

The

NSC FOGHORN

TM



Volume 8, issue 2

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

February 12, 2009

Special points of interest:

Abraham Lincoln's Political History

- ▽ 1832 Ran for Illinois legislature; defeated
- ▽ 1834 Ran for Illinois legislature; elected
- ▽ 1836 Re-elected
- ▽ 1838 Re-elected
- ▽ 1840 Re-elected
- ▽ 1846 Elected to U.S. House of Representatives
- ▽ 1854 Elected to Illinois legislature; resigned to run for U.S. Senate; defeated
- ▽ 1858 Ran for U.S. Senate; defeated
- ▽ 1860 Ran for President of the United States and was elected
- ▽ 1864 Re-elected President of the United States

Give Us A Break

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

IS OLD AGE TO EXPENSIVE WHEN DEALING WITH UNCLE SAM?

I did something one should not do I looked at Agnes and my costs for year 2009. In our case we are both NOTCHERS, and also MEANS TESTED because we had some capital gains on tax free bonds. Being Notch Babies we are each penalized \$100 per month. And because of some bond income we are each penalized \$192.70 per month on Medicare. So that comes to a grand total of $\$584.40 \times 12 = \$7,012.80$ per year over and above what the average senior should be receiving from Social Security and/or paying extra into Medicare. What is disgusting is that Congress handled means testing so quietly that we missed it completely because they did not want us to know what they were doing. Some of you will recall NSC was formed because of an \$800 a year means testing proposed some 15 years back by Congress and fortunately millions of us were younger and were able to create so much activity that they backed off the following year and killed the law. The Harry Reid's and their pals no doubt remembered it this time and sneaked it by all of us, including the news media. What is also disgusting with means testing, Uncle actually double taxes Agnes and I on our bond money because both of us have the \$192.70 when to be fair if we were being means tested why weren't we each charged \$96.35 instead of double charging us? In fact, I just asked Senator John Ensign to respond to that question. I am waiting for an answer. I also wonder where the ARRP organization was when this means testing went through Congress. By the looks of things it is only going to get worse. I hope your case is better.

OUR GOVERNMENT LOOKS LIKE IT IS GOING TO BREAK OUR BACKS.

If you have been watching congress and our president you can't help but wonder how soon are they going to bankrupt our country. The last I heard was that they are going to add another trillion dollars to our national debt for creating new jobs. In all my years I can't recall when our government created jobs unless it is when they get us into war and we have to crank up the war making industry by building the machines of war. That at least helps us make some widgets like tanks, guns, ships and the likes but it also costs human lives so that is a bad formula for creating a better economy. Even the French are saying don't bail their country out by doing what the U.S. is doing. When was the last time you heard the French say anything that we could agree with? Even the trillion or a lesser part of a trillion wouldn't be so bad if there was no pork in it. The last I heard is about a third of the bill will be pork which was not supposed to happen in 2009. Maybe that is the reality of politics in Washington that we cannot get rid of because it is so entrenched in our national politics. To me that makes another good reason not to bail out our economy. Can't we just let it be done the old fashioned way let the capitalist system work itself out of the mess it got us into. Maybe that is the price we pay for greed and or stupidity or both as the case may be.

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OUR SHERIFF WANTS IT ALL AND TO H--- WITH ALL OF US

It wasn't so long ago that Sheriff Doug Gillespie spoke before our group and made no bones about the fact that he will want the extra ¼% sales tax added for his use in the 2009 legislative session. Added to that he also thinks it would be best to consolidate all his needs into a brand new building of almost 400,000 square feet at a cost of several hundred millions. We have been through these ventures before in the Clark County stone castle which was told to us to be partially funded by money put away on the quite which means not telling the tax payers that when there was a budget balance (planned) surplus that was to be the beginning of that building funding and of course that \$25,000,000 ran out early so another equal amount had to be covered by the taxpayers by bonds. Then the Clark County University Trauma Center was going to be a real boondoggle until we got involved and convinced the County Commissioners to buy out the developer and finish it themselves. Because of oversight this time it worked. That is a problem with most government building projects where politicians or in this case a favored manager was allowed to get it started before it was found out he was doing a pretty shady deal that was going to mean millions for a couple of buddies that were wired by him to get the job. In this case they were given a contract to build the building on a lease/buy back that was going to put millions in their pockets with no risk because they had the county backing it up to rent for 25 or so years that made for easy financing in their case. I do not want to see any tricks like this played by our sheriff for his new monstrous building something on the order of about 350,000 sq. feet. These build lease back deals are a means to make millionaires out of the developer/builder type contract. I even question the wisdom of putting so much bureaucracy in one building. In this day and age of electronic communications it might be worth thinking more about spread out management with a small administrative management team in a much smaller building. This might not make for a smaller main building in the end but a more effective way to manage the services better. I hope there is a lot of give and take on the best planning before brick and mortar are put in place. As far as the sheriff wanting the next ¼% sales tax increase for more cops that I believe is something that should be put off until at least the next session of the legislature in 2011 given how our economy has tanked. Another fact is that quite a few thousand people are leaving the area because of the fall off of the construction boom and won't pick up in the foreseeable future. Also with a couple of years breather why not give the present sales tax time to work before taxing the taxpayers for more money. My thinking is that for every ¼% we take \$60 to \$80 million out of our purchasing power each year the sales tax increase is a burden on everyone's back. This definitely is not the time to increase any sales tax for anything and on anyone. If the sheriff really wants to help earn that increase may I suggest we all get together in Clark County and have the Clark County Water Authority turn back its sales tax to the taxpayers? If we can do that in the next session or two then I say think about the sheriff getting some of it if the economy is better. I often wonder why politicians can never leave their fingers off of money no matter how bad the economy is. If the sheriff will think back when his sales tax was voted in for two increments the economy was so much better than it is now and there is no sign that our economy is going to get better soon so sheriff how about you tighten your belt a bit like all of the rest of us.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST THE GOVERNOR IS RIGHT "NO NEW TAXES"

Like the other comments doesn't the same go for our state legislature NO NEW TAXES? With the economy in the tank there should be no question that our state budget must be cut in order to live within our present economic period. That means cutting the budget not increasing taxes. We should be very happy that our state is doing as well as it is, so I say again do the right thing cut back expenses and hold the line for 2009 to 2011.

George Washington

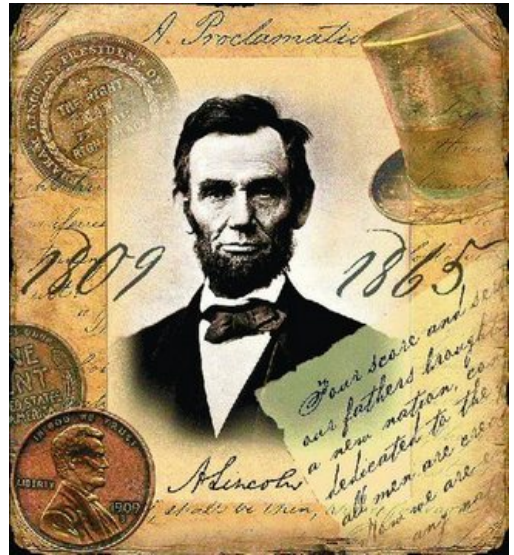
President of the United States, April 30, 1789 to March 4, 1797

- ◆ Born February 22, 1732, Died December 14, 1799
- ◆ Age at Death: 67
- ◆ Place of Burial: Mount Vernon, Virginia
- ◆ Only President to be elected unanimously
- ◆ Only President inaugurated in 2 cities - New York and Philadelphia
- ◆ He was the only President that did not live in the White House. He was involved in the planning of the Capitol.
- ◆ Washington did his own bookkeeping and recorded every penny of expense or profit. His ledgers still exist today.
- ◆ There were 13 stars on the United States flag when Washington became President in 1789.
- ◆ Five states were added to the Union during Washington's presidency - North Carolina (1789), Rhode Island (1790), Vermont (1791), Kentucky (1792), and Tennessee (1796).
- ◆ The last flag Washington served under was the famous **Star Spangled Banner** which had the 15 star and 15 stripe design which was used until 1818.



“Please Don’t Quote Me”

"At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant, to step the Ocean, and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Bonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years. At what point, then, is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reaches us it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide. The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln edited by Roy P. Basler, Volume I, "Address before the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, Illinois (January 27, 1838), p. 109.



"If I were to try to read, much less answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how - the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what's said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference." *The Inner Life of Abraham Lincoln: Six Months at the White House* by Francis B. Carpenter (Lincoln, Nebraska, University of Nebraska Press, 1995), pp. 258-259.

"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day." *Lincoln Observed: The Civil War Dispatches of Noah Brooks* edited by Michael Burlingame (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), p. 210.

"Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration." *Lincoln's First Annual Message to Congress*, December 3, 1861.

"I have stepped out upon this platform that I may see you and that you may see me, and in the arrangement I have the best of the bargain." *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln* edited by Roy P. Basler, Volume IV, "Remarks at Painesville, Ohio" (February 16, 1861), p. 218.

Illegal immigrants are a factor in California's budget math

George Skelton, Capitol Journal, February 2, 2009 george.skelton@latimes.com

From Sacramento — Based on my e-mail, a lot of folks think the solution to California's state budget deficit is to round up all the illegal immigrants and truck them down to Mexico.

Wrong. Even if it were logistically possible and the deportees didn't just climb off the truck and hitch another ride back up north, their absence from the state wouldn't come close to saving enough tax dollars to balance a budget that has a \$42-billion hole projected over the next 17 months.

Painful cuts in education, healthcare and social service programs still would be needed. Sharp tax increases would be required. That said, let's be honest: Illegal immigration does cost California taxpayers a substantial wad, undeniably into the billions. But it hasn't been PC for officeholders to talk about this for years, ever since Gov. Pete Wilson broke his pick waging an aggressive campaign for Proposition 187. That 1994 ballot initiative sought to bar illegal immigrants from most public services, including education. Voters approved the measure overwhelmingly, but it was tossed out by the courts.

Wilson was demonized by Democrats within the Latino community. And many think the Republican Party never has recovered among this rapidly growing slice of the electorate.

So it's not a topic that comes easily to the tongues of politicians, even Republicans.

Besides, most of the policy issues are out of California's hands. The federal government has jurisdiction over the border. Federal law decrees that every child is entitled to attend public school, regardless of immigration status. And every person -- here illegally or not -- must be cared for in hospital emergency rooms.

But the state does add a few benefits that aren't required.

And as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders dig into the books trying to find billions in savings, at least a brief look at what's being spent on illegal immigrants seems in order.

First, nobody seems to know exactly. Numbers vary widely, depending which side they come from in the ongoing angry debate over whether people who entered the country illegally to work should be allowed to stay or loaded on the southbound truck.

But here are some no-agenda numbers:

* There were 2.8 million illegal immigrants living in California in 2006, the last year for which there are relatively good figures, according to the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California. That represented about 8% of the state's population and roughly a quarter of the nation's illegal immigrants. About 90% of California's illegal immigrants were from Latin America; 65% from Mexico.

* There are roughly 19,000 illegal immigrants in state prisons, representing 11% of all inmates. That's costing \$970 million during the current fiscal year. The feds kick in a measly \$111 million, leaving the state with an \$859 million tab.

* Schools are the toughest to calculate. Administrators don't ask kids about citizenship status. Anyway, many children of illegal immigrants were born in this country and automatically became U.S. citizens.

If you figure that the children of illegal immigrants attending K-12 schools approximate the proportion of illegal immigrants in the population, the bill currently comes to roughly \$4 billion. Most is state money; some local property taxes.

* Illegal immigrants aren't entitled to welfare, called CalWORKs. But their citizen children are. Roughly 190,000 kids are receiving welfare checks that pass through their parents. The cost: about \$500 million, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office.

Schwarzenegger has proposed removing these children from the welfare rolls after five years. It's part of a broader proposal to also boot off, after five years, the children of U.S. citizens who aren't meeting federal work requirements. There'd be a combined savings of \$522 million.

* The state is spending \$775 million on Medi-Cal healthcare for illegal immigrants, according to the legislative analyst. Of that, \$642 million goes into direct benefits. Practically all the rest is paid to counties to administer the program. The feds generally match the state dollar-for-dollar on mandatory programs.

So-called emergency services are the biggest state cost: \$536 million. Prenatal care is \$59 million. Not counted in the overall total is the cost of baby delivery -- \$108 million -- because the newborns aren't illegal immigrants.

The state also pays \$47 million for programs that Washington does not require: Non-emergency care (breast and cervical cancer treatment), \$25 million; long-term nursing home care, \$19 million; abortions, \$3 million.

Schwarzenegger has proposed requiring illegal immigrants to requalify every month for Medi-Cal benefits, except pregnancy-related emergencies.

There also are other taxpayer costs -- especially through local governments -- but those are the biggies for the state. Add them all up and the state spends well over \$5 billion a year on illegal immigrants and their families.

Of course, illegal immigrants do pay state taxes. But no way do they pay enough to replenish what they're drawing in services. Their main revenue contribution would be the sales tax, but they can't afford to be big consumers, and food and prescription drugs are exempt.

My view is this: These people are here illegally and shouldn't be, regardless of whether they're just looking for a better life. Do it the legal way. And enforce the law against hiring the undocumented. On the other hand, they are here. We can't have uneducated kids and unhealthy people living with us. We have moral obligations and practical imperatives.

Excerpted from the L.A. Times

Vern Perry

ABRAHAM LINCOLN TRIVIA

- ♠ Abraham Lincoln was the first president to have a beard while in office. He grew his beard at the suggestion of an 11 year old girl.
- ♠ Lincoln, Nebraska was named after Abraham Lincoln.
- ♠ Abe Lincoln's mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, died when the family dairy cow ate poisonous mushrooms and she drank the milk.
- ♠ A plot was developed to steal Lincoln's body, so a secret society was formed to guard his tomb.
- ♠ During the Civil War, telegraph wires were strung to follow the action on the battlefield. But there was no telegraph office in the White House, so Lincoln went across the street to the War Department to get the news.
- ♠ Lincoln was the tallest president. He was 6 feet and four inches tall.
- ♠ Lincoln once had a dream right before the fall of Richmond that he would die. He dreamt that he was in the White House, he heard crying and when he found the room it was coming from he asked who had died. The man said the President. He looked in the coffin and saw his own face. A week later, Lincoln died.
- ♠ Lincoln was shot on Good Friday.
- ♠ Robert Todd Lincoln arrived too late to stop three separate presidential assassinations. He met his father, President Abraham Lincoln, at the theatre after John Wilkes Booth had fired the shot. He went to a Washington train station to meet President Garfield, arriving only minutes after he was shot. And, he traveled to Buffalo, New York to meet President McKinley, but got there after the fatal shot had already been fired.
- ♠ Lincoln had a cat named "Bob," a turkey named "Jack," and a dog named "Jib."
- ♠ He was the first president to be photographed at his inauguration. John Wilkes Booth (his assassin) can be seen standing close to Lincoln in the picture.
- ♠ Lincoln was the only president to receive a patent, for a device for lifting boats over shoals.
- ♠ Lincoln's brother, half-brothers, and brothers-in-law fought in the Confederate Army.
- ♠ Abraham Lincoln was shot while watching a performance of Our American Cousin at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. The same play was also running at the Maverick Theatre in Chicago on May 18, 1860, the day Lincoln was nominated for president in that city.
- ♠ Lincoln's favorite sport was wrestling.
- ♠ Lincoln worked as a deck hand on a Mississippi flatboat.
- ♠ Lincoln had a substitute fight for him during the Civil War. Not a paid substitute as some might think. When J. Summerfield Staples, the son of an army chaplain, heard that Lincoln felt that the president should be fighting in the war (but couldn't because of all his duties), Staples volunteered to fight as a substitute. Both he and his father survived through the war, and returned home to Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. If one traveled to the cemetery there, they would find a headstone that reads: J. Summerfield Staples, A private of Co. C176 Reg. P.V., Also a member of the 2, Reg. D.C. Vol., A substitute for Abraham Lincoln. Died Jan. 11, 1888, Age 43 yrs,-4 mos. & 27 days
- ♠ Lincoln had a wart on his right cheek, a scar on his thumb from an ax accident, and a scar over his right eye from a fight with a gang of thieves.
- ♠ John Wilkes Booth's brother once saved Abraham Lincoln's son's life.
- ♠ The contents of his pockets on the night of his assassination weren't revealed until February 12, 1976. They contained two pairs of spectacles, a chamois lens cleaner, an ivory and silver pocketknife, a large white Irish linen handkerchief, slightly used, with "A. Lincoln" embroidered in red, a gold quartz watch fob without a watch, a new silk-lined, leather wallet containing a pencil, a Confederate five-dollar bill, and news clippings of unrest in the Confederate army, emancipation in Missouri, the Union party platform of 1864, and an article on the presidency by John Bright.
- ♠ He was named after his grandfather.
- ♠ Lincoln and his wife held séances in the White House. They had great interest in psychic phenomena.
- ♠ Lincoln loved the works of Edgar Allan Poe.
- ♠ Abraham Lincoln was the first president to be born outside of the original thirteen colonies. He was born in Kentucky.

At the January Meeting



LVRJ Editor Thomas Mitchell and NSC President Ken Mahal

Mr. Mitchell gave his usual informative talk and fielded questions from the audience. Newspapers are feeling the economic downturn as all businesses are and are losing advertising revenue which is their life blood. At the same time more people are reading newspapers on the Internet. See the February 16, 2009 issue of *Time* magazine.

Members

Renewing Members

Phyllis Blessinger

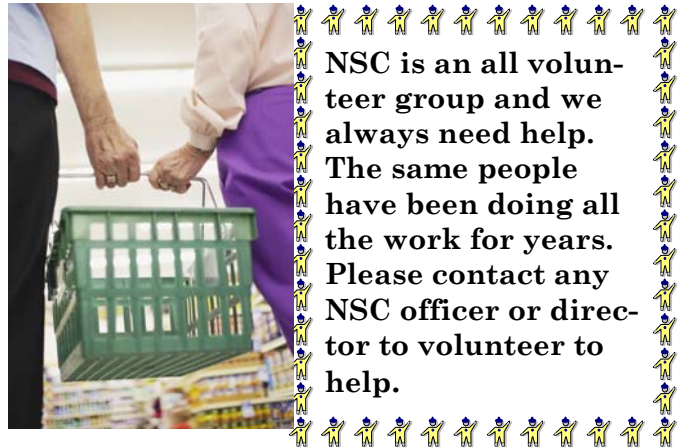
Belle Earl Chohanin

Thank you for your continuing support

New Members

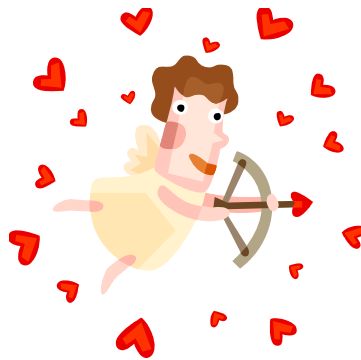
Gail Fleck

Welcome, Welcome, Welcome, Welcome



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 officer or director to volunteer to help.

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



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.



Help of Southern Nevada

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E-mail: info@helpsonv.org
Web Site:
<http://www.helpsonv.org>
Hours: Monday—Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



ERS - Emergency Resource Services is the essential link between people needing services and those providing human services in our community.

CAS - Community Alternative Sentencing gives court appointed individuals the opportunity to serve the community.

WORC - Work Opportunities Readiness Center offers free work readiness assistance to anyone who has recently lost his or her primary source of income.

NV 211 - Statewide Information & Referral 2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects callers to community information.

WX - Weatherization Program assists low-income seniors, physically challenged, and homes with children to reduce energy use and lower utility bills.

HS - Homeless Services coordinates with providers to make sure that families and individuals are offered supportive services and access to housing.

YC- Youth Center provides services for at-risk youth ages 16-21, that are homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

From the Editor

This year is the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln’s birth. A new penny, the first of four new designs, will begin circulating on February 12th to celebrate the bicentennial and the 100 anniversary of the Lincoln cent. When the first cent is issued it will mark the first time in 50 years that the image on the penny has changed. In 1959, the currently used Memorial reverse replaced the well known Wheat Ears design. The new designs will be issued in approximately three-month intervals throughout the year.

February 12, 2009 also marks the bicentennial of Charles Darwin’s birth.

February 14th is Saint Valentine’s day.

February 15th is the anniversary of Susan B. Anthony’s birth and of course February 22 is George Washington’s.

February 24 is Mardi Gras and all of February is Black History month.

Lincoln’s bicentennial will be celebrated the entire year.

So happy birthday to all the presidents on February 16th and Easter will be here before you know it (April 12, 2009) together with IRS Day (April 15th).

Don’t forget your spouse on Valentine’s Day, I need the candy.

Vern

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be
**Thursday, March 12 at 10
a.m. at >>>>>>>>>>>>>>**



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

Our March 12th Speaker will be:

KVBC News 3 Anchor

Kendall Tenney

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Ken Mahal Liaison

February 12, 1941

Rommel in Africa

On this day, German General Erwin Rommel, with the newly formed Afrika Korps, arrives in Tripoli, Libya to reinforce the beleaguered Italians' position.

Adolf Hitler established the Afrika Korps, in January 1941, for the explicit purpose of helping his Italian Axis partner maintain territorial gains in North Africa. The Fuhrer declared, "For strategic, political, and psychological reasons, Germany must assist Italy in Africa". In three months, the British had pushed the Italians out of Egypt while wounding or killing 20,000 Italian soldiers and taking another 130,000 prisoner. General Rommel was dispatched to Libya along with the new Afrika Korps to take control of the deteriorating situation. Up until that time, Italian General Ettore Bastico was the overall commander of the Axis forces in North Africa--which included a German panzer division and the Italian armored division. Rommel was supposed to command only his Afrika Korps and an Italian corps in Libya, but wound up running the entire North African campaign.

The German soldiers of the Afrika Korps found adapting to the desert climate very difficult; Rommel found commanding his Italian troops, who had been used to an Italian commander, difficult as well. When Hitler, finally gave the go-ahead for an offensive against British positions in Egypt (he was preoccupied with his plans for the invasion of the Soviet Union), Rommel's forces were stopped dead in their tracks and then forced to retreat. In the famous battle of El Alamein, the British Eighth Army--beginning in October 23, 1942--surprised the German commander with its brute resolve, and pushed him and his Afrika Korps back across and out of North Africa. Rommel finally withdrew from North Africa entirely and returned to Europe in March of 1943, leaving the Afrika Korps in other hands.



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.



General Erwin Rommel
15 November 1891—14 October 1944
"Wüstenfuchs"

(Ironically, the Arabs celebrated Rommel, called "the Desert Fox," as a liberator from British imperialism.)