

The

NSC FOGHORN

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Volume 10, issue 2

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

February 10, 2011

Special points of interest:

Observations on the Passing Parade



By Knight Allen, NSC Director of Legislation

The 2010 Elections

The national holiday, Presidents' Day, was originally a commemoration of George Washington's birthday. America's first president was born on February 22, 1732. After Washington's death, our nation began celebrating his birthday as a way to remember his life and how he contributed to establishing America's independence.

When we look around the world and see so many governments teetering on the edge of collapse, perhaps we should take a few moments to appreciate the stability and brilliance of the system the Founders created.

Every two years the entire House of Representative is up for re-election along with one third of the Senate.

Every four years - the entire House, another one third of the Senate and the Presidency.

Every six years - the entire House and the final third of the Senate.

If the American people want change they can achieve it quickly, effectively and most importantly, peacefully which is clearly what happened in 2010.

In 1865, the year after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, America began celebrating Lincoln's birthday on February 12th. Until 1971, both February 12 and February 22 were observed as federal public holidays. In 1971, President Richard Nixon combined the two holidays into one and ever since we have honored all past presidents on the third Monday of February.

What happens now? That depends entirely on how both the winners and the losers respond. And respond they must because in less than two years the process kicks in all over again. Ours is the best system ever designed.

Those inside it may or may not be worthy of our trust and support but the system itself is always worthy.

The Firefighter's Labor Contract

The headline read, "County wins labor battle". This was ok news for beleaguered taxpayers but there was something in the article that was disturbing. The arbitrator was quoted as saying, "Firefighters are not being singled out, but are being asked to share in the fiscal difficulties that are affecting all public employees." In other words, the only reason the arbitrator sided with the County is because, finally, after three years of the worst economic downturn since the Depression, if other government employees are taking a hit then so should the firefighters. I guess he felt it was only "fair".

But what about the private sector workers who have seen their wages actually decline while government wages was the only category going up (LVRJ 3/7/10)? What about seniors who are being told by the loving and compassionate federal government, with a straight face mind you, there is no

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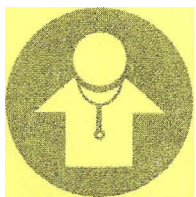
(Continued from page 1)

inflation so there's no need for a Social Security COLA. No inflation? Maybe, if you're buying a supercomputer. But, try buying a box of cereal, a can of tuna or a tank of gas at the same price you paid 2 or 3 years ago and see what happens.

The disconnect between the government and private sector, personified by the arbitrator's quote, is the greatest threat facing us as a society. The government compensation system with its billion dollar a year wage gap between itself and the private sector has simply got to go.

Hope the New Year is starting off great for all of you.

Government *partnership* not privilege.



SMA Life Style Centers

What are the SMA Lifestyle Centers?

SMA has opened the first senior-oriented facility as part of the Senior Experience.

The Lifestyle Center offers the following:

- ⊕ Health education classes, support groups and seminars;
- ⊕ Assistance with accessing community resources;
- ⊕ Various social activities, including Wii tournaments, movies and game days.

Where are the SMA Lifestyle Centers?

There are two locations:

- ⊕ 5820 S Eastern Ave, Suite 100;
- ⊕ Coming soon at 8680 W Cheyenne Ave (west of Durango).

What are the hours?

The normal hours of operation for the Senior Social Club are 8:00am - 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Special events or activities may be offered at other times.

Do I need to be a Senior Dimensions member to come to the Lifestyle Center?

No. Any senior is welcome to participate in the social activities, seminars, and events at the Senior Social Club, regardless of insurance.

Where can I get more information?

Information and a calendar of events will be distributed on a regular basis. Seniors can also call the toll free number for the Lifestyle Centers at **866-249-7674 or 797-2350** for more information.

My wife and I are utilizing this facility. Please check out the one at Eastern Ave (near Russell Rd.) It is a quit a nice place to relax in (reclining chairs) – reading books, playing games (both computer and original), watching large screen TVs, using the computers hooked up to high speed Internet (Cox is slow at getting the lines in but I am sure they will figure it out soon), rooms to sit in to meditate or talk to your friends.

It is brand new and all seniors are welcome. Go see it and bring your lunch (there is a large eating area with a refrigerator and microwave) – you will be surprised what a nice facility it is. Your suggestions for improving it or attracting new people to utilize the facility are also welcome.

Also the main AARP office is in the same location. – Vern

“Please Don’t Quote Me”



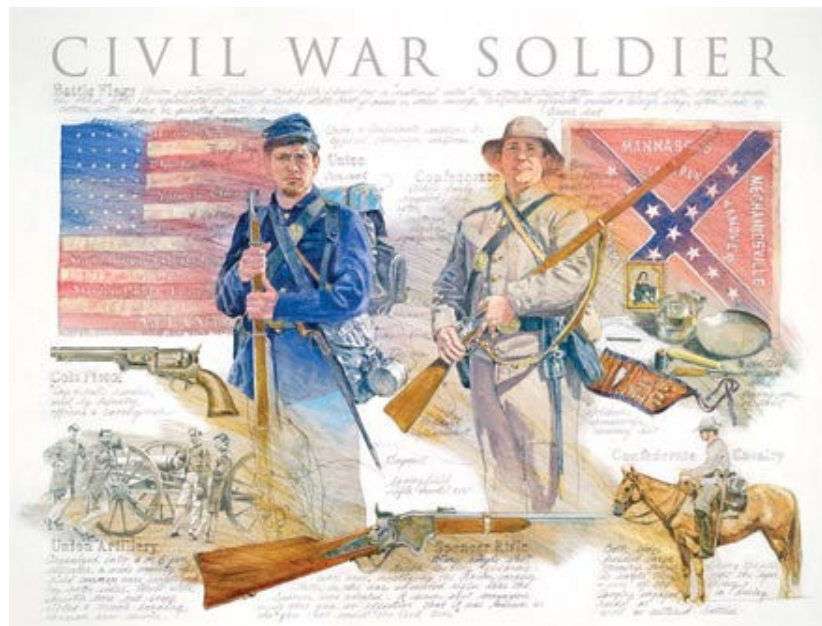
Jefferson Davis

(June 3, 1808 – December 6, 1889)

Jefferson Davis was born June 3, 1808, in that portion of Christian county, Kentucky, which was afterwards set off as Todd County. His grandfather was a colonist from Wales, living in Virginia and Maryland, and rendering important public service to those southern colonies. His father, Samuel Emory Davis, and his uncles, were all Revolutionary soldiers in 1776. Samuel Davis served during the Revolution partly with Georgia cavalry and was also in the siege of Savannah as an officer in the infantry. He is described as a young officer of gentle and engaging address, as well as remarkable daring in battle. Three brothers of Jefferson Davis, all older than himself, fought in the war of 1812, two of them serving directly with Andrew Jackson, and gaining from that great soldier special mention of their gallantry in the battle of New Orleans.

All we ask is to be let alone.

"The withdrawal of a State from a league has no revolutionary or insurrectionary characteristic. The government of the State remains unchanged as to all internal affairs. It is only its external or confederate relations that are altered. To term this action of a Sovereign a 'rebellion' is a gross abuse of language."



“Our situation] illustrates the American idea that governments rest on the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established.”

"Obstacles may retard, but they cannot long prevent the progress of a movement sanctified by its justice, and sustained by a virtuous people."

Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends

Estimates cover total population, births and labor force

Press Release February 1, 2011

Molly Rohal

As of March 2010, 11.2 million unauthorized immigrants were living in the United States, virtually unchanged from a year earlier, according to new estimates from the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. This stability in 2010 follows a two-year decline from the peak of 12 million in 2007 to 11.1 million in 2009 that was the first significant reversal in a two-decade pattern of growth. Unauthorized immigrants were 3.7% of the nation's population in 2010.

The number of unauthorized immigrants in the nation's workforce, 8 million in March 2010, also did not differ from the Pew Hispanic Center estimate for 2009. As with the population total, the number of unauthorized immigrants in the labor force had decreased in 2009 from its peak of 8.4 million in 2007. They made up 5.2% of the labor force.

The number of children born to at least one unauthorized-immigrant parent in 2009 was 350,000 and they made up 8% of all U.S. births, essentially the same as a year earlier. An analysis of the year of entry of unauthorized immigrants who became parents in 2009 indicates that 61% arrived in the U.S. before 2004, 30% arrived from 2004 to 2007, and 9% arrived from 2008 to 2010.

Other key points from the new report include:

The decline in the population of unauthorized immigrants from its peak in 2007 appears due mainly to a decrease in the number from Mexico, which went down to 6.5 million in 2010 from 7 million in 2007. Mexicans remain the largest group of unauthorized immigrants, accounting for 58% of the total.

The number of unauthorized immigrants decreased from 2007 to 2010 in Colorado, Florida, New York and Virginia. The combined population in three contiguous Mountain West states-Arizona, Nevada and Utah-also declined.

In contrast to the national trend, the combined unauthorized immigrant population in three contiguous West South Central states-Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas-grew from 2007 to 2010.

Although the number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. is below 2007 levels, it has tripled since 1990, when it was 3.5 million and grown by a third since 2000, when it was 8.4 million.

The estimates are based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, augmented with the Pew Hispanic Center's analysis of the demographic characteristics of the unauthorized immigrant population using a "residual estimation methodology."

Although the estimates indicate trends in the size and composition of the unauthorized-immigrant population, they are not designed to answer the question of why these changes occurred. There are many possible factors. The deep recession that began in the U.S. economy officially ended in 2009, but recovery has been slow to take hold and unemployment remains high. Immigration flows have tended to decrease in previous periods of economic distress.

The period covered by this analysis also has been accompanied by changes in the level of immigration enforcement and in enforcement strategies, not only by the federal government but also at state and local levels. Immigration also is subject to pressure by demographic and economic conditions in sending countries. This analysis does not attempt to quantify the relative impact of these forces on levels of unauthorized immigration.

The report, "Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010," written by Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn, is available at the Pew Hispanic Center's website, www.pewhispanic.org

The Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center, is a nonpartisan, non-advocacy research organization based in Washington, D.C. and is funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.



The Taxpayer's Tab

News From NTU Foundation's BillTally Project **NTUF**

The National Taxpayers Union Foundation is a research and educational organization dedicated solely to helping citizens of all generations understand how tax policies, spending programs, and regulations at all levels affect them now and in the future. Through NTUF's timely information, analysis, and commentary, we're empowering citizens to actively engage in the fiscal policy debate and hold public officials accountable every day.

NTUF is a 501(c)(3) research and education organization. Donations are deductible for personal income tax purposes. Please make a donation today to help further NTUF's mission of research and education!

This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended to aid or hinder the passage of any legislation or as a comment on any Member's fitness to serve.

From Volume 2, Issue 4, February 9, 2011

Web site address: <http://ntu.org>

Most Expensive Bill of the Week

The Bill: H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act

Annualized Cost: \$2.704 billion (\$13.518 billion five year cost)

Military veterans are eligible for multiple forms of compensation after leaving the service. Traditional pensions, living assistance, housing vouchers, tax credits, and disability payments are just a few. To help control benefit costs, payments are offset across these different compensation systems.

Some legislators feel the caps are not justified, especially when considering the sacrifices veterans have made for the country. Congressman Sanford Bishop (GA-2) sponsored H.R. 333 to allow veterans to receive their full benefits, without the traditional limits on retirement and disability benefits. In other words, the benefits would be received concurrently. Congressman Bishop believes veterans "injured during their service to our country have rightfully earned their military retirement pay and VA disability benefits... [and] it is unjust that our current policies effectively tax these Americans, taking money right out of their pockets."

The bill also eliminates phase-in requirements for those receipts to be fully implemented, which can sometimes take up to four years to qualify for. This measure would result in more veterans receiving more benefits in more quickly -- another measure currently used to control costs and to allow private insurance companies to provide care.

Least Expensive Bill of the Week

The Bill: H.R. 335, a bill to provide for a 10 percent reduction in pay for Members of Congress.

Annualized Savings: -\$9 million (first-year savings)

H.R. 335, sponsored by Congressman Morgan Griffith's (VA-9), calls for a 10 percent cut in the annual pay for each Congressman and Senator. The savings - about \$9 million based on an estimated \$94 million in Congressional salaries (see table below) - would be used to reduce the federal deficit. The majority of members would see a \$17,400 reduction in their salaries in FY 2012.

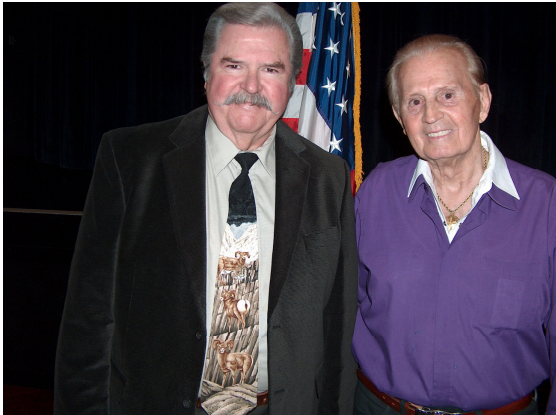
Position	Number of Members	COLA	Base Salary	Total
Speaker	1	N/A*	\$223,500	\$223,500
Leadership	5	N/A*	\$199,700	\$994,000
General Members	529	N/A*	\$174,000	\$92,046,000
Delegates**	6	N/A*	\$174,000	\$1,044,000
Total	541	N/A		\$94,307,500

* Cost-Of-Living-Adjustments were frozen for FY 2011

** Includes one Resident Commissioner

Source: Congressional Research Service, "Salaries of members of Congress: Recent Actions and Historical Tables" and U.S. Office of Personnel Management

At the January Meeting



Las Vegas Review Journal Senior Opinion Editor Thomas Mitchell and NSC President Ken Mahal

Picture taken in January 2009

Mr. Mitchell gave his usual enlightening talk, updating us on the RJ and received many questions and suggestions from the audience

Members



*Happy Valentines Day
From the NSC Board*



Happy Chinese New Year 4708

Gung Hay Fat Choy

On the Western calendar, the start of the New Year falls on Thursday, February 3, 2011 — The Year of the Rabbit (Xin Mao).

If you were born in 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, or 2011 - you were born under the sign of the rabbit.

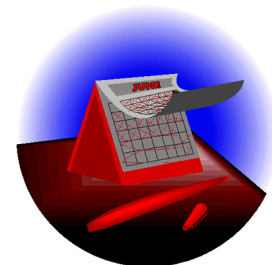
Like the rabbit, you are one of cuddliest & sweetest creatures in the Chinese zodiac.

Although considered somewhat timid by more dynamic signs, you are wise and cautious, and know better than to jump into any situation without thinking!

Tactful, considerate, and popular with a wide circle of friends and family, luck just seems to come to you unbidden. For the rabbit in 2011, any recent setbacks or obstacles can be overcome, so look forward to a year in which to really shine, either personally or professionally.

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.



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/Newsletter**

Directors:

Belle Chohanin Finance

Florence Petris Records

Vernon Perry Membership

Knight Allen Legislation

Richard Thomas Communications

Vernon Perry Issues

Ken Mahal Liaison

February 10, 1861

February 6, - South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana sent delegates to a constitutional convention in .Montgomery, Alabama.

February 8 - a constitution is adopted with wording similar to the Constitution of the United States.

February 9 - After privately considering William Yancey, Howell Cobb, Robert Toombs, Alexander Stephens, and Robert Barnwell Rhett for President of the Confederate States of America, the Convention settles on Jefferson Davis. They select Alexander Stephens, both pro-Union and a friend of Abraham Lincoln, as vice-president

February 10 - At his plantation home outside Vicksburg, Jefferson Davis receives the news he is the first President of the Confederate States of America. He was hoping to be commander of the military

February 11 - As President-elect Abraham Lincoln begins his journey to Washington D. C. from Springfield, Illinois, President-elect Jefferson Davis journeys from Vicksburg, Mississippi to Montgomery, Alabama to accept the Presidency of the Confederate States.

February 15 - Provisional Confederate Congress votes to take Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens (Fl) by force if necessary.

February 18 - Jefferson Davis is inaugurated "Provisional President of the Confederate States of America" in Montgomery

February 19 - Jefferson Davis appoints his Cabinet including fire-eater* Robert Toombs (State), Christopher Memminger (Treasury), LeRoy Pope Walker (War), Judah P. Benjamin (Attorney-General) and J. H. Reagan (Postmaster-General).

* "Fire-eaters" was a name ascribed to outspoken Southern nationalists (supporters of "disunion," or an independent Southern nation).

Men to whom the term commonly applied include Robert Barnwell Rhett, Edmund Ruffin, Robert Toombs, Louis Trezevant Wigfall, and William Yancey. The term appears to have come from Thomas Hart Benton's comment on the



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.

floor of the Senate, labeling John C. Calhoun a firebrand. Northern papers altered this, calling any Southern Nationalist, including Calhoun, a fire-eater.



Fire-eater was also the name of General Albert Sidney Johnston's (CSA) horse.