

1/24/05

Greetings All,

I hope everyone is enjoying the political downtime. I'm sure things will start happening in the governor's race before long!

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1. Next Meeting – New Location!

The next meeting of the Johnson County Republicans will be at 7:00pm on Monday, February 7th. The meeting will again be held at 2010 Keokuk, Hawkeye Brokerage, in Iowa City. Driving south from Highway 6, it's just past the K Mart driveway on the left.

2. From Home, For the Holidays

As I noted in the last newsletter, between the election and the end of semester the UI College Republicans focused on gathering comfort items to send to our troops in an activity they called "From Home for the Holidays." The effort was a great success! Here's the message UICR Chair, Kim Fierce, sent to me detailing what they gathered:

We are sending over about 75 shopping bags bursting with supplies and three big boxes filled to the brim. The most often donated items were magazines, soaps, shampoo, and toothbrushes. Other items donated were floss, beef jerky, playing cards, hand sanitizing lotion, baby wipes, sunscreen, lip balm, conditioner, deodorant, shoe sole comforts, lighters, tooth brush covers, toothpaste, eye drops, razors, breathstrips, soap, shave gel, band aids, and so on. It was a total success as we have filled the trunks and backseats of both Joel and Christian's cars (and Christian drives a caddy).

We received monetary donations from Professor Graznya Kochanska, Margaret McDonald, and the UI PRSSA via the Baker Family.

Kinko's of Cedar Rapids donated signs and fliers, Mailboxes of IA City donated boxes, the Burge 2300s donated a plethora of supplies as they took up our effort as an entire residence floor, Comfort Care of Cedar Rapids donated boxes of toothbrushes and floss, and the University of Iowa Student Government publicly endorsed our drive and a lot of their members donated. The supplies will be dropped off at the IA City armory tomorrow afternoon.

Great job and congratulations to the CRs!

3. The Inauguration

A few of our folks had the opportunity to attend the inauguration. I hope that others had a chance to watch some of the festivities on TV. The White House has a webpage devoted to the Inauguration located here:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/inaugural/index.html>

The page contains a link to the President's inaugural speech. Many thought his speech to be a bold statement of his agenda for the next four years. You can read the text of the speech here:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/01/20050120-1.html>

4. A Few Charities

In the last message I mentioned some charities that one could give to, particularly to help the troops in a variety of ways. I'm sure that many of you also gave to one or more of the tsunami relief efforts. Sadly, some tried to take advantage of those who wanted to give and there was some concern about whether the money was going to legitimate charities. You are likely aware that in addition to aid from the government, President Bush has appointed former presidents Bush and Clinton to lead a US volunteer effort. If you haven't had a chance to give yet, you can find out more about this effort at this link:

<http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov>

5. Current IC Board and Commission Vacancies

Here is a list of the current board and commission openings for Iowa City. More information can be found at the link at the bottom of the list.

**CURRENT BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE VACANCIES
AT THE CITY OF IOWA CITY**

AIRPORT ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT - One vacancy to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2006.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION - One vacancy to fill a 4-year term April 4, 2005 - April 6, 2009.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - Three vacancies (One Longfellow district representative) to fill 3-year terms March 29, 2005 - March 29, 2008.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION - One vacancy to fill an unexpired term ending January 1, 2008.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION - Two vacancies to fill 3-year terms March 13, 2005 - March 13, 2008.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 P.M.,
WEDNESDAY, February 23, 2005.**

If you are interested in applying for a vacancy, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 356-5043. Additional information on Boards, Commissions, and Committees is available at: [Boards, Commissions, and Committees](#)

At the above linked page, along the right side under E-Documents, please note the link for Board, Commission, and Committee Applications. There you will find applications for each Board, Commission, and Committee which can be printed and submitted in hardcopy format to the City Clerk.

http://www.iowa-city.org/board_vacancies.asp

6. The Value of Military Service

One of you sent along this article that appeared in the *USA Today*

Military service can open the eyes of country's 'elite'

By Kathryn Roth-Douquet

I recently went to a dinner party attended by Sen. Hillary Clinton. After the meal, an elegant Manhattanite seated beside me asked the senator about a military draft. "Without one," the woman asserted, "they'll never get my educated and talented boys." I'm sure she's right. These days, people of means routinely reject military service.

Until a generation ago, the children of presidents, oilmen and bankers regularly saw service. Franklin Roosevelt, Joseph Kennedy, Prescott Bush--all titans--had sons who served.

Today, 1% of those serving in Congress have a child in the armed forces--an institution that, according to military sociologist Charles Moskos, is bereft of "children of the privileged." That's too bad. The real losers here are the young and privileged adults themselves.

I was, by many measures, a child of privilege, too. I came from a manicured suburb, attended expensive schools--Bryn Mawr, Princeton--and served as an aide in the Clinton White House. I've worked for charitable foundations, a white-glove law firm, and I still raise money for the Democratic Party. From these perches, the military seemed another world.

Life with a Marine

Then I married a Marine Corps officer and came to see the narrowness of the "us-and-them" view of military service. During my husband's six-month deployments--airlifting aid to East Timor, sorting through the fog of war in Baghdad---and from living with military people, I've learned what military service is about. As one who was weaned on the ideologies of the American left, I've been forced to reconsider some assumptions. I've come to believe that, even for the "haves" of society, the military offers much to admire and emulate.

If I could address the country's fortunate young who imagine themselves one day making a difference, this is what I would say: You expect to do well in life. No one you know is in the military. There's a war going on that you think was a mistake or, perhaps, a good idea gone wrong. You think military service is for people without money or skills--not someone like you.

Now, consider this proposition: Joining the military may make you a better person and profoundly inform your entire life. Military service nurtures belief, without irony, in the tenets that founded this country, and a love of country distinct from jingoism. Its every action expresses awe for the noble experiment of liberal democracy.

Servicemembers provide the defense that is a precondition of our pursuit of individual happiness and common good. Service fosters a love of strangers and comrades you hope to keep safe. When this nation, through the voice of its elected leader, asks you to

help protect our freedoms, your role has meaning. Answering the call is not a career move, but an act of the heart.

Now more than ever

As long as there is an impulse to evil in this intertwined world, an impulse to take advantage, enslave, seize power from the weak; as long as our enemies embrace their cult of death; as long as those passions hold sway in whole regions, we need to be vigilant of our security.

Moreover, our military has become an arm of democratic hopes around the world. In the wake of the catastrophic tsunami in South Asia, it is the U.S. military that is providing the most effective relief. America's armed forces build roads and dams in Africa. They conduct diplomacy around the world the way that the State Department, with its tiny budget, simply cannot.

I ask political leaders--few of whom served in the military, many of whom will stand in this week's inaugural salute to the troops--to join me in this plea. Enlisting in the military won't make you richer, fatten your resume or bring the material gains that dazzle society. It may make you better, though. And it will bring you closer to the heart of this country. True, there are some who do wrong in that role. You can be one who does right.

For your service, you will not only develop values and perspective, you will make this country fairer and stronger. Then in your middle age, you can be part of a new elite: a civilian leader who understands the armed forces. No country can prosper when its leaders lack wisdom on national defense. The service you provide later, as a wise leader, may do our country the greatest good.

Kathryn Roth-Douquet is an attorney and a former aide in the Clinton White House who produced presidential events.

7. Remember Vieques

One of you passed this along. It's apparently an email that's been circulating. I didn't check all the facts in it, but it sounds about right.

Subject: Military Base Closures

Remember when Puerto Rico was raising hell about the US Navy using that nothing little island just off the coast of Puerto Rico for bombing practices, which they had used for the past 75 years? Demonstrations were held, Hollywood left wingers, Al Sharpton,

and his fellow demagogues went down there to demonstrate to get the Navy out? I am sure it infuriated you just as it did me at the time.

Wellllllllllllllllll, here is our revenge. Always be careful what you ask for, you just may get it!

One of the many headaches that the U. S. has had was the Puerto Rican Island of Vieques In the waning years of the Clinton Administration, Protesters demanded that the US Navy abandon bombing and naval gun fire exercises that had taken place on the largely uninhabited island for nearly seventy years. Liberal icons bumped into one another to fly to Puerto Rico, boat over to the island, trespass (but never on a day that there was an exercise scheduled) and get arrested for the benefit of the New York Times or Newsweek.

They included (but were not limited to):

Reverend Al Sharpton,
Mrs. Jesse Jackson,
Joan Baez,
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.,
Edward Olmos,
Michael Moore
Ramsey Clark, just to name a few.

In 2002, the bombing exercises were transferred to an Air Force bombing range in central Florida, not far from the Jacksonville and Pensacola Naval Air Stations.

In January, many of the protesters were back in Puerto Rico, celebrating the final bombing exercise on Vieques waved Puerto Rican flags and placards that read :

"US. Navy, get out of Puerto Rico."

The following Feb, Rumsfeld announced that the U.S. Navy will close the Roosevelt Roads Naval Air Station in Puerto Rico in 2004, eliminating 1200 civilian jobs as well as 700 military positions. This naval facility is estimated to have put nearly \$300 million annually into the local economy.

The next day a stunned Governor Sila Calderon, held a news conference in San Juan, protesting the base closure as a serious blow to the Commonwealth's fragile economy. The governor stated that "The people of Puerto Rico don't now or never did have an interest in closing the Vieques bombing range or the Roosevelt Roads naval base. We are interested in both staying in Puerto Rico."

When asked, the Commander-in Chief, Western Atlantic Command, said, "Without Vieques, I see no further need for the facility at Roosevelt Roads. None."

So, Yanqui go home? Fine. But we'll take our dollars with us. Hasta la vista, baby!

On February 21, the Secretary of Defense also announced that starting this year, the U.S. European Command would begin moving most if not all of its active combat and support units from bases in Germany to others being established in Poland, The Czech Republic, Hungary and Turkey to "better position them for rapid deployment to likely hot spots in those parts of the world."

Immediately the business and government leaders in the German states of Hesse, Rhineland and Wurttemberg, protested the loss of nearly \$6 billion in revenue each year from the bases and manpower to be displaced. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry speculated that the move may be "what the Americans call 'payback' for the actions of this government in opposing Military action in Iraq.

"Does anyone know the German translation for "Hasta la vista, baby?"

Oh, ain't it nice to see a government with guts and a good memory. Thank you President Bush for doing the RIGHT THING at the RIGHT TIME.

8. United We Stand

One of you sent this along as well. It's a little old, but still applies:

An excerpt from a Romanian newspaper, 9/24/01:

Subject: Excerpt from a Romanian Newspaper

We rarely get a chance to see another country's editorial about the USA.

Read this excerpt from a Romanian Newspaper. The article was written by Mr. Cornel Nistorescu and published under the title "C"ntarea Americii, meaning "Ode To America" on September 24, 2002, in the Romanian newspaper Evenimentulzilei ("The Daily Event" or "News of the Day").

~An Ode to America~

Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an

astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs. Still, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart.

Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the army, and the secret services that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed out onto the streets nearby to gape about. The Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand.

After the first moments of panic, they raised their flag over the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps and ties in the colors of the national flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a government official or the president was passing.

On every occasion, they started singing their traditional song: "God Bless America"! I watched the live broadcast and rerun after rerun for hours, listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player, who gave his life fighting with the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that could have killed other hundreds or thousands of people.

How on earth were they able to respond united as one human being? Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put in a collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit, which no money can buy.

What on earth can unite the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their galloping history? Their economic power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace.

I thought things over, but I reached only one conclusion...only freedom can work such miracles.

Cornel Nistorescu

Until next time,

Tim Hagle