

Sixtieth ~ First Edition

Published, On-Line, Every Week on Friday

January 23rd, 2009

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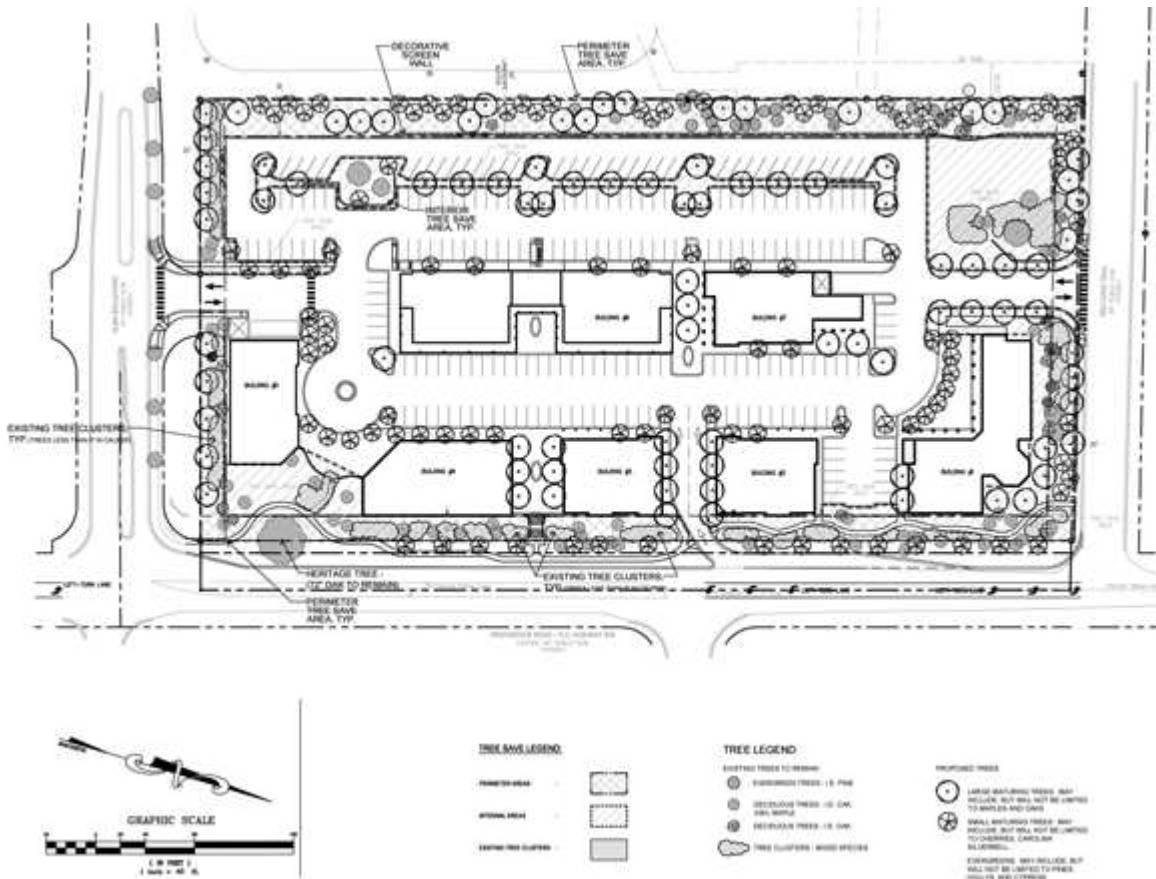
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Welcome to this weeks edition of The Waxhaw Gazette! If you own a business and have any news worthy happenings planned or know of someone new coming in, send me a press release and I will be happy to include it. Contact me directly with comments or suggestions at: jtiley@thewaxhawgazette.com



New Waxhaw Retail Village Coming to Town?

Weather Forecast

Winter, at long last, but only a brief appearance.



Click here for a large version of this drawing

by John Tiley

In the latest of Developers wanting to develop a currently undeveloped property, B&H Holdings recently presented its latest plan to clear the last wooded stretch on Providence Road. We are talking about the six and a half acre site directly above the entrance to Alma Village. Currently acting as a wooded buffer between Alma Village and Red Oaks, the plan is to clear all but a small band of trees along the road including a large and very old "Heritage Oak" then, at the Town's insistence all areas not being used for building or parking will be re-landscaped with substantial trees and shrubbery with the intention to retain a reasonable amount of the natural appearance to the property. Additionally an extended buffer zone between the property and Alma Village will be established to maintain a buffer between commercial and residential properties.

I was given the opportunity to sit with Brian Light foot and Greg Mahar of the Planning and Zoning Department of our fair town and review all that is currently in place to ensure fair and complete development of this property. Although nobody can predict whether a company will be in a position to fully complete a development of this nature, especially in these troubling times, our Town is doing everything it can to ensure we will not have another "Jackson Station" on our hands. To this end, before anything can begin, all zoning and engineering must be fully approved by the Town, far more that was typically the case in the past as Developers do not like to restrict themselves "this early in the game", feeling potential clients for the development would want things differently? Or so it has been said. Understand that this will cost the Developer a far larger capital investment than if he was allowed to go with a more general plan and get the basic land preparation done first.

Additionally a bond must be secured so that if the development fails or stalls for too long of a period, ensuring that the property will be restored to its original state. At this point, the Town has done an admirable job of covering all of the bases as best as possible.

Now, from a Marketing Perspective I very much doubt real though has been given regarding the type of business B&H Holdings says it wants to attract to this project. Medical, Insurance, Real Estate and Personal Financial business are their main target. Here is where the wisdom truly fails. As to Medical, the two large facilities currently under construction will undoubtedly house all of their Doctors and support staff (We already have vacant medical building space in town as a result). Dentists and Chiropractors which we already have established practices in the area won't be easily enticed to move to new facilities and with the owners of Downtown now actively seeking to replace their current retail businesses with similarly oriented clients, well just how many Lawyers, Dentists an Insurance Agents can a town the size of our really support? And before you start reciting projected growth, remember all bets are now off with that.

What with water, sewer and transportation costs Waxhaw is shining less brightly as a bedroom community for Charlotte.

In my opinion, this project will never see the light of day. I expect the bank, whoever they are (or will be next week) will take another very close look at a project like this an put the brakes on in a heartbeat.

With a run to the stores along with a shiver up my spine, the promise of a winter storm struck fear and trepidation into the hearts of most of us. Come morning, I felt like a kid, waking up long before the sun came up just to see the promised snow falling, afraid that as I went to peek out the window that perhaps the weather man was wrong again. But not this time! This time, winter finally showed us her beautiful white dress and as the morning progressed more and more of the virgin white covered the bumps and crevasses of the landscape. By the time it was done close to five inches covered the ground. What a beautiful sight it brought, and the quiet.... Ahhhh. But sadly it was not to last long. Now it is but a memory captured in a few photographs and the talk of whether it might come just one more time this year before winter is done



Also around town;

You may have noticed that the Main Street Grill has been closed recently. I understand that Billy was involved in an auto accident.

Here is wishing you a speedy recovery as we all hope to see you back at the grill soon.

Odds On Who's Next to go at the "Bank of Opprotunity"?

~ ~ ~ ~

Three weeks after the foundering brokerage firm, Merrill Lynch was sold to Bank of America for \$50 billion in stock, Mr. Thain was fired by the Bof A's



current chief executive, Kenneth D. Lewis. Lewis who is struggling to maintain his own job amid stock holder outrage over his manipulations with the purchase of first Countrywide and now this latest debacle,

or as he might term it, the bank's "daring gamble" on Merrill Lynch. Either way Mr. Lewis has some very fast stepping to do if he is to weather the storm at BofA.



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Congratulations Mister President!

~ ~ ~ ~
~ ~ ~ ~

Over 300 Mayors including our own Mayor Daune Gardner, gathered in the Nation's Capital last week to stress merits of the Obama Economic Recovery Plan.

77th Winter Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors

Washington, D.C. – In the midst of a historic Presidential Inauguration, **more than 250 of the nation's mayors**, led by U.S. Conference of Mayors President Miami, FL, Mayor Manny Diaz, have gathered at the Capitol Hilton in Washington, D.C.

for the 77th Winter Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors to discuss national priorities and the proposed Obama Economic Recovery Plan. During their opening press conference, the mayors urged Congress to move quickly on President-Elect Barack Obama's call for a national Economic Recovery Plan to immediately create jobs and make investments in the future economy.

Do You Have Your "Bucket List" Written Yet?

By: Chris Young & Karen Zendels

We hope that you enjoyed the Holiday Season with family and friends, and that 2009 finds you healthy in all areas of your life. As another year passes, we often take time to reflect on our lives and those around us.

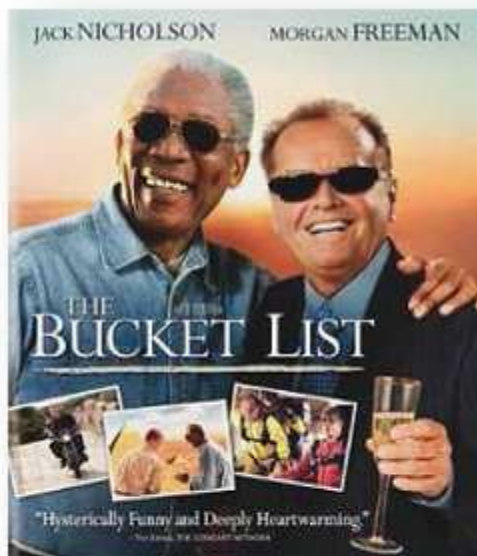
We recently had our beloved friend and 16yr old cat Typhoon pass away, and felt the empty feeling left when those we love leave us. He is missed by us and all he touched...

Over the holidays we watched the movie "The Bucket List" with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, about two terminally ill patients who make a list of things they want to do before they "kick the bucket," and how they made it a priority to cross things off that list once accomplished. We have made a list ourselves which is constantly evolving, and after we watched that fun and touching movie we revisited our progress on that list.

Have you made a list yourself yet? If you have a significant other, it is an interesting exercise to make a list of 20-25 separately, and then have a conversation together about the lists. Make "The Bucket List" as specific as possible, and no assuming it can never happen! We know that personally after leaping out of an airplane at over 13,000 feet!

*Would your list include: Learning another language? *** Traveling to another country you have read about? *** Reconnecting with a lost family member or friend? *** Buying that classic car you dreamed about as a kid? *** Starting a charity or donating your time? *** Meeting that famous person? *** Writing a book? *** Etc, Etc....*

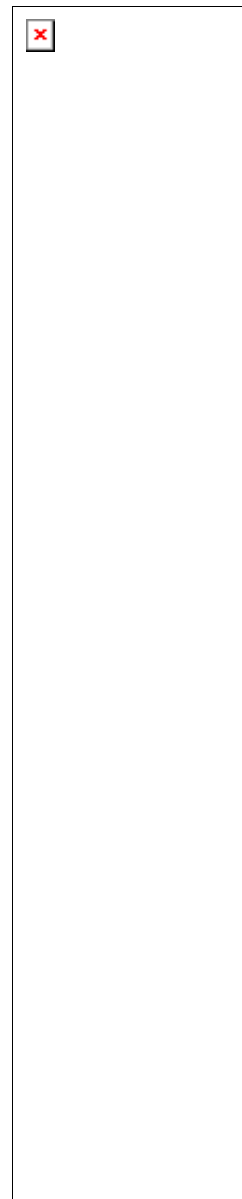
As time passes it seems father time makes it a little more challenging to do some of the things we were able to at a younger age.



We certainly feel a few more aches and pangs, and wonder if we will still be able to accomplish all of the things on our "List of 100 Things to Do Before We Die" and what to do next... But that is the exciting thing about actually creating a list of dreams and goals that are important to accomplish. After all, we know of few people who on their death beds wished they spent more time at the office

So what are you waiting for? Take out a pen and a piece of paper (or your iPhone!), start with a few things you really want to do in your life, and let your imagination wander...

A great question was also posed in that movie, a question asked of those in the afterlife in some religions; "Did you have joy in your life?" and "Did you bring joy to others?" Those are certainly insightful questions we should all strive to respond to with a resounding "Yes!"



~ ~ ~ ~



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Prices for gas in the Waxhaw area... Headed Up Again!

And they are predicting over \$2.00 by the time Spring gets here?

Editors Note: Usually I personally check the prices posted for the above companies. However, occasionally when time is short I call the stations on the phone to check for current prices. If no pricing is offered the above reflects the last visually confirmed pricing.

	3/20/08	1/22/09
Texaco:	\$3.19.9	\$1.79.9
Pure:	\$3.24.9	
Little General:	\$3.24.9	\$179.9
Shell:	\$3.24.9	\$1.79.9
Wax. In n Out:	\$3.26.9	\$1.79.9
Mineral Springs:		
M. S. Grocery	\$3.20.9	\$1.78.9
Texaco:	\$3.21.9	\$1.79.9
BP on New Town	\$3.21.9	\$1.79.9

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Waxhaw's Events Calendar

**2009
Waxhaw
Spring Fest**
*2 day family
craft & fun
festival*

From the Mayor:

Dear Friends

I recently attended the grand opening of the regional office of the 2010 Census. Also in attendance were a number of politicians from throughout the Charlotte region including Rep Sue Myrick, Meck County Commissioner Jennifer Roberts, Charlotte Mayor Pro Temp Susan Burgess and about a dozen others.

There are two things that you need to know about the 2010 Census. The first is that they will be hiring thousands of people in the Charlotte area for this census. While the jobs are temporary, the period of time during which they are available is the next two years which will hopefully get us beyond our current economic hardships. Regional Director Wayne Hatcher told me that they are still actively looking for what they call enumerators in Union County.

Second, state and federal funding formulae are based on census data. In other words, whatever the 2010 Census determines the population of Waxhaw to be will be the basis for calculating the amount of revenue we receive from state and federal programs as well as determining which grants the town is eligible for.

For more information about the 2010 Census, including available jobs, go to <http://www.census.gov/2010census> or call 866-861-2010.

Best,

Daune Gardner, Mayor of Waxhaw

PO Box 6, Waxhaw, NC 28173

704-843-2195 (Town Hall), 704-843-5040 (Business), mayor@waxhaw.com

Dear Friends,

I had the opportunity to meet Bob Lynch, the Director of the non-profit organization Americans for the Arts at the Mayors Conference this past weekend. He is planning to be in Charlotte in the next couple of weeks and I invited him to come down to Waxhaw while he's here to talk about promoting the arts in our community.

Several factors, including the article below, have recently led me to the conclusion that it may be time to begin work on establishing a Waxhaw Arts Council and pursuing efforts to promote the arts in our community. Please let me know if you are interested in getting involved in this effort.

Best,

Daune Gardner, Mayor of Waxhaw

PO Box 6, Waxhaw, NC 28173

704-843-2195 (Town Hall), 704-843-5040 (Business), mayor@waxhaw.com

The exhibitor ([click here](#)) and concessionaire ([click here](#)) applications for Spring Fest 2009 are now available on-line.

NEW: If your organization is a non-profit, you have an opportunity this year to waive your exhibitor and/or concession fee. You can do this by providing two adult volunteers to assist the event staff during Spring Fest. Interested? Contact Cathy Murphy at 704-843-2195 ext 26.

NEW: Non-profits, would you like to help raise funds for your organization at Spring Fest? Why not sponsor an activity in the Children's area. Once your organization has covered the rental fee-the balance can go back to your group.

Interested? Call Cathy at the number above or e-mail her at: events@waxhaw.com

New Trophy Shop, Winning Awards, Opens

We just wanted to introduce ourselves and let you know that we've opened a new trophy shop, Winning Awards, in beautiful downtown Waxhaw. We're located directly across from the veteran's memorial in the former Waxhaw Woman's Club building at 105 E.

North Main Street. We strive to earn Union County's business with beautiful products, timely service and competitive pricing. Can't get to the shop to pick up your order? We'll make arrangements to deliver at no extra charge! Our showroom is jam packed with sample trophies, plaques, gifts and awards. We also make nametags, desk name plates, wall signs ("restroom", "cashier", "office", "please turn off cell phones", etc.) and much more. Come visit us in person and on the web at www.WinningAwards.net. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Parks
704-256-3446
704-256-3447 fax
Info@WinningAwards.net

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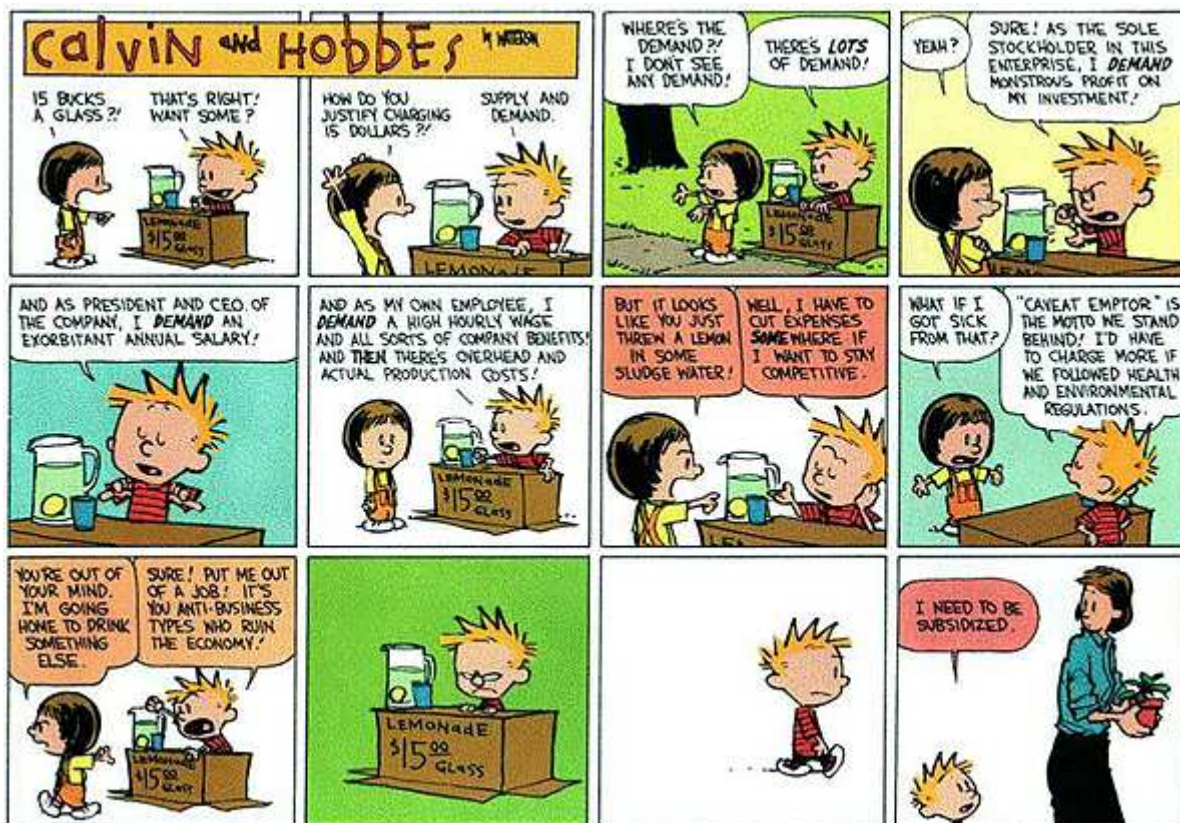
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This is perfect!

Calvin's (of Calvin & Hobbes) explanation of his lemonade stand's business perspective has a resonance to the American Banking & Auto industry's position in the economy.

Remember that this cartoon was drawn over 15 years ago!



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Lance, Inc. Unaffected By Peanut Butter Recall

(Washington, DC) – Representative Sue Myrick (NC-09) has prepared the following speech to be delivered on the House Floor today in support of Lance, Inc., based in Charlotte, NC:

“Madam Speaker –

I rise today to stand behind Lance Inc., a snack food company based in my district.

Lance is the #1 seller of peanut butter crackers in US grocery stores. It operates manufacturing plants in seven states. Lance products can be found in grocery stores, convenience stores, hospitals, schools and vending machines across the country.

Lance products have not been affected by the nationwide peanut butter recall caused by the salmonella outbreak.

Lance self-manufactures 100% of the peanut butter for all of its products, which includes eight varieties of crackers that use peanut butter.

Their manufacturing process is held to the highest standard, and the company regularly tests its products to ensure continued consumer health and safety.

Lance has also been reviewed and OK’ed by the Food Safety Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to ensure utmost quality and safety.

Parents pack Lance crackers in their children’s lunches every day, and everyday countless numbers of people grab a pack of Lance crackers as an on-the-go snack.

This company is a trusted one because it has built its reputation on putting the consumer first.

The safety of Lance has not been compromised by this recall, and I urge consumers to continue to enjoy all of their favorite Lance products.”

For additional information on Lance Inc., its products and safety measures, please visit www.lance.com.

For additional information on the salmonella outbreak and the peanut butter recall, please visit <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyp.html#products>.





Myrick Amendment to Prevent Job Outsourcing Passes in the House

(Washington, DC) – An amendment offered by US Representative Sue Myrick to HR 384, the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) Reform and Accountability Act, that would prevent any company that receives funds as part of the TARP from outsourcing any new customer service or call center jobs to a foreign-based company, passed by voice vote today in the House.

“Given the amount of federal dollars pouring into US companies from the TARP, and given the fact that the US unemployment rate is now above 7%, I don’t think it’s unreasonable to demand that American workers are used to fill any new customer service jobs for the companies who are assisted with American taxpayer dollars,” Rep. Myrick said during a Floor speech in support of the amendment today.

However, Rep. Myrick voted against HR 384 when it came to the Floor for a vote.

“My amendment made this a better bill, but I still had concerns about the terms of the release of the \$350 billion under it,” said Rep. Myrick. “It expanded the uses for TARP funds, which were originally approved in order to free up the credit market. Under this bill, the funds can be used far beyond the original intent of the program.”

H.R. 384 passed in the House by a vote of 260-166.

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And now, Our Weekly Dose of Humor directly from the Internet.....

bits and pieces that your Editor will not testify to for correctness, accuracy nor even believability but they are certainly humorous? So Enjoy!

These will either make you groan, chuckle, have a hearty laugh or all three.

1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. Two silk worms had a race. They ended in a tie.
8. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
9. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
10. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here, I'll go on a-head.'
11. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
12. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
13. A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, 'No change yet.'
14. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
15. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
16. Don't join dangerous cults; practice safe sects.

COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against the upcoming Easter and Passover holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians, Jews and observances of their holy days.

The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days. The case was brought before a judge.

After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood objecting to the ruling saying, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counsel, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fools Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

You gotta love a Judge that knows his scripture!

*"Always do right - This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."
--Mark Twain*

A few good men & One damn good old man!

As I came out of the supermarket that sunny day, pushing my cart of Groceries towards my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and an old lady sitting inside the car, with the door open.

The old man was looking at the engine. I put my groceries away in my car and



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continued to watch the old gentleman from about 25 feet away.

I saw a young man in his early 20's with a grocery bag in his arm, Walking towards the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too and took a few steps towards him. I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something. The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a brand new Cadillac Escalade, and then turn back to the old man and I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying, "Too bad, you shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age." And then with a flip of his hand, he got in his new expensive car and peeled out of the parking lot.

The old gentleman pulled out a handkerchief, wiped his brow as he went back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her and appeared to tell her it would be okay. I had seen enough and I approached the old man. He saw me coming and stood straight. As I got near him I said, "Looks like you're having a problem."

He smiled sheepishly and quietly nodded his head. I looked under the hood myself and knew that whatever the problem was, it was beyond me. Looking around I saw a gas station up the road and told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and went inside and saw 3 attendants working on cars. I approached one of them and related the problem the old man had with his car and offered to pay them if they could follow me back down and help him.

The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us he straightened up and thanked me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine) I spoke with the old gentleman.

When I shook hands with him earlier he had noticed my Marine Corps ring and commented about it. He told me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, "What outfit did you serve with?"

He quietly mentioned he'd served with the 1st Marine Division at Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima and Guadalcanal, and retired from the Corps after the war. I quickly realized he'd hit all the big ones! As we talked we heard engine start and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but I stopped him and insisted I'd put the bill on my AAA card.

He still reached for the wallet anyway, and handed me a card saying if I ever needed help to give him a call. I stuck the card in my pocket without looking at it. We shook hands all round again and I said my goodbye's to his wife.

I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station I told them I'd pay for their help, but they refused any payment. One of them pulled out a card from his pocket which appeared much like the card the old man had given me.

Both of them then told me that they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I really should take a look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would later and drove off.

I'd only gone about 2 blocks when it hit me to look at the card. I pulled over, took the card out of my pocket And looked at it for a long, long time.... A very long time! The name of the old gentleman was on the card in golden leaf and under his name....

Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

I sat there motionless looking at the card Reading those words over and over Thinking of what they meant, what they stood for. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but myself and marveled that on this day, by chance, 4 Marines of different era's had all come together, because one had needed help.

He was an old man all right, but it felt good to have stood next to his greatness and courage, And an honor to have been in his presence. And I also felt great shame for the young man in the new expensive car that had so quickly and rudely blown him off! " Remember, old men like him fought for you, and are responsible for the FREEDOM you enjoy today."

*America is NOT at war. Our U.S. Military is at war.
America is at the Mall.
If you don't stand behind our troops,
PLEASE feel free to stand in front of them!
God Bless America, our Veterans, and our Troops ...
and may God Bless that old man.*

Semper Fi

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