expenses. The excess taxes – \$50 billion in 2003 and similar amounts for each of the past 20 years – were used for general government spending. Congress has promised to eventually pay back everything borrowed, with interest. These

IOUs total \$1.4 trillion, representing the assets in the trust fund.

According to current projections, benefit payments will begin to exceed payroll taxes in 2017. Then the



estates exceeding \$7 million for couples and \$3.5 million for singles.

28% – Increase the age at which full benefits are paid to 67 by the year 2012 instead of 2023. Then, as life expectancy increases, raise the age to 68. In 1983, Congress passed legislation to gradually increase the age at which full benefits are paid from 65 to 67, to be phased in from 2000 through 2023. This proposal would accelerate the implementation of that legislation but would not raise the age of initial entitlement from age 62.

18% – Adopt an improved price index for annual inflation adjustments. Once workers' benefits are initially computed, they are adjusted annually by the Consumer Price Index. This index slightly overstates increases in the cost of living. The use of an improved price index would lower overall costs.

11% – Cover state and local government employees in four states currently not covered by Social Security. This change would require that employees hired after some future date would be covered. Current employees would be unaffected.

Altogether, these measures total 126 percent, which is more than enough to close Social Security's projected gap of 12 percent.

Through modest changes, Congress can restore long-term solvency to Social Security and preserve the guarantee of income support it provides. Diverting revenue into private accounts would force larger benefit cuts. Private accounts expose workers to heightened risks from fluctuations in asset prices and inflation.

government will have to start paying back the money it has borrowed. Congress can finance this by reducing other spending, raising taxes or borrowing even more money. In short, the Treasury notes in the trust fund don't solve Social Security's financing problems. They add to them.

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turns 50.**

Fewer Workers to Support Beneficiaries.

Another problem facing Social Security is the changing ratio of workers to beneficiaries. As Bush noted, "In the 1950s there were about 16 workers for every Social Security beneficiary. Today, there are about three. And eventually, there will be only two workers per beneficiary."

While these projections could change, the aging of the baby boomers is inescapable. The oldest will turn 62 and become eligible for early retirement benefits in three years. The youngest will become eligible in 2026. This demographic bulge will significantly strain our public finances. The only way to manage the problem is by getting the economy to grow faster, cutting benefits, raising taxes or borrowing more money.

Is Privatization the Answer? Advocates of private savings accounts say that if workers could invest some of their payroll taxes in individual accounts, they could build up financial

Equalize benefits, abolish the payroll tax.

By
**Kerry
Lynch**

Lynch is director of research at the American Institute for Economic Research. AIER research focuses on personal finance issues and national economic policy. Aier.org

To reform Social Security, the American Institute for Economic Research in Great Barrington, Mass., recommends the following:

Equalize Social Security benefits. Social Security's minimum payments are now too low, and the maximum payments are too high. Benefits could gradually be made the same for everyone by changing the formula used to calculate them. The benefits of current retirees and those nearing retirement would be left intact.

Abolish the payroll tax. If everyone got the same benefit, there would be no need for employers and the government to keep track of earnings histories, and there would be no need to maintain the fiction that Social Security is a savings plan in which retirees are getting back what they paid in. This would open the door to re-examining the merits of the payroll tax – a regressive tax that harms the economy and creates a significant barrier to new-job creation.

Abolish the corporate income tax. Corporations are not people; they do not pay taxes.

The notion that such taxes are ultimately paid by rich stockholders is questionable. These taxes are simply another cost of doing business; they become embedded in the prices we pay for goods and services and are thereby shifted to customers. In this sense, they function almost like a sales or value-added tax (VAT). If Social Security were funded with a national VAT, it would make sense to abolish the corporate profit tax and the payroll tax. The real mischief of the profits tax is that it enables politicians to grant favors to businesses that lobby for special treatment.

Introduce a value-added tax (VAT) to finance Social Security benefits. A value-added tax is essentially a sales tax, with the important difference that businesses basically get a credit for the taxes already paid by their suppliers. This means that a VAT is essentially a tax on the income derived from capital and labor (wages, interest and profits) – the same income now subject to payroll and corporate income taxes. But a VAT is simpler and easier to administer. One objection is that it is regressive; poorer people pay a higher proportion of their incomes toward it. But so is the payroll tax. Because a VAT is a tax on consumption, it would encourage saving, which is necessary for long-term retirement security.

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nest eggs that could supplement their Social Security benefits. Diverting payroll taxes into private accounts, however, would leave an even greater short-term financing gap.

The president reportedly hopes to rely on borrowing to finance the added costs of private accounts. But that, too, would create new obligations for future generations.

Financing problems aside, what should really concern us about private accounts is that such a system would create strong incentives for politicians to exert pressure on fiscal and monetary policy to keep the economy and markets booming.

It also would create the potential for political mischief. A small group of appointed officials ultimately would decide the funds in which workers could invest. Although these funds supposedly would be limited to a small group of "index funds," similar to those in the federal employees' 401(k)-style Thrift Savings Plan, it

is not hard to imagine politicians demanding that these funds include politically correct investments or omit "objectionable" ones, such as stock in a company being sued for alleged sex discrimination.

That Congress has not meddled with the Thrift Savings Plan is hardly reassuring. Social Security would be a far more tempting target. After 20 years, the Thrift Savings Plan has only \$130 billion in assets. If just 10 percent of the Social Security payroll taxes collected last year had been diverted into a similar plan – a smaller percentage than most "privatization" advocates envision – the total investment would have been \$40 billion.

Goal Should Be Change. Designed during the Depression, the Social Security system is outdated. Clearly it needs reform, and Americans should be encouraged to save more for their retirements.

Private accounts provide security for the future.

By
**David
John**

David John is a research fellow in Social Security at the Heritage Foundation.
Heritage.org

The problem with Social Security is simple. Baby boomers didn't have enough children. When millions of boomers retire, there won't be enough taxpayers to pay their benefits without huge tax increases. Social Security benefits are based on earnings. As the economy grows and people earn more, Social Security will end up owing more in benefits.

Three solutions exist: raise taxes, cut benefits or make taxes work harder in personal retirement accounts. The first two aren't attractive. Social Security benefits are too low now, and raising payroll taxes reduces jobs.

However, accounts do work. My 18-year-old daughter, Meredith, could receive twice what Social Security will be able to pay her by investing her taxes in government bonds or stock-index funds.

The accounts would be centrally managed and automatically invested to keep costs low – the Social Security Administration says about 30 cents for every \$100. Meredith will not have to be a financial genius to manage her account. She can put her money in a life-span account that automatically chooses the best mix of investments based on her age. When she retires, her benefits would be paid from a combination of money from her account and a monthly government check similar to the ones today's retirees receive.

The difference is additional security. Meredith won't be forced to depend on the whims of politicians or the kindness of government bureaucrats for her benefits. And if she dies before retirement, her account will go to her family.

This system will cost money to set up. Opponents like to dwell on an exaggerated estimate of the cost, but they don't mention that this is less than one-third of the cost of doing nothing. And neither today's retirees nor those close to retirement will see their benefits drop by a single cent.

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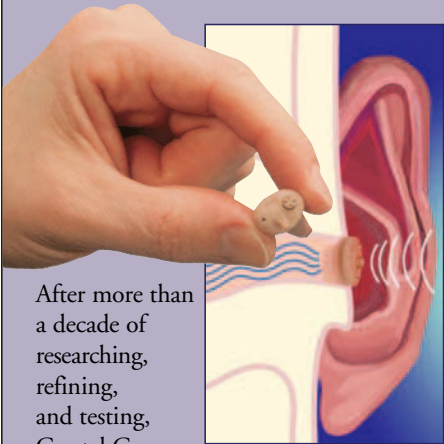


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—J.W., Florida*

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Privatization, however, raises many concerns. The problem lies with changing Social Security from a social-insurance program into a forced-



Birth rates before and after the baby boom

Here's how the birth rate fluctuated in North America before, during and after the baby-boom years:

Births per year	
1940	2,559,000
1946	3,311,000
1955	4,097,000
1957	4,300,000
1964	4,027,000
1974	3,160,000

savings program. This would further entwine government in the financial markets, invite government policies biased toward permanent bull markets and create pressure to protect those individuals whose investments do badly.

The goal of Social Security should be to provide a basic level of subsistence to the elderly. Making benefits equal for everyone would simplify record-keeping and permit Washington to replace the highly damaging payroll tax with a less-damaging consumption tax.

Such complex changes cannot be accomplished easily. But they should be the goal. 🌿

Kerry Lynch is director of research at the American Institute for Economic Research in Massachusetts. Founded in 1933 on the campus of MIT, AIER focuses on personal finance issues and national economic policy.

Baby boom years: 1946-1964

While no law, constitutional amendment nor official proclamation defines the era, sociologists coined the term to describe those born between – and including – 1946 and 1964 as “baby boomers.” The term was chosen because the United States experienced a rapid population increase after American soldiers returned home from World War II.

The biggest year of the boom was 1957, when 4.3 million were born.

Between 1956 and 1960, 21.2 million boomers were born, nearly 1.5 times the number between 1941 and 1945 and the largest rate for any five-year period in the 20th century.

Article design: Doug Rollison

Social Security benefits by the numbers (March 2005)

Type of beneficiary	Beneficiaries Number (thousands)	Percent of total	Total monthly benefits (millions of dollars)	Average monthly benefit (in dollars)
All beneficiaries	47,999	100	41,949	874
Old Age Insurance:				
Retired workers	30,181	62.9	28,902	957.60
Spouses	2,558	5.3	1,224	478.40
Children	495	1	232	468.40
Survivors Insurance:				
Widow(ers) and parents	4,606	9.6	4,177	907
Widowed mothers and fathers	173	0.4	118	682.10
Children	1,934	4	1,214	628
Disability Insurance:				
Disabled workers	6,272	13.1	5,614	895.10
Spouses	151	0.3	35	230.90
Children	1,629	3.4	434	266.10

Note: Some Social Security beneficiaries are entitled to more than one type of benefit. If both benefits are financed from the same trust fund, the beneficiary is usually counted only once in the statistics. If the benefits are paid from different trust funds the beneficiary is counted twice, and the respective benefit amounts are recorded for each type of benefit.

Source: Social Security Administration. For more information, contact Rona Blumenthal (410) 965-0163 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/quickfacts/stat_snapshot/index.html.

Secret source for new Nickels revealed

Everyone will now be able to get the new Buffalo Nickels at face value -- even those who were left out of the first round in the national frenzy to get them

By SHANNA TEDESCHI
Universal Media Syndicate

"Call lines have been jammed non-stop ever since the new nickels were released just days ago."

So says John Thomas White, Executive Director of the World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

"But we are letting people in on the secret of how to get them now, at face value," White confirms.

Hordes of people are jamming National Hotline phones to see if they can get rolls of the brand new United States Buffalo Nickels.

In fact, the new Buffalo coins are so popular and highly sought after, they have caused a national frenzy.

"I have never seen anything like it in over 50 years. Just 7 days after the new coins came out, they had already increased in value by 850%. Everybody wants them. But most people are striking out. Even the U.S. Mint told us they were temporarily 'sold out' when we called," said White.

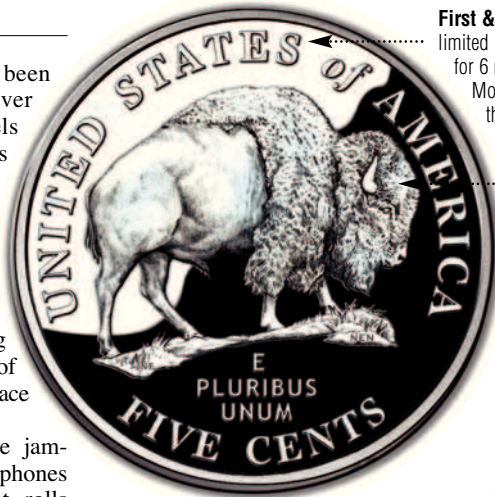
"Our bank teller tried to get a roll at her bank, but they didn't have any. She ended up having to pay 850% of face value at an online auction to get just one roll," said White.

But the World Reserve Monetary Exchange has confirmed it is receiving a special armored shipment of the new coins, all earmarked for distribution to the general public.

The brilliant new Uncirculated Nickels are being carefully sealed in Full Unbroken Bank Rolls and sent directly to their homes.

"If relatives living in 1913 had kept a full unbroken bank roll of Uncirculated Buffalo nickels from that first year they were issued, they could now be worth up to \$24,000.00," said White.

The new coins are special because the Mint has announced that this design will only be struck for just six months. After



ARTIST'S RENDERING OF THE NEW U. S. MINT BUFFALO NICKEL

that, the dies will be retired forever. "No wonder dealers and collectors are trying to hoard them all on speculation that they will continue to sky-rocket in value. Who knows just how much they may be worth one day," White said.

Uncirculated coins cannot be found in pocket change. The coins used for change get damaged every time they are handled or thrown into a cash register, which makes them of virtually no value to collectors.

But uncirculated coins have never been in the hands of the public and are in the same excellent quality as when they left the U.S. Mint.

"Although values fluctuate, the uncirculated coins with this high level of quality are the only ones most likely to increase in value," said White.

But these coins are even more special.

"For the first time in 67 years, the beloved Buffalo is returning to the nickel. And for the first time in history, the remarkable full profile of the other side of Jefferson's face will be minted on the new U.S. Nickels. That makes them extremely desirable

First & only year of issue - These limited U.S. coins will only be minted for 6 months in 2005. A portrait of Monticello will appear in 2006 and this beloved buffalo design will be officially retired forever.

Mint Value - First year of issue coin values always fluctuate. But, if parents or grandparents had saved a full unbroken bank roll of the Uncirculated Buffalo nickels from the first year they were issued in 1913, they could be worth up to \$24,000.00 today.



Genuine U.S. Coin - For only one year the front features a right profile of Thomas Jefferson. In just 7 days after release, the new nickels were already selling for up to 850% of face value. These coins stand to be much more scarce in coming years than the antique Buffalo nickels, which were minted for over 24 years, by the billions.



■ **GIFT** -The first 10,000 Callers will receive a rich gold embroidered, royal blue velvet Vault Bag with each Full Unbroken Bank Roll of New Nickels requested. Satisfaction is Guaranteed.

and highly sought after by savvy collectors who are always looking for limited coins like these with a high potential for increase in value," White said.

The Full Unbroken Bank Rolls also make a wonderful gift for friends, family members or someone special.

"We recommend that everyone take at least 5 full Unbroken Rolls while they can still get them, plus extras to give as special gifts," said White.

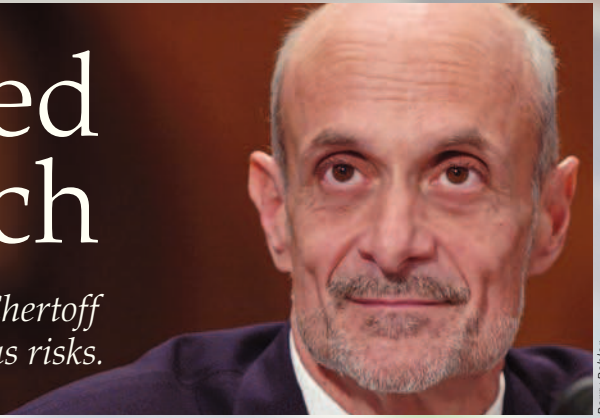
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The World Reserve Monetary Exchange is releasing Full Unbroken Bank Rolls of the Buffalo Nickels in Brilliant, Uncirculated condition. Readers can get immediate service by calling the National Toll Free Order Hotline now at **1-800-235-8418** ask for Dept. **BN4660**. The \$7 Processing Fee plus shipping gets you a Full Unbroken Bank Roll of New Nickels at face value.

The Layered Approach

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff weighs America's most serious risks.



Barry Bahler

Michael Chertoff could easily have avoided the stress.

As a federal judge, he had a lifetime job that allowed him to jog in the mornings and spend ample time with his family. He traded it in to become secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, one of the most second-guessed positions in the world and a tenure that will likely end with the second Bush term.

The former Whitewater prosecutor doesn't mind challenges and has an ambitious agenda to reform the federal government's newest department. "One large element will be giving people options," he said at George Washington University on March 16. "If people want the shorter line at the airport or expedited processing at our borders, they can achieve it by agreeing to provide some limited personal information that assures us of their good faith. Another element is trust. We will earn public trust when we demonstrate that the information we do collect and the measures we implement are tailored to the goals of preserving security and do not creep beyond that mission."

Chertoff recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine*.

The American Legion Magazine: *What is your vision to make America safer?*

Michael Chertoff: Well, we need to stand back and look at the issue of homeland security as part of a continuum. Obviously, a critical part of homeland security starts overseas because we take the fight to the enemy as opposed to waiting for the enemy to take the fight to us. To the extent that we have terrorists worried about hiding themselves, they are not thinking about attacking us. So that's obviously a critical part of the process.

At a second level is to transform the Middle East and create a democracy and a sense of the rule of law there. That also is a long-term strategic way to move terrorists off the board because we eliminate the conditions that sometimes give rise to terrorism. Obviously another level of homeland security is what we do here at home. Here we take an approach that is basically designed to manage risk. We can't promise to eliminate every threat to every

person at every moment. So we have to be disciplined in making some judgments about what priorities are, and secondly, to use a layered approach to defense. We don't put all of our eggs in one basket, but we build a number of defenses so if one is imperfect or if one is overcome, we have some back-up systems in place.

Q: *Can we ever be safe until we do something to curb the flow of illegal immigrants across our nation's borders?*

A: Illegal immigration is a significant issue. It's an economic issue, and it's a national-security issue. Obviously the vast majority of people who come across the border are coming across to seek economic opportunity. They are not coming to hurt us. But within that stream, of course, there is the risk that people are coming across for bad purposes – whether it be crime, terrorism or things of that sort. Obviously we want to do

everything that we possibly can to prevent people like that from coming across the border. What the president has proposed is a temporary-worker program, which would obviously work in tandem with our security policy so we could take a comprehensive approach to controlling our border. The idea is that we identify the people coming across for economic reasons who are harmless and we bring them into the system in a regulated and controlled way, so we can know who they are and be aware of their comings and goings. That hopefully diminishes the demand to come across the border illegally. This makes available and frees up resources for us to focus on those who still want to come across illegally, who may very well pose threats to our security.



The Coast Guard's role in homeland security continues to grow in vitality under DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff, who says inspection perimeters may be extended. *Barry Bahler*

Q: You mentioned overseas operations when you described your vision. Have the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq made it safer here within our own borders?

A: Certainly taking the war to our enemy is a major strategic step in protecting our own country, because at one level if they are there worrying about themselves, they are not quite as free to worry about what they are going to do to us. Second, by damaging and destroying their ability to train and set up laboratories and recruit in a safe harbor, we are diminishing their ability to develop the kind of sophisticated operations that we saw on 9/11. It doesn't mean the problem goes away automatically, but it means we are impacting their ability to build the weapons that they might want to use and the kind of training cadres that they want to cycle forward in order to get more terrorists. So that is also a very big step forward. And finally, there is the tremendous intelligence benefit. We capture people and capture things. We get information, and that feeds into our knowledge base. Intelligence is probably the No. 1 weapon we have against terror, because that enables us to better pinpoint where the threat comes from and who the threat is and to take adequate steps to protect ourselves.

Q: Along the same lines, with so many first-responders – police, firefighters, EMTs – also serving in the Guard and Reserves overseas, do we have

enough here to respond to another 9/11-type attack?

A: I can't tell you offhand what the deployment figures are and how many police and first responders are overseas. Obviously, defense of the country takes place in the first instance overseas, as well as at home. We want to make sure that we do continue to monitor and assist our local authorities

in terms of making sure they have the skill set and preparedness needed to deal with the threat. And, of course, we have federal resources that we can deploy in case of an emergency.

Q: Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said he could not

understand why terrorists have not attacked our food supply. What are we doing to address this concern?

A: We are doing a number of things on the food supply. Of course, we have systems in place to get a comprehensive sense of situational awareness about the food supply, while we are researching medicines and other scientific products that can help us protect our food supply. We do have some experience in real life in dealing with the issue of contamination because we have seen that from time to time and some

of the lessons learned. Here is an area, for example, where the Department of Agriculture has a lead role in protecting our food supply. We also work in terms of vaccines to protect our livestock.

Q: How can we protect our civilian airlines from shoulder-fired missiles?

A: There are a number of things we are doing. And again, this is part of the layered approach. We don't just do one thing. At one level, we are out in the world trying to find these shoulder-fired weapons, these man-pad systems, and take them off the black market. That is one clear thing we can do: dry that supply up. A second thing is build perimeter protections. And we work with our state and local partners, not only at the

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airports themselves but in the surrounding areas to make sure there is awareness of this issue so when people patrol (they) know what to look for and are mindful of this threat.

Third, we do want to look at technological things. There are things we can do on our commercial aircraft as defense mechanisms in case one of these things is launched. So it's part of a comprehensive approach. We are mindful of it as a threat, and it is one of our top priorities.

Q: Last year, some of the presidential candidates pointed out that we were not inspecting enough cargo entering our ports in shipping containers. Do we have the personnel to do this?

A: I'm glad you raised that because it's a common misconception, the way people talk about how we deal with cargo. They confuse screening with inspection. We screen 100 percent of the cargo that comes through our seaports. Screening means we identify it in advance; we get advance warning from the manifest of what the cargo is. In many instances now, we have pushed overseas and actually do the screening and inspection before the cargo departs. Of that entire range of cargo that has been screened, we inspect those elements of the cargo screen that are high risk. And we analyze high risk through a national targeting center that takes into account the identity of the shipper, characteristics of the cargo, things of that sort. So, we don't inspect – in fact, we couldn't inspect – 100 percent of everything. We would stop commerce. What we can do is improve our screening capabilities, refine them, so we are targeting on the cargo that we ought to inspect. Work more with our overseas partners to move the inspection perimeter out. And also, come up with enhancing our technology for nonintrusive detection such as radiation monitors and things like that, that don't necessarily require us to break bulk in order to get into the system. I was in South Carolina, the port of Charleston, and I saw our technology at work. I saw how we can monitor

high-risk shipments without breaking into the container, come in, scan them and then, based on the computer modeling, we can detect anomalies. And from that, we know when we do have to open up a container and pull things out of it. Again, a layered approach that involves screening, nonintrusive inspection and ultimately breaking bulk is the kind of approach we want to take to defending the country across the board.



Customs and Border Patrol officers are employing new technology in the processing of foreign passengers.

James R. Tourtellotte

Q: How essential is it that the PATRIOT Act continue?

A: The PATRIOT Act has been a tremendous benefit to our authorities in dealing with the issue of terror. I was at the Department of Justice before the PATRIOT Act. I was there on 9/11, and I know how important it was in terms of allowing us to start to move ourselves to the level that we need to be to protect homeland security. It was a measured step forward

in leading information-sharing for the first time, so the right hand knows what the left is doing, so we can use both hands in the fight instead of tying one behind our back. It did a lot in terms of just improving our legal rules to get them up to our level of technology. We had kind of a mismatched jigsaw puzzle of legal rules that changed depending on whether you were making telephone calls over an analog telephone or over a computer line. These mismatches in legal authority were opportunities for terrorists and criminals to exploit our own legal weaknesses.

Q: Why do you suppose the PATRIOT Act has been so controversial?

A: I guess its catchy name has turned out to make it a lightning rod. I know that I heard people attribute all kinds of things to the PATRIOT Act that are simply not in the act. There is a lot of misinformation about it. Part of the challenge for us is to make sure people understand what the PATRIOT Act is and isn't.

Q: What is the toughest part of being secretary of Homeland Security?

A: The toughest part is dealing with the issue of risk now. There are many, many worthy things we can do. There are many, many things to protect. In an ideal world, we would be able to protect every

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Border Patrol officers work the fenceline on all-terrain vehicles along the U.S.-Mexico border.

James R. Tourtellotte

Q: *Are we getting the cooperation we need from our allies in the war on terror?*

A: My experience both at the Department of Justice and here is that we get a remarkably positive response from our allies in the war on terror. We work very closely with our counterparts in law enforcement and intelligence. They do a tremendous amount to share with us and work in coordination with us in rounding up people who are threats. I think there is a general understanding among most countries in the war that this is a shared struggle. One of the things that I think is important for us to do here is to continue to build a strong relation with our allies so we don't give the terrorists a place to hide or the ability to draw a wedge between us that they can then exploit.

Q: *In January, the Department of Homeland Security announced a new affiliation with The American Legion and Citizen Corps to help raise public awareness and participation in emergency preparedness, training and volunteer service. How will this partnership help achieve these goals?*

A: The American Legion's partnership with the Department of Homeland Security and Citizen Corps is a natural fit, and we are delighted to have the support of the 15,000 American Legion posts. Through this affiliation, American Legion posts and Auxiliary units across the nation will connect to local Citizen Corps councils. These councils bring together the homeland security expertise of emergency responders with the energy and spirit of community leaders such as Legionnaires to develop a plan to educate, train and engage the full community. Legionnaires can join their local Citizen Corps Council to help develop public education and outreach campaigns, create training opportunities and expand volunteer opportunities. Through this affiliate, we have agreed to work to engage America's youth in hometown security (and) include the participants of Boys State and Boys Nation, to elevate Flag Day as a day of citizenship and emergency preparedness, and to provide support to VA hospitals in emergency-preparedness efforts.

Q: *Other than this partnership, is there anything else The American Legion family can do to help make America more secure?*

A: Absolutely. The American Legion family is clearly composed of people who know what it's like to do service for their country in the most fundamental way. So they clearly have demonstrated commitment as well as experience that made them real participants in homeland security. We are all participants. There are great stories – some that can't be told publicly – of people who saw things that looked anomalous and they called police, and that led to finding a terrorist or heading off a potential problem. Vigilance and alertness. Preparedness. Every family can do basic things to prepare itself in the event of a problem. And in many places in the country people do that as a matter of course. Whether it's tornadoes or a hurricane, you learn that you need to have a basic stock of supplies in case electricity goes out or something of that sort. We need to have The American Legion to continue doing what it does and engaging in defense of the homeland. 🇺🇸

Interview: John Raughter

Article design: Holly K. Soria

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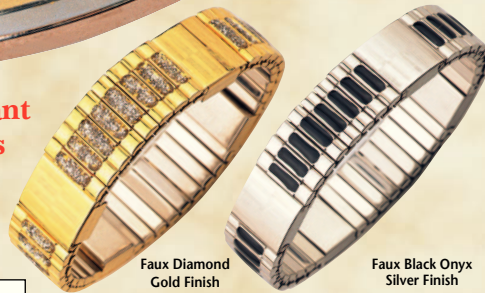
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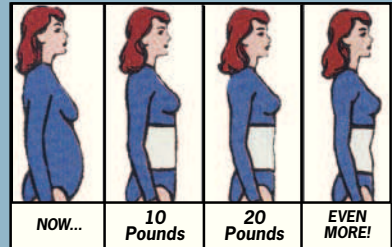
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TOPOFF-3: Preparation for terror

A chemical-weapons explosion and mustard-gas attack in Connecticut would have been bad enough, but add to it a bio-terror attack unleashing pneumonic plague simultaneously in New Jersey, and you have the worse terrorist attack in history.

It could have been called “The Mother of All Terrorist Attacks,” but since it was just a drill, the Department of Homeland Security named the four-day exercise Top Officials (“TOPOFF”) 3.

More than 275 government and private agencies, including a delegation from The American Legion, participated in the events April 4-8. It was appropriate that National Security Commission Chairman Clarence Hill observe the Washington portion of the drill. Hill, a Floridian, is no stranger to disasters after four hurricanes struck the Sunshine State last year. “If The American Legion posts are standing after a terrorist attack, they can do a lot as far as recovery and distributing supplies to their communities,” he said. “For starters, you want to have an outside generator available in case there is no power.”

According to the Department of Homeland Security, the congressionally mandated exercise series is designed to strengthen the nation’s capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from, terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction.

“We bill this as the largest, most complex, comprehensive and dynamic exercise in counterterrorism we’ve ever conducted in the United States,” said Michael Chertoff, Homeland Security secretary.

The scenario was chilling. Terrorists planned attacks in New York and Boston until they suspected their mission had been compromised. They reacted by accelerating their original schedule and deploying a vehicle-based biological agent dispersing device in New Jersey. While seriously ill patients overwhelmed local hospitals, the chemical-weapons attack planned for Boston shifted to New London, Conn.

“It was a great opportunity for me, as a Legionnaire, to see firsthand the response to an explosion,” said Homeland Security and Civil Prepared-



A simulated chemical attack is staged at a mock waterfront festival in New London, Conn., as part of last April's TOPOFF-3 terrorism preparedness drill. The week-long test of the international homeland-security response system involved public-safety officials at levels ranging from local fire departments up to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. AP

ness Committee Chairman Erwin Gus Williams, commander of Post 24 in Derby, Conn.

While Williams said he learned little from the situational briefings, he gained a great deal of information from veteran newscaster Forrest Sawyer, who reported on the fictional “VNN”

network. The Associated Press reported that the New Jersey attack would have resulted in nearly 8,700 deaths, if real. DHS officials would only say that casualty figures were “in the thousands.”

“Our involvement can start by encouraging posts to get involved in Citizen Corps,” Williams said. “My own post started a crime watch. We have also distributed pamphlets to educate people on what to store. Every commu-

nity should have volunteers in this effort.”

“This is a testing mechanism designed to tell us where the stress points are in our preparedness and response systems so that we can work better to improve them and adjust them in light of these kind of experiences,” Chertoff told *The American Legion Magazine*.

– John Raughter

The first two simulated attacks

TOPOFF 1: The only TOPOFF prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, the May 2000 drill included a chemical weapons explosion in Portsmouth, N.H., a bioterrorism attack in Denver and a nuclear threat in Washington. Lead agencies were the Justice Department and the State Department.

TOPOFF 2: Led by the Department of Homeland Security, emergency responders and 19 federal agencies honed their skills in May 2003 during a simulated radioactive explosion in Chicago and a biological attack in Seattle.



Valerie Moore is a noted researcher, therapist, and columnist devoted to men's, as well as women's, health and sexuality.

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**See Reader's Note.*

Fact #1: Erection Quality Can Decline With Age. Fact #2: You DON'T Have to Accept It!

By Valerie Moore

Ask the Expert

Readers: As you know, I'm always excited to share success stories I hear from readers or news about great new products that come my way. For years, I have been saying Sexual Fitness for men is all about maintaining healthy blood flow and proper urinary flow. This letter from Janet demonstrates just how "Feeling the Flow" has improved her husband's sexual fitness.



Dear Valerie,

I know this subject is often difficult for men and women to talk about, but I have such good news that I thought I'd share it with your readers. After all, it was your advice that motivated me to help my husband take action with respect to his "dilemma".

A few months ago, my husband turned 54 and for the past couple of years, he'd been experiencing what we thought was an "age related" drop in his sexual performance. It just seemed like his sexual energy and stamina had really started to fade. Worst of all, when aroused, he wasn't as virile as I'd remembered. I wish I could tell you that it didn't affect his confidence, but it really did. In fact, I was worried that he just wasn't attracted to me anymore. After 25 years of marriage, it killed me to see him that way. I knew I had to do something to help him!

Then, a couple of months ago I stumbled on your article "Sexual Fitness After 35 For Men". Your article described some natural ways for improving libido, blood flow, and performance as men get older. You mentioned a product,

Vazomyne – Sexual Fitness Therapy for Men, which intrigued me. I showed it to my husband and he did a little research. Although he wanted his "edge" back, he didn't feel ready for a prescription so he asked his doctor a couple of questions about sexual fitness.

His doctor told him that what he was experiencing was normal but that in taking a proactive approach to his sexual fitness, he didn't have to accept it! He told my husband about the natural effect of ingredients such as the L-Arginine in **Vazomyne**, that can help to increase blood flow by expanding vessels and capillaries. Plus, the Saw Palmetto and Zinc found in **Vazomyne** have been shown to be excellent for conditioning the prostate to maintain healthy urinary flow. It's pretty widely known that poor prostate health can lead to a drop in sexual performance. Our research showed that **Vazomyne's** formula was specifically designed to work with a man's body chemistry and really boosts sexual performance for the long run.

Well, I'm happy to say that my husband tried it! He's been taking **Vazomyne** for about 2 and a half months and honestly...he's back! He feels like a new man and he's performing like when we were newlyweds! I've definitely noticed the improvement in his virility when he's aroused and he even has more stamina. But most of all, there's nothing better than seeing my husband get his sexual confidence back. Now he takes **Vazomyne** once a day and he's always ready to "go with the flow," whenever I am!

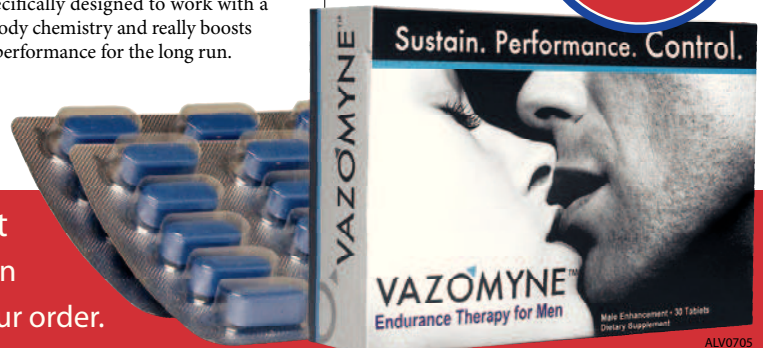
You were right, Valerie, getting older doesn't mean you can't be "sexually fit".

Thanks,
Janet H.
Portland, Maine



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LONG-TERM CARE: 'Not a short-term challenge'

VA leans on states, private contractors to ease growing nursing-home demand. But with a proposal on the table to cut federal per-diem payments, state veterans homes are left to wonder how long they can afford the relationship.

BY JEFF STOFFER

George Orwell fantasized of a 1984 when totalitarian government censors would rule the world. When that year arrived in reality, civilization thankfully had not sunk to such a depth. But it was the year 1984 when the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs) saw something ominous and worrisome in its future: a fast-rising population of aging veterans expected to need nursing-home care by the turn of the century, and for several years to follow. The report, titled "Caring for the Older Veteran," called for urgent preparation – programs, resources, strategic planning, and political commitment. The government did not censor the 1984 report. But it might

Approximately 43 percent of people age 65 and older are expected to reside in a nursing home at some point in their lives.

as well have. Its forecasts went largely unheeded in the years that followed.

Using simple demographics, "Caring for the Older Veteran" delivered a bitter estimation: by 2000, waves of aged veterans from America's major mid-20th century wars would start pouring into VA's long-term care facilities. The waves were not expected to be small. The number of veterans over 75 was estimated to increase by 445 percent between 1980 and 2000 and by more than 600 percent from 1980 to 2010. The report landed on desks at a time when most who fought in the Vietnam War were still in their 30s; Korean War veterans were in their late 40s and early 50s; and more than 11 million who served in World War II were just then entering retirement.

“Beginning almost immediately, larger numbers of veterans, both male and female, will be reaching old age,” VA warned in the report. “Caring for the aged veterans will not be a short-term challenge. The data suggest that the number of aged veterans will still exceed current levels by several hundred percent well after the turn of the century ... more long-term care services, both institutional and non-institutional, will be needed to care for the aged veteran. Every state will feel the strain”

Twenty-one years later, the future has arrived. And this year in particular, with a federal budget proposal that would cut VA funding for long-term care, states are feeling the strain.

More than 42,000 veterans now receive institutional long-term care through VA, either in a VA-operated nursing home, a state veterans home or a skilled nursing facility in the private sector. Many thousands also receive specialized long-term care in non-institutional settings, like adult day care and home-health programs.

As the clock ticked toward 2000, Congress and VA wrestled with the imminent surge. In 1999, the landmark Veterans Millennium Health Care Act was passed, mandating VA keep its number of nursing-home beds at no lower than 1998 levels – 13,391. However, funding did not follow the mandate. In a February 2002 letter to Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, then-VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi explained, “... it will not be possible for VA to meet the requirements of (the law) without adversely affecting our ability to provide other essential health-care services to veterans on a timely basis.” VA-staffed nursing home beds continued to decline, and now President Bush’s budget proposal for fiscal 2006 seeks funding for only 9,795 VA-staffed beds.

In the meantime, VA has spent much of the past decade shifting a larger share of its nursing-home burden onto state veterans homes and, increasingly, to the private sector. “The trend has been gravitating toward state veterans homes,” said Lourdes E. Alvarado-Ramos of Olympia, Wash., president of the National Association of State Veterans Homes. “One of the reasons is because there are numerous funding sources related to the state

and to the residents.” State veterans homes now provide long-term care for more than 50 percent of VA’s eligible veterans. VA handles about 37 percent

itself. Private contractors make up the remainder.

Since the 2006 budget proposal emerged, the relationship between VA and its state partners has been tested. The plan calls for drastically restrict-

American Legion positions on VA long-term care funding

- Supports maintaining VA nursing-home unit bed capacity at 1998 levels, as prescribed by law.
- Opposes legislative changes in eligibility criteria for receipt of state veterans home per-diem payments.
- Recommends \$124 million for the State Extended Care Facility Grants Program.

ing eligibility for VA-funded long-term care. Currently, VA pays states a flat \$59.36, regardless of location, per veteran, per day. The proposal would reduce – according to one estimate, by 80 percent – the number of veterans eligible for VA-compensated long-term care. The plan also places a one-year moratorium on VA’s grant program that pays up to 65 percent of the cost of building or expanding state homes. By restricting access and freezing new construction, VA expects to save \$496 million if the president’s proposal flies.

Neither the House nor Senate Veterans Affairs Committees could not buy into the proposal to reduce nursing-home eligibility to only those veterans in VA’s Priority Groups 1 through 3, along with some from Group 4. Currently, enrolled veterans in all VA groups are eligible for long-term care on a space-available, funds-available basis.

The plan comes on the heels of the \$6 billion CARES (Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services) decision – the biggest overhaul of VA facilities since World War II – which lays out a 20-year blueprint for new clinics and hospitals but offers little in the way of nursing homes, mental health facilities and domiciliary care.

Alvarado-Ramos says VA’s current per-diem payment to states covers “less than a third of the true cost of care.” Veterans often pay the difference out of their own pockets, she said, through their VA compensation and pension or through state taxes. Some facilities use Medicare – which has a 100-day limit on long-term care – or Medicaid, which comes with its own unique set of eligibility criteria. By law, veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 70 percent and higher have priority for VA institutional care, but no one is promised a bed when needed. The 2000 U.S. Census estimated the number of veterans in the 70-percent group would grow by 30 percent between 2000 and 2010.

2.4 years Duration of average nursing-home stay.

\$66,154 Average cost of one year of nursing-home care.

\$60,000 Estimated average yearly cost of home health-care services by 2030.

Source: Mutual of Omaha

In VA's own nursing homes, the average cost per veteran can run more than \$400 – a far cry from the meager per-diem VA pays states. The difference is often attributed to the fact that VA facilities treat a costlier population set, those with acute medical or rehabilitative needs and often staff those beds with higher-paid care providers. However, says Paul Morin, superintendent of the Soldiers Home in Holyoke, Mass., and past chairman of The American Legion's National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, state veterans homes provide specialized care, too – often including complex medical treatments, and there's no evidence to suggest states provide any more or any less than VA.

Like many administrators of state veterans homes across the country, Morin is concerned how his state will manage the increased cost if the budget proposal is adopted. "We roughly figure it would cost our state over \$5.3 million if what the president submitted goes through and we wind up doing only Categories 1 through 4," Morin said. "There is no gain for a state to have a state veterans home. It is a service, a service that states provide gratefully for the veterans who served from those states."

"State budgets are challenged," said Alvarado-Ramos. If states can't afford it anymore, she adds, "then the veteran loses the choice of being able to go into an environment custom-made for him or her. The Vietnam veteran presents different issues than the World War II and Korean War veteran. Agent Orange, PTSD – and many mental-health conditions – can all be complicated by medical issues. You may have someone who has severe PTSD, who is a smoker, may have type II diabetes from exposure to Agent Orange ... and that is a veteran who has complex needs. And homelessness. Add that. About 40 percent of the homeless population in Washington state are veterans. That veteran cannot share in the cost of his care. We have a number of residents in our state who did not come from a home. They came from a homeless shelter or a mental-health facility. There's no home to go to. They end up back on the streets. Here, we are able to restore their dignity, among peers. There is the camaraderie and kinship of being with others who have served. This is not just money. It's honoring our veterans by being able to

care for them through the end of their lives. What we offer is very hard for a facility in the community setting to offer. Caring for America's heroes is something we take darn seriously."

The construction-grant moratorium proposed in fiscal 2006 is also a concern as demand grows and bed space fills. "The population 75 to 85 years old, plus, is going to double or triple," Alvarado-Ramos said. "That population is going to have Alzheimer's

disease, heart conditions, diabetes – in addition to service-related illnesses that most likely cannot be treated at home. This big bump in demographics has to be addressed."

VA, itself, made that same observation in 1984.

A House Veterans Affairs Committee budget report in 2002 noted, "VA has never fulfilled the promise of its landmark mid-1980s study, 'Caring for the Older Veteran.' That study recommended large increases in both inpatient and alternative programs, such as respite, hospice, adult-day and home-based care, so that VA could approach the needs of World War II veterans with meaningful, health and end-of-life care programs, on both the institutional and non-institutional bases. This has not been achieved."

In March 2002, the General Accounting Office (now the Government Accountability Office)

reported that VA had not made significant progress delivering non-institutional long-term care to eligible veterans, per the 1999 law. In 2003, the GAO testified again that VA lagged and was limited by "service gaps" and "facility restrictions."

Long-term care for veterans was not and is not – as "Caring for the Older Veteran" suggested – a short-term proposition. The charts and graphs showed over two decades ago that demand for nursing-home care would soar. That prediction was met by unenforced laws and unfunded mandates. And today, as waves of aged veterans enter their nursing-home years, per the calculations of 1984, a budget is proposed that seems to forget any warning was ever issued. 🌿

Jeff Stoffer is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Doug Rollison

Who is eligible for VA long-term care?

A veteran who has a service-connected disability rated at 70 percent or more qualifies for VA nursing-home care. Veterans whose service-connected disabilities are clinically determined to require nursing-home care also qualify. Care may be provided in a VA nursing home, state veterans home or contract nursing home. VA may provide nursing-home care to other veterans if space and resources are available. Veterans with service-connected disabilities are given first priority.

Inside the August Issue

Dr. James Burris, chief geriatric consultant for the Veterans Health Administration, discusses the future of long-term care for veterans.

Choose Life Grow Young with HGH

From the landmark book *Grow Young with HGH* comes the most powerful, over-the-counter health supplement in the history of man. Human growth hormone was first discovered in 1920 and has long been thought by the medical community to be necessary only to stimulate the body to full adult size and therefore unnecessary past the age of 20. Recent studies, however, have overturned this notion completely, discovering instead that the natural decline of Human Growth Hormone (HGH), from ages 21 to 61 (the average age at which there is only a trace left in the body) and is the reason why the body ages and fails to regenerate itself to its 25 year-old biological age.

Like a picked flower cut from the source, we gradually wilt physically and mentally and become vulnerable to a host of degenerative diseases, that we simply weren't susceptible to in our early adult years.

Modern medical science now regards aging as a disease that is treatable and preventable and that "aging", the disease, is actually a compilation of various diseases and pathologies, from everything, like a rise in blood glucose and pressure to diabetes, skin wrinkling and so on. All of these aging symptoms can be stopped and rolled back by maintaining Growth Hormone levels in the blood at the same levels HGH existed in the blood when we were 25 years old. There is a receptorsite in almost every cell in the human

body for HGH, so its regenerative and healing effects are very comprehensive.

Growth Hormone first synthesized in 1985 under the Reagan Orphan drug act, to treat dwarfism, was quickly recognized to stop aging in its tracks and reverse it to a remarkable degree. Since then, only the lucky and the rich have had access to it at the cost of \$20,000 US per year.

Many in hollywood's glamour sets, who never seem to age like you or I, have a special secret to tell, and even space pioneer and US Senator John Glen stays vital with HGH.

The next big breakthrough was to come in 1997 when the American Anti-aging Society, a group of doctors and scientists, developed an all-natural source product which would cause your own natural HGH to be released again and do all the remarkable things it did for you in your 20's. Now available to every adult for about the price of a coffee and donut a day.

GHR now available n America, just in time for the aging Baby Boomers and everyone else from age 30 to 90 who doesn't want to age but would rather stay young, beautiful and healthy all of the time.

The new HGH releasers are winning converts from the synthetic HGH users as well, since GHR is just as effective, is oral instead of

self-injectable and is very affordable.

GHR is a natural releaser, has no known side effects, unlike the synthetic version and has no known drug interactions. Progressive doctors admit that this is the direction medicine is seeking to go, to get the body to heal itself instead of employing drugs. GHR is truly a revolutionary paradigm shift in medicine and, like any modern leapfrog advance, many others will be left in the dust holding their limited, or useless drugs and remedies.

It is now thought that HGH is so comprehensive in its healing and regenerative powers that it is today, where the computer industry was twenty years ago, that it will displace so many prescription and non-prescription drugs and health remedies that it is staggering to think of.

The president of BIE Health Products, the American distributor, stated in a recent interview, "I've been waiting for these products since the 70's. We knew they would come, if only we could stay healthy and live long enough to see them! If you want to stay on top of your game, physically and mentally as you age, this product is a boon, especially for the highly skilled professionals who have made large investments in their education, and experience. Also with the failure of Congress to honor our seniors with pharmaceutical coverage policy, it's more important than ever to take pro-active steps to safeguard your health. Continued use of GHR will make a radical difference in your health, HGH is particularly helpful to the elderly who, given a choice, would rather stay independent in their own home, strong healthy and alert enough to manage their own affairs, exercise and stay involved in their communities. Frank, age 85 walks two miles a day, plays golf, belongs to a dance club for seniors, has a girl friend again and doesn't need Viagra, passed his drivers test and is hardly ever home when we call - GHR delivers.

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- Increased sexual potency
- Increased muscle strength & size
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The Business of Charity

*Sellers and givers alike benefit
in the era of 'cause-related marketing.'*

BY RENATA J. RAFFERTY

The natural partnership between business and charity has never received much attention, except in heartwarming stories about local initiatives – the family-run restaurant feeding the homeless at Thanksgiving or the corner car wash directing its Saturday receipts to the community YMCA.

Charities wouldn't exist without businesses. Their efforts are fueled by corporate grants and small-business donations. Their boards are populated by local and national business leaders. Workplace giving programs provide employees a simple and effective way to channel funds to area nonprofits, and charities purchase products and services the same way most of us do: from businesses.

Business, too, relies on charities. The for-profit sector looks to community-based organizations to improve or augment quality of life for its employees, customers and stockholders. More than that, business relies on the not-for-profit sector as its medium for acting as a good corporate citizen. Corporate donations are directed to nonprofit organizations to be used to benefit the community.

They may seem like strange bedfellows, but they make excellent partners.

Cause-Related Marketing. About 20 years ago, the business-charity partnership moved to front and center on the national stage with an unprecedented initiative that paid off with big dividends for both sectors. It was 1983, and Lee Iacocca had been tapped to head the effort to restore the Statue of Liberty. The nonprofit organization responsible for the renovation secured an innovative agreement with American Express, which agreed to donate one penny to the charity each time one of its credit cards was used.

At the end of the 90-day partnership, the Statue of Liberty project received a whopping \$1.7 million – a lot of pennies. Even more astounding was what the partnership delivered to American Express: a 48-percent increase in the number of new cardholders and a 28-percent spike in use of its plastic.

“Cause-related marketing,” or “CRM,” was born. Since that resoundingly successful partnership, virtually every major corporation in the United States and Great Britain has built a cause-related component into its annual marketing strategy. Even small businesses started to recognize that a partnership with charity can boost business.

In fact, an October 2001 study by research firm Cone, Inc., found that 81 percent of Americans is willing to switch product brands – price and quality being equal – if the other brand is associated with a good cause.

Profit is not the only perk enjoyed by businesses that embrace charity. A 2000 Roper study revealed that 87 percent of employees at companies with cause programs feel loyal to their employers, whereas only 67 percent feel loyal about working for businesses

Charitable programs and projects supported by The American Legion

American Legacy Scholarship Fund. Provides scholarships to children of active-duty service-members, National Guardsmen and reservists who died on or after Sept. 11, 2001.
(317) 630-1212

American Legion Endowment Fund. Provides funds for Temporary Financial Assistance and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs.
(317) 630-1323

Child Welfare Foundation. Funds projects of youth-serving organizations to improve quality of life for our nation's children.
(317) 630-1202, Cwf-inc.org

Children's Miracle Network Partnership. Supports local CMN-affiliated hospitals in their efforts to provide quality health care for children.
(317) 630-1202

Family Support Network. Provides a 24-hour, nationwide toll-free number connecting military families in need with local Legion posts that can assist.
(800) 504-4098

National Emergency Fund. Meets the needs of communities and Legion family members in the wake of natural disasters.
(317) 630-1330

Samsung American Legion Scholarship. Assists direct descendants of U.S. wartime veterans enrolled in undergraduate collegiate studies.
(317) 630-1212

Temporary Financial Assistance. Provides cash grants to eligible veterans with minor children to help families meet basic needs.
(317) 630-1323

without such connections.

Charities, too, have devised new ways to attain their goals by pairing with business partners. For example, the National Trust for Historic Preservation agreed to license the use of its name on a line of house paints with colors reminiscent of colonial Williamsburg.

Actor-and-philanthropist-turned-entrepreneur Paul Newman took “cause marketing” to a new level when he founded Newman’s Own. From salad dressing to popcorn and spaghetti sauce, the manufacture and sale of every product has only one purpose: to generate profit, all of which goes to charity.

Not every partnership or CRM initiative must be this ambitious to be successful. Every day in cities and towns all across America, charities and local businesses are finding new ways to work together to improve life in their home communities. Schools, churches, youth groups and senior centers are reaching out to nearby hardware stores, grocery stores and banks. They join hands not with their palms out, but in a firm handshake cementing a commitment to make their corner of the world a better place.

These partnerships go beyond a simple check exchange. Local businesses as well as large corporations are loaning out their employees and executives to strengthen the operations of community groups. Charities are teaching small and large firms how to help the environment. Profits and nonprofits are banding together to address dis-

Post-disaster giving

The tsunami disaster of December 2004 led to a wave of donations and questions about how to get the most bang for your donated buck. Here are some guidelines:

DO

Give to charities that have a long-established presence in the affected region. They already have the manpower, supply sources, and trust of the local populations and governments. Lists are available online.

Usafreedomcorps.gov

Verify that the charity is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt organization.

This increases the likelihood that it is operating legitimately. Guidestar.org

Review the charity’s own Web site to learn about its relief activities. Look for a clear statement of how and where donations will be used.

Specify that your contribution is to be used only for its expressed purposes, if that is your wish, by noting so on your check or in the space provided if making a donation online.

crimination, underemployment, domestic and workplace violence, and disaster relief.

Local and Global. Such partnerships are not only local or national in scope. The catastrophic tsunami in Southeast Asia last winter triggered an outpouring of corporate aid. The coordination and administration of that effort have taken the possibilities of business-charity partnership to a new level.

Governments depend on relief agencies for manpower and expertise. Relief groups look to the business sector to provide food, medicine, heavy equipment and other critical supplies. And those generous corporations rely on government transport to deliver tons of in-kind donations.

Charitable giving: fraud and diversion

BY PAUL AKERS

Polls show that two of every three U.S. households contributed funds to the families of 9/11 victims, and one of three to survivors of the Indian Ocean tsunami last December. In 2003, Americans gave \$241 billion, far outpacing – per capita – the second-place British. But all this gold crossing the sea has lured more than a few pirates.

In January, the FBI warned of crooks seeking tsunami donations through e-mails – outfits like the sham Red Cross International Amsterdam/Nederland Zone, whose promise to treat 1.5 million child-victims of the disaster supposedly depended on Western Union cash transfers from kindly Americans and Europeans. The infamous Nigerian e-mail scammers also got into the act, masquerading as a Singaporean charity.

Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut’s attorney general, told CNN.com that cyber-thieves often “look like or sound like charitable organizations – America Cares instead of Americares,” for example. Impeding law enforcement is the sheer number of charities – some 1.4 million in this country alone, says the watchdog group Independent Sector.

Then there’s donor intent. Even when a gift reaches a bona-fide charity, will the money serve the anticipated purpose?

Just after 9/11, millions of Americans wrote checks to charities expecting that their donations would at once be channeled to New York City’s injured, orphaned and widowed. A furor erupted when the Red Cross attempted to set aside \$200 million of this outpouring for new telephone gear and other equipment reserved for possible future attacks.

Off the front page, similar frustrations erupt. In

DON'T

Don't fall for "sound-alike" charity scams. Many con artists choose names similar to well-known charities to confuse donors.

Avoid contributing through unsecure Web sites. Look for the small locked icon on the status bar at the bottom of your computer screen that indicates personal information will be encrypted.

Don't donate to organizations of which you've never heard. Now is not the time to start experimenting with your giving.

Some questions to consider to determine the best chances for business and charity to forge a win-win partnership include:

■ Do both entities have a positive image in the community?

■ What is each party's marketing objective? Expanding to a new customer or donor demographic? Enhancing the organization's image? Launching a new product or service to a specific target market? Are these objectives compatible?

■ What form of partnership would best benefit both parties as well as the community?

■ What exactly would each partner expect in terms of its investment? Exchange of mailing lists? Explicit endorsements? Use of each other's names

Just as American Express and the Statue of Liberty venture launched a new model for business-charity partnerships, the collaboration of public, private and charitable sectors to take on the tsunami tragedy may result in a new appreciation for partnerships dedicated to the greater good.

and logos? Personal introductions to top donors or corporate VIPs?

■ How will the partnership be funded? From the marketing/sales budget? The fund-raising budget? From proceeds resulting from the partnership, strictly with product or services, or loaned executives, employees or volunteers?

■ Which partner will have final approval of all marketing, advertising and public-relations materials? Which will handle media appearances? Who selects outside contractors?

■ How much red tape is each party willing to cut through to make a partnership succeed? Some charities and corporations, particularly large national ones, are seasoned in forging cause-related partnerships. Other businesses and agencies may not yet fully understand the benefits or how they work.

Collaborations between public, private and charitable entities are slowly becoming a standard component of solid business planning. By embracing the opportunities for closer partnerships between charity and business, both sides will find that doing good also can result in doing well. And the entire community benefits in the end. 🌿

Renata J. Rafferty is the author of "Don't Just Give It Away: How To Make the Most of Your Charitable Giving," with a foreword by Paul Newman. She appears regularly as a charity analyst on CNN and Fox News, advising individuals, families and corporations on their charitable giving activities through her firm, Rafferty Consulting Group.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

2003, the estate of a Texas oil heiress sued New York's Metropolitan Opera, accusing it of misusing her gift to stage an avant-garde version of a Wagner opera (the heiress had wanted to fund only traditional productions).

About the same time, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center in New York settled a misappropriation suit filed by the widow of anti-alcoholism crusader R. Brinkley Smithers. She charged the hospital with trying to divert to its general fund \$5 million generated by her husband's addiction-fighting bequest.

And a red-faced Boston University in 2002 gave back a gift of \$3 million from a grocery magnate. The grocer had tagged the money for library renovation. The university allegedly mingled it with other accounts.

The donor-intent suit to watch is *Robertson v. Princeton University*.

In 1961, Charles Robertson and his wife donated \$35 million in stocks to establish a Princeton graduate school to train students for public service – foreign service, in particular. To date, just 12 percent of the program's grads fill such posts. The Robertsons' heirs, alleging that Princeton funneled \$100 million from the endowment "to its own use," are in court to retake control of the money. The case's outcome may influence how all U.S. nonprofits use supposedly restricted gifts.

Americans are a generous people. That generosity will continue, the philanthropic community agrees, as long as we can be confident our money isn't being stolen or misused by the groups we trust to disperse it. 🌿

Paul Akers, a Marine Corps veteran, is editorial-page editor of The Free Lance-Star, a newspaper in Fredericksburg, Va.

[BOY SCOUTS]



Eagle Scout of the Year

Samuel Nassie, a 17-year-old junior at Camptonville Academy in Paradise, Calif., and a member of Boy Scout Troop 770, is The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year for 2005. Nassie earned the award and a \$10,000 college scholarship.

For his Eagle Scout project, he constructed and installed redwood benches at various strategic locations around Paradise Lake, reforested a plot using experimental pine-tree species, and built and placed nesting boxes for ducks. He also received the Medal of Merit for his work on a project called "Veteran's Honor," in which he cataloged gravesites of every veteran laid to rest in the Paradise Cemetery.

Legion 42 7/2005

The Bambino's place in American Legion Baseball history

Babe Ruth's final years were spent as American Legion Baseball's national director. The Ford Motor Co., a major national sponsor of the program, paid Ruth \$20,000 to promote the program in 1947 and 1948. He traveled the country in those years, attending tournaments and signing autographs. In his farewell address at Yankee Stadium, he was introduced by an American Legion Baseball player as the program's national director. His final promotional visit for Legion Baseball was in Spencer, Iowa, in 1948. A few weeks later, he passed away at age 53.

[AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL]

One boy's unforgettable moment

BY DON McDONOUGH

On a hot and humid July day in 1947, I was among about 10,000 other kids at Shibe Park, north Philadelphia's venerable old ballpark. We had been invited to the traveling tribute to baseball legend Babe Ruth, as part of the annual American Legion Baseball All-Star Game. At the time, the Babe was national director of American Legion Baseball. I was among a half-dozen inner-city kids from the YMCA invited to the event.

We arrived by trolley car to a scene that was overwhelming. Thousands were already there. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported, "Some 10,000 youngsters went wild when an open car drove onto the field and the Babe stepped out. He was greeted at home plate by Connie Mack and addressed the group over the microphone, his voice being surprisingly vibrant and his delight at the rousing reception very apparent ... Bundled in his traditional camel's hair coat, he replied to the gracious speeches and the prayer offered by Cardinal Spellman with a husky, heartbreaking, almost incoherently audible speech about the value of baseball for boys. Thousands wept at the sight and sound of what had been an indescribably vital American hero."

During World War II, Babe Ruth served as a spokesman for U.S. War Bonds.

The children howled and applauded. Ruth proceeded to his third-base box seats, first row off the field, accompanied by a full entourage of VIPs and his wife. The gang from the Y was seated almost directly behind him.

I started to slowly make my way to his box. I reached the



first row and an unattended metal gate that opened to the field. I made my move.

I darted just a few feet onto the field, turned and was face to face with the Babe. He was laughing with friends and was a bit startled at my approach. I thrust a piece of scrap paper and a school pencil toward him. He smiled and in a raspy voice said, "Sure, kid." He penciled "Babe Ruth" on the paper. I decided to push my luck. In a weak voice, I asked, "Could you sign it, 'To Don'?"

"Sure, Don," he answered. "Here it is."

I scrambled back to my seat, clutching my new treasure, fully realizing that I had hit something of a home run myself: a personal autograph from Babe Ruth.

Now, some 58 years later – after a newspaper career that placed me in the company of VIPs, presidents, rock stars and other celebrities, long after Schibe Park was razed to become a parking lot – no other event means so much. I still have that scrap of paper. And to this day, when conversation turns to Legion Baseball, my mind drifts to that moment when I was 12 and heard an American legend speak those words: "Sure, Don ... here it is."

Army veteran Don McDonough is a former reporter for The Philadelphia Inquirer who later worked as a public-relations executive.

2005 American Legion World Series

Aug. 19-23, Rapid City, S.D., at Fitzgerald Stadium. The keynote speaker for the Aug. 18 annual Banquet of Champions is Hall of Famer Harmon Killebrew.

Tickets: \$25

To order:
(605) 342-2389

Baseball.legion.org

Future World Series sites

2006: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

2007: Bartlesville, Okla.

2008: Shelby, N.C.

2009: Fargo, N.D.

[TECHNOLOGY]

Cyberspace race: Asia has a leg up

Research recently published in the journal *Foreign Affairs* claims the United States has plunged to 13th place globally in use of broadband Internet service. Broadband is a high-speed (and relatively high-priced) Internet delivery system often carried to homes on cable TV lines.

Japan has surged ahead. According to Thomas Bleha, a former State Department official with specialties in technology and Asia, Japan boasts:

- A higher percentage of homes with broadband service.
- Wider availability of high-speed broadband.
- Less expensive subscription fees, averaging about half what most Americans pay.

South Korea has the largest percentage of broadband users, while China just recently passed the United States as the largest broadband market in terms of user numbers.



Pro baseball legend Babe Ruth speaks at The American Legion World Series in Los Angeles in 1947.

The American Legion Library

Battle of the Bulge: Obesity can be beaten

BY DR. STEPHAN D. FIHN

Obesity among Americans has skyrocketed in the past four decades. Two of three U.S. citizens are overweight. Nearly one in three are obese. According to research published earlier this year in the *American Journal of Preventive Care*, the problem is similar among veterans who turn to VA for health care: 68 percent of VA patients in 2000 were overweight, 37 percent obese.

Obesity increases risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and arthritis, problems that translate into higher costs for health care. An estimated \$11 billion is spent annually in the United States to treat weight-related problems in those with severe obesity.

Who is Obese? Doctors use body-mass index, a ratio of weight to height, to define obesity. You can figure BMI by multiplying your weight in pounds by 704.5, divide the result by your height in inches, and divide that result, once again, by your height in inches. Alternatively, you can easily find a BMI calculator or chart on the Internet.

BMI between 25 and 30 is considered overweight. A BMI of 30 or greater is obese. Severe obesity is marked by BMI of 40 or higher – 100 pounds or more above healthy weight.

Many factors contribute to obesity. Genetics, which influence metabolism and overall body shape, are a strong determinant, but lifestyle factors, diet and exercise are critically important. Genetics cannot be changed. Lifestyle can.

The first line of defense: eat right and exercise. The problem is, how many of us are following this advice? Though salad bars and health clubs appear popular, a recent study of nearly 39,000 Americans, by a team at the Puget Sound VA and the University of Washington, found that only 6 percent meet current guidelines for intake of fruits and vegetables and regularly exercise.



An ounce of prevention

Tips that can help you lose weight:

Try a pedometer. This device, about the size of a beeper, measures how many steps you take in a day. It's a fun way to motivate yourself to walk more.

Limit soda and sweets. Without getting into the debate over low-fat vs. low-carb dieting, this is one change that has proven benefits for everybody, obese or not.

Weight-Loss Strategies. Improving diet and exercising remain the mainstay of preventing and treating obesity. Both require dedication and a realistic understanding of the challenges. Most people struggling with obesity are aware of what they should do but have trouble sticking to a healthy regimen. Most have unsuccessfully tried a number of diets over the years.

Support groups and self-help programs can sometimes aid in the fight to lose weight. It is best to avoid fad diets or those that promise instant weight loss. All successful diets involve a reduction in total calories consumed. Medically supervised weight-loss programs that combine specially prepared meals with counseling and exercise are often effective. If an eating disorder such as bingeing is present, counselors can help resolve emotional and psychological problems.

When these measures fail, medication or surgery may be considered. Research from VA and RAND Health showed that

surgery is generally more effective than drugs for severely obese patients. Medications can play a role, but gains are usually short-term, and side effects can be significant.

Dr. David Cummings at the Puget Sound VA is among the pioneers in studying "ghrelin," the so-called hunger hormone that was first identified in 1999 and that may figure in the design of new anti-obesity drugs.

In the meantime, America's best hope for stemming the obesity epidemic still lies in prevention.

Dr. Stephan D. Fihn is acting chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.

[GALLERY]



Every year around Memorial Day, the boulder's image changes. Left to right is the rock in 2000, 2001 and 2004.

Courtesy Ray Michael Sorensen II

Iowa artist's patriotism is solid as a rock

Alongside a highway near Greenfield, Iowa, Ray Michael Sorensen II has turned an ordinary boulder into an extraordinary portrait of patriotism. Each year, Sorensen paints and repaints the rock with images that express his true American colors and draw dozens of visitors. Called "Bubba" by friends, the 25-year-old artist recently spoke with *The American Legion Magazine*. Visit Bubbazartwork.com on the Web to see more of his work.

The American Legion Magazine:

What inspires you to paint patriotic images on a boulder?

Bubba Sorensen: I was 19 and had just seen the movie "Saving Private Ryan." I felt patriotism was at an all-time low, and it wasn't being taught in our schools. One of the things about that particular boulder is that it was a "graffiti rock" for the kids in the area. Students were always painting on it. Everyone always drove by to see what was painted. Sometimes there were bad things painted there, and other times it might be a "Happy Birthday" message. I knew if I painted that rock, lots of people would see it.

Q: *How often do you paint on it?*

A: Each year for Memorial Day, I paint over the previous year's murals with white paint and start with a blank canvas. After that, I paint new images to pay tribute to those who've served and sacrificed so much for the freedoms we enjoy.

Bubba's boulder

Location: Highway 25, 12 miles north of Greenfield, Iowa

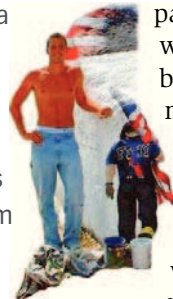
Size: 12 feet high, approximately 56 tons

Painting time: 10.5 hours per side; one to three weeks for all sides

Funding: donations from supporters and profits from print sales

Q: *Do you work alone?*

A: A couple of friends help me paint white over the murals when I redo them each year, but I paint all the images myself. It gets really busy, with visitors wanting to talk to me about my painting. If I stop to visit, it'll take longer. It gets down to the point where I need to get it done, so my family and friends come



out and help me by fielding questions.

Q: *Have you received any special recognition?*

A: I received an award from Greenfield's (Head Endress) American Legion Post 265. The Department of California sent the award to the Greenfield post. The post also took up donations to help purchase more paint. I really appreciate their support. I'm not a veteran. But I'm proud to be an American.

– Elissa Kaupisch

45

[LEGISLATION]

Bill proposes to deliver benefits for World War II mariners

Military veterans of World War II could obtain education and training benefits, business and home loans, health care, unemployment and other GI Bill benefits. However, members of the U.S. Merchant Marine of World War II could not. Of some 243,000 Merchant Mariners who served, approximately one of every 26 was a war casualty.

Earlier this year, Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., sponsored H.R.23, a bill to provide benefits for



For information

Ian T. Allison, co-chairman
Just Compensation Committee
P.O. Box 1705
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qualified individuals who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. If passed, the bill would provide a tax-free monthly benefit of \$1,000 to surviving spouses.

Commander: Get local, get vocal on VA health-care budget

Through grassroots support at 15,000 posts around the world, The American Legion has shaped legislation affecting veterans for more than 86 years. That support brought the GI Bill into existence and turned VA into a cabinet-level department. Now, says National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus, grassroots support is needed to ensure a reasonable future for VA health care.

That was a key message during the Legion's Spring Meetings May 2-5 in Indianapolis. Cadmus called on Legionnaires to make fellow veterans and elected officials aware of the problem.

"The White House has proposed a VA budget that is woefully inadequate," Cadmus said. "The new House Veterans Affairs Committee chairman wants to redefine the meaning of the word 'veteran.'" He wants to provide VA health care only to those veterans he calls the "core constituency." In addition, Congress is considering a tiered-scale of fees for Priority Groups 7 and 8 – ranging from \$230 to \$500, depending on income – to use the health-care system that was designed for them.

If the budget that is proposed passes, hundreds of thousands of veterans will be denied access.

"It is extremely crucial that we again do what we are good at: activate every member, every Auxiliary member, every Son, every family member and every citizen in a massive grass-roots campaign to get mandatory funding passed by this Congress."

– Steve Brooks

Bob-ble Spanogle

American Legion National Adjutant Robert W. Spanogle is now immortalized in plastic. Limited-edition bobblehead dolls in his likeness, first unveiled at the Spring Meetings, are \$10 each, plus shipping and handling. Proceeds benefit the Child Welfare Foundation. To order, call Americanism, Children & Youth. (317) 630-1202



Resolutions from the 2005 National Executive Committee Spring Meetings

Following are summaries of key resolutions passed by the National Executive Committee during the 2005 Spring Meetings in Indianapolis May 2-5. For all resolutions or for full texts, contact The American Legion Library at (317) 630-1366, e-mail library@legion.org, or visit the Legion Web site at Legion.org. Written requests for all approved resolutions, in booklet form, can be sent to **The Library, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

AMERICANISM

33 Establishes the Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award for the Junior Air Rifle National Championship.

38 Sanctions American Legion Junior Baseball.

CHILDREN & YOUTH

29 Adopts the Ronald McDonald House Charities Pop Tab Collection Program as a national project.

30 Encourages posts and departments to work with "Operation: Military Kids" effort.

ECONOMICS

13 Opposes consolidation of Employment Service Program and Veterans Employment Program.

14 Supports preference for veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.

15 Supports continuing initiatives of the National Veterans Business Development Corp.

16 Seeks legislation requiring a 5-percent goal for federal procurements and contracts for businesses owned and operated by service-disabled veterans and businesses owned and controlled by veterans.

17 Reaffirms support of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development.

18 Supports restoring oversight of Veterans Employment and Training Service programs to the Department of Labor's assistant secretary for Veterans Employment and Training.

NATIONAL SECURITY

25 Supports legislation to provide financial anti-terrorism law enforcement.

RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

39 Encourages an alliance of veterans organizations in each state to develop Veterans Service Day events.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

20 Urges VA to clarify regulations and ensure due process regarding VA dental treatment.

21 Urges Congress to give VA authority to include ill Gulf War veterans in Priority Group 6.

22 Opposes reductions of eligibility for VA payments to state veterans homes.

23 Urges VA to ensure patient privacy in the transcription of VA medical records.

24 Urges Congress to enact the Code Talkers Recognition Act.

[PATRIOTISM]

Patriotic places

Liberty Thirty places nationwide contain "liberty" in their name. The most populous is Liberty, Mo. (27,982). Iowa, with four, claims more liberty than any other state:



Libertyville, New Liberty, North Liberty and West Liberty.

Independence Eleven places, of which the most populous is Independence, Mo. (112,079).

Freedom Five places have adopted the name "freedom." The largest: Freedom, Calif., population 6,000.

Patriot A single place: Patriot, Ind., population 196.

America What could be more fitting than spending the Fourth of July in a place called "America"? The country has five such places, the most populous being American Fork, Utah, population 22,876.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

[LEGION NEWS]

Legion, USAC, IRP team up to honor veterans

The American Legion will partner with the United States Auto Club and Indianapolis Raceway Park for a night honoring The American Legion during IRP's J.D. Byrider 100 USAC Silver Crown Race, three days before the Aug. 7 NASCAR Brickyard 400 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Legionnaires can purchase general admission tickets at \$5 off the normal rate for the Aug. 4 USAC Silver Crown Series race at IRP. The discount

Special offer
Discount coupons are available online:

Legion.org
indlegion.org

For information:
(317) 291-4090
IRPonline.com

only is available by presenting a special coupon at IRP.

"We wanted to give Legion members and their families something to do that wouldn't cost them a lot of money," said Steve Farmer, USAC's national director of marketing and sales. "This also will give a lot

of people the opportunity to experience our type of racing, which they may not be familiar with."

The event also will give the racing community a chance to honor veterans.

"We're always very excited to be able to pay tribute to our people serving or who have served our country," said IRP Communications Manager Scott Smith. "To be able to do something like this really means a lot to us. And this really is a great way for people to see 15- and 16-year-old future motor sports stars progressing up through the ranks. It's the beginning of many of their careers."

Avon Post 145 Legionnaires will man a membership tent during the day for the entire Legion family.

[AFFINITY PARTNERS]



The 2005 Mercury Montego

Lincoln Mercury, Legion family unite to raise Legacy Scholarship funds

The American Legion and Lincoln Mercury are uniting to provide discounts on automobiles while raising money for The American Legacy Scholarship Fund. The program awards college scholarships to the children of U.S. servicemembers killed on duty since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Between July 1 and Sept. 30, any member of the Legion family – American Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion – who purchases a new Lincoln or Mercury vehicle will receive cash back. And for each sale, Lincoln Mercury will make a donation to The American Legacy Scholarship Fund. Lincoln Mercury officials will announce the amounts of the discounts and donations on July 1.

"We are very honored to have the opportunity to work with such an outstanding organization," said Craig Stacey, large-car communications manager for Lincoln Mercury. "Lincoln Mercury is a strong supporter of the community and American military efforts over our 100-year history, so teaming with The American Legion and your Legacy fund is only natural for us as an American manufacturer."

"This is an excellent opportunity to build the Legacy fund for the future," Legion National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus said. "We are losing servicemembers in Iraq every day, and many of them are leaving behind families that will need our help. Our partnership with Lincoln Mercury can help us carry out our mission to help those families. I hope Legionnaires will take advantage of the opportunity."

[TESTIMONY]

Thune: Flag desecration is not free speech

The following is an excerpt from a statement made by Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., following the introduction of S.J. Res. 12, the flag amendment, on April 14.

We know the gravity of this legislation. There is nothing complex about this amendment, nor are there any hidden consequences. This amendment provides Congress with the power to outlaw desecration of the American flag, a right that is widely recognized by Madison, Jefferson and Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, one of the foremost advocates of First Amendment freedoms.

Most states officially advocate Congress passing legislation to protect the flag. Frankly, I do not see this as a First Amendment issue.

It is an attempt to restore the traditional protections to the symbol cherished so dearly by our government and the people of the United States. Some acts are not accepted as “free speech”

even in societies like ours where we consider free speech a cherished right. For example, an attempt to burn down this Capitol building as a political statement would never be viewed as someone’s right of free speech. Our laws would not tolerate the causing of harm to others’ property or life as an act of “free speech.”

The flag of the United States of America is a symbol of freedom. The flag of the United States of America has been sanctified by the blood of thousands of U.S. soldiers who have fought across the world, and it must be protected from desecration. This proposed constitutional amendment would overturn the 1989 U.S. Supreme Court’s 5-4 ruling which held that laws banning desecration of the U.S. flag were unconstitutional infringements on free speech and, therefore, a violation of the First Amendment.

I am proud of the First Amendment right to free speech and will always ensure all Americans maintain that right. I am also proud of the American flag and the values behind it. The American flag flies over this great country as a symbol of liberty and patriotism. Desecration of the flag would be destruction of the core principles on which this great nation was founded. I will continue to be an advocate on behalf of the American flag and the values the flag represents.



Sen. John Thune



[ON THE RADAR]

GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century unveiled

Sixty-one years after the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act passed, leading millions of veterans to college and giving rise to the American middle class, the GI Bill is known as U.S. history’s most significant social legislation. Members of Congress recently unveiled plans for a new GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, one that takes queues from the original and adds issues like VA health-care funding and better benefits for military families and retirees.

GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century

Highlights of the proposal, introduced in April by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.:

- Full tuition and fees, plus a living allowance, for 36 months of schooling for those who enlist for four years of active-duty service. It also increases the basic benefit to \$1,300 a month for those serving fewer than three years and those covered by the Montgomery GI Bill.
- Increased funding for VA health care by \$3.2 billion over President Bush’s 2006 budget proposal, adding post-traumatic stress disorder treatment services at all VA medical facilities and blocking proposed increases in VA prescription drug co-payments and enrollment fees.
- Repeal of the disabled veterans tax, which forces military retirees to forfeit DoD retirement pay to cover VA disability compensation.
- Increased benefits for surviving families of combat-killed troops.
- Better pay for senior enlisted and warrant officers and \$1,000 bonuses to troops who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Afghanistan.
- Employment assistance for homeless veterans.

Aging is Natural. Giving Up on Your Sexual Health Isn't!

Bring Back the Best Years of Your Life!
Here's how one man did it!

Dear Readers:

Although this would otherwise be an embarrassing subject – I feel strongly about sharing a recent experience with others my age. Simply put ... **I'm 57 years old and even though I'm in overall good health, my body just doesn't respond sexually like it used to.**

Recently, I found myself struggling to "perform". It was just so difficult to remain firm. I began losing my confidence and my sex drive with it. I was feeling a great deal of pressure and embarrassment and my wife was beginning to think it was something she did or didn't do – it wasn't.

I wasn't comfortable discussing my situation with anyone – not even my doctor. At my age, I just didn't feel it necessary to turn to prescription drugs. So in a desperate attempt to find some help, I privately did some research on the web.

First, I found that many HEALTHY men experience a decrease in stamina and performance with age (sometimes it can even happen to men under 30). **I wasn't alone!** Good blood circulation is key to maintaining a strong erection and apparently there are a number of factors that can weaken it.

Armed with this new information, I began to search through the many "male enhancement" and potency products on the net. I found a pill for everything and anything but among the various pills and patches – **one product stood out – Maxoderm!** Not a pill or a patch, Maxoderm is a topical formula for those concerned with the quality and firmness of their erections! Using a targeted delivery system that's applied right to the "source", it gets the job done where I need it most. I don't need to swallow a pill, prescription drug, or wear some kind of patch on my shoulder.

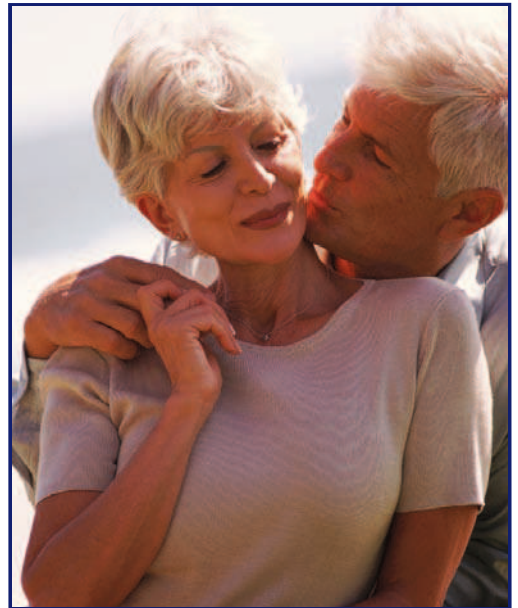
After trying Maxoderm just once, I could actually feel it working immediately! What a difference! I couldn't believe how firm I was – I even lasted longer than I have in years! My driver's license says I'm 57 but thanks to Maxoderm, my wife says I'm 18 again! It felt great!

I now know it's normal to experience some problems with sexual performance as we age, but Maxoderm let me deal with it **naturally**. No pills – no patches – and even better – no embarrassing appointment with the doctor.

Try Maxoderm. You'll feel it working immediately – then you can bring back the best years of your life.

– Jim, S. Miami, FL

P.S., Maxoderm **GUARANTEES** results or you get your money back! So, do what I did – take the first step toward sexual health and call **1-800-730-4286** or visit **www.maxoderm.com**. You've got nothing to lose.



**“ My driver's
license says
I'm 57, but my
wife says I'm
18 again! ”**



Individual results may vary. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.

How to Submit a Reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name,

telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR FORCES

5th AF 5th/108th Stn Hosp (WWII), St. Louis, 9/14-18, Jeff Seabock, (828) 324-6464; 5th AF 43rd Bomb Grp (H) 63rd, 64th, 65th & 403rd Sqdns, Minneapolis, 9/14-18, Arvid Houghlum, (218) 525-0021, arvidtx@aol.com; 5th AF 80th Serv Grp (WWII), St. Louis, 9/14-18, Virgil Staples, (515) 225-8454; 5th AF 405th Sig Co (Avn), St. Louis, 9/14-18, Phil Treacy, (810) 775-5238; 5th AF 502nd Tact Cont Grp (Korean War), St. Louis, 9/14-18, Fred Gorsek, (217) 968-5411; 5th AF HQ & HQ Sqd 314th Comp Wing (WWII & Korean War), St. Louis, 9/14-18, Louis Buddo, (314) 487-8128; 5th AF HQ VBC 5th Bomb Cmd (WWII), St. Louis, 9/14-18, Louis Buddo, (314) 487-8128; 10th Tact Recon Wing Reunion Grp (Spangdahm AFB, Germany, 1953-1959), Branson, MO, 10/12-15, Jerry Graham, (210) 658-5962, nodaktwoinx@att.net; 15th Radio Sqdn Mobile 6922nd Radio Sqdn, Lancaster, PA, 10/23-26, James Bramwell, (610) 544-5143, m.jbrampres3@verizon.net

19th Bomb Assn 14th, 28th, 30th, 32nd, 38th, 93rd & 435th Sqdns, San Antonio, 10/4-8, Jerry Michael, (317) 253-9265, g.michael@sbcglobal.net; 21st/6461st TCS "Kyushu Gypsies" (Korea), San Diego, 9/21-25, Dana Mansur, (908) 782-1657, kgypsy@patmedia.net; 24th Cbt Mapping Sqdn (WWII), Portland, OR, 9/25-29, Les Bryan, (254) 876-2070, popbryan@prodigy.net; 25th Bomb Grp Recon Spec, Florence, KY, 9/25-29, Jack Sheen, (602) 863-3142, joker654@earthlink.net; 39th Bomb Grp Assn, Arlington, VA, 8/11-14, James Wyckoff, (607) 869-2574; 39th Ftr Sqdn Assn - 40, 41st Ftr Sqdns, 35th Ftr Grp, 5th AF, Washington, 9/28-10/2, Roger Rehn, (530) 644-7346, rolo7346@sbcglobal.net; 43rd Bomb Grp 5th AF (WWII), Bloomington, MN, 9/14-18, Neil Fairbanks, (763) 421-3076, nrfairban@aol.com; 48th FS, FIS & FTS, San Antonio, 9/28-10/2, Joe Onesty, (562), 431-2901, jonesty2@adelphia.net

65th TCS (WWII), St. Peters, MO, 9/11-15, Bud Hawkey, (937) 996-3851; 75th Air Depot Wing, (Korea, 1952-1955), Asheville, NC, 9/22-25, Walt Walko, (719) 488-1106, wawlaw2@juno.com; 75th Ftr Escort Wing, San Antonio, 9/22-24, John McConnell, (210) 824-1329, johnmcc@stic.net; 78th Ftr Sqdn (All Snakes), Milwaukee, 7/27-31, Ken Sweet, (414) 541-4015; 90th Strat Recon Wing, San Antonio, 10/5-8, Chuck Hale, (785) 865-5794, chuckhale@earthlink.net; 97th Bomb Wing, Branson, MO, 9/22-25, Stephanie Thomason, (417) 334-1850, stephanie@bransonfun.com; 126th Bomb Wing, Neenah, WI, 10/11-14, Gene Westerman, (847) 742-8711, westy1931@aol.com; 315th Bomb Wing Assn (VH), Orlando, FL, 10/12-16, Bev Green, (217)

893-3197; 317th TCW/Airlift Grp, Fayetteville, NC, 9/29-10/2, George Banks, (910) 488-0422, gjbanks@nc.rr.com; 373rd Ftr Grp 412th Ftr Sqdn (1943-1945), Elk Grove, IL, 9/19-21, John Kinn, (419) 626-1114, johnkinn4@aol.com; 379th Bomb Grp (Heavy) (WWII), Memphis, TN, 9/20-24, T. Cabanski, (303) 697-6265; 390th Bomb Grp (H) Vets Assn 8th AF (WWII, Stn 153, Framlingham, England), Washington, 9/20-25, Ken Rowland, (509) 467-2565, rkenrow@msn.com; 391st Ftr Bomb Sqdn, Dayton, OH, 10/11-13, John Shirley, (512) 671-3464; 417th Nightfighter Sqdn (WWII), Dulles, VA, 9/30-10/2, Rich Ziebart, (269) 429-0208, llzrhz@ameritech.net; 422nd Air Police Sqdn (Nagoya AFB & Komaki Air Dome, Japan) & Attached Mar MP (Camp Gifu, Japan), Memphis, TN, 9/11-13, John Yancey, (803) 772-9618, jandjyancey@aol.com; 445th FIS, Wright-Patterson AFB, 10/11-13, Al Bruder, (937) 879-3800, abruder652@aol.com; 485th Bomb Grp (H) 15th AAF (Italy), Tucson, AZ, 9/28-10/2, Lynn Cotterman, (505) 823-2283, lynccott@juno.com

504th Bomb Grp 313th B-29 Wing, Norfolk, VA, 9/21, Tom Schoolcraft, (830) 303-5732; 548th RTS 6th PTS (Yokota AB, Japan), Baltimore, 9/28-10/1, Charlie Wilson, (770) 927-6179, cwilson193@aol.com; 774th TAS "Greenweasels," Abilene, TX, 7/29-30, Butch Stratton, (325) 893-4764, richphy@camalott.com; 1503rd Air Trans Wing MATS (Pacific Div, 1944-1966), Chester, NY, 9/16-18, Bill Teichman, (309) 796-2084, billsal@mchsi.com; Air Commando Assn/Special Ops (All Eras), Fort Walton Beach, FL, 10/7-9, Eugene Rossel, (909) 930-5700, aircommando1@earthlink.net; Air Rescue Assn, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/7-11, Sandy Gonzalez, (407) 834-0105, sgonzalez2@cfl.rr.com; Johnson AB (Japan), Colorado Springs, CO, 9/15-18, Claude Clawson, (740) 342-0138, budclaw@msn.com; Red Horse Assn, Fort Walton Beach, FL, 10/16-19, Paul Sattler, (303) 650-1215, admin@redhorseassn.org

Student Pilots (Bainbridge AB, GA), Bainbridge AB, GA, 9/2-3, J. Wilkinson, (229) 246-1973, jswilkin@mailakana.net; Tan Son Nhut Assn, Gettysburg, PA, 9/2-4, Wayne Salisbury, (540) 772-1025, tansonnhut@aol.com; Trp Carrier Homecoming, All Crew/Arial Port & Cbt Cont Personnel (WWII-1975), Galveston, TX, 11/9-13, Bob Ruffin, (501) 835-6606, ruffin.robert@comcast.net; VB-150 Bomb Sqdn (WWII), Branson, MO, 9/14-18, Stephanie Thomason, (417) 334-1850, stephanie@bransonfun.com

ARMY

1st FA Obsn Bn Assn (WWII & Korea), St. Louis, 10/6-9, Ralph Mueller, (724) 348-5359, ltrjrm@verizon.net; 3rd Bn 1st Inf 11th LIB

Americal Div (Hawaii & Vietnam, 1966-1968), Atlanta, 10/14-16, Tim Cook, (701) 774-0598, thirfirstreunion@yahoo.com; 3rd QM Co & 3rd Supply & Trans Bn 3rd In Div (Germany), Boiling Springs, PA, Jack Heinze, (717) 533-5613, kingbris@aol.com; 7th Armd Div, Washington, 9/7-10, Charles Barry, (814) 333-8051, cbarry@zoominternet.net; 10th Mnt Div, Syracuse, IN, 9/11-16, Robert Foreman, (217) 442-8061; 11th Evac Hosp Semi Mobile (Camp Drew, Japan), Colorado Springs, CO, 10/13-16, Robert Finch, (540) 720-1322, finchrj@msn.com; 13th Inf Rgt 8th Inf Div (WWII), Cleveland, OH, 9/28-30, George Krist, (440) 235-9862; 14th Armd Div, Cedar Rapids, IA, 9/7-11, H. Kiehne, (608) 785-1931; 17th Armd Eng Bn 2nd Armd Div, Kansas City, MO, 8/31-9/3, Francis Turner, (570) 836-2890; 32nd Inf Div, Madison, WI, 8/18-22, Ken Hanson, (608) 271-3075, khanson@execpc.com

32nd Inf Rgt Assn "Queen's Own," San Diego, 9/21-25, Helen Dyckson, (352) 597-5912, heland@bellsouth.net; 38th Ord Co (WWII & Korea), Branson, MO, 9/11-14, Derio Dalasta, (208) 746-6345; 38th Sig Bn (Germany, WWII & 1986-1991), Eatontown, NJ, 9/15-18, Bill Foiles, (803) 776-1114; 39th AAA (AW) Bn (1948-1957), Washington, 10/12-16, Gerald Moors, (845) 744-2059; 39th Cbt Eng (WWII), Jefferson City, MO, 9/1-4, Alice Knudson, (563) 242-2618; 40th Inf Div 160th Inf Rgt 2nd Bn E Co, Grand Island, NE, 8/26-28, Paul Swartz, (724) 662-2269, phswartz@infonline.net; 45th Trans Bn (Aircraft) & 57th Trans Co (Aircraft) (Vietnam), Kansas City, MO, 9/28-10/1, Jim Bodkin, (850) 747-4710, jbodkin@aol.com; 59th Eng Const Co (Fairbanks, AK), Bluffs, IA, 10/1-2, Dick Scott, (712) 566-2084; 63rd Inf Div "Blood & Fire," Kansas City, MO, 8/11-14, Martin Beer, (319) 337-4519

73rd Eng Cbt Bn, Bemidji, MN, Jim Hunt, (218) 785-2258; 78th Eng Cbt Bn, Huntsville, AL, 10/6-8, Bob Anglea, (706) 234-4201, bobanglea@comcast.net; 83rd Inf Div, Paducah, KY, 9/7-10, R.C. Hamilton, (270) 965-4310; 85th Chem 4.2 Mortar Bn, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/5-10, R.L. Grogan, (843) 357-8421; 88th Inf Div 3rd Bn SE Cpt, Jacksonville, FL, 9/29-10/1, William Williamson, (850) 862-2866, dubberh@cox.net; 97th Div 303rd Inf 2nd Bn, Cleveland, OH, 9/9-11, George Novak, (440) 843-6445, gbnovak3582@aol.com; 103rd Inf Div Assn (WWII), Arlington, VA, 10/6-9, Richard Ball, (703) 671-9017; 104th Timberwolf Inf Div, Philadelphia, 8/28-9/5, Glen Lytle, (316) 636-5334, gelytle@aol.com; 106th "Golden Lions" Inf Div Assn (WWII), New Orleans, 8/31-9/4, Marion Ray, (618) 377-3674, raybugleboy@charter.net; 109th Eng Bn (C) 34th Div (WWII), Rapid City, SD, 9/8-11, Clarence Carsner, (605) 343-2708; 109th

Evac Hosp, Milwaukee, 8/10-14, Howard Klitgaard, (414) 354-4857, howardk@milwpc.com; **163rd Inf 41st Inf Div (WWII)**, Helena, MT, 9/9-11, Joe Upshaw, (406) 442-5956, jgupshaw@juno.com; **169th WAC Co 1st WAC Bn (Europe, WWII)**, Arlington, VA, 10/6-9, Florence "Cookie" Slavin, (615) 361-7435, cookiewac@aol.com; **281st Eng Cbt Bn Assn**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/13-15, E.G. Jeffreys, (251) 621-1850, egjeffreys@aol.com; **322nd Med Bn 97th Inf Div**, Nashville, TN, 9/15-18, Kenneth Thomas, (901) 388-2233, yvonnethomas@aol.com; **326th Army Sec Agency (Korea & Japan, 1952-1956)**, Anniston, AL, 9/11-13, Joe Russell, (256) 237-9911; **461st Ord Ammo Co (Korea, 1950-1952)**, Minneapolis, 9/16-18, Richard Anderson, (989) 739-2172, reabaa@voyager.net; **471st AAA AW Bn**, Bloomington, IL, 9/20-22, Austin Peck, (636) 225-9049, acpeck1@juno.com

472nd MP, Branson, MO, 9/16-19, Stephanie Thomason, (417) 334-1850, stephanie@bransonfun.com; **503rd & 218th MP Bn (Fort Bragg, NC, 1965-1968)**, Gatlinburg, TN, 7/29-31, Dennis Jarr, (815) 363-5435; **557th FA Bn**, Lynn, MA, 10/1, Bruno Stadnicki, (413) 594-4555; **558th FA Bn Patton's 3rd Army (WWII)**, Las Vegas, 9/11-13, David Rifkin, (702) 616-3871, drifkin@cox.net; **573rd AAA (AW) (SP) Bn (WWII)**, Carmel, IN, 9/12-14, Gerald Hurlbert, (228) 432-1600; **605th Tank Dest Bn**, Findlay, OH, 9/3-5, Lawrence Montgomery, (269) 685-8729, monty605@mycidco.com; **630th Eng (LE)**, Branson, MO, 9/22-25, Cecil Brown, (731) 415-6460; **709th Tank Bn (WWII)**, Allentown, PA, 9/15-18, B. Keeler, (610) 282-1865, bdkeeler@earthlink.net; **790th QM Reclamation & Maint Co**, Appleton, WI, 10/1, Clarence Smits, (920) 738-0503, cgsmi1@juno.com

796th MP Bn (Austria, 1945-1955), Lancaster, PA, 9/19-9/23, Glendon Gray, (908) 647-3087; **A Co 411th Rgt**, Branson, MO, 9/11-15, Stephanie Thomason, (417) 334-1850, stephanie@bransonfun.com; **A Co 982nd Eng Const Bn**, Hickory, NC, 10/14-15, Jim Elvington, (864) 232-1452; **ASA (Korea)**, Williamsburg, VA, 9/8-11, Andy Kavalecs, (717) 838-5546; **Eng OCS (WWII-Present)**, Atlanta, 10/13-17, E.T. Mealing, (404) 231-3402, enocsa@earthlink.net; **Fox Co 279th Inf Rgt 45th Div (Korea)**, Crossfire, TN, 9/15, Jack Trefts, (805) 934-4406, jct178@cs.com; **Med Cmd/Japan Assn**, Colorado Springs, CO, 10/13-16, Robert Finch, (540) 720-1322, finchrj@msn.com; **Med Unit (Camp Sendai, Japan)**, Colorado Springs, CO, 10/13-16, Robert Finch, (540) 720-1322, finchrj@msn.com

COAST GUARD

Lightship Sailors Assn, Portsmouth, VA, 10/27-29, Martin Krzywicki, (651) 488-6166; **Spencer**, Cleveland, 9/15-19, Mike Hagerman, (330) 928-5119; **Unimak (WWII-1988)**, New London, CT, 9/9-11, John Cadarette, (860) 376-5452, cadmando@myeastern.com; **USCG Cbt Vets Assn (CGCVA)**, Tampa, FL, 10/20-23, Baker Herbert, (330) 887-5539, uscgw64@worldnet.att.net

JOINT

Berlin Airlift Vets Assn (1948-1949), St. Cloud, MN, 9/29-10/2, J.W. Studak, (512) 452-0903; **Casco AVP 12/WAVP 370**, Washington, 10/5-7, John Sullivan, (718) 229-2492; **"Chosin Few" New England Chpt**, Milford, MA, 9/29-10/1, John Gutermuth, (781) 769-5656; **Guadalcanal Campaign Vets**, Laughlin, NV, 10/16-21, Bill Becker, (760) 630-3643, wsbillthepill@earthlink.net; **Nat'l EOD Assn**, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/4-6, Bud Engelhardt, (413) 569-5040, mossyfixture@supplyguys.net; **Parachute Riggers**, Kissimmee, FL, 10/20-24, Ray Weismann, (407) 281-4888, rrigerray@juno.com

MARINES

1st Mar Aircraft Wing Assn (Vietnam), Washington, 11/9-13, Phil Beckerish, (914) 232-6623, yw37@optonline.net; **1st Scout Recon Co (WWII)**, Albuquerque, NM, 9/15-17, Houston Baker, (623) 972-9491; **3rd Bn 1st Mar 1st Mar Div (China, WWII)**, Quantico, VA, 10/12-14, R.O. Buchanan, (270) 781-2240, robuchanon@insightbb.com; **3rd Bn 27th Rgt**, Dayton, OH, 10/4-7, Ray Allison, (740) 987-4503, semperfi@ohiohills.com; **5th Tank Bn 5th Mar Div (Iwo Jima)**, Metropolis, IL, 8/25-27, Al Nelson, (618) 942-4870, anelson@midwest.net; **6th, 7th, 9th & 10th Def Bns (WWII)**, Arlington, VA, 10/6-9, Dave Slater, (212) 348-8255, daveslater@earthlink.net; **7th Eng Bn 1st Mar**, Savannah, GA, 9/15-18, Norbert Johnson, (989) 635-6653, delta1@centurytel.net; **A-1-1 (Korea, 1950-1953)**, Atlantic City, NJ, 9/22-25, Larry Lazzaro, (732) 363-5372; **MAG 11, 12 & 14**, Branson, MO, 10/26-30, James Jordan, (417) 535-4945, james.m.jordan@direcway.co

Mar of Long Ago (1940-1975), Charleston, SC, 10/24-28, Joe Cullen, (203) 877-0846, aircooled7@aol.com; **Mississippi Mar Det EAG 128/BB 41**, Arlington, VA, 9/15-17, Bill Terrell, (804) 449-6907, locustrow@aol.com; **San Juan Naval Stn Mar (1948-1950)**, West Palm Beach, FL, 9/27-29, Dick Hosmeyer, (304) 265-5501; **VMF/VMF(AW)/VMFA-115 (All Eras)**, Pensacola Beach, FL, 9/30-10/1, Lynn Hagen, (320) 269-8925, lynnhagen@maxmin.net; **VMO-6 (Korea)**, Pensacola, FL, 10/2-6, Art Nelson, (772) 335-0470, arthur.nelson4@att.net

NAVY

60th Seabees (WWII), Little Rock, AR, 9/8-11, Don Jones, (501) 455-8371; **79th Seabees (WWII)**, Canton, OH, 10/2-6, Fred Hummel, (717) 733-1865, lenore@dejazzd.com; **107th Seabees**, Branson, MO, 9/15-19, Frank Kullmann, (201) 825-9465; **137th, 139th Seabees (WWII)**, Niagara Falls, NY, 9/6-8, William Sass, (636) 397-3373; **Agawam AOG 6**, New Orleans, 9/25-28, John Nicholson, (937) 323-0173, snipenick1@aol.com; **Aldebaran AF 10 (1940-1968)**, Charleston, SC, 9/8-11, Ed Pepling, (561) 624-2531, peplinge@bellsouth.net; **Alhena AK 26/AKA 9**, Corpus Christi, TX, 10/5-11, Clyde Meyers, (225) 664-4786, clydemeyers@yahoo.com; **Almack AK 27/AKA 10**, San Diego, 9/23-27, William Heyn, (201) 342-7614, rjh5f2w@earthlink.net; **Armed Guard Vets NW Passage (WWII)**, Mount Vernon, WA, 9/20-22, Bob Heitzinger, (425) 483-5060

Ault DD 698 WWII Assn, Branson, MO, 10/5-9, Dan Lent, (517) 592-2912, danielent@aol.com; **Basilan AG 68**, Savannah, GA, 9/18-22, Arnold Dunbar, (863) 696-9881; **Basilone DDE/DD 824**, Saco, ME, 10/10-16, Philip Poplaski, (315) 457-6847, pepumkc8@aol.com; **Bon Homme Richard CV/CVA31/LHD 6**, Tupelo, MS, 8/12-13, Ron Edlund, (231) 773-0441; **Braine DD 630 (All Crews)**, Falls Church, VA, 9/22-25, Stanley Gold, (305) 271-7727, stan262@juno.com; **Brown DD 546**, Branson, MO, 9/21-25, Fred Korzekwa, 6894 Barrington Place, Fishers, IN 46038; **Brush DD 745**, Charleston, SC, 9/7-11, John Larney, (508) 935-8929, j.larney@comcast.net; **Cabildo LSD 16**, Washington, 9/8-12, Walt Fulps, (816) 331-5996, wfulps@comcast.net; **Cabot CVL 28**, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/12-16, Marty Moore, (610) 495-0139; **Charr SS 328**, Charleston, SC, 11/3-7, Carl Klein, (410) 747-7292; **Chester CA 27**, St. Louis, 9/21-25, Tom Kopping, (209) 478-3133


Chewaucan AOG 50, Mount Pleasant, SC, 10/27-30, Charlie Sirmmons, (229) 273-9003; **Colonial LSD 18**, Nashville, 9/14-17, Loren Kerby, (816) 858-3158, kerbyplatte@aol.com; **Columbia CL 56**, Branson, MO, 9/7-11, Bill Bohne, (610) 543-9073, usncf56@cs.com; **Cooper DD 695**, Baltimore, 10/6-10,


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MCB-1, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/7-9, Peter Dowd, (781) 837-0393, mcb1reunion@direcway.com; **MCB-3 (All Eras)**, Las Vegas, 9/23-25, Phil Weatherwax, (626) 969-1841, pweatherwax@earthlink.net; **Mindanao ARG 3**, Branson, MO, 10/4-7, Clyde Cochran, (785) 286-4048; **Moale DD 693**, Baltimore, 10/6-10, Russ Catardi, (215) 884-7422; **Monterey CVL 26**, Virginia Beach, VA, 10/12-16, Marty Moore, (610) 495-0139; **Navarro APA 215**, Tacoma, WA, 10/11-13, Vernon Jackson, (253) 851-5195; **O'Bannon DDE 450/DD 987**, Jacksonville, FL, 11/2-5, Bob Martin, (623) 546-1748, martin18275@msn.com; **Odin Sqdms VP-11, VP-51, VP-54, PATSU 1-2 & CASU (F) 56**, Everet, WA, 7/20-24, Walter Jones, (727) 517-1407, wsdjdr@worldnet.att.net; **PATSU 1-7**, Indianapolis, 9/21-25, Jim Goff, (765) 453-6724; **Perkins DD 26/DD 377/DD 877**, Orange, TX, 9/29-10/2, Dan Jackson, (281) 461-6424, djack1219@ev1.net

Phaon ARB 3 (WWII), San Antonio, 10/6-10, James Brent, (228) 832-6014; **Pickaway APA 222**, San Diego, 10/5-9, Peter Reilly, (760) 740-0401, rirjead@aol.com; **Randall APA 224**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/18-22, Fred O'Daire,

(804) 436-1814, fodaire@rivnet.net; **Ranger CV 4**, San Diego, 9/14-18, Tom Osmunson, (570) 253-4806, thojl@dfnow.com; **Raymond DE 341**, Newport, RI, 10/27-30, James Toth, (814) 472-7271, jamesstoth@verizon.net; **Sarasota APA 204**, Philadelphia, 9/26-30, Rod Bordon, (828) 438-2787; **Seabees in Trinidad**, Tulsa, OK, 9/22-24, "Stumpy" Carroll, (918) 835-3876, dcmc@tulsconnect.com; **Severn AO 61**, Branson, MO, 10/5-9, David Barber, (614) 837-1268, barberdn@aol.com; **Shields DD 596**, Denver, 8/14-19, Edward Velasquez, (303) 979-4114, etvela5@aol.com; **Sirius AF 60**, Portland, OR, 9/28-10/2, James Lasher, (800) 231-3350, elasher@pez.com; **SLCU-32**, Oklahoma City, 9/14-16, Howard Ritchie, (618) 442-5512, teresadiel@yahoo.com; **Stoddard Alumni Assn**, Sacramento, CA, 9/28-10/1, David Pietz, (530) 742-2661, dpiez@infostations.com; **Summer DD 692**, Baltimore, 10/6-10, Russ Catardi, (215) 884-7422

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COMRADES IN DISTRESS

294th MP Co, Camp Zama, Japan (May-Oct 1968). William David Bollinger seeks anyone who remembers him delirious and bedridden following a flu shot. CID 1475

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8th AF 92nd Bomb Grp 4073rd Sqdn (England, 1944-1945), Robert Rich, (423) 434-4244
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10th Inf Div 10th Sig Co (Opn Gyroscope, 1954-1958), Clarence Lucas, (616) 538-8269
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82nd Abn 307th Abn Eng B Co 2nd Plt (Europe, WWII), Walter Kearns, (908) 604-2078
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Ralph Farris, Dept. of Louisiana. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1973-1977, Dept. Cmdr. 1978-1979, Nat'l Cemetery

Cmte. Memb. 1980-1997 and Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1985-1989.
Roberto Gonzalez-Vazquez, Dept. of Puerto Rico. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1953-1954, 1972-1973 and 1976-1979, Nat'l Education & Scholarship Cmte. Memb. 1957-1958, Nat'l Rehab. Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1958-1960, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1959-1960 and 1968-1969, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. 1964-1965, Nat'l Housing Cmte. Memb. 1965-1968, Dept. Cmdr. 1969-1971, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1971-1973, Nat'l Cmsn. on Children & Youth Memb. 1971-1975, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1973-1983, Nat'l Cmsn. on Children & Youth Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1973-1974 and 1977-1983, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1983-1984, Nat'l Cemetery Cmte. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1984-1998 and Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 2003-2005.
Robert D. Gordon, Dept. of Michigan. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1965-1969, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1975-1982, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Memb. 1977-1983, Dept. Cmdr. 1981-1982 and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1981-1983.
Robert C. Horenkamp, Dept. of Missouri. Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1975-1984 and Nat'l Sgt.-at-Arms 1996-1997.
George W. Reed, Dept. of Indiana. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1972-1973, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1975-1978, and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1980-1987 and 1988-2005.
Rachel Trice, Dept. of Georgia. Nat'l Pilgrimage Cmte. Memb. 1966-1967, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1978-2001 and Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1983-1984.
William R. Underwood, Dept. of Ohio. Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1994-2005.

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It's a funny thing about our nation. July 4 is its birthday, but April 15 is when it collects the presents.

IF YOU REALLY WANT to eat a good meal outdoors on the Fourth of July, be a mosquito.

JACK WOKE UP with a hangover after attending his company's Christmas party. He didn't remember how he got home and, as bad as he felt, wondered if he did something wrong. When he opened his eyes, he saw two aspirin next to a glass of water and a single red rose.

Jack sat up and saw his clothing in front of him, all clean and pressed. He looked around the room and saw it was in perfect order, along with the rest of the house. In front of the bathroom mirror, he cringed when he saw a black eye staring back at him. Then he noticed a note on the mirror's corner: "Honey, breakfast is on the stove. I left early to go get groceries to make your favorite dinner tonight. I love you, darling! Love, Jillian."

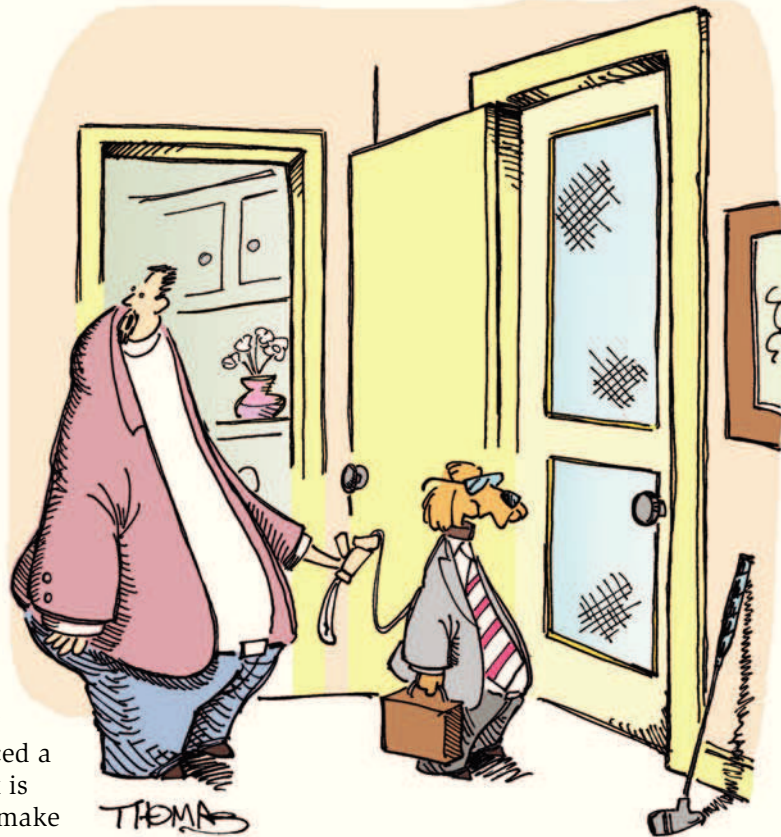
Jack stumbled to the kitchen. Sure enough, a hot breakfast with steaming hot coffee waited beside the morning newspaper. His son sat at the table, eating. Jack asked, "Son, what happened last night?"

"Well," his son replied, "you came home after 3 a.m., drunk and out of your mind. You fell over the coffee table. You got that black eye when you ran into the door."

Confused, Jack asked his son, "So why is everything in such perfect order? I have a rose, and breakfast is on the table waiting for me."

"Oh, that," his son said. "Mom dragged you to the bedroom, and when she tried to take your pants off, you screamed, 'Leave me alone, lady. I'm married!'"

INSTEAD OF calling in sick, call in well. Tell them how great you feel not having to go to work today.



"Honey, I'm taking the dog out to do his business."

THERE'S TOO MUCH blood in my caffeine stream.

A COUPLE'S MOWER was broken and wouldn't run. The wife kept hinting to her husband that he should get it fixed, but somehow the message never sank in.

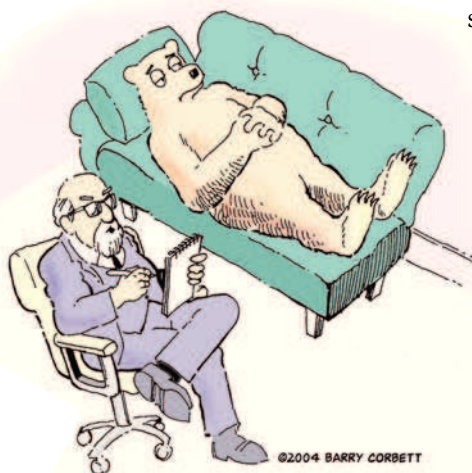
Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point. When her husband arrived home one day, he found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. He watched silently for a short time and then went into the house.

He was gone only a few moments. When he returned, he handed her a toothbrush. "When you finish cutting the grass," he said, "you might as well sweep the sidewalks."

The doctors say he will probably walk again but will always limp.



"Mmm! Just like Mom used to order."



"Feeling that only you can prevent forest fires could be construed as delusions of grandeur."

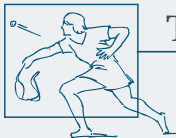


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