



The RETIREE RECORD

A NEWS BULLETIN FOR MEMBERS

AFFILIATED WITH APWU POSTAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

PITTSBURGH AREA RETIREE CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION, AFL-CIO

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expendable...adjective...designating men (and women) to be used up,
or sacrificed, in service. {Webster's new word dictionary.]

In 1945 a movie titled, They Were Expendable, was released. The subject matter was about the PT (Patrol Torpedo) boats that were used in WW II which were expected to be sacrificed in combat with the Japanese enemy. Those small boats and their crews were given zero chances of survival. President John Kennedy was the skipper of PT 109. His boat was shot out from under him. He became a hero for rescuing his crew by swimming miles under enemy fire for several days before rescue. Kennedy suffered injuries that bothered him for the rest of his life, shortened as it was.

Fast forward to the present. As this is written over 115,000 Americans have succumbed to the corona virus. By the time a handle on logistics was developed, it became known that seniors, and especially seniors with serious health conditions, meaning most seniors, were at greater risk of death if the virus was contracted. In response to this threat, unprecedented actions were taken by shutting down much of the economy and developing protocols to try to avoid infection. Chief among these were frequent hand washings, avoiding contact by six feet from other persons, wearing masks that cover the **mouth and nose** when around others, and remaining in our homes. By any measurement those actions were having a positive effect. Incidents of infection and death were reducing.

ARE SENIORS EXPENDABLE?

It is clearly understood that the prevention tactics were working. But there was another factor that weighed against them. That factor was the demand to re-open the economy, and that demand was growing very shrill. The impact that doing so might and would have on seniors was obviously considered to be an acceptable sacrifice. After all, are we expendable! The sacrifice of senior's lives for the 'greater good' of the economy is seen as an acceptable trade-off by the majority. It is more than a little chilling, but facts are facts.

WHAT IS LEFT FOR SENIORS?

The virus has no known cure or mitigation. The most favorable projection is that a vaccine may be developed this year and after testing, be available next spring. If that timetable holds, inoculation would follow and take many months for inoculation and protection. Until then, seniors are at greater risk as we have been thus far. What choices do we have to protect ourselves and hopefully survive without infection? First and foremost we must remain in the home as much as possible to avoid any possibility of contact with the virus and infection. We must keep in mind that infection for us is tantamount to a death sentence. Avoidance is our best protection. The other protocols must be fully followed if and when going outside the home can't be avoided. Most doctors can assist by having 'visits' done by telephone or video conferences. We must take every precaution that we can. The role of the expendables!

WHAT ABOUT TRUMP?

According to statistics somewhere around 40% of the populace are die hard Trump supporters, or as he describes them, Trumpers. With a membership of 555, if that percentage is an accurate profile of our membership, @ 220 of our members are Trump supporters.

There is no doubt or reservation that each person, including our members, has the right if not the obligation to support whomever they choose. The purpose of what follows is our attempt to convince that 40% to abandon Trump and get behind the candidacy of Joe Biden in the upcoming election. **Biden has committed to supporting retiree issues. Trump is on record to reduce if not abolish those same issues:**

..... The truth does not abide in Trump. A cottage industry has sprung up counting the Trump lies, which are in their thousands. You can tell when he is telling a lie - it is when his lips are moving! Many of us in our tender years were admonished by adults to always tell the truth, no matter what that truth may be. We were taught that any lie is much worse than any truth, no matter what the subject matter may be. Trump does not adhere to that mantra. For seniors, his lies to protect our retirement, Social Security, and hospitalization, cannot be trusted. These are our bread and butter issues that we depend on to make our retirement comfortable. Read his budget proposals, not his doublespeak.

..... Recently **The Congress, not Trump**, passed legislation to supplement us with checks from the Treasury. Trump had the audacity to hold up those funds until he could get his name on the checks, falsely claiming it was he that was responsible for the payments. Outrageous!

..... The latest affront to our well being was Trump's appointment of a sycophant replacement Postmaster General who he can control. Trump is on the record opposing badly needed financial relief to offset deficits caused by the corona virus shutdown while demanding huge rate increases that would cripple the Post Office. According to APWU President Mark Dimondstein, that act would destroy the public Post Office. The next move would be privatization and the loss of our financial protection and the loss of workers collective bargaining. Trump longs for a return to the days of collective begging that we defeated by the Great Post Office Strike of 1970. It is widely believed that Trump's goal is to destroy the universal Post Office to prevent vote-by-mail in the election later this year.

..... If Trump is reelected our life style will be drastically changed. Most retirees lean heavily on Medicare as it now exists and supplemental medi-gap coverage through the FEHBA. Trump is in court as this is written seeking to eliminate ObamaCare including coverage for pre-existing conditions. Normally, as we age, it can be expected to be leaning heavily on our health care coverage. Adding issues caused by the corona virus complicates the situation. Trump ignores the virus while coming after us to reduce coverage.

We owe it to our families, as well as ourselves, to protect our retirement income and health care coverage as we know it, seeking improvements where needed and justified. Trump, if re-elected, will destroy us. Biden, if elected will save us. The choice is crystal clear, totally unambiguous. We urge your consideration and action. Later regrets count for nothing.

SHUT-IN LIST ~ Robert Gesk, Norbert Conway, Jeanne McCarthy, and Veronica Bujdos are on the shut-in list. Please keep a good thought for our shut-ins. There but for the grace of God.... (To be included on the shut-in list, call the Chapter at 724 947 9374.)

MAY BE PASSED AROUND/DUPLICATED