

The

NSC FOGHORN

TM



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December 14, 2006

Special points of interest:

Healthiest States in 2006 based on many factors, including personal health, clinical care, health insurance coverage and health care policies.

1. Minnesota
2. Vermont
3. New Hampshire
4. Hawaii
5. Connecticut

38. Nevada

46. Arkansas
47. Tennessee
48. South Carolina
49. Mississippi
50. Louisiana

Minnesota has topped the annual list 11 times since 1990.

Minnesota has a low rate of heart disease deaths, a low premature death rate, and a high percentage of people having health insurance.

From the United Health Foundation in partnership with the American Public Health Association and the Partnership for Prevention. — Vern Perry

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YEAR END THOUGHTS

By Ken Mahal, AIA, President Nevada Seniors' Coalition, Inc.

HERE IS WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Can you believe it; another year is about to roll the calendar over to 2007. My wife keeps telling me to forget it when I invariably say "Can you believe it, it's Thursday again". Meaning the week is almost over again. Haven't you noticed how we pay more attention to time than when we were busy working. Most of us at NSC have survived 2006, so pretty soon I guess you could call us a bunch of "tough ole birds". And pretty nice ones also. Of interest, we are 3 members more than we were in 2000. With our nice Mr. Ed Moreira back again, after his recent marriage, we look forward to increasing our 2007 membership considerably providing you hang with us. Speaking of Christmas and presents, one of my very nice high-school aged grandsons wants to buy his Grandma a present for Christmas providing of course that I can give him a few ideas on what she might like. Presents, thankfully for us, have gone by the wayside. Now if I can give him some ideas to get me off the hook. We look forward to seeing our family from Germany for Christmas so that will be great. We now have two grandsons in college, one to be an architect and the other is looking forward to landscape architect and architect with a third our granddaughter looking to continue in the art field which is just great considering how talented she is. Our high-school (one more year) grandson is now thinking he wants to be a journalist in world affairs. He will be good at whatever he settles for. In fact the first time I saw him was for Christmas in Grand Cayman 17 years ago when he was only 3 months old. I saw him lying on a blanket in the middle of the living room and I said to anyone who would listen that "here is the Chairman of The Board. He just had a presence about him that was different for such a little tike. He and his family, my oldest son have been in Germany about ten years representing his corporation in thirty countries in Europe so our youngest grandson has a good feeling for the European continent given the amount of traveling the younger ones have done over there.

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GOLD IN 2005 AT \$500 AND NOW AT \$630 AN OUNCE GOING HIGHER

If you recall I last December I said when inflation hits gold goes up. Do we have inflation? Yes we do. If you have followed the business section the dollar is down and going further down but not to worry if you spend your money in dollars in the USA. We older folks have been through this before, we just don't want too much of it. If you buy gold know that you can sell it or what good is it? You can always leave it to the grand-children or just not buy it.

THE POLICE CAN DESTROY NEIGHBORHOODS BY IGNORING THEM

We live under the protection of Metro. My point of the above is that if you call Metro for help in your neighborhood because of cars, trucks, trailers, boats and what not parked in the street and Junkers on the lots or in the streets you might as well save your breath because they tell you they wont get out in less than three weeks.

Folks they in some cases never seem to get out and so what happens? Well as more and more of such unsightliness goes on in a neighborhood it begins to deteriorate just from appearance alone. That starts the movement of people moving out into gated communities and the next person that buys the house is getting a distressed price and the people moving in can be less caring so it goes on and on until you have successfully turned a once nice neighborhood into a don't care neighborhood which can also be the starting bed for crime. We see that problem of neglect and we hope that the new Sheriff will see it and do something about it.

THE TAX MAN ARRIVETH WITH NOT SO GOOD NEWS

You will have your real-estate valuation card by now and if is like mine who knows how much it went up. Ours is up 19%. You can say well but we have a 3% cap. Yes we do but who is to say what they will do at the legislature in the dark of night an hour before they adjourn the 2007 session. I would guess it won't happen this time but given the slow down in the housing market gave us the session in 2009 that could be the day of reckoning when they can pull the cap and our taxes could go up to a 100% depending on who is in control of the legislature.

MEDICARE

Medicare is being means tested with couples filing gross income of \$160,000 and up will be where the hit takes place. Again this is why the NSC was formed in the first place in 1995 for the same reason. I don't know if people have the ambition, strength or the carrying to fight to repeal this onerous tax on part "B" of Medicare. You can say well this doesn't affect me. Be careful because the number of \$160,000 per couple is the gross income which can add up for some people. What my fear is that once the federal government starts with a number who is to say that they won't lower the \$160,000 combined to say \$100,000. All I know is you can not predict what the Congress will do.

You might remember that Social Security was non taxable and in recent years it has had a tax hit put on it two different times so think about it. We need the help to get our www.seniorsamerica.com under way so we can communicate with the regional offices of the Senators and Congresspersons.

MOVIES NOT WORTH SEEING OR BUYING THE DVD

Because of the ink on Mel Gibson in past months I thought I ought to see Apocalypto. Folks it isn't worth the price even the senior price. This thing smells to high heaven. It has no plot, it is all blood and guts, and I don't have the space to tell how bad it is. And the DVD "*Pirates of the Caribbean — Dead Man's Chest*" is not worth the price except it put me to sleep so if you think \$19.00 to put you to sleep is worth it, not me, I'll take a shot of schnapps. Johnny Depp was worth seeing in the first one but no more for me.

HERE IS WISHING YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY BLESSED NEW YEAR FROM YOUR NEVADA SENIORS COALITION PRESIDENT KEN MAHAL, VICE PRESIDENT VERN PERRY, AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FLORENCE PETRIS, BELLE CHOANIN, RICHARD THOMAS, KNIGHT ALLEN AND ED MOREIRA..

Please Don't Quote Me

As we struggle with shopping lists and invitations, compounded by December's bad weather, it is good to be reminded that there are people in our lives who are worth this aggravation, and people to whom we are worth the same.

-- Donald E. Westlake



Every piece of the universe, even the tiniest little snow crystal, matters somehow. I have a place in the pattern, and so do you...

T.A. Barron



I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph.

- - - Shirley Temple Black

I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month.

-- Harlan Miller



Former agent: Proposed immigration policy flawed

by Larry Causey Published December 5, 2006

Buck Brandemuehl of Temple, who served 30 years with the U.S. Border Patrol, said proposed national legislation on illegal immigration would repeat mistakes in similar legislation passed in 1986.

He retired that year as the border patrol's assistant commissioner, with an office in Washington, D.C. He has worked as an agent in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. He moved to the Temple area in 1989.

Most of his comments reflect the consensus of the newly formed National Association of Former Border Patrol Agents.

"We just feel the need to voice our concern about one of the most egregious problems facing this nation," he said in a recent interview.

"Back in the 1950s, we had our borders under control," he said. "I call it the creep effect. Down through the years we ignored the problem or felt it wasn't that bad."

In 1986 the country had about 3 million illegal immigrants. Twenty years later, the estimate is 12 million. This influx has left the country vulnerable in public safety, public health, jobs and national security, he said.

One part of the previous legislation was an amnesty program that was rife with fraud, he said. And the employer sanctions that were supposed to accompany the amnesty were not enforced, because influential persons put pressure on law officers who were making it hot for employers, he said. Therefore, the magnet that draws illegal immigrants - the job market - remains open to them.

There is a misconception that illegal immigrants are only taking jobs that Americans don't want, he said.

It's true that today's illegal immigration problem dates back to the bracero program of the 1950s, which largely drew low-skilled farm workers, he said. But illegal immigrants now fill positions in construction and other fields. The fact that they will work for a cheaper wage depresses the job market for U.S. citizens.

Another part of immigration is the chain migration effect, he said. This means that for every illegal immigrant, there six relatives or friends who will follow.

From the *Temple Daily Telegram*, Temple Arizona ©



At the November Meeting

Membership



James M. O'Reilly and NSC President Ken Mahal

Our November speaker was James M. O'Reilly, L.L.C. a certified elder law attorney. His topic was I.D. Theft — Don't be a Victim. He discussed how to prevent being a victim and what to do if you became one.

Thanks to all of you who contributed at the last meeting.



New Members:

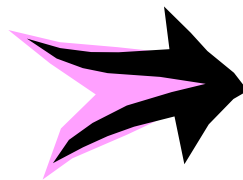
9 M. Thau

Welcome New Members

Renewing Members:

- 9 Phyllis Blessinger
- 9 John Boyle
- 9 Agnes Maria Greve-Manning
- 9 Linda Marshall
- 9 David & Mary Stearns
- 9 John Tobin

Thank You For Your Continued Support



Please help increase our membership. Tell your friends about our meetings and bring them with you.

**Recruit new members.
HELP NSC GROW!!!**

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.

The dues are only \$8.00/year



Hanukkah/Chanukkah

From the Editor

Chanukkah, the Jewish festival of rededication, also known as the festival of lights, is an eight day festival beginning on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev.

Chanukkah is probably one of the best known Jewish holidays, not because of any great religious significance, but because of its proximity to Christmas. Many non-Jews (and even many assimilated Jews!) think of this holiday as the Jewish Christmas, adopting many of the Christmas customs, such as elaborate gift-giving and decoration. It is bitterly ironic that this holiday, which has its roots in a revolution against assimilation and the suppression of Jewish religion, has become the most assimilated, secular holiday on the Jewish calendar. The story of Chanukkah begins in the reign of Alexander the Great. Alexander conquered Syria, Egypt and Palestine, but allowed the lands under his control to continue observing their own religions and retain a certain degree of autonomy. Under this relatively benevolent rule, many Jews assimilated much of Hellenistic culture, adopting the language, the customs and the dress of the Greeks, in much the same way that Jews in America today blend into the secular American society. More than a century later, a successor of Alexander, Antiochus IV was in control of the region. He began to oppress the Jews severely, placing a Hellenistic priest in the Temple, massacring Jews, prohibiting the practice of the Jewish religion, and desecrating the Temple by requiring the sacrifice of pigs (a non-kosher animal) on the altar. Two groups opposed Antiochus: a basically nationalistic group led by Mattathias the Hasmonean and his son Judah Maccabee, and a religious traditionalist group known as the Chasidim, the forerunners of the Pharisees. They joined forces in a revolt against both the assimilation of the Hellenistic Jews and oppression by the Selucid Greek government. The revolution succeeded and the Temple was rededicated. According to tradition as recorded in the Talmud, at the time of the rededication, there was very little oil left that had not been defiled by the Greeks. Oil was needed for the menorah (candelabrum) in the Temple, which was supposed to burn throughout the night every night. There was only enough oil to burn for one day, yet miraculously, it burned for eight days, the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the menorah. An eight day festival was declared to commemorate this miracle. Note that the holiday commemorates the miracle of the oil, not the military victory: Jews do not glorify war.



Happy Hanukkah

Vern Perry

Next Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2007
10:00 am at >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>



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

Scheduled Speakers For January:

**Thomas Mitchell, Editor of
the Las Vegas Review Journal**

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Ed Moreira

Today In History December 14, 1863

President Lincoln announces a grant of amnesty for Mrs. Emilie Todd Helm, Mary Lincoln's half sister and the widow of a Confederate general. The pardon was one of the first under Lincoln's Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, which he had announced less than a week before. The plan was the president's blueprint for the reintegration of the South into the Union. Part of the plan allowed for former Confederates to be granted amnesty if they took an oath to the United States. The option was open to all but the highest officials of the Confederacy.

Emilie Todd Helm was the wife of Benjamin Helm, who, like the Lincolns, was a Kentucky native. Lincoln was said to be a great admirer of Helm, a West Point and Harvard graduate. Lincoln had offered Helm a position in the U.S. Army, but Helm opted to join the Confederates instead. Helm led a group of Kentuckians known as the "Orphan Brigade," since they could not return to their Union-held native state during the war. Helm was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863.

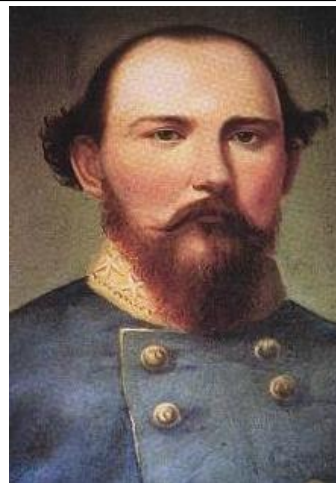
After her husband's death, Helm made her way through Union lines to Washington. She stayed in the White House and the Lincolns tried to keep her visit a secret. General Daniel Sickles, who had been wounded at Gettysburg five months prior, told Lincoln that he should not have a rebel in his house. Lincoln replied, "General Sickles, my wife and I are in the habit of choosing our own guests. We do not need from our friends either advice or assistance in the matter." After Lincoln granted her pardon, Emilie Helm returned to Kentucky.

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.



NSC is on the World Wide Web at
<http://www.nevadaseniors.com>
Check it out !!