



ATTACK ON AMERICA



I suppose that everything that can be said about the September 11th attack has already been said, not once, but many times. As one who was 23 years old and already in the service, I clearly recall the emotions felt on the morning of December 7, 1941. Everyone was in a state of shock, grief and most of all anger at what happened at far off Pearl Harbor. However, the country was already on a wartime footing. Most of us realized that in all likelihood our country would eventually be drawn into armed conflicts with the forces of evil in Europe and the Far East. Pearl Harbor merely established the date. What happened on September 11th was in many ways more of a shock than that felt in 1941. Although violence in the Middle East has been in the news for some time, somehow or other the feeling was strong that it could not be exported to our own land. We were terribly wrong, hence the emotions



on that day were felt even more strongly than in 1941.

On December 23, 1776 a famous American patriot spoke out in the cause of freedom from foreign domination. His name was Thomas Paine, and he published an article called "COMMON SENSE" on that date. His thoughts helped rally the people to the defense of their country, and much that he wrote rings true in the challenge we face today. I have repeated a few small segments of his essay, for your reflection.

THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its' value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price on its' goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDON should not be highly rated.

....I have as little superstition in me as any man living, but my secret opinion has ever been , and still is, that God Almighty will not give up a people to military destruction, or leave them to unsupportedly perish, who have so earnestly and so repeatedly sought to avoid the calamities of war, by every decent method which wisdom could invent. Neither have I so much of the infedel in me, as to suppose that he has relinquished the government of the world, and given us up to the care of devils; and as I do not, I cannot see on what grounds they can look up to high heaven for help against us: a common murderer, a highwayman, or a house-breaker has as good a pretense as he.

....My own line of reasoning is to myself as straight and clear as a ray of light. Not all the treasures of the world, so far as I believe, could have induced me to support an offensive war, for I think it murder; but if a thief breaks into my house, burns and destroys my property, and kills or threatens to kill me, or those who are in it, am I to suffer it? What signifies it to me, whether he is a king or a common man; my countryman or not my countryman; whether it is done by an individual villian or an army of them? If we reason to the root of things we shall find no difference; neither can any just cause be assigned why we should punish in one case and pardon in the other....

...I thank God that I fear not. I see no cause for fear. I know our situation well, and can see our way out of it...

When this country declared war on the Axis Powers in 1941 we faced up to large military forces manned by well equipped soldiers totally dedicated to their leadership and a vast industrial complex mobilized to supply them with the weapons needed to replace those lost in battle. In addition, the enemy heads of state had succeeded in capturing the minds of the general population to the degree that they supported wholeheartedly the evil goals and policies established by their leaders. In 1941 this country was poorly prepared to face up to this challenge. Although lacking in military prowess, the country rallied to the challenge. Whatever opposition to war there was evaporated on the morning of December 7th, and the people set out to do whatever was needed to meet the challenge.

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Catch the News

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Today we face another challenge to our way of life. The enemy controls only a small and ill-equipped military force. They operate from a country whose leadership is supportive but commands only marginal support from a population suffering from famine and untold hardships. Literally millions have fled their homes for refuge in neighboring lands, where they live in refugee camps with little to sustain them. There exists in the country active forces of opposition that control a portion of the land and seek the overthrow of the present leaders. Although supported, to some degree, by a few other countries and ideologies, this new enemy stands mostly alone from an outraged world. He has virtually no industrial capacity to support his objectives. His only real weapon is a group of individuals who are eager to sacrifice their lives for a cause they are totally committed to, and will gladly continue the to carry out acts like those of the September 11th attack. Surely we can overcome this threat to our country, providing we are unified and dedicated to do so. Unfortunately, however, the defeat of the prime enemy individual will not conclude the hostilities. After he has been disposed of there are others of like mind that will attempt to continue the policies he has initiated. Therefore, we must persevere until we have destroyed all who threaten the world with their evil acts.

As Thomas Paine so aptly said, 225 years ago *"I thank God that I fear not. I see no cause for fear. I know our situation well, and can see our way out of it."*

Travel news

Francie was on the go again, and we took her to the airport on the 21st for a flight to Tulsa. She attended another trade show, and returned safely. She reported that the airline security was much improved. She said that the pilot personally looked over each passenger prior to taking off. All the passengers were impressed by the actions of the flight crew.

We mentioned in the last RFNL that we would have pictures of Francie's trip to Kuala Lumpur, and here they are. The first one is the visual aid projection on the screen of the presentation room and you may or may not be able to make out her name as the star of the show. The second picture shows her with two of the models she used for her demonstration of how to use *ISO* products. After the show

she was interviewed by some of the newspaper reporters covering the show. All in all it was a great trip, and she was told that they would like to have her come back again for the next show. She says that she is ready any time they are.



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Birthday calendar for October

Edward Riel	October 3	53
Katy Riel	October 6	16
Scott Hartman	October 15	16

Birthday celebrations

Chris and Nathan celebrated their 20th birthdays, and we started with lunch at Black Angus on Friars road. From there we headed for Admiral Baker Golf Course, where we enjoyed a round on the South Course.



JJ Riel was another kid who celebrated a birthday, his 11th. Liz joined us for lunch, and JJ chose Sizzlers, so you will know that he takes after Grandpa Riel. After lunch we took in the movie "Rat Race", which was enjoyed by all. Afterwards we took Liz and JJ home, and he showed off his electric train set, which was pretty impressive, as shown in the following photo.



Finally, Richard celebrated his 54 birthday on Saturday evening, the 29th of September. We decided to have dinner at O'Nami's seafood buffet, but the wait was 45 minutes. Then we tried Seau's - same problem. So we went to King's

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Seafood restaurant, between Mission and Fashion Valley shopping centers. There was a long wait there too, so we gave up and headed out to our favorite, the Happy Chef Greek restaurant. We were seated immediately, had excellent service and great food. Thus, it turned out OK after a lot of driving around looking for parking places.

So, we have a great big HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR Chris, Nathan, JJ, and Richard.



Sick call

Some time ago we got word from Jan that Nathan had been injured while at the beach. It seems that a strange kid hit Nathan and broke his jaw. We have no other details, but we know that his jaw was wired shut and a metal plate inserted. He was on a liquid diet for some time, but recently the wiring has been removed and he is back to normal.

David Gillingham will be having a minor surgical procedure to correct a heart problem. The operation will be done with catheters, hence no incisions are required. The success rate for this procedure is extremely high, and no complications are expected. We will report later on how it turned out.

We had a call recently from Michael Merica, and he informed us that his mother Isa was operated on recently for cancer of the vocal cords. Michael had just recently returned from Athens, where the surgery was performed. He told us that Isa is recovering nicely, but no longer can speak. Also, she had a tube in the throat, which is uncomfortable. Michael said that the cancer had not spread, and he thinks that she will recover OK, but will not be able to talk. We certainly wish her a speedy recovery and no further trouble.

Grandma's brother dies

It is with much sadness that we must announce the passing of Michael Merica, Grandma's older brother. We received a telephone call on Sunday, the 6th of October, from his wife,



Moreg. She told us that he became ill about two weeks ago, and suddenly became much worse thereafter, and passed away on Thursday, the 4th. He was 89 years old, and apparently died from natural causes. You may recall that Margaret and family have visited the Mericas on two occasions, and Grandma and Grandpa were there years ago, when they toured Europe. We extend to the entire family our deepest sympathies on this loss.

Update on 1875 sale progress

Thus far we have had several people visit our house, but up until recently none showed any interest. We did have one person who expressed considerable interest, and agreed to return the following week with his wife, for another look.



We have expected them on the 7th of October, and Margaret kindly provided us with some additional flowers and flowering plants. Unfortunately, they cancelled their visit at the last minute, and we don't know if they will reschedule or not. Birdy helped with the flowers, and they made the house look great. No matter what happens, we really appreciated the things Margaret and Birdy have done for the cause. We know that sooner or later something will happen, and we thank them for their help.