

# 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>

June 13, 2013

## Special Points of Interest



Medicare processes 5.4 million claims per day for 1.5 million providers.

These claims are worth \$1.5 billion per day.

Yearly, \$497 billion is paid to 47 million beneficiaries.

In 2012 Part A benefit payments were about \$260 billion and Part B benefits were about \$232 billion.

National health expenditures per person rose steadily from \$211 in 1965 to \$8,402 in 2010.

From: [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov)

## THE LAST WORD (FOR NOW) ON Property Taxes

*By Director of Legislation Knight Allen*

Let's take another look at property taxes, this time from a different angle. There was a statistical note in the RJ on Sunday 5/12/13 in the Nevada section that said Valley home prices had surged 30 percent between April 2012 and April 2013. That's a serious jump and it got me thinking about the not widely known recapture provision that exists in the property tax cap law passed in 2005.

The cap has certainly done its job protecting us against the insane real estate bubble as well as the subsequent implosion and is probably one of the best laws to ever come out of the Nevada Legislature.

So, what is the recapture provision, how does it work and should we be concerned? The first thing to know is the only reason it exists in the law is to make an allowance for the boom and bust nature of Nevada's mining industry. No one, literally no one, ever dreamed it would ever apply anywhere except in those couple of counties up north so dependent on mining. And yet...

How does it work? Without giving you a headache here it is at its core: The property value must fall by 15% or more and then turn around and rise by 15% or more in back-to-back years. In other words a violent drop followed by a violent rise in a very short, compact time frame.

Should we be concerned? Probably not. While the violent "ups" may be coming, the violent "downs" are more than three years behind us. The losses have been moderating so even if the values surge back by 15%+ the smaller declines mean the recapture provision likely won't kick in. Right now only about 1.5% of the homes in the valley are subject to the recapture. We'll revisit this at the end of the year when the Assessor sends out the "Notice of Value" cards.

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Before we close the books on property taxes I want to take this opportunity to thank NSC Member Mark Schofield, our former, now retired Assessor, for the key role he played in getting the property tax caps on the books. Many people deserve recognition and credit for the caps but without Mark, who brought the information public at an NSC meeting in 2005, none of it would have happened. Because of Mark we avoided the double and even triple tax increases of the boom and, just as important we are protected against the “up from the bottom” double digit increases that may very well be coming in the next few years.

Thanks Mark.

**Knights can be reached at [knightallen702@yahoo.com](mailto:knightallen702@yahoo.com)**

## **And Now They Want to Eliminate Saturday Delivery.**

It's never easy traveling with children and often it can be expensive so in the early 1900s, some people decided to cut costs by mailing their children via parcel post.

Sending packages via the U.S. Parcel Post Service began on January 1, 1913. Regulations stated that packages could not weigh more than 50 pounds but did not say children were precluded. On February 19, 1914, four-year-old May Pierstorff was mailed from Grangeville, Idaho, by her parents, to her grandparents in Lewiston, Idaho. Mailing apparently was much cheaper than buying her a train ticket. The little girl wore her 53-cents worth of postal stamps on her jacket as she traveled in the train's mail compartment. (Try mailing a 50 pound package now or taking it on an airplane – excepting Southwest – for 53-cents.)

After hearing of examples such as May, the Postmaster General issued a regulation (on June 13, 1920) against sending children by mail. This picture was meant as a humorous image to the end of such practice. (Picture courtesy of the Smithsonian Institute.)

In 1955 a long term project I was working on in Cleveland, Ohio, at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory while with General Electric, was finished and I was going back to Schenectady, New York. I had just purchased a broom and mop. I didn't want to leave them or take them on the airplane with me so I took them to the post office. I asked the clerk if I could mail them and he looked at me like I was crazy and said, “Certainly not”! He was overheard by his supervisor who said, “He certainly can”! And I did and I didn't cost much either. The only other things I regularly mailed from there were baby bottles filled with urine... but that's another story. – Vern (Also see What Happened on June 13 on the last page of this issue.)



## *“Please Don’t Quote Me”*

### FIRST LADIES

"Since this Society has been organized, and so much thought and reading directed to the early struggle of this country, it has been made plain that much of its success was due to the character of the women of that era. The unselfish part they acted constantly commends itself to our admiration and example. If there is no abatement in this element of success in our ranks I feel sure their daughters can perpetuate a society worthy the cause and worthy of themselves." Mrs. Harrison on the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Caroline Harrison was the 1st First Lady to have a Christmas tree in the White House

Mrs. Harrison was the first President General of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Harrison helped raise funds for the Johns Hopkins University medical school on condition that it admit women.

Author Ellen Maury Slayden on Mrs. McKinley: "President McKinley's wife...was seen by the few who ever got close enough to form an opinion as the cross he bore gallantly...Though not an old woman—she would pass her fiftieth birthday three months after moving to the White House—she was always described as old. She was small and pale; were it not for her ivory skin and hands, she would have seemed gaunt. Her heart had been broken by the loss of two children..."

Mrs. McKinley suffered from epilepsy. During White House receptions, President McKinley would calmly cover her face with a large handkerchief when she had a seizure.

Theodore Roosevelt to William Howard Taft: "I take the keenest pride in seeing Mrs. Roosevelt at the head of the White House—a gentlewoman, who gives to all the official life...an air of gracious and dignified simplicity, and who with it all is the ideal of a good American wife and mother who takes care of her six children in the most devoted manner...Mrs. Roosevelt comes a good deal nearer my ideal than I do myself."

Mrs. Roosevelt had the first White House Social Secretary, Isabelle Hagner.

Mrs. Roosevelt made major renovations to the White House in 1902, including the creation of the West Wing.

Mrs. Roosevelt officially changed the name of the Executive Mansion to the White House.

## USS Nevada 1 and USS Nevada 2

The first USS Nevada, a monitor, was laid down at Connecticut, April 17, 1899, by the Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine; launched November 24, 1900; sponsored by Miss Grace Boutelle; renamed Nevada, January 1901; and commissioned on March 5, 1903, Commander Thomas Benton Howard in command.

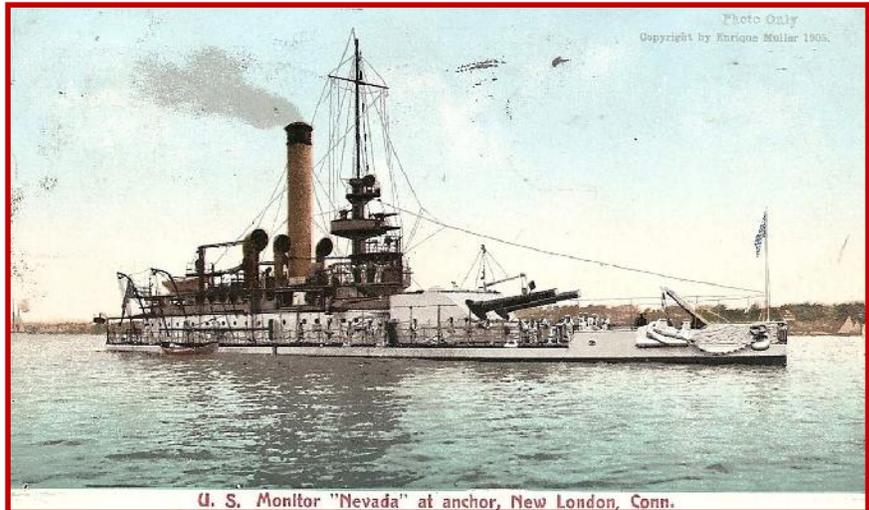
On March 2, 1909, the monitor was renamed Tonopah (for Tonopah, Nevada) to allow Battleship Number 36 to be named Nevada. Assigned to the Atlantic Fleet's submarine force as a tender, Tonopah operated along

the east coast from Massachusetts to Key West until January 1918. Then briefly assigned to Bermuda, she was ordered to Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores in February. Between then and December she tended the submarines K-1, K-2, K-3, K-5, and E-1 and submarine chasers operating in the strategic area of the Azores. In December, she was towed to Lisbon, and, upon her return to the United States, decommissioned at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 1 July 1920. She was one of several vessels sold on 26 January 1922, to J. G. Hitner of Philadelphia.

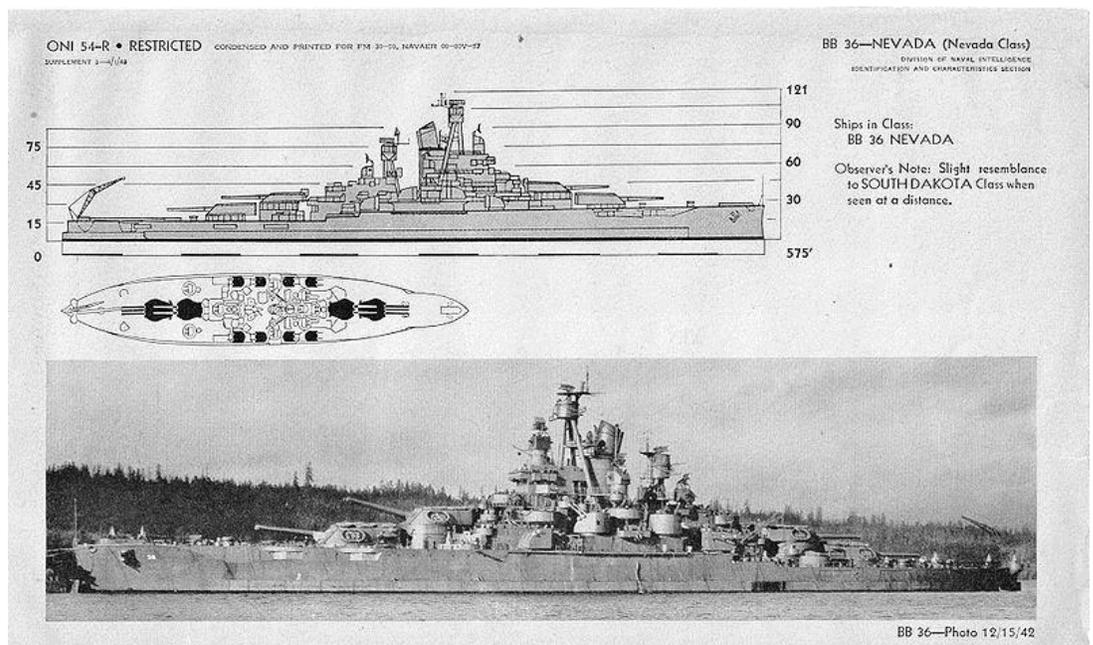
USS Nevada (BB36) was the lead ship of the two Nevada class battleships: her sister ship was the Oklahoma. Launched in 1914 the Nevada featured three new features that would be included on almost every following US battleship. These were gun turrets having three guns, oil fuel instead of coal and embracing the "all or nothing" armor principle (which meant heavy armor on places the destruction of which would result in losing the ship and light armor elsewhere).

Nevada served in both World Wars and was heavily damaged at Pearl Harbor. She was salvaged and modernized and, after doing convoy duty, was a fire support ship in four amphibious assaults (The Normandy Landings, and the invasions of Southern France, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

After the war the Navy considered her too old and she was decommissioned and assigned to be a target ship in the nuclear experiments at Bikini Atoll (July 1946). She was heavily damaged and radioactive after the first nuclear explosion but remained afloat. She was finally sunk on August 29, 1946 while being used for naval gunfire practice.

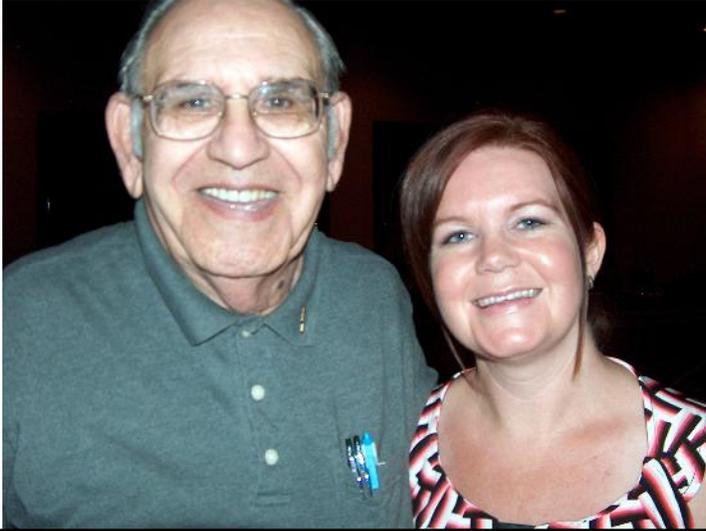


U. S. Monitor "Nevada" at anchor, New London, Conn.





## At the May Meeting



NSC President Vern Perry with May speaker Cheyenne Pasquale, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Project Manager. Cheyenne explained the ADRC Web site and also talked about the multitude of services available to seniors through the State of Nevada, Department of Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division. The Web site address is:

<http://www.nevadaadrc.com>

It was an excellent presentation. Thank you Cheyenne

## Members

### Renewing Members:

\*Edward & Mary Duffy\*

\*Beverly Hansford\*

\*Vivienne Kerns\*

◆ John & Gisela Tabor\*

Thank you  
for your continued support!



*Thanks to all NSC members for your help and - especially Ted.*



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.



# The History of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885 by BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, who arranged for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14



(the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14 of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day. Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all

private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag. Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th, 1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.

Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916.

While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 11 starting at 10 a.m. at >>>>>>>>>>



## Whitney Recreation Center

5712 E. Missouri Ave.

*The July 11 Speaker will be:*

*Clark County Commission Chair*

**Steve Sisolak**

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**Vernon Perry**

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**Vernon Perry**

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**Tina Rowe**

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## **What Happened on June 13?**

1777 - The Marquis de Lafayette arrived in the American colonies to help with their rebellion against the British.

1789 - Ice cream, a new dessert, was served to General George Washington by Mrs. Alexander Hamilton.

1825 - Walter Hunt patented the safety pin. Hunt then then sold the rights for \$400.

1866 - The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed by the U.S. Congress after being ratified on July 9, 1868. The amendment was designed to grant citizenship to and protect the civil liberties of recently freed slaves by prohibiting states from denying or abridging the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States, depriving any person of his life, liberty, or property without due process of law, or denying to any person within their jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

1888 - The U.S. Congress created the Department of Labor.

1912 - Captain Albert Berry made the first successful parachute jump from an airplane in Jefferson, Mississippi.

1920 - The U.S. Post Office Department ruled that children may not be sent by parcel post.

1922 - Charlie Osborne started the longest attack on hiccups. He hiccupped over 435 million times before stopping. He died in 1991, 11 months after his hiccups ended.

1927 - Charles Lindbergh was honored with a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

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.

1927 - For the first time, an American Flag was displayed from the right hand of the Statue of Liberty

1943 - German spies landed on Long Island, New York. They were soon captured.

1944 - Germany launched 10 of its new V1 rockets against Britain from a position near the Channel coast. Of the 10 rockets only 5 landed in Britain and only one managed to kill (6 people in London).

1944 - Marvin Camras patented the wire recorder.

1966 - The landmark "Miranda vs. Arizona" decision was issued by the U.S. Supreme Court. The decision ruled that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional rights before being questioned by police.

1967 - Solicitor General Thurgood Marshall was nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson to become the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

1979 - Sioux Indians were awarded \$105 million in compensation for the U.S. seizure in 1877 of their Black Hills in South Dakota.

1983 - The unmanned U.S. space probe Pioneer 10 became the first spacecraft to leave the solar system. It was launched in March 1972.