

# Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

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

The

# NSC FOGHORN

TM



Volume 14, Issue 9

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

September 10., 2015

## Special Points of Interest

## Knight's Job is Taxing and Oil is a Gas

By Vice President Knight Allen



All through the tax debates in the 2015 legislative session I tried to point out that working people and retirees were having a tough time and if taxes were going to be raised they should not be raised on the necessities of life which is the core principle of taxation articulated by Adam Smith in "Wealth of Nations." I tried to drive this point home to the legislators more than once including my testimony on SB 252 (see the 4/9/15 "Foghorn") all to no avail. It was frustrating beyond words to watch those legislators sit like puppy dogs at the feet of Nevada's capitalist elite who droned on and on about how they understood their responsibility to Nevada's children and to the future of the state and how they were there to support the billion dollar plus permanent tax increase including the gross receipts - oops, sorry, "commerce" tax. It was, and is, hypocrisy institutionalized.

I was most upset not with Governor Sandoval or his water carriers but rather with the "no tax" so-called conservatives none of whom even once challenged the capitalist fakers about the cruelty and economic injustice rooted in the tax proposal especially in the commerce tax. Today's conservatives seem to have no understanding at all they are supposed to be "conserving" the most radically liberal system of government ever devised. They couldn't or wouldn't attack the commerce tax. Either way they are poor excuses for political leaders of a free people.

Tax increases have consequences. The "temporary" billion dollar tax increase was imposed in 2011. From the end of that year to the end of 2014 the average wage in Nevada skyrocketed (excuse the hyperbole) from \$43,105 to \$44,718 an increase of 3.7%\*. On the other hand, the S&P500 Index where Nevada's capitalist elite has the bulk of their money invested went from 1258 to 2059 an increase of 63%.

(Continued on page 2)

### Inside This Issue

50 Years of Medicare	2
Please Don't Quote Me	3
Social Security	4
Ray Taylor's Obituary	5
Members Page	6
The U.S. Coast Guard	7
Meeting Information	7
Today in History	8
About NSC	8

(Continued from page 1)

\*State of Nevada Dept. of Employment Payroll Report 2011 to 2014.

Let's get it straight:

CAPITAL DOESN'T PAY TAXES.  
LABOR PAYS TAXES.  
THE PEOPLE PAY TAXES.

The political and economic leadership of Nevada should be ashamed of what they did (which they are not) and they most assuredly should not be proud of what they did (which, pathetically, they are).

The collapse of oil prices is providing another great economics lesson about markets and their overpowering influence on governments and people. Those states that were riding high on \$80-\$100 bbl. oil have had a rude awakening since June of last year. Texas, North Dakota, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas and Alaska have all taken brutal hits as oil has sunk to \$40-\$45. Alaska's revenue forecast is down by \$2 billion creating a budget deficit of \$3.4 billion. As for workers, there have been over 155,000 layoffs.

Make no mistake, the oil boom played a huge role in the US recovery not to mention making us almost energy independent. This oil bust can cut both ways, helping some areas but dragging down the overall growth rate which is anemic at best.

Watching the oil market do its thing can be entertaining even to seniors who are probably far more interested in the price of gas than they are the price of Exxon-Mobil stock.

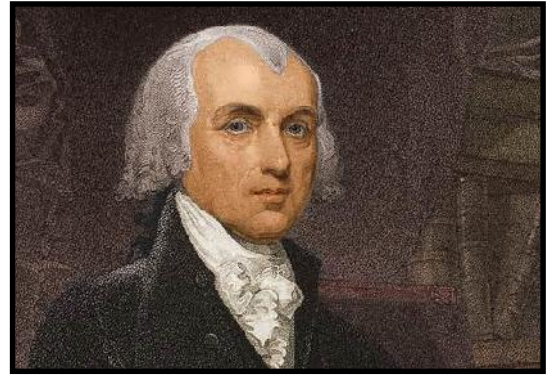
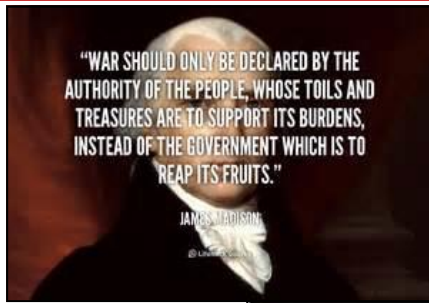
Knight can be reached at: [knightallen702@yahoo.com](mailto:knightallen702@yahoo.com)



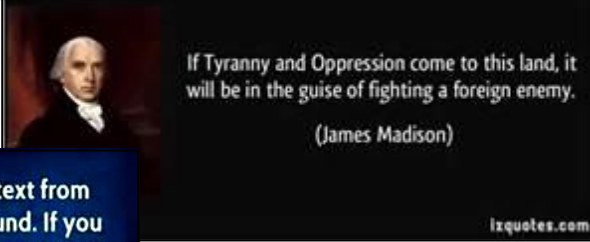
It's easy to forget that before 1966, roughly half of all seniors were uninsured, living in fear that the high cost of health care could propel not only them, but their families, into poverty. Few of us remember that not that long ago, far too many disabled people, families with children, pregnant women and low-income working Americans were unable to afford the medical care they needed to stay healthy and productive. 50 years ago, on July 30, 1965, the landscape of health care in America changed forever when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the landmark amendment to the Social Security Act, giving life to the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Medicare and Medicaid save lives, help people live longer, and provide the peace of mind that comes with affordable health care that's there when you need it. Chances are, you or someone in your family either has Medicare or Medicaid or you know someone who does. In fact, Medicare and Medicaid cover nearly 1 out of every 3 Americans—that's well over 100 million people.

Marking the 50th anniversary of these lifesaving programs this summer gives us an important opportunity to recognize and remember the ways these programs transformed the delivery of health care in the United States. Medicare and Medicaid have greatly reduced the number of uninsured Americans and have become the standard bearers for quality and innovation in American health care.

# “Please Don’t Quote Me”



James Madison (March 16, 1751 – June 28, 1836), 4th President of the United States James Madison, Jr. was a statesman and political theorist. He thought of as the "Father of the Constitution" for being instrumental in the drafting of the U.S. Constitution and as the key champion and author of the Bill of

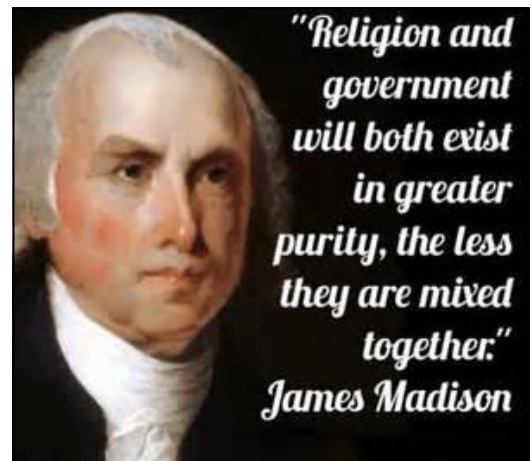
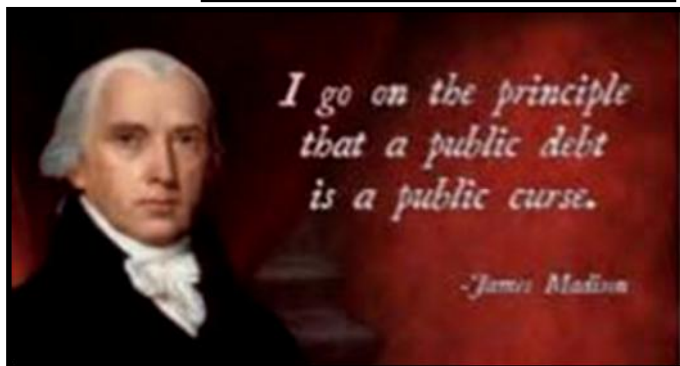
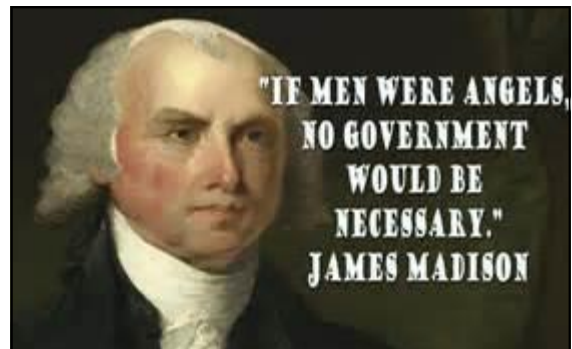
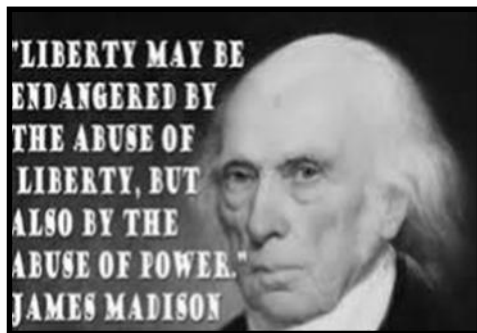


Do not separate text from historical background. If you do, you will have perverted and subverted the Constitution, which can only end in a distorted, bastardized form of illegitimate government.

James Madison  
4th U.S. President  
1751 - 1836

QUOTEID.COM

It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood.



# Social Security

## REPLACING YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY CARD? KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

By Iris Johnson

Las Vegas Social Security Card Center Manager in Las Vegas, NV

Keeping your Social Security number card in a safe place is vital to protecting you against identity theft. Never keep it in your purse or wallet — this is the most common way people lose their card. No matter how hard you try to keep track of your important documents, sometimes they get lost or even stolen. (Treat your Medicare card the same way—it has your SSN on it – Vern)

Getting a replacement Social Security number card is free, but you will have to provide the proper documents to get a new one. Being prepared will save you time at the Social Security office or card center. If you are replacing your card, you will need original or certified copies of the required documents, which include:

### Proof of citizenship:

If you have not already established your U.S. citizenship with us, we need to see proof of U.S. citizenship. We can accept only certain documents as proof of U.S. citizenship, like your U.S. birth certificate or U.S. passport.

### Identity:

We can accept only certain documents as proof of identity. An acceptable document must be current (not expired) and show your name, identifying information (date of birth or age), and preferably, a recent photograph. For example, as proof of identity, we must see your:

- U.S. driver's license;
- State-issued non-driver identification card; or
- U.S. passport.

If you do not have one of these specific documents, or you cannot get a replacement for one of them within ten days, we will ask to see other documents, including:

- Employee identification card;
- School identification card;
- Health insurance card (not Medicare card); or
- U.S. military identification card.

Remember, you are limited to three replacement cards in a year or ten in your lifetime. Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits. For example, changes in immigration status that require card updates may not count toward these limits. Also, you may not be affected by these limits if you can prove you need the card to prevent a significant hardship. Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits. For example, changes in immigration status that require card updates may not count toward these limits. Also, you may not be affected by these limits if you can prove you need the card to prevent a significant hardship. Legal name changes and other exceptions do not count toward these limits. For example, changes in immigration status that require card updates may not count toward these limits. Also, you may not be affected by these limits if you can prove you need the card to prevent a significant hardship.

What's more important than having your card is knowing your Social Security number. This is how we identify you, tally your wages correctly, and how we eventually issue you accurate retirement benefits. You might not even need your card for identification purposes if you know and consistently use your correct number.

For more information about replacing a lost or stolen Social Security number card, go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).



Ray Taylor, 77 years old, of Las Vegas, Nevada, died on August 1, 2015, of complications of lung cancer treatments.

Ray was born September 29, 1938 in Staten Island, New York. He was a tap dancer until the age of 12, delivered papers and became an Eagle Scout (only 2% of Boy Scouts become Eagle Scouts). He was a great swimmer and won many competitions. His father was a New York City police officer his mother was a Girl Scout Brownie Leader and active in the Lutheran Church. He had two sisters, Dana who died of cancer at the age of 40 and Marion who is still living. His father died of cancer when he was 50

and his mother died at 77 of a heart attack. Ray had both heart and cancer problems.

After graduating from high school he joined the U.S. Navy where he remained for four years. After his discharge he returned home and married his high school sweetheart, Clare, and joined the New York City police department. He and his wife had three wonderful children, Kathie, Patti and Steve, who are still living. The family moved to Colorado after a few years and Ray worked for the Jefferson County Police Department. While there he joined a pistol club and won many awards and trophies for best shooter.

He met his present wife, Suzanne, in 1978 and married her in 1979. He was a radio sports announcer and a great poet who was a hit combining sports and his poetry according to his wife. They also together volunteered for many charity groups. Ray was always ready to help anyone in need. Everyone he met became special to him. He became involved in politics after he retired in Las Vegas. According to his wife he loved the flag and the USA.

He was a great help to the Nevada Seniors Coalition. He will be missed by us, his friends and neighbors who he was always ready to help.

**Have a good time Ray and maybe we will all meet again. R.I.P.**

A memorial Service and wake (or Happy Hour as his wife put it) will be held at Desert Inn Estates Clubhouse located at 5280 Muir Wood Parkway, Las Vegas, NV from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 26. Refreshments will be served. Please come.

# At the August Meeting



Our August speaker was Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations for the Nevada State Office of AARP. Barry updated us on happenings in the Legislature and the numerous bills affecting Seniors which were passed or modified. Thank you for all you do, Barry and thank you for speaking at the meeting. Good job.

*Thanks to all NSC members  
Who helped us.  
It is very much appreciated.*

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.

# Members

## ♥ Renewing Members ♥:

- Al Bianco
- Richard Bianco
- LaVerne Bower
- Victoria Harbison
- Merle Luhrsen
- Ted Mendalski
- Kay Schnell

Thank you for your continued support



## The United States Coast Guard



The U. S. Coast Guard is simultaneously and at all times a military force and federal law enforcement agency dedicated to maritime safety, security, and stewardship missions. We save lives. We protect the environment. We defend the homeland. We enforce Federal laws on the high seas, the nation's coastal waters and its inland waterways. We are unique in the Nation and the world.


The Coast Guard's official history began on 4 August 1790 when President George Washington signed the Tariff Act that authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the "revenue cutters," the "system of cutters," the Revenue Marine and finally the Revenue Cutter Service, it expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the U. S. Life-Saving Service. The latter consisted of dozens of stations placed around the nation's coastlines that were manned by dedicated crews willing to risk their lives to save those in peril on the sea, a role that meshed well with the Revenue Cutter Service's core missions. Also, the legislation creating this "new" Coast Guard expressly stated that it "shall constitute a part of the military forces of the United States," thereby codifying the service's long history of defending the country alongside the nation's other armed services. The Coast Guard began maintaining the country's aids to maritime navigation, including lighthouses, when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard in 1939. In 1946 Congress permanently transferred the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, which placed merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety under its purview. The nation now had a single maritime federal agency dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798 it served as the nation's only armed force afloat. The Coast Guard protected the nation throughout its long history and served proudly in the majority of the nation's conflicts. The Coast Guard's national defense responsibilities remain one of its most important functions even today. In times of peace it operates as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and the nation's vast coastline and ports, and saving life. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, the Coast Guard serves as part of the Navy Department.

For more information go to <http://www.uscg.mil/>

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on  
Thursday, September, 10  
starting at 10 a.m. at 



**Whitney Recreation Center**  
5712 E. Missouri Ave., Las Vegas, NV  
702-455-7576

## Our October speaker will be:

### Clark County Public Guardian

# Kathleen Buchanan

# NEVADA SENIORS COALITION, INC.

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

Vernon W. Perry President/Newsletter  
Phone: 702.943.0755

e-mail: [vern@nevadaseniors.com](mailto:vern@nevadaseniors.com)

Knight Allen Vice President

## Directors:

Belle Chohanin	Finance
LouJanice Perry	Records
Vernon Perry	Membership
Knight Allen	Legislation
Vernon Perry	Issues

**September 10, 1969**  
**Project Rulison**

A 40-kiloton nuclear bomb was detonated eight miles SE of the town of Grand Valley, Colorado (renamed Parachute, Colorado) as part of the Operation Mandrel weapons test series under the name of Mandrel Rulison, as well as the Operation Plowshare project, which explored peaceful engineering uses of nuclear explosions. Project Rulison's aim was to determine if natural gas could be easily liberated from underground regions.

The test succeeded in liberating large quantities of natural gas but left the gas contaminated with radioisotopes and unsuitable for cooking food and heating homes. Unsuitable only because in the early 1970s the U.S. public would not accept any product containing radioactivity, no matter how minimal. The projected public radiation exposure level would have been less than 1% of the background radiation that everyone receives due to naturally occurring radioactive sources and cosmic rays.

A previous test, Project Gasbuggy, was conducted in in New Mexico and a third and final natural gas reservoir test on May 17, 1973 in another area in Colorado. All of these sites are still contaminated and restricted areas.

The Plowshare program was both a public relations ploy and a serious scientific study. It was an attempt to see if nuclear bombs could be used in peaceful constructive ways. If it had been successful, America would pretty much be humming by now.

Operation Plowshare was simultaneously touching and terrifying. It was touching, because it honestly believed that extraordinarily ambitious projects that might do the nation a great deal of good could be achieved through this supposedly destructive force. Terrifying, because proposed projects including widening the Panama Canal with a bomb in one fell

The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc. (NSC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan 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.

swoop, and just bombing an entire route through Nicaragua. There were many negative impacts from Project Plowshare's 27 nuclear explosions:

Project Gnome vented radioactive steam over the very press gallery that was called to confirm its safety. The next blast, a 104-kiloton detonation at Yucca Flat, Nevada, displaced 12 million tons of soil and resulted in a radioactive dust cloud that rose 12,000 feet and plumed toward the Mississippi River. Other consequences – blighted land, relocated communities, tritium-contaminated water, radioactivity, and fallout from debris being hurled high into the atmosphere – were ignored and downplayed until the program was terminated in 1977, due in large part to public opposition. Costs for the program have been estimated at more than (US) \$770 million.

Operation Plowshare was the US portion of what are called Peaceful Nuclear Explosions (PNE). During the 1960s and 1970s, both the United States and the Soviet Union conducted a number of PNEs. The only significant construction resulted in a dam in the Republic of Kazakhstan, Some day I will write about a another boondoggle, the **Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Project** which I was involved in while at General Electric.