The LIBERTY LEGIONNAIRE 1st Ouarter 2003



P.O. Box 417 Liberty, MO 64068

Special Edition!!

Post 95 has been conducting Flag Etiquette training in our area schools for years. We provide this course to the area schools and any Civic organization or church group free of charge.

Last fall, we added another course on "America's Veterans", a class explaining what a veteran is geared toward the middle school age of 6th or 7th grade. Reviews from the teachers and students at the Kearney Southview School (6th grade) were so great, that we felt that we should share some of the "thank you" letters from the Kids; so we have included a special center page with many of the letters. Printed by Veterans for Veterans like:

One side is Flag Etiquette letters from the fourth graders, while the other side is "America's Veterans" thank you's" from Southview School in Kearney.

If you have ever asked yourself "what am I getting out of being a Post 95 member; just read these letters. We could always use help in presenting these two programs; and there are more programs that could be presented to our area youths -Our Country's future leaders.

We hope you enjoy this section, if you do, please tell us by calling Dale at 415-0567 or Commander Paul at 792-5785. Thank you Sponsors, too.

Avenue of Flags

Last year Post 95's Avenue of Flags was a great success. The 250 plus Flags were flown over Memorial Day week-end and for the Liberty fireworks display at the Hallmark complex.

Will still have about 50 flags that have not been dedicated. The price for the flag, pole and dedication tag is still \$22. Post 95 will maintain and display these flags. If you missed out last year or want additional Flags, please complete the enclosed form.

We need help to putting up and taking down the Flags on Memorial Day week-end. Contact the Commander if you want help in anyway.

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COMMANDERS CORNER

Most people know what the colors in the flag of the United States mean. White signifies purity and innocence, Red hardiness and valor, and blue, the color of the chief signifies vigilance, perseverance and justice.

From the book FOR WHICH IT STANDS by Michael Corcoran it is stated that Francis Hopkinson designed the flag, but he was not a flag maker. Betsy Ross gets the credit for making the first, however other people were involved in making flags also.

In truth there are two reasons the United State ended up with a red, white, and blue flag: familiar and availability. One theory is that the red, white, and blue were used because they were familiar colors from the Union Jack and Continental colors. In heraldry there were only the basic colors of red. blue, green and black. There was also yellow, gold, silver and white, but they were used mostly to separate the other colors. So you typically had either white or gold in heraldry (as a separator), and it made

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sense. There weren't any green dye in those days anything green looked muddy. There were two shades of blue---light blue and dark blue. Dark blue was more visible and it held up better. The symbolism of black was negative and yellow was the color quarantine, not to mention the use of a yellow flag by Hieronymus Bosch on the ship of fools. So as you can see there weren't many choices. Since red, white and blue were British colors it made sense to use these.

For his part Hopkinson was never paid for his design of the flag, even though he lobbied Congress for payment in the ensuring years. They refused to pay him but they never denied he created the flag.

Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World. Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes: 1. Egypt's Great Pyramids; 2.Taj Mahal; 3. Grand Canyon; 4. Panama Canal; 5. Empire State Building; 6. St. Peter's Basilica; 7. China's Great Wall

> D'Agee & Co. 18 E. Franklin Liberty, MO 64068 816-781-4704 On the Historic Square

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While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student who had not returned her paper. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help you out."

The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:1. to touch;2. to taste;3. to see;4. to hear;

She hesitated a little, and then added:5. to feel;6. to laugh;7. and to love

The room was so full of silence, you could have heard a pin drop. A gentle reminder to all of us that the most precious things are before you: your family, your faith, your love, your good health and above all your friends.

If I'd known I was going to live this long, I'd taken better care of myself.

What is a Veteran?

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day

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itself. Yet, all of this begins (whether it be obsessive eating or drinking, gambling or narcotics) with the person saying, "I need to change."

The Greek word for repentance literally means, "to turn the mind around. Each of us has the capacity to find out for ourselves who Jesus is. He wants us to proclaim our faith more publicly, pledge to turn away from former ways of living, and move into new ways of thinking and acting, so that we can reorient ourselves to Jesus Christ as Savior, Guide, Compass and Friend.

Our faith gives us the capacity to say, "Whoa" to this "woe is me" attitude pervading our culture. We can move away from what cartoonist Doug Larson of the United Features Syndicate, said is the problem with heredity: "Heredity," he wrote, "is a splendid phenomenon that relieves us of all responsibilities for our shortcomings." Those who seek to follow Jesus Christ faithfully and completely must say, "Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart."

Legionnaires called to Serve

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Lt. Col. Jeff Nichol -Written by, Ray Nichols LTCOL Jeff Nichols moved to Des Moines this past weekend. So far he has not officially been called up, but the preparation is under way for this to happen. Jeff thinks he will be Iowa for three weeks to a month After that there are 2 possibilities. The best option is Germany. The other option is Kuwait. I told Jeff Germany sounded the best since the beer would definitely be colder, and the fraulines will definitely be a lot better to look at. So far most of the information received has been about Kuwait If Jeff's group is sent to Kuwait the job will in the troop coordination category. Equipment is now being shipped over by sea. The equipment will arrive & be parked at a staging area. The troops will be flown into Kuwait. Upon arrival Jeff's group will billet the new troops for 2 or 3 days and marry the troops up with their equipment to move out. Then more will arrive & the same thing will happen all over. After is now the unknown. So we all keep our fingers crossed & hope everyone comes back home with a good victory instead of a partial like the last time

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Steven Steinkamp is a Sergeant (Legal NCO) in the 8th Legal Support Organization, Judge Advocate General Corps, 89th Regional Support Command, headquartered in Independence, Missouri. Their mission is to legally prepare soldiers for deployment (last wills, powers of attorney, family legal assistance, etc.). Upon completion of that initial phase of the mobilization, they may move to a more forward location to provide on-going support and upon completion of conflict. assist in the demobilization of soldiers returning to peace-time assignments and civilian life. At this time they have not been notified what their final assignment location is or how long they will be gone. Steven hopes that it will be as quick as their call to support Gulf War I.

God's speed to all our military personal.

J and J Business Service Taxes – Bookkeeping Financial Statements 17 W. Kansas, Ste. 2 –Liberty (816)-781-8844



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An American

Supplied by Paul Riechman You probably missed it in the rush of news last week, but there was actually report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American. any American.

So an Australian dentist wrote the following to let everyone know what an American is, so they would know when they found one:

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan. An American may also be a Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish. or Buddhist. or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses.

An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that

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he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need.

When the Soviet army overran Afghanistan 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country. As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan.

Americans welcome the best, the best products, the best books. the best music, the best food, the best athletes. But they also welcome the least. The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who

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built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001 earning a better life for their families I've been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 other countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and every bloodthirsty tyrant in the history of the world. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself; because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American. New members since our last issue are: David Pettet; Lloyd Gilham; and one of our local Army recruiters Carey Graham.

Senior Moments

Three old pilots walking on the ramp.

First one says, "Windy, isn't it?"

Second one says, "No, its Thursday!"

> **Glen-Kir Corporation** DEA Kirby Company 112 W. Franklin Liberty, MO 64068 (816)-792-2202

Now I'm going to tell you a little about myself. First, my name is Cheyenne. Second, I love to do flag ceremonies. I like to do flag ceremonies at Girl Scout Troop occasions.

Thank you again for coming. I enjoyed your visit. Sincerely, Cheyenne

Dear Mr. Edwards,

Thank you very much for teaching us about flag etiquette. I learned a lot. I learned that your should never lay to flag on the ground, and you should never burn the flag in public. Also I learned that if your flag is upside down it means your City is in danger.

I think it is neat that you were in the Navy during the Vietnam Warr. Luckily you didn't actually have to go to Vietnam.

Now here is a little about me. I love soccer. I'm on a special team. I also love basketball. I have two bothers and one sister and I love pizza!

Well, that's pretty much it! Once again thanks for coming and teaching us flag "ettiquette". Sincerely, Claire

Dear Mr. Sires,

Thank your for coming to our school. I learned how to fold a flag properly. I also learned not to leave a flag outside unless it is weather proof.

I learned that you had to prepare the mules and horses to the Army. I saw that you had lots of pins on your "beret".

Now I will tell you a little about myself. I have two dogs. I love to draw! My uncle used to work for the Air Force. I play football.

Was it hard to prepare the mules and horses? Any way I hope you write back! Sincerely, Alec

Dear Mr. Hunter,

Thank you very much for coming and teaching us about flag etiquette. I learned a lot! One thing I learned is that you can't let the flag touch the ground. Another thing I learned is that the flag is located almost everywhere. I also learned that correct way to fold the flag.

Anyway, I think that it's really cool that you served in WWII. Thank you for serving our country. I bet you get a good feeling inside when you think about serving us in the Army.

Now I'll tell you a little about me. First of all, I'm 9 years old. I live in Bend Oaks and am new to Doniphan. I have 1 cat but in the past I have had 3 dogs that were fun. The 1^{st} one was named Charlie (he was my favorite). The 2^{nd} one was named Dak (he was scared of me). And the 3^{rd} one was named Franklin (he was the most "hypert").

Well that pretty much wraps it up, but thank you again for coming to Doniphan. I enjoyed what you taught us! Sincerely, Kelsey

Dear Mr. Moses,

Thank you for coming to Alexander Doniphan and teaching us about the Flag. I learned that when the flag is upside down it means danger. I think it is neat that went under water for two months at a time.

Now I am going to tell you about me. I have long dark hair and glasses and I'm short. We are very glad you came and thank you. Sincerely, Cailin

Dear Mr. Hunter,

"Tank" you for coming. I learned that when the flag is upside down if means danger. I also learned not to (let) the flag touch the ground. If you were going to store the flag you would fold it.

I have a couple question for you. Was it scary being in WWII? Were you married "befor" you went to the war? Where you happy you went to the war? One more, did you learn from the war?

Now I am going to tell you a little bit about me. My name is Taylor. I love my dog (Petey). I have 1 sister and a mom and a dad. I love to play basketball.

Thank you for coming to Alexander Doniphan. It was nice of you to come and give an assembly. I learned a lot!! Sincerely, Taylor

As you can see, the kids really enjoyed our visit. They all learned something about the Flag of our great Nation. The teachers used our visit as a letter writing exercise; one of the 3 R's. Thank you teachers; past, present, and future.

Letters from the sixth graders at Kearney Summit Ridge School in response of Post 95's "America's Veterans" program:

Dear Veterans,

Thank you very much for coming to our school on Friday. I am very glad you helped America get where they are today. If I had the chance, I honestly would love to be a soldier in WWII. Just for the fact that I would love to do what you did for our Country. I just would like to help America in that way. I do not think war is cool though. I just would do that for my Country. That you again for fighting and coming. Sincerely-Jake

Thank you for all of the things you did for the Country, our home. Thank you for coming and talking to us on Veteran's Day! You did all you could and that makes everything. - Charlie

Thank you for letting us be free! We thank you so much for coming to our school and showing what Veteran's Day is all about. - Sincerely, Kasie

Thank you Veterans. Thank you for fighting for our Country. Best of all thank you for our freedom. - Travis

Thanks a lot for coming. You taught me a lot about Veterans. Me and my friends thought you guys and "girl" were so cool. Sincerely, Destiny

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for coming to Summit Ridge and telling us about "yourselfs". We appreciate it. We enjoyed watching the movie and learning about you. We will always remember what vou told us. Sincerely, Amanda

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for coming to teach us about Veteran's Day. I think I am speaking for the whole school when I say this. I hope you have time to tell the kids next year about your medals. Sincerely, Alex

Thank you so much for coming out to our school and talking about Veteran's Day. Because of vou. I know what Veteran's Day is about. Also, thank you for all that you've done for our Country. Thank you so much, Whitney

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for coming and talking to us. I'm Sorry I was not there when you talked. Sincerely, Holly

Dear Veterans,

I would like to thank all of you guys for coming. It was so cool! Thanks for fighting for our Country. All of you are very brave. Thanks again! Have a great day! - Chelsey

Thank you for serving America and keeping us strong. All of us appreciate you kindness and coming in and talking to us about how you served our Country. Thank you so much, Jocelyn

Dear Veterans.

I realize how hard it would be to be in the military. Leaving home, my family, and my life would be painful for me. I'm sure it was painful for you.

But you guys weren't as selfcentered as I am. You loved your Country more that vourselves. I think that is amazing.

Being away from your family is hard enough. Having to endure war is very hard. I know I wouldn't like it.

Thank you for fighting for the Country we all love. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for you. Sincerely, Josh

P.S. Hope you come again on Memorial Day.

Thank you Veterans. You've all made me a proud American. Thank you all, Chris

Dear Veterans, Thank you so much for fighting for "are" Country. And standing up for what you believe in. Thank you so much, Ashton

Thank you for coming to talk to us. That was very nice.

War is not a good thing I know I hope it never has to happen again, and I hope I don't have to fight in one. But thanks for being there and fighting. I mean if it weren't for you people we would probably not be such the great and strong nation we are now. So once again, thank you. - Derk

Dear Veterans.

Thank you to coming to our school. Thanks for fighting for our Country. I never knew how "importent" you veterans were. Thank you, Jake

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for "comming" to our school to "shar" all that interesting info with us. I hope you can dot the same next year. "Sencerly", Lindsey

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for coming to talk to us. It was very interesting. Thank you for protecting us. Sincerely, Megan

Dear Veterans,

I just wanted to say "thank you" for coming to our school and showing and telling us about Veterans Day! It meant a lot to me and the rest of the school. It was a great experience and I feel great to know that you serve for our country. It must have been really scary for you so, I just wanted to say thanks! It's way too much to write in a letter and I hope that people will appreciate Veteran's Day more now. Sincerely, Janel

Dear Veterans, thank you for coming and giving us the presentation you gave us. And all you did for our Country. Sincerely, Bryan

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for coming to our school. I'm glad you went out and fought for our Country. My Uncle Pete was in the "Veatnam" War, he doesn't like talking about it because he said it was hard for him to fight people. We are all glad of what you people did for us even if you didn't have to. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Brandie

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for serving our Country. You were at a war and fought, going through seeing your comrades shot. How awful it would be. If I was drafted to serve in the military I would want to be a fighter pilot of a Corsair fighter plane. Thank you, Brady

Dear Veterans,

Thanks for the stories and explaining how your lives were. My grandpa is a Veteran. I really respect you people for giving us our freedom. -With freedom, Tyler

Dear Veterans,

Thank you for coming to our school. I really liked the video. I learned the Navy and Army are two different things. - Sincerely, Nathan

Thank you for the outstanding job you did with the students. -Mrs. Shea Editor's Note:

Editor's Note:

Luckily, my boss is kind enough to let me re-arrange my work schedule to present these programs. Sometimes I would like to stay and do my job and not have to go into work early to make up the time. Then, I get into the classroom. I see all of the young faces; future labors, homemakers, lawyers, farmers, and some future Veterans. That makes it worth it.

These children are our Nations future. We complain that they our not learning enough in school today. It's up to us as Veterans to augment that learning with what we have learned about life. An in the service we all learned fast.

We go to the schools as a group. One of us is the main speaker, the other are asked to talk a little about themselves and what they did in the service of their County. We try to place emphasis on the many jobs that people in the service do; most of the kids think that you pick up a rifle and march off. They don't see the support units, cooks, clerical personnel, and others in the movies or on TV. We try to teach them that one job is just as important as another.

We could always use your help in presenting these programs. If you would like to "tag-along" sometime and see for yourself, please contact Commander Ellison. I know if you go once, you will go again and again, it's addicting!

Flag Etiquette Letters:

Dear Mr. Sires;

Thank you for coming! I appreciated your visit. Here is some facts that I learned: That the flag should never touch the ground; If you're going to have a flag out at night, your need to have a bright light by it so people can see it; Raise the Flag briskly, and lower is slowly; Always respect the Flag; Don't keep(fly) the Flag if it's torn or faded....But that's not the only thing I learned. I learned about vou too! You served in the Army in WWII, you prepared horses and donkeys and you were the only veteran that had a mule badge on your hat, to name just a few. ...- Lisa

Dear Mr. Edwards,

Thank you for coming and teaching us about the American Flag. I learned that you have to treat the American Flag with respect. If the American Flag is torn you have to burn it up or sew it up. All of stars on the flag represent the 50 States.

I think it was so cool that your were in the Navy. You have a bunch of pins on your hat. It must have been cool to be in the Navy around Viet Nam time.

I am going to tell you a little bit about myself. I am nine; my favorite sport is basketball. I'd like to be in the Navy. I have some questions about the flag. How do you fold the flag? Who makes the flags?

Thank you for coming. If you have time write me a letter. Sincerely, Chelsey. Dear Mr. Hunter, Thank you for coming to Alexander Doniphan to teach us about the American Flag.

I learned a lot of things about the Flag. When the flag is up side sown it means someone is in danger. When you have a flag on your car is should be in the front on the right.

I thought the medals on your hat were cool. You were probably proud to fight in the Army during WWII.

I thought it was really neat to learn about our Flag from you and the other veterans. -Sincerely, Tanner

Dear Mr. Moses,

I learned a lot. This is something I learned. If the flag is upside down it means danger.

I think going in a submarine would be neat. Thank you for serving in our "contrey".

Now I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I am 9 years old, I love dogs, and my "contrey".

Thank you for comeing and if you have time feel free to write me back. Sincerely, Taylar

Dear Mr. Sires,

Thanks a lot for teaching us about Flag Etiquette.

I learned a lot from your speech. I learned how to properly respect the flag like, you should always burn a flag if it ever touches the ground. Another thing I learned is that your shouldn't burn a flag publicly. You should also have a light on to fly a flag at night. I also learned that you can fold a flag in any way. There is a lot more things I learned from your speech.

Here's what I learned about you from your speech. I think you served in WWII. Did you name any of the donkeys or mules you had? Do you know when the U.S. got it's 50th star? Do you know how many flags the government retires each year? I feel proud to know that there are veterans from Liberty.I think it's cool that you worked with donkeys and mules. I'm glad you came and taught us flag etiquette. Your friend.

Jourdan

Dear Mr. Moses,

Thank you for teaching us about the flag. When there are other flags,(non-National) the American Flag has to be on top.

What I learned about you was that of course you were to main speaker. When you was in the Navy was it ok? I would like to go under water, but were you scared on the submarine? I will tell you a little about myself. I always like to play board games with my brothers. My hobbies are cleaning my room up, and making dinner. I hope I have told you enough. I hope you write me a letter. See you soon! Sincerely, Carmen

Dear Mr. Hunter,

Thank you for coming and teaching us about the flag. I learned a lot. One of the things I learned is you may not burn the flag in a public place.

What I learned about you is you served in WWII.

ALLSTATE

David A. Anderson – Agent 1170 W. 152 Hwy, Suite J Liberty, MO 64068 (816)-792-2060

Third one says, "So am I. Lets go get a beer."

Post 95 growing by the <u>"numbers"</u>

Post 95 is constantly growing. This is the 2^{nd} year in a row and 4^{th} of 5 years that we have gone "over the top" in membership. Our goal for 2003 was 133 members. At present we are at 138 and my have more before press time.

Why are we growing? Because we are involved with the Community. Each of you helps directly or indirectly. Just paying your dues in a timely manner is a big help. Others help but out our Avenue of Flags, teach our area youth about the Flag, sell ads for this newsletter, etc. We need you all. If you know of any Veterans, male or female, get them signed up in Post 95. We need the "numbers". The "numbers" is what gets reported to Washington to protect our Veteran benefits. If you never use them that's great, but chances are that some "buddy" you serve with does. Help them out!

Spaghetti Dinner!! March 22nd, 2003

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4.30 to 7.30 P M Spaghetti, salad, bread, veggies, dessert, and a drink all for \$5.00 Door Prizes!! Raffles!! Friends! Fun! Food! **Proceeds** benefit Post 95 youth programs! Memorial Hall B&H Hwys. Alan Shannon's Apple Salad

This was at hit at the Christmas Dinner and Alan Shannon was willing to share the recipe.

3 medium apples, I use Jonathan, but use your favorite. Core and cut in small pieces and place in a large mixing bowl. Add and mix in:

1-1/2 cups Miracle Whip 1 cup chopped Pecan halves

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 cup raisins
1-1/2 cup miniature marshmallows
cup coconut
cup sugar
cup pineapple juice
I have added a 13 oz. Can of boned white meat chicken to this and then it's almost a one dish meal.

Family Relations

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules, jackasses, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," the wife replied, "inlaws".

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WHOA TO 'WOE IS ME'

Rev Donna L Warren, Vice Commander They screamed, they carried on, they cried, they crowded the stage. They vowed undyingly never to wash a particular hand again because "he" had touched it. Clothing styles underwent radical shifts among the young. Parents and grandparents alike shook their heads, clucked their tongues and wondered, "What will happen to the generation?"

There was too much makeup, kids were becoming more flippant and language was increasing in its coarseness and vulgarity. All of this because a young Frank Sinatra was packing in several thousand teen-aged kids six or seven time a day in the 1940s at the Paramount Theatre in New York City.

Fast-forward some 20 years. As time goes, that's not a particularly long span of it. They screamed, they carried on,...clothing styles underwent radical shifts. Parents and grandparents again shook their heads and clucked their tongues. Barely had the words left Ed Sullivan's mount, "AND HERE THEY ARE- - -THE BEATLES!" Then the screaming increased to deafening

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proportions, virtually drowning out the Fab Four in their American television debut.

Fast-forward again some 34 vears. Outside a Beverly Hills church, all is somber as dignitaries and celebrities file from the church. Fans are behind police barricades as the coffin of Francis Albert Sinatra is moved to the hearse. Surprisingly, a significant number of those fans are people in their mid-to late 20s, for whom Ol' Blue Eyes is the latest in retro chic. Grandparents don't roll their eves and cluck their tongues on this day because they remember when they packed the Paramount Theater in New York City fifty vears before.

Talking a after a recent meeting, a multigenerational one, we agreed that every generation wonders if the one following it is going to you-know-where in a hand basked. Jesus wondered such things as well. Several times, He commented almost rhetorically to Himself, "What can be done about this present generation?" And that was in 30 or so A.D.

I wonder if we "cut to the quick" as much as we should be in this age? Are we convinced enough of those things we need

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to correct in our lives so that we say to Almighty God, "What shall we do?"

Some of us remember the late comedian Flip Wilson, who died in late 1998. His famous tagline was: "The Devil made me do it." Many people use excuses these days. I say "excuse" not in the sense of disbelieving that the Devil makes people do things. Rather, "excuse" here means, "I am unable to change."

Several years ago I was involved in Overeaters Anonymous. As many of the groups meet in churches, mine did. As you may imagine, the name suggests a pattern similar to Alcoholics Anonymous. But there is an additional challenge. Those in AA who are successful learn each day to refrain from alcohol. While not always easy to do, refraining does not endanger life. Indeed, for the alcoholic, life is better.

The challenge in Overeaters Anonymous is that none can successfully refrain from eating food. Eventually, with no food whatsoever, they would die. The challenge is to change understandings about food, cravings for food and to comprehend better the psychology of eating and food

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making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the bar room loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep crying every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another -or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the Parris Island drill instructor who has never seen combat -but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, noaccount rednecks and gang members into Marines, teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in "The Tomb Of The

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Unknowns ", whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep. He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket palsied now and aggravatingly slow, who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He or is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being, a person who offered some of his or her life's most vital years in the service of their country, and who sacrificed their ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it

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will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU."

And NEVER forget......It's the soldier, not the reporter, who gave us our freedom of the press. It's the soldier, not the poet, who gave us our freedom of speech. It's the soldier, not the campus organizer, who gave us our freedom to demonstrate. It's the soldier, who salutes the flag, who serves others with respect for the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag. To all you veterans that read this, THANK YOU! - Author Unknown Thank you all for your service to our Great Country. GOD BLESS AMERICA!!

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BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW THIS!

Supplied by Paul Reichman Captain Kangaroo turned 75 recently, which is odd, because he's never looked a day under 75 (Birthday 6/27/27). It reminded me of the following story. Hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Some people have been a bit offended that Lee Marvin is buried in a grave alongside 3 and 4 star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (PVT) and service (USMC). Nothing else. Here's a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time; why the heck does he rate burial with these guys?

Well, following is the amazing answer: I always liked Lee Marvin, but did not know the extent of his Corps experiences. In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces, often in rearechelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine Hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award...the Medal of Honor. If that is a surprising comment on the true character of

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the man, he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery.

Dialog From The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson: His guest was Lee Marvin. Johnny said, "Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima and that during the course of that action you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded."

"Yeah, yeah... I got shot square in the ass and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi...bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys gettin' shot hauling you down. But Johnny, at Iwo I served under the bravest man I ever knew... We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap in comparison. The dumb bastard actually stood up on Red beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. That Sergeant and I have been lifelong friends. When they brought me off Suribachi we passed the Sergeant, and he lit a smoke and passed it to me lying on my belly on the litter and said, 'Where'd they get you, Lee?' I said: "Well, Bob... if you make it

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home before me, tell Mom to sell the outhouse!"

"Johnny, I'm not lying...Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew... Bob Keeshan... You and the world know him as "Captain Kangaroo."

Stock Market Humor...

An investor called a stock broker one day and told him that he held stock in the following companies--

The continental can company; the northern natural gas company; and the clear water company

What would he advise him to do??

The broker advised to sit tight on the can, hold your gas, and let your water go, he also advised that Scott's tissue touched a new bottom today and several thousand people were wiped clean.

Ever Wonder??

Did Adam and Eve have navels?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

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