

# Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

A better quality of life for seniors , their children and grand children

The

# NSC FOGHORN™



Volume 3, issue 4

April 8, 2004

## Special points of interest:

How to recognize a stroke

This might be a lifesaver.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. A stroke victim may suffer permanent brain damage when people fail to recognize what is happening. Now doctors say anyone can recognize a stroke simply by asking three questions:

1. ask the individual to smile
2. Ask him or her to raise both arms
3. ask the person to speak a simple sentence

If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 911 immediately, and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. Researchers urge the general public to ask these three questions quickly when they suspect someone is having a stroke. A life may be saved.

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## IS IT PROGRESS OR IS THE PYTHON OF GROWTH CRUSHING US TO DEATH?

*By Ken Mahal, AIA, President Nevada Seniors Coalition April 4, 2004*

Recently for some reason yours truly has been doing a lot of thinking about this ole life and is this really the place yours truly wants to spend his last days on this earth? Wife Agnes and I spent 2 years looking before we bought our comfortable little home in 1984. What a delightful town to live in, there was nothing like it in the world. Now when one looks at what has happened, the old Las Vegas with real character is long gone. Oh sure some will say "look at the progress" well my answer is "what do you define as progress?"

Is it progress when in a short 20 years we have gone from a community of 750,000 to more than double that and from a public debt free lifestyle to one that with debt and debt service in the \$12,000,000,000 (that's as in billion) range. And only the almighty knows how many billions of debt the residents have piled up.

Is it progress when the politicians in charge waste millions in the management of the UNLV Medical Center and then shove it on to the County Manager to fix it? Is it progress when the politicians in charge waste millions and are two years behind in the design and construction of the Jail and Justice Center and dump the problem on the back of the director of McCarran Airport to bail out their screw up?

Is it progress when the Sheriff can send a dozen cops in black and whites to almost any accident no matter how small while at the same time saying he needs hundreds of millions to hire more cops and at the same time 90% of the housing is in gated communities where few cops ever go and few ever cruise other neighborhoods either?

Is it progress when you drive and leave 3 car lengths in front of you and at least 2 idiots pull in front of you making it a solid line of cars for as far as the eye can see?

Is it progress when every day on the news most of the 11 minutes of so called news is about murders, killings in car accidents and or pedestrians being killed by cross walk violations? (Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

Is it progress when the best paying jobs with benefits to befit a king are almost all in government?

Is it progress when every day we hear more bad news about the failed education system and another 12,000 or more kids a year continue to fill more schools to overflowing?

Is it progress when we have had the truth stretched since the mid 1990s about “don’t worry we have plenty of water” while at the same time we have run out of water and now are going back to the hinter lands of the state to again raise the battle cry “we are coming after your water” and oh yes it will cost another few billion in new debt.

Is it progress when we spend a billion or so building a water pumping plant literally at the end of our sewage treatment plant in Las Vegas Bay?

Is it progress when \$600,000,000 is spent to build 4 miles of a 50 year old out of date monorail technology and when they test the vehicles the drive shaft falls off and down to the ground, plus the testing is going so badly they no longer give a completion date?

Is it progress when another billion and more will be spent to extend the Monkey-business-monorail to downtown and the airport with, you guessed, it taxpayer money and you and I won’t get to say one word about it? And worst of all it will serve less than one tenth of our transportation need and serve almost no local travel.

Is it progress when every medical clinic, testing laboratory, doctor’s office and hospital in town is overflowing with sick people many with respiratory problems like never before?

Is it progress when the people living here the longest, are paying for the latest cost of growth not matter if it is roads, water, parks, police, jails, schools, fire stations, police stations and even for the money eating monkey rail they will never ride?

Is it progress when every construction site in the valley is identified by the dirt tracked out onto the street while at the same time those in charge blame the dirt in the air on ATV units in the desert (how bizarre)?

Is it progress when the yellow cloud over a city is not a battlefield in Iraq but the battlefield of construction dust and dirty diesels from the construction industry and every other dirty diesel on the streets in Las Vegas?

Is it progress when the last thing the drought committee prioritized to consider when saving water was that some management of growth should be considered? By the way the month I was required to go to the car wash, the bill to wash the car was more than our monthly water bill.

Is it progress when the Clark County Commissioners are such poor planners that they decided to have a committee appointed to do their job of planning growth? They even failed that gimmick and shoved it onto the County Manager to pick the committee. What is interesting is that another bureaucrat, Dina Titus, proposed in the legislature we create a ring around the valley to control growth showing how little she knows about planning.

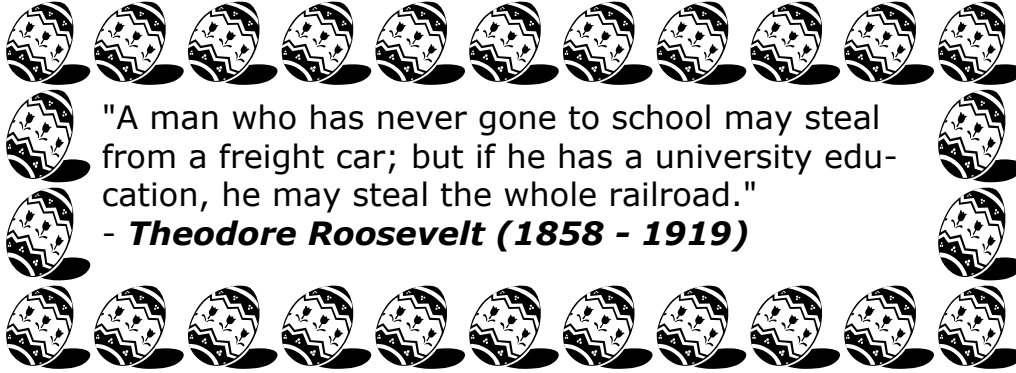
And finally, is it progress when the politicians of the State of Nevada burdened us at the last legislature with some \$833,000,000 plus in new taxes and the Governor of the great State of Nevada is already saying we will need more taxes come the next legislature?

What is so sad is that there are many hundreds of retirees here, with a world of experience, who would have volunteered their time and most of the above headaches could have been eliminated with growth paying for growth and we could have won a best planned cities award at the same time.

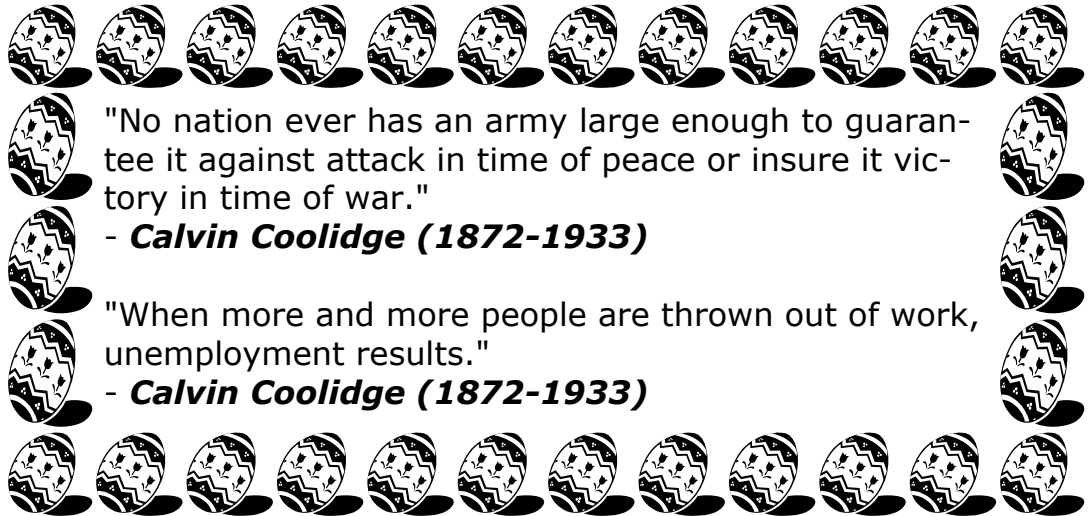


**California Beach Girls coming to settle in Las Vegas**

# “Please Don’t Quote Me”



"A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad."  
- **Theodore Roosevelt (1858 - 1919)**

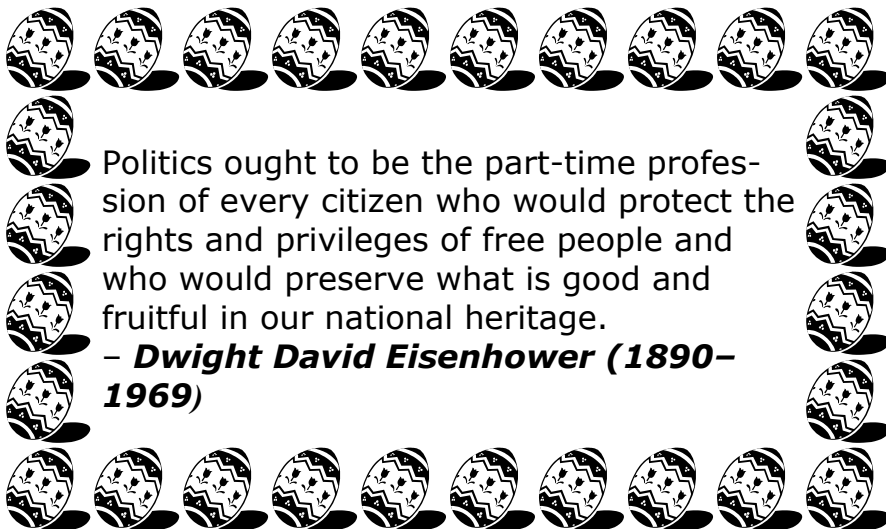


"No nation ever has an army large enough to guarantee it against attack in time of peace or insure it victory in time of war."

- **Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)**

"When more and more people are thrown out of work, unemployment results."

- **Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933)**



Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free people and who would preserve what is good and fruitful in our national heritage.

- **Dwight David Eisenhower (1890-1969)**



## AT THE MARCH MEETING



Darcy Spears and NSC President Ken Mahal

Our featured speaker was KVBC-Channel 3, Investigative Reporter Darcy Spears who gave a extremely interesting speech on her latest project involving the Office of the Clark County Guardian. She discussed in detail a case of a senior who was removed from her home and from the care of her son (who was doing a good job) and put in a care home. Her money is being misused by the County and she may lose her home. We will try to keep up to date on this story and report what happens.



Don Fuller reporting on the activities of the National Silver Haired Congress

This was our second meeting at Boulder Station Hotel/ Casino. We were again in a 600 square foot room and filled it. About 55 members and guests attended the meeting. The next meetings will be in the larger (1440 sq. ft.) Chardonnay Rooms.

## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new member:

Terry Heard of **Care4Life**.

Renewing members included:

Bernice Borge, Sammie Hawkins, and Rosalind Van Heel.

Thank you all for your continued support.

**N.B.** You are given 90 days after your membership expires to renew before your name is removed from the membership list. Your membership anniversary date is on the **Foghorn** mailing label. If the date is in red please renew, either by mail or at the next meeting.

Vern Perry

Vern Perry



**Adolescent Behavior in U.S. House**

By Dick Higgins, *Veterans Voice* Correspondent

In the ongoing battle to gain adequate funding for veterans' benefits, House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle (REP-IA) took exception to a negative vote by Rep. Chris Smith (REP-NJ).

Nussle is determined to deny adequate funds for veterans programs. Smith, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, with the backing of his committee, cast his vote against the leadership's deliberate under funding for FY 2005. Nevertheless, the Republican leadership crammed it down his throat and sent their version on to the U.S. Senate hoping for that body's approval.

This is the same miserly House of Representatives that, the next day, passed a highway bill, 375-65, and costing \$275 billion, that is stuffed with pork.

National Commander Alan W. Bowers of the Disabled American Veterans promptly shouldered his weapon and fired emphatic correspondence to Nussle and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (REP-IL) taking them to task.

Bowers said to Nussle "One of the news articles quotes you as accusing Chairman Smith of putting out erroneous information to sway veterans' groups, and calling him the runaway chairman".

In his corresponding letter to Hastert, Bowers told the Speaker "It is disturbing that the House leadership apparently sees his (Smith's) honest and forthright advocacy for veterans as a problem rather than appreciating him for the real asset that he is. Attacks upon him by his own party's leadership for doing the right thing do not reflect positively upon his party."

Copies of the DAV Commander's letters are readable at <www.dav.org>. Click on the "Legislation and Voters" button. You can also send a letter or email.

Veterans choosing their own medium of correspondence will find the info below useful. (*Letters will probably not get through - Vern Perry*) Congressman Chris Smith, 2373 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-3004, Voice (202) 225 3765, FAX (202) 225 7768, Web <www.house.gov/chrissmith>

(Send him a letter of appreciation for his bravery in bucking the leadership).

Congressman Jim Nussle, 303 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC, 20515-1502, Voice (202) 225 2911, FAX (202) 225 9129, Web http://nussle.house.gov

Congressman J. Dennis Hastert, Washington, DC, 20515-1314, 235 Cannon House Office Building, Voice (202) 225 2976, FAX (202) 225 0697, Web <www.house.gov/hastert>

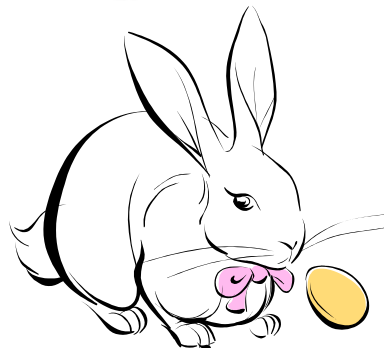
The nation's 26,000,000 veterans can make veterans' health care and disability benefits a priority of the Congressional Agenda.

**From the Editor**

Jeanie Tabek has left the Nevada Seniors Coalition Board for personal reasons. We were very sorry to see her go since she has been such an asset to our organization. She took on a lot of responsibilities and did them well. Perhaps she will return when she gets some rest.

While on this subject let me again ask for members to volunteer to be on the Board or at least help at the meetings. The same people have been doing all of the work for quite some time and none of us are getting any younger. So if you could help out signing in members or selling raffle tickets or taking care of membership please let us know. We also need people who have a computer that are computer literate (understand the basics of computer operation) and can use Microsoft Access, Word, or Excel.

Vern Perry, NSC Vice President and *Foghorn* editor.



**Next Meeting**

Thursday, May 13, 2004  
10:00 a.m. at the >>>>>>>>



**After the meeting why don't you eat and play, and stay all day?**



Featured speaker will be:

**Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman**

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## **Today In History—April 8, 1935**

On April 8, 1935, Congress votes to approve the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a central part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal."

In November 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, Governor Roosevelt of New York was elected the 32nd president of the United States. In his inaugural address on March 4, 1933, Roosevelt promised Americans that "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself" and outlined his New Deal--an expansion of the federal government as an instrument of employment opportunity and welfare.

In April 1935, the WPA was established under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, as a means of creating government jobs for some of the nation's many unemployed. Under the direction of Harry L. Hopkins, the WPA employed more than 8.5 million persons on 1.4 million public projects before it was disbanded in 1943. The program chose work that would not interfere with private enterprise, especially vast public building projects like the construction of highways, bridges, and dams. However, the WPA also provided federal funding for students, who were given work under the National Youth Administration. The careers of several important American artists, including Jackson Pollack and Willem de Kooning, were also launched thanks to WPA endowments. Although its scale was unprecedented, the WPA never managed to serve more than a quarter of the nation's unemployed. Its programs were extremely popular, though, and contributed significantly to Roosevelt's landslide reelection in 1936.

Text from [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

**The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.**

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.



**We're on the web at  
[www.nevadaseniors.com](http://www.nevadaseniors.com)  
Check it out**

