

This week we observe Veterans' Day on November 11, honoring all who served in the U.S. armed forces. It commemorates the end of the first World War, which ended hostilities on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, when the armistice with Germany went into effect.

Do our young people know about World War I or II, the Korean War, or wars before that? Are they taught to honor and appreciate what so many have sacrificed in order to serve our country and preserve our way of life for their children and grandchildren?



Some of us might know a little more about the Viet Nam War and the two Gulf wars, since many of those veterans are still living among us and can speak for themselves.

All I have to say to them is THANK YOU. Thank you for postponing or interrupting your lives to give some of your years to all of us, often your best years.

Recently on YouTube I have run into many stories of World War II, usually just narration with still pictures, some actual photos, some created by AI (Rats!) And of course, since I have listened to several of them, YouTube puts them right in front of me every chance it gets. I'm not sorry that they do that, because these stories are educational, eye-opening, and just plain inspirational and interesting.

"The Duck", built by General Motors, that could sail on water and run on land.

Several stories have been about American ingenuity in producing fighter aircraft, trucks that swim, and ships equipped with brilliant technology for the times, designed to (successfully) clear the Atlantic Ocean of German U-boats that had been wreaking Hearne, Texas. When the prisoners came to havoc on trans-Atlantic shipping.

"Let us hold fast the

confession of our hope

Most of the stories I've listened to focus on German prisoners of war (plus some Japanese and Italians) held in this country - well over 400,000! Did you know that? I sure didn't!



According to these stories, the U.S. operated by a script that dictated adherence to the Geneva Conventions requiring certain humane protocols in the treatment of POWs. In addition, the soldiers from Germany, Italy, and Japan had been taught lies about American capabilities and intentions toward the prisoners. They were brought here expecting the worst - very little food. bare minimum accommodations, cruelty and abuse from their captors.



Instead, wanting to counter the false narrative, the Americans decided a better approach would be consideration and kindness. This reduced the number of escapes, and helped to reeducate the prisoners out of the false image they'd been given by their totalitarian regimes. Our intention was to open their minds to the benefits of the American spirit of freedom and the economic system of capitalism.

When the prisoners were shipped across country to Texas, they travelled in Pullman cars with comfortable seats and good food. They were allowed to drink in the sights along the way - acres and acres of farmland producing bountiful food; huge factories building war-related products and other items; parking lots filled with the automobiles of the workers and many more indicators of American prosperity. No one was starved or beaten.

One of the largest POW camps was Fort the camp, they were housed in comfortable barracks, fed good food, and as time went on, they were allowed to work in the fields nearby, organize themselves, learn English and more. Residents of nearby towns hosted them for church services and brought them gifts and goodies for Christmas.



The work they did earned them the same wages as the American soldiers, which they could spend at the canteen in the camp.

Altogether, listening to these stories has been a shock as I realized how far we have fallen since those times. I grew up in the 50s, about a decade after all of this, and our American way of life and spirit were much the same. We were free to choose and live our lives; government had not yet tightened the screws on all of us with thousands of regulations defining our boundaries as businesses and in our private lives.

Mostly I realized that the United States of my parents, illustrated so well by these stories, was the United State those soldiers fought and died for, and most in the military today probably serve those same values, which are under severe attack now.

The turning point came in the 60s and 70s with the Hippie revolution, the spread of drugs and free sex, and then the Roe vs. Wade decision to legalize abortion on demand. This nation became overrun with leftists, even communists, who burrowed into our institutions and managed to turn our minds and hearts away from God and from the U.S. as founded in a covenant with Him.

Thank you, veterans, for contributing so much of your lives for the true United States. We are now living in a faint reflection of that wonderful country. Let us continue to do what we can to beat back the forces of evil that are robbing our children of what this country once was. God help us, please! Linda Gommel



Monday, November 24th 5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge

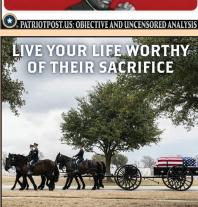
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road. LVEDA provides an important community forum recognized by County, State,

and Local Representatives. Supports real economic development consistent with our rural goals. Opposes projects that harm our land-use integrity and quality of life.

Is something bugging you? **COME TO THE NEXT MEETING TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!**

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web





"THERE IS NO GREATER

INDICTMENT OF JUDGES

THAN THE FACT THAT

HONEST PEOPLE ARE AFRAID

TO GO INTO COURT, WHILE

CRIMINALS SWAGGER OUT

ITS REVOLVING DOORS.

SOWELL

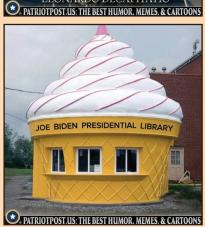
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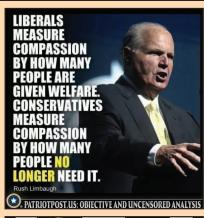
















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