

SCRIBE II CLASS OF '58

*. . . a curated collection of hearsay, news and sometimes
opinions in our own private space.*



From SCRIBE II . . .

I suppose I should be writing about Covid-19. But you know, everyone talks about it while giving us the latest creepy statistics. Although it is a terrible epidemic taking a thousand lives each day, it is easy to get tired of hearing about it. What should not tire us out though is taking the necessary precautions to avoid becoming its victim. Especially at the age

San Hamel each one of us is currently enjoying. It would be a damn shame to have come this far -- surviving Vietnam, rotten whiskey, dangerous saloons . . . did I mention wild women? -- to go out with this dangerous virus. Not the way to exit. So stay safe!

In that regard, I have given a lot of thought as to whether we should stage the 2020 Fat Pants/Terry Leahy Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Erie Cafe this year. I have concluded that given all the warnings about avoiding exposure to Covid-19 and the increase in cases resulting from the arrival of winter weather, we should postpone the event for one year. We are better off being safe. No one wants to be sorry. If this epidemic ever starts to break, maybe we could make up for it with a Spring lunch.

If anyone out there has a different opinion, please let me know. I don't think we should put this up to a vote, because common sense calls for a hiatus. Let me know your thoughts.

Veterans Day . . .

Thanks to our classmates who have served and to all our Veterans for the sacrifices they, along with their families, have made. Our Vietnam Veterans have taught us that no matter what our positions may be on policy, as Americans and patriots we must support all of our soldiers with our thoughts and our prayers. The American soldier does not fight because he

hates who is in front of him; he fights because he loves who is behind him . .
. God bless them all for protecting us.

Through the years I've collected some military bravado that doesn't always ring true, but does at times resemble reality. Acknowledging there is nothing amusing about war, these short sayings can be fun to read:

- 101st Airborne Division - "When it comes to Combat, we care enough to send the very best"

- "When in doubt, empty the magazine"
- "Sniper – You can run, but you'll just die tired!"
- "Machine Gunners – Accuracy By Volume"
- "Except for ending slavery, fascism, Nazism and communism, WAR has never solved anything"
- " U.S. Marines – Certified Counselors to the 72 Virgins Dating Club"
- " U.S. Air Force – Travel Agents To Allah"
- "The Marine Corps – When It Absolutely, Positively Has To Be

Destroyed Overnight"

- "Death Smiles At Everyone – Marines Smile Back"

- "What Do I Feel When I Kill A Terrorist? A Little Recoil"

- "Marines – Providing Enemies of America an Opportunity To Die For their Country Since 1775"



November 11, 2020

- "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Anyone Who Threatens It"
- "Happiness Is A Belt-Fed Weapon"
- "It's God's Job to Forgive Bin Laden – It was Our Job To Arrange The Meeting" (Gen H. Norman Schwarzkopf)
- "Artillery Brings Dignity to What Would Otherwise Be Just A Vulgar Brawl"
- "One Shot, Twelve Kills – U.S. Naval Gun Fire Support "
- "My Kid Fought In Iraq So Your Kid Can Party In College and Protest"
- "A Dead Enemy Is A Peaceful Enemy – Blessed Be The Peacemakers"
- "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. The US Marines don't have that problem."

I happened to come across an essay recently that was written by Eden Alford, a 10th grade student at Carl Junction High School, Carl Junction, MO., near Joplin. He deservedly took First Place in the school's Veterans Day

essay contest. I thought it appropriate to reprint his answer to "Why Is Veterans Day Important?"

"The armed forces are often portrayed by Hollywood as glorious, happy and proud. This portrayal may be true at some times in a soldier's life, but serving is so much more than that. These members face grueling tasks in order to serve their country. Required boot camps range from eight to 12 weeks separated from those they love. During this time aspiring members are woken up at five in the morning by Reveille — a song that they will remember for the rest of their lives — to do grueling work and training. They are required to time multiple mile runs through the heat without breaks. They are required to work their abdominal muscles to failure time and time again without complaint. They are required to do timed **pushups** and failing is not an option. The work that is done post-bootcamp depends on the branch, but every branch is far from easy work. Those who have not served can't pretend to understand the dedication and drive that it takes in order to serve in the armed forces. What we can do is show gratitude."

"One hot summer day when I was with my mom we were strolling into Walmart to pick up our weekly groceries when we saw a man with a Korean War hat. She shook his hand and said the common, "Thank you for your service." In response the man with the gravelly and shaky but kind voice responded, "You're worth it." This always resonated with me. These people don't serve so that their hands are shaken at Walmart or so they get discounts at clothing stores and restaurants. They don't even serve just to prove they have what it takes. They serve because they want the opportunities they had to be there for their kids, their grandchildren and the rest of society."

"The best form of gratitude we can give those who serve is simply being worth it. This means making something out of ourselves. Go to college. Go to trade school. Join the Army. Do something, because if we don't make ourselves into productive members of society we're letting down those who have risked everything for us. Freedom and opportunity aren't free. Unless you've served in the Army, Navy, National Guard, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force or Coast Guard, you did nothing to earn your opportunity and freedom. We didn't have to do anything to earn it because there are people who were willing to fight this battle for us. There are people from other countries who move here chasing the American Dream. In this way the vast majority of people in this room were born lucky. Let's use this luck and opportunity we were given and shape ourselves into people who have something to be proud of. Because in reality, many of those who fought to give us this freedom never made it home. We owe it to those who serve, have served, and died serving to not let their work be in vain."

Great thoughts Eden!

Name Dropping . . .

"Dear Bill, I just read the Scribe II (as I was checking **John's** email) and want to thank you for the wonderful tribute to John that you included in the newsletter....which I also forwarded to our sons. I really enjoyed your "enhancements" to the obituary with memories of his time at LA as well as those from **Mike Kreuzer**. I'll be sending him a note as well.

John commented to me after his return home that day about the declining numbers of those attending the luncheon. We both lamented the loss of friends as we grow older but did not suspect that his time with us was coming to an end so quickly. It is a comfort to our family that he is remembered and celebrated by his long time friends. It was also very consoling to see such a nice representation of his Loyola Academy classmates at the funeral Mass. You are an exceptional group and he so enjoyed your annual luncheons.

With gratitude,

Carol Rappel

"Bill, Thanks for taking the time to write and send the newsletter. You certainly have a talent & I appreciate your using it for our enjoyment.

Mary & I became permanent residents of Florida in October 2019. No more Illinois taxes for us. We live in a golf community in Fort Myers that allows me to use my golf club to dig holes in the turf. I am kept busy filling the ponds with golf balls about 4 times a week and volunteering at the Bonita Lions Eye Clinic. I shed my tasks as managing Partner of Porte Brown and am now elevated to bookkeeper status at the Clinic.

I am sad to hear about **John Rappel**. He and I spent Freshman year next to each other and shared our knowledge during some tests.

Hopefully, we will be in Illinois when you have the next luncheon and Mary does not make other plans that day. We were out for dinner 14 days in a row last December. (Mary has lots of friends). Our son really enjoyed the leftovers."

Tom Porte (847) 727-0340

Bill Weinsheimer relayed an email he received: "Hi Bill Thanks for this update. Hard to lose good men from our famous crew! I arranged for us to offer our Jesuit community Mass for **John** tomorrow morning. Prayers for us all these days as we move into 2020! And a big hello to **Roberta** and your clan! We live in hope!" ... **Larry Reuter** lreuter13@gmail.com

"Sad, very sad. John just sat down on the sidewalk, rolled over and died --with his wife Carol at his side. We had a long talk at reunion and after as we drove home together. Everything was good. No answer. I don't think "the Lord" gives a shit." **Dennis Gates** dennlo@aol.com

"Hi Bill ... You have now gone 1st class -- thanks for your Scribe II report -- complete with those great photos. I really miss our reunions. Greetings from Wauwatosa!" . . . **Larry Reuter**

"Best one yet! Thanks for the laughs. Talk to you this coming week — don't drown in sanitizer." **Dick Martin**

"Bill, My wife and i visited **Mike Kreuzer** and his wife, **Mary**, last week in their new home in Columbus, Mississippi. They relocated about a year ago from Connecticut. Mike is doing well as is Mary. They both have become involved in the community and in the Catholic parish. Mike asked me to tell you that he has not been receiving your newsletters for a while and asked me to ask you to check the address you have for him. His e-mail address is mike.kreuzer@yahoo.com. Thank you for checking. Also, thanks for writing the newsletter. They are always a pleasure to receive." **Les Galo**

"Thanks for the update. Still kicking in Eau Claire." **John Layde**

"This is quite an epistle. It is great to believe all was done as relayed. Great job writing this up. You are the Scribe!" **Jim Black**

"Sometimes I stare at my wife when she isn't looking and I think to myself . . . Wow! . . . She is one lucky lady. **Unknown**

Seniors' Cocktail Lounge . . .

An elderly gentleman walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. He is in his mid-eighties, very well-dressed, hair well-groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel and smelling slightly of an expensive after shave. He presents a very nice image. Seated at the bar is a classy looking lady in her mid-seventies.

The sharp old gentleman walks over and sits alongside her. He orders a drink and takes a sip. He slowly turns to the lady and says: "So, tell me... do I come here often?"

The Second Amendment . . .

You may have heard on the news about a Southern California man who was put under 72-hour psychiatric observation when it was found he owned 100 guns and allegedly had 100,000 rounds of ammunition stored in his home. The house also featured a secret escape tunnel. By Southern California standards, someone owning 100,000 rounds is considered "mentally unstable."

BUT . . . in Arizona, he'd be called "an avid gun collector."
In Arkansas, he'd be called "a novice gun collector."
In Utah, he'd be called "moderately well prepared," but they'd probably reserve judgment until they made sure that he had a corresponding quantity of stored food."
In Michigan, he'd be called "just one of the guys touring the state Capitol hoping to bump into the governor."
In Kansas, he'd be "A guy down the road you would want to have for a friend."
In Montana, he'd be called "The neighborhood 'Go-To' guy."
In Idaho, he'd be called "a likely gubernatorial candidate."
In Georgia, he'd be called "an eligible bachelor."
In Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia, WV, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Minnesota he would be called "a deer hunting buddy."
AND OF COURSE, in Texas he'd just be "Bubba; who's a little short on Ammo."

***In this time of crisis, and as always,
God bless our LA brothers all.***

'58 IS FIRST CLASS

