

# Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

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

The

# NSC FOGHORN™



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

May 9, 2013

## Special Points of Interest

A Profile of Older Americans:2012  
Administration on Aging  
Administration for Community  
Living  
U.S. Dept. of Health and Human  
Services

- ◆ The older population (65+) numbered 41.4 million in 2011, an increase of 6.3 million or 18% since 2000.
- ◆ Nevada (65+) 339,478 which is 12.5% of all ages and an increase of 53.10% from 2000 to 2011. 9.4% were below poverty level.

In the U.S.

- ◆ The median income for older persons in 2011 was \$27,707 for males and \$15,362 for females.
- ◆ Households headed by persons 65+ reported a median income in 2011 of \$48,538.
- ◆ The major source of income as reported by older persons in 2010 were Social Security (86% of older persons), income from assets (52%), private pensions (27%), government employee pensions (15%), and earnings (26%)
- ◆ Soc. Sec. was 90% or more of income received by 36% in 2010 (23% married, 46% not)

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## One Bill Down, One Bill Up & A Mahal Call

*By Director of Legislation Knight Allen*

Let's start with some good news. AB201 the stealth property tax increase died in Committee on 4/12/13. As a side note and a mea-culpa, my math was in error. When the Legislative Counsel Bureau stated 'an increase from 35 to 45 percent they weren't talking about property taxes. It was the rate at which the assessed value would be taxed and would result, all things being equal, in a tax increase of "only" 28½%. It was a bad bill and its demise is good news.

Another piece of positive news is AB173. This is particularly comforting for those who are not fans of smart meters and the massive increase in information and control they give to NVEnergy. AB173 deals with the idea of "time-of-use" billing. It prohibits NVE from imposing this billing system on anyone who doesn't want it.

AB173 has massive support from some very big guns. Our own NSC member Doctor Herb Randall, in his position as President of the Nevada Silver Haired Forum testified in favor of the bill. So did AARP along with the Consumer Protection Office of the Attorney General. And, as the cherry on the icing on the cake, NVE itself supports putting into statute the promise they have been making all -a-long that if we don't want "time-of-use" pricing we will not be forced into it.

Needless to say the bill sailed through the Committee and passed in the full Assembly unanimously and is now in the Senate. It's a good bill and I hope by the time you read this it will have passed in the Senate and been signed by the Governor.

These two bills represent the whole range of ideas that are part of any legislative session. One so bad and rooted in institutional backroom, hidden agendas and the other something that puts into law a protection that shouldn't even be necessary but, unfortunately, in this day and age — is.

Out of the blue I got a call from Ken Mahal. He sounds real good

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

and seems to be quite content living in Florida. One of the interesting things about Ken and I is our ability to pick right up from where we left off even months ago. We talked the gamut from national and state politics, sports, how each of us is doing and, of course, the Coalition. He wanted me to be sure to offer all of you his very best wishes and to let you know he thinks about the group often.

**Knight can be reached at: [knightal1en702@yahoo.com](mailto:knightal1en702@yahoo.com)**

## **Anna Marie Jarvis**

Anna Marie Jarvis is the founder of the **Mother's Day** holiday. She was born on May 1, 1864 in Webster, West Virginia.

She was the daughter of Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis who gave birth to eleven children only four of which survived to adulthood. Anna Reeves was ahead of her times in recognizing the mortal costs of bad sanitation and in the late 1850s organized Mother's Day Work Clubs bringing together local mothers to promote cleanliness and sanitation in the community. During the Civil War Anna encouraged the neutrality of these clubs and both Confederate and Union soldiers were nursed. By that time Anna was a resident of the newly formed Union state of West Virginia (western Virginia succeeded from Virginia and became a state on June 20, 1863. The only other state formed during the Civil War was Nevada (October 31, 1864) which was made up of some of the Utah Territory and a little of the Arizona Territory.

Anna Reeves Jarvis expressed a wish that someday the importance of a mother's work would be recognizes formally by everyone.

Upon the death of her mother on May 9, 1905, Anna Marie Jarvis with her friends and supporters began a letter-writing campaign to establish a national holiday to celebrate the importance of motherhood.

Slowly the campaign became successful. On May 9, 1908, Anna's home town of Grafton, West Virginia held a church service at which Anna presented each mother in attendance, a white carnation – one of her Mother's favorite flowers.

Two years later West Virginia made Mother's Day a state holiday. Anna continued her letter writing campaign and one by one more states began celebrating Mother's Day.

Finally in May 1914, following a Joint Resolution of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson signed and issued *Proclamation 1268* creating a national Mother's Day to be observed on the second Sunday of May. Every U.S. President since has issued a similar proclamation.

The carnation has remained the symbol of Mother's day. Red to honor living mothers, white for those deceased.

By the 1920's Anna was unhappy about the commercialization of the holiday and she and her sister spent their inheritance fighting against what the holiday had become and consequently both died in poverty. Anna Marie Jarvis never married and had no children She died in 1948 at age 84 is buried next to her mother in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania (near Philadelphia).

## *“Please Don’t Quote Me”*

### FIRST LADIES

I always knew my husband would rise in the world. I believed he would someday inhabit the highest office in the land. I felt this even when we were newly married and he was making a mere pittance in salary. My sisters used to tease me unmercifully, but you see who was correct! Julia Grant

Women’s mind is as strong as man’s – equal in all things and superior in some. – Lucy Hayes

Lucy Hayes was the 1st First Lady to host a White House Easter Egg Roll.

Lucy Hayes was the 1st First Lady to graduate from college. She graduated from Wesleyan Female Seminary in Cincinnati, OH in 1850.

It is horrible to be a man. But the grinding misery of being a woman between the upper and nether millstone of household cares and training children is almost as bad. To be half civilized with some aspirations for enlightenment, and obliged to spend the largest part of the time the victim of young barbarians keeps one in a perpetual ferment. – Lucretia Garfield

Ellen Arthur died before her husband took office. Chester Arthur’s sister, Mary Arthur McElroy, served as hostess during his administration.

"I want you to take good care of all the furniture and ornaments in the house, and not let any of them get lost or broken, for I want to find everything just as it is now, when we come back again four years from today." Mrs. Cleveland told the staff on their departure after her husband's first term. Frances Cleveland

(She had to wait until from 1889 until 1893 since Cleveland’s terms were not consecutive, but she was right – he was reelected in four years.)

Mrs. Cleveland was the youngest First Lady at 21 years old.

Mrs. Cleveland is the only woman to marry a president in the White House.

1st First Lady to be married in the White House.

1st First Lady to have a baby in the White House.

1st President’s widow to remarry.



## Memorial Day

The exact origins of Memorial Day are disputed. Yale University historian David Blight places the first Memorial Day in April 1865, when a group of former slaves gathered at a Charleston, S.C., horse track turned Confederate prison where more than 250 Union soldiers had died. Digging up the soldiers' mass grave, they interred the bodies in individual graves, built a 100-yd. fence around them and erected an archway over the entrance bearing the words "Martyrs of the Race Course." On May 1, 1865, some 10,000 black Charleston residents, white missionaries, teachers, schoolchildren and Union troops marched around the Planters' Race Course, singing and carrying armfuls of roses. Gathering in the graveyard, the crowd watched five black preachers recite scripture and a children's choir sing spirituals and "The Star-Spangled Banner." While the story is largely forgotten today, some historians consider the gathering the first Memorial Day.

Despite scattered celebrations in small towns, it took three more years for the holiday to become widely observed. In a proclamation, General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic — an organization of former soldiers and sailors — dubbed May 30, 1868, Decoration Day, which was "designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion." On Decoration Day that year, General (later President for 100 days) James Garfield gave a speech at Arlington National Cemetery. Afterward, 5,000 observers adorned the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate\* soldiers entombed at the cemetery.

At the outset, Memorial Day was so closely linked with the Union cause that many Southern states refused to celebrate it. They acquiesced only after World War I, when the holiday was expanded beyond honoring fallen Civil War soldiers to recognizing Americans who died fighting in all wars. It was also renamed Memorial Day. Some critics say that by making the holiday more inclusive, however, the original focus — on, as Frederick Douglass put it, the moral clash between "slavery and freedom, barbarism and civilization" — has been lost. Most Southern states still recognize Confederate Memorial Day as an official holiday, and many celebrate it on the June birthday of Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy. But Texas, for one, observes the holiday on Robert E. Lee's birthday, Jan. 19 — which also happens to be Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

\*The history of Arlington National Cemetery is steeped in the Civil War, for it was this great national struggle that necessitated the establishment of this cemetery to bury its many dead. For many years following the war, the bitter feelings between North and South remained, and although hundreds of Confederate soldiers were buried at Arlington, it was considered a Union cemetery. Family members of Confederate soldiers were denied permission to decorate their loved ones' graves and in extreme cases were even denied entrance to the cemetery.

These ill feelings were slow to die but over time they did begin to fade. Many historians believe it was the national call to arms during the Spanish-American War that brought northerners and southerners together at last. In that war numerous Confederate veterans volunteered their services and joined their Northern brothers on the battlefield in the common defense of our nation. In June 1900, in this spirit of national reconciliation, the U.S. Congress

authorized that a section of Arlington National Cemetery be set aside for the burial of Confederate dead.

By the end of 1901 all the Confederate soldiers buried in the national cemeteries at Alexandria, Virginia, and at the Soldiers' Home in Washington were brought together with the soldiers buried at Arlington and reinterred in the Confederate section. Among the 482 persons buried there are 46 officers, 351 enlisted men, 58 wives, 15 southern civilians, and 12 unknowns. They are buried in concentric circles around the **Confederate Monument**, and their graves are marked with headstones that are distinct for their pointed tops. Legend attributes these pointed-tombstones to a Confederate belief that the points would "keep Yankees from sitting on them."





MAY 18, 2013

# ARMED FORCES DAY

STRONG AND RESILIENT



PREPARED TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE



## High-Level Nuclear Waste

(I worked for General Electric for thirty eight years in the Advanced Technology Laboratory and later in the Nuclear Power Division. During the vast majority of that time I was using or near radioactive material and was in the bowels of many nuclear reactors.)

**What is it?** Used fuel from power plants and military naval vessels (submarines, surface ships). Also by-products from nuclear weapons research and production.

**How much waste is there?** From nuclear power plants 68,000+ metric tons of used fuel. From military sources about 13,000 metric tons. Each year 2,000 metric tons are produced.

**Is it dangerous?** Of course –unless properly stored and managed. Direct exposure can cause cancer and other illnesses and even death. High-level waste is extremely radioactive and will remain so for various times up to thousand of years. If **properly** handled it does not pose a risk to health or the environment.

**Where is it?** In the United States it is stored in 35 states. Most military waste is stored at the Hanford facility in Washington state, the Idaho National Laboratory site, the Savannah River plant on the South Carolina and Georgia border and the West Valley Site near Buffalo, N.Y. Commercial waste is stored in the operating nuclear power plant producing it in 31 states. In four states the waste is onsite at decommissioned (closed) power plants. The mili-

tary waste could stay at the four sites permanently but the safest storage is under ground at a geologic repository (Yucca ?).

**How is it stored?** First in 20 foot deep pools of water for five to ten years. This water shields the workers and environment from the radiation. After this time the material can either remain under the water or be put in leak-proof steel and concrete cylinders (casks). The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has calculated the waste can be safely stored this way for 30 years.

**How do other countries store their waste?** The same way –wet pools and dry casks. No country has opened a permanent underground storage facility although several countries are making progress – Finland and Sweden especially.

**Twenty-seven billion dollars** is in a Nuclear Waste Fund started in the 1980's to pay for construction of a waste storage facility. The power companies supplied this money with the assurance that they would be able to store the waste at Yucca Mountain. 81,000 metric tons of waste is waiting for some where to go and 2,000 metric tons is being produced each year by 104 nuclear power plants (and the military) to supply 20% of the U.S 's electricity. There are also 19 new reactors being planned in 15 states. (Source: Nuclear Energy Institute, NRC, U.S. Department of Energy)

For more information: National Conference of State Legislatures Web site [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org) – article by Scott Hendrick and Claire Lewis

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be  
Thursday, June 13 starting at  
10 a.m. at >>>>>>>>>>

# To be determined

*The June 13 Speaker will be:*

# *Announced Later*

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Liaison

**May 9, 1868**

**Reno, Nevada Established**

Charles Fuller built a log bridge across the Truckee River in 1859 and charged a fee to those who passed over it on their way to the gold mines in Virginia City. Fuller also provided the gold-seekers with a place to rest, buy a meal, and exchange information with other prospectors. In 1861, Myron Lake purchased Fuller's bridge, and, using the money from the tolls, bought more land, and constructed a gristmill, livery stable, and kiln. When the Central Pacific Railroad connected Nevada to Sacramento, California in 1868, Lake made sure that his crossing was included in its path by deeding a portion of his land to Charles Crocker (an organizer of the Central Pacific Railroad Company), who promised to build a depot at Lake's Crossing. On **May 9, 1868**, the town site of Reno (named after Civil War General Jesse Reno) was officially established. Lake divided his remaining land into lots and auctioned it off to businessmen and home-builders.

## **Major General Jesse L. Reno**

Born: April 20, 1823, Wheeling, Virginia

Died: September 14, 1862 (aged 39) near Boonsboro, Maryland

Allegiance: United States of America, Union

Service branch: United States Army

Years of service: 1846–1862

Final Rank: Major General

Commands held: Mount Vernon Arsenal, IX Corps of the Army of the Potomac

Wars:

Mexican-American War

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.

Utah War – May 1857 – July 1858 (against the Mormons)

American Civil War –

Major General Burnside's North Carolina Expedition

Battle of Roanoke Island

Battle of New Bern

Battle of South Mills

Northern Virginia Campaign

Maryland Campaign

Battle of South Mountain 1862 (DOW – died of wounds)

