

The

NSC FOGHORN

TM



Volume 7, issue 12

Our Web Site is at <http://www.nevadaseniors.com>

December 11, 2008

Special points of interest:

Christmas Facts:

1. Alabama was the first state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday. 1836
2. Oklahoma was the last state to recognize Christmas as an official holiday. 1907.
3. Franklin Pierce was the first United States' president to decorate an official White House Christmas tree . 1856
4. In an effort to solicit cash to pay for a charity Christmas dinner in 1891, a large crab pot was set down on a San Francisco street, becoming the first Salvation Army collection kettle.
5. Theodore Roosevelt, a staunch conservationist, banned Christmas trees in his home, even when he lived in the White House. His children, however, smuggled them into their bedrooms.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This, That and the Other

By Ken Mahal, A.I.A. NSC President

DECEMBER 7th ON SUNDAY WAS THE SAME DAY WE WERE ATTACKED.

A diminishing number of us remembered Pearl Harbor Day and where we were on that infamous day in 1941. Sixty seven years is a long time to remember any event and in particular December 7th 1941. In my case I had just lost my job on the 5th and was in Minneapolis when the attack was announced. I was staying with a buddy of mine who in 1942 would be best man for Agnes and my marriage on December 26th 1942. Right, our marriage was the day after Christmas and would you believe it my dear wife until recently had always forgotten what happened that day after Christmas so many years ago. Now of course both of us may have trouble in just remembering who we are in this day and age when so many things are happening to us and everyone in the entire world. It looks more and more like we have another kind of destabilizing event that most of us would rather we could skip but wont be able to. Anyway happy Pearl Harbor Day if such a thing could ever have anything happy about it.

150 VETERANS MEET TO DETERMINE 2009 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA.

As projected by Tim Tetz Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veterans Services there were about 150 veterans from several wars who met at the Cannery East casino for an all day work session on Saturday December 6th. It was a full day session with veterans and Cathy McClain of the legislature who met to discuss issues that might make it to the legislature and how to go about being heard in Carson City when the legislature convenes in February of 2009. You might be interested in knowing that there are 339,235 Veterans living in Nevada which is one of the larger per capita populations in any state. In the country as a whole there are an estimated 23,700,000 veterans with approximately 1,000 WWII vets passing away each day. Of the total veterans living about 1,745,000 are women GIs. I found it rather amazing that I, an ole timer had to remind them that another way to communicate with the legislature is by use of the Internet. It doesn't make a difference who you speak with there is always some special interest group who thinks their interest is more important than anyone else's. So is it any wonder that the legislature ends up with thousands of bill requests for new laws to be enacted into the books at every new session every two years? And if our legislature met every year we would just have more requests for new laws, so maybe we should have the legislature meet once every two years with the actual working time on bills being a full week and the rest of the time for the legislature to figure out for positive how to pay the bills for the next biennium without having to go into a special session as they just did over Monday the 8th of December.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

Please Don't Quote Me	3
Illegal Immigration Article	4
Remember Pearl Harbor	5
Members Page	6
Happy Holidays	7
From the Editor	7
Meeting Information	7
Today in History	8
About NSC	8

(Continued from page 1)

LEGISLATORS DO SOME KIND OF FIX OF SHORTFALL AGAIN.

How many times will the governor and legislators have to do something about the shortfall in our state budget? I keep looking for the other shoe to drop that means reducing people power at the state level. They supposedly fixed the \$340,000,000

shortfall, maybe by magic learned from the strip entertainers who can be very good at it but that is entertainment and our legislature should be doing things for real. Folks if you and I lived like our government does at most levels we would all be broke and our money would no longer be available for government to take and to spend. I find it hard to believe that they haven't seen fit to lay off any help when the economy in our state and communities have gone from overheated to there is no flame in the fire box of growth.

LAS VEGAS HOMES GO FROM OVERPRICED TO 18.8% UNDERVALUED.

How could that be possible other than maybe the news media are feeding us a lot of stuff about a business that they don't know much about. I see houses in the neighborhoods with for sale signs hung on the front yard for months and no buyers. Also, with funding very hard to come by, how does anyone know what the market is these days Remember it takes a willing seller and a willing buyer to make a deal? I think we all know the part of the equation that is missing is the willing buyer because they have no money. And in Las Vegas it is most likely one of two things – no money because they have invested it in the neighborhood casino or they are out of a job and no money to buy a house with. I think by now everyone must know that a lot of our buyers in the past have been people who had no money for the down payment and now even some of them no longer live here because there is no work for them.

IF THE AIRPLANES MAKE NOISE. A LITTLE MORE INSULATION CAN HELP.

Where we live it seems that the airport is directing all of their flights over the short never intended northeast runway, how about the rest of you? At least we do not have it too badly when you stay inside because I had two feet of blow-in insulation put into the ceiling when I discovered that the insulation contractor even left out insulation all together over one bedroom, so when I brought that to their attention they were very nice about the price for a little extra insulation. Speaking of insulation that is the most reasonable way to save money on you heating and cooling bill and the best place to add is plenty of it over the ceiling wherever possible. Our ceilings are the biggest areas exposed most directly to the heat loss or gain in a house. This will also add quite a bit of sound deadening too.

40,000,000,000 VISITORS COME TO LAS VEGAS THIS YEAR.

I hear these huge numbers of visitors to our fair city and often wonder given how things are always more than they seem here does that also mean that maybe someone is counting our visitors when they come to town and also when they leave town? If they did that it would really mean more like 20,000,000,000 people came to town and if that were the case it would also still be plenty of people as far as I am concerned, how about you?

MIRAGE HAS MONEY TO BURN.

Can you believe the Mirage can afford to spend \$25,000,000 to up grade the volcano which over the years will only be part of the cost when you consider how much gas is burned each time the volcano erupts? I hope that our assessor will remember that cost when he does an appraisal of the remodel work for next years taxes.

2008 MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE BEST OF YEARS BUT IT IS ALL WE GOT.

I suspect almost everyone will be happy to see George from Texas leave office the 20th of January, let's start praying that Obama our president-to-be will have some wisdom for the job since he has almost no experience at managing anything at this point in time of his life. Also with a stock market that one day is in the pits 500 points and the next day is up 300 points. Let's hope that it comes to its senses in 2009 so that people can sleep a little better.

Folks I have no idea where we are headed for in the New Year but I have to have faith that this great county has suffered other catastrophes and came through and I see no reason that the same won't happen again. And with that we the directors of the Nevada Seniors Coalition wish all of you the very best fun filled Christmas with a New Year in 2009 second to none as a great year for a great country.



“Please Don’t Quote Me”

"Always listen to the experts. They'll tell you what can't be done and why. Then do it."

- Robert Heinlein

"Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If it's original, you'll have to ram it down their throats."

- Howard Aiken, creator of the IBM/Harvard Mark 1 Computer

"If you can't beat them, arrange to have them beaten."

- Comedian George Carlin

"I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me."

- American Comedian Fred Allen (1894-1956)



"There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics."

- Mark Twain

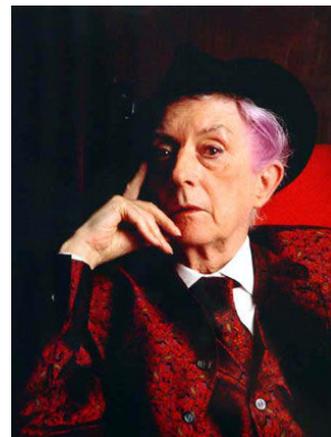
"I think we consider too much the good luck of the early bird and not enough the bad luck of the early worm."

- Theodore Roosevelt



"Never keep up with the Joneses. Drag them down to your level."

- British author and wit Quentin Crisp (1908-1999).



Janet Napolitano

On December 1, 2008, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano was announced as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary for the Obama administration. Napolitano will be the nation's third Homeland Security secretary. As the head of DHS, Napolitano will be responsible for the three key agencies that deal with immigration: Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Napolitano's Background

Napolitano, born in 1957, was elected as Arizona's governor in 2002 and re-elected in 2006. Prior to this, Napolitano was appointed as U.S. State Attorney for Arizona in 1993 and Attorney General for her state in 1998. Arizona shares a 376-mile border with Mexico. Consequently, this border governor has been at the forefront of the nation's immigration debate.

Chosen by Time Magazine in 2005 as one of America's Top Five Governors, Napolitano personifies the familiar phrase, "you can please some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time." Hardliners say she can be too soft, accusing her of undermining the importance of physical borders. Her supporters, however, point out her record on enforcement and her desire for common sense solutions.

At the press conference to announce Napolitano's appointment, Barack Obama said that Napolitano "will be a leader who can reform a sprawling department while safeguarding our homeland." President Bush's first Homeland Security secretary, Tom Ridge, and subsequent Secretary Michael Chertoff, both Republicans, praised Napolitano. Ridge said she "offers leadership acumen of the highest caliber and is an excellent choice." Chertoff said she "has a tremendous intellect and possesses the leadership and sound judgment needed." FAIR echoed the feeling of many conservatives concerned that the new secretary doesn't walk the talk: "Napolitano's record on immigration as governor of Arizona has been inconsistent and there is little reason to believe that she will be committed to immigration enforcement."

Napolitano on Immigration Issues

Border Fence: Although Napolitano complied with Congressional mandates to erect a border fence, she spoke out on the project: "You show me a 50-foot wall and I'll show you a 51-foot ladder at the border." She supports virtual surveillance systems and has criticized DHS for delays in deploying a virtual fence. Napolitano was the first governor to deploy the National Guard at the border at federal expense.

Drivers License: Napolitano signed a bill refusing to put REAL ID standards in place, calling it an unfunded federal mandate.

Immigration Reform: Napolitano criticized Congress for not passing 2007 reform legislation.

Guest Worker Program: Napolitano supports a temporary worker program with no amnesty. She is adamant that the program is not referred to as a "guest" worker program because "it implies someone coming here to take a vacation." In addition, she supports increasing the number of H-1B visas to address a shortage of skilled workers.

Path to Citizenship: She supports a pathway to citizenship that involves "a substantial fine, learning English, having no criminal history, keeping a job, paying taxes, then getting in the back of the line and waiting your turn."

Undocumented Workers: Napolitano signed an employer sanctions law in her state, penalizing businesses who knowingly hire undocumented workers. Arizona businesses are now required to use the federal online database, E-Verify to check a potential worker's employment eligibility.

Enforcement: Napolitano her state's effort to create the Illegal Immigration Prevention and Apprehension Co-Opt Team (IIMPACT) designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. She has spoken out about some of the raids happening in her own state calling them "troublesome" and withdrew state money financing some of the operations. In addition, she has billed the U.S. Justice Department hundreds of millions of dollars for the costs of housing illegal immigrants in jails and prisons in her state.

Napolitano's Immigration Plan

In 2007, Napolitano gave a speech to the National Press Club saying,

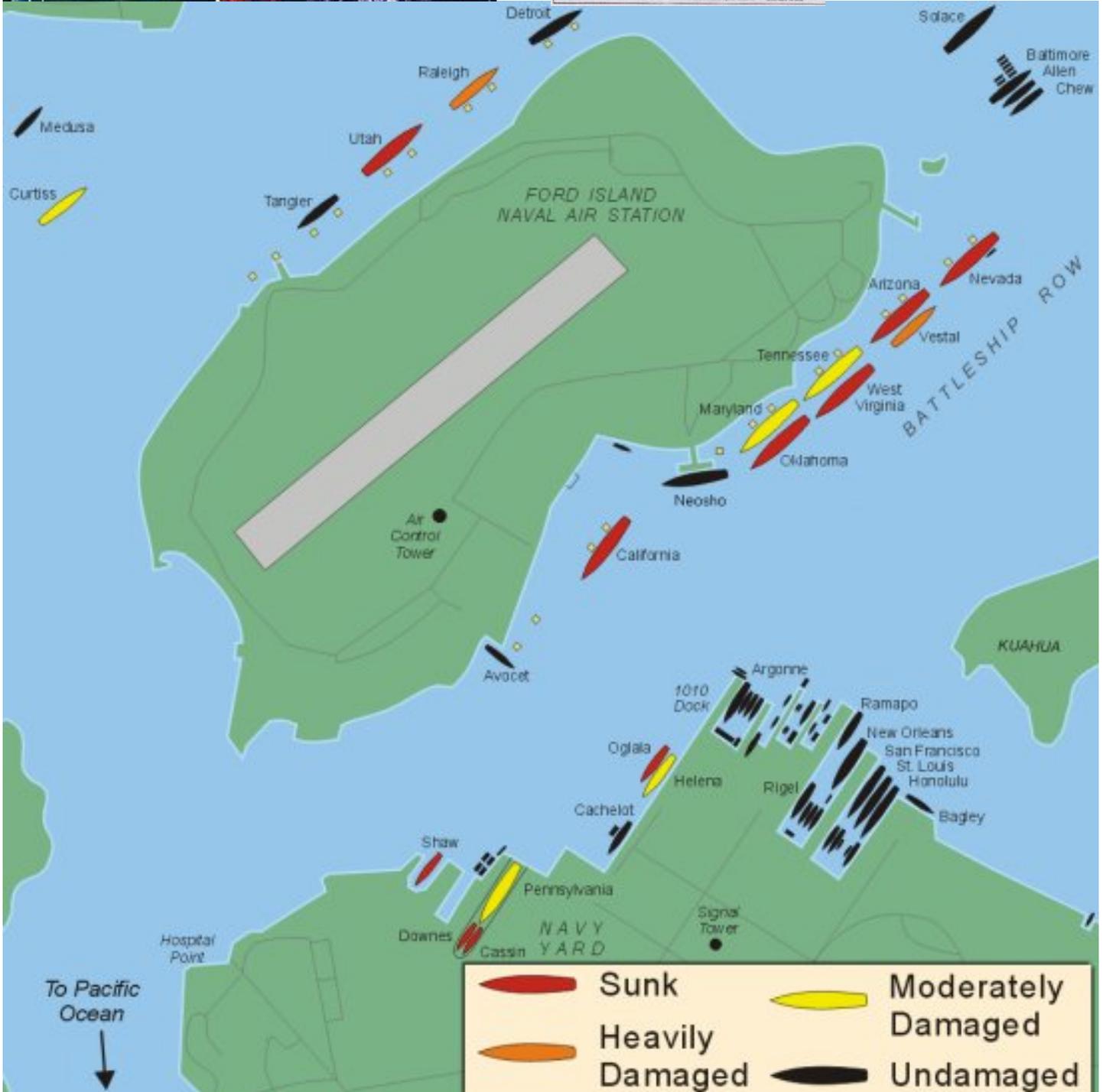
"Congress and the President must act, and they must act this year, to fix this broken system. Washington...must commit to immigration as one of the signature domestic and foreign policy issues of our day, because as in so many things, the continued failure to act will be worse than almost any legislation that can be passed."

That statement leads us to believe that immigration will be a major focus for DHS under the Obama administration.

Here are the key elements of Napolitano's border plan:

1. Innovative, technology-driven border control between the ports of entry.
2. Reform the visa system and streamline the visa process.
3. Institute a temporary worker program with no amnesty.
4. Employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants should be held accountable and penalized.
5. Modernize our border infrastructure so that enforcement does not hinder the flow of legitimate travel and commerce.
6. A pathway to citizenship which involves a substantial fine, learning English, having no criminal history, keeping a job, paying taxes, then getting in the back of the line and waiting your turn.
7. Address the root causes of illegal immigration by engaging directly with Mexico and Latin America.

Immigration Issues – **From:** <http://www.about.com>



At the November Meeting



Clark County Assessor Mark Schofield with NSC President Ken Mahal

Membership

Renewing Members:

- * Jean Colby *
- * LouJanice Perry *
- * Mark Schofield *

♥ Thanks for your continued support ♥



Thanks to all of you
who contributed to
NSC last month. We
really appreciate it.



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

Recruit new members.

HELP NSC GROW!!!



NSC is an all volunteer group and we always
need help. The same people have been doing all
the work for years. Please contact any NSC offi-
cer or director to volunteer to help.

Your membership anniversary date is on the Foghorn Mailing label. If the label is **RED**, please renew your membership, either by mail, or at the next meeting you attend. Your name is removed from the membership list 90 days after expiration.

Membership dues are \$10.00 per person.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



From the Editor

It is going to be interesting seeing how and if Nevada and the United States of America get out of the mess they are in.

In Nevada we have a Democratic majority in the Senate and Assembly, but a Republican Governor with Veto power.

Nationally we have a Democratic President and House of Representatives, but not quite enough Democratic Senators to get everything they might want.

The biggest fight in Nevada as far as I am concerned is to stop NV Energy from getting a 17.5% rate increase to build more power plants. Customers using 1250 Kilowatt-hours of electricity now pay \$149.50 and would pay \$175.84. I think the stockholders should pay for any power plants which will be used to make them money.

Anyway I hope next year will be way better then this one was, but I doubt it. Its going to take many years to get the U.S. back on track.



Vern Perry

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 8th at 10 a.m. at >>>>>>>>>>>>>>



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

Our January Speaker will be:
Las Vegas Review Journal Editor
Thomas Mitchell

NEVADA SENIORS COALITION, INC.

11925 Las Vegas Blvd. S.
Las Vegas, NV 89183-5432

Ken Mahal **President**

Phone: 702.737.1377

Fax: 702 .446.5534

e-mail: kentajmahal@cox.com

Vernon Perry **Vice President**

Directors:

Belle Chohanin Finance

Florence Petris Records

Vernon Perry Membership

Knight Allen Legislation

Richard Thomas Communications

Vernon Perry Issues

Ken Mahal Liaison

November 11, 1941

First Japanese Defeat in WWII

Wake Island

Early on the morning of **December 11**, the garrison, with the support of four remaining Wildcats, repulsed the first Japanese landing attempt by the South Seas Force, which included the light cruisers Yubari, Tenryū, and Tatsuta; the destroyers Yayoi, Mutsuki, Kisaragi, Hayate, Oite, and Asanagi; two old destroyers converted to patrol boats (Patrol Boat No. 32 and Patrol Boat No. 33), and two troop transport ships containing 450 Special Naval Landing Force troops.

The U.S. Marines fired at the invasion fleet with their six 5-inch (127 mm) coastal artillery guns. Major Deveroux, the Marine commander under Cunningham, ordered the gunners to hold their fire until the enemy moved within range of the coastal defenses. They then succeeded in sinking the Hayate with a direct hit to her magazines and striking the Yubari's superstructure eleven times. The four Wildcats also succeeded in sinking another destroyer, the Kisaragi, by dropping a bomb on her stern where the depth charges were stored. Both Japanese destroyers were lost with all hands, with Hayate becoming the first Japanese surface warship to be sunk during World War II. The Japanese force withdrew before landing. **This was the first Japanese defeat of the war. The first battle of Wake Island also marked the only occasion in World War II when an amphibious assault was repulsed by shore-based guns.**

But the continuing siege and frequent Japanese air attacks on the Wake garrison continued, without resupply for the Americans. The initial resistance offered by the garrison prompted the Japanese Navy to detach two aircraft carriers (Sōryū and Hiryū) from the force that attacked Pearl Harbor to



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 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.

support the second landing attempt.

On December 22 at 21:00, after receiving information indicating the presence of two IJN carriers and two fast battleships near Wake Island Vice Admiral William S. Pye, the Acting Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, ordered TF-14 to return to Pearl Harbor.[8]for fear of losses. (At the Battle of Midway Pye ordered battleships to patrol from the West Coast-in case of a Japanese attack; after Wake and Midway he never commanded forces in battle again).

The second Japanese invasion force came on December 23, composed mostly of the same ships from the first attempt with some new additions, plus 1,500 Japanese marines. The landings began at 02:35 where, after a preliminary bombardment, the ex-destroyers Patrol Boat No. 32 and Patrol Boat No. 33 were beached and burned in their attempts to land the invasion force. After a full night and morning of fighting, the Wake garrison surrendered to the Japanese by mid-afternoon

There were 450 Marines, 68 U.S. Navy and 1,221 construction civilians on the island at the start of the attack. A special military decoration, the Wake Island Device, was created to honor those who had fought on the island.