

HTI October 2018 Monthly Update

High Twelve International, Inc.

Fri 10/12/2018 4:04 PM

To: Kevin <secretary@high12.org>;

Fall is almost here! Now is the time to bring a friend to the High Twelve meeting, so they can see why you belong! **Think membership!**



High Twelve International, Inc. Monthly Update October 2018

Monthly Update is published monthly by High Twelve International, Inc. at 743 Palma Drive, Lady Lake, FL, 32159. Telephone numbers **(352) 753-3505 or (352) 817-0707**. This publication is devoted to the interests of the Wolcott Foundation, Inc., High Twelve International, Inc., and its member Clubs for the benefit of Freemasonry and affiliated orders. Contributions of interesting, appropriate editorial matters are welcome. High Twelvians are invited to submit such material for publication. **Submit all articles by e-mail. Articles should be received by the deadline date of the 20th day of each month.**

Updates will be sent out the last of the month. Depending on the volume of articles, they may be carried over to a later date by the Editor. Articles must be sent to the Editor and not called in. **Mervyn J. Harris, PIP**, 352-753-3505 or 352-817-0707, Email address: update-editor@high12.org

Congratulations to our members and ladies, celebrating their Birthday, Anniversary or other Special Event in October. Don't forget to make a contribution to the Wolcott Foundation, celebrating your happy event or occasion! Some members donate \$1.00 or more for every year they have

been married. Seems like a very nice gesture on their part and a great tribute to a Happy Marriage with that Special Person!



The Navy Turns 243

A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace. - Theodore Roosevelt

I can imagine no more rewarding a career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.' - John F. Kennedy

October 13 marks the birthday of the U.S. Navy, which traces its roots back to the early days of the American Revolution. On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress established a naval force, hoping that a small fleet of privateers could attack British commerce and offset British sea power.

The early Continental navy was designed to work with privateers to wage tactical raids against the transports that supplied British forces in North America. To accomplish this mission the Continental Congress purchased, converted, and constructed a fleet of small ships -- frigates, brigs, sloops, and schooners. These navy ships sailed independently or in pairs, hunting British commerce ships and transports.

Two years after the end of the war, the money-poor Congress sold off the last ship of the Continental navy, the frigate Alliance. But with the expansion of trade and shipping in the 1790s, the possibility of attacks of European powers and pirates increased, and in March 1794 Congress responded by calling for the construction of a half-dozen frigates. The United States Navy was here to stay.

With thousands of ships and aircraft serving worldwide, the U.S. Navy is a force to be reckoned with.

Important Firsts in Naval History:

- First use of [submarines](#): While the Navy's first commissioned designs for a submarine were handed over in 1875, it wasn't until 1898 that the first Holland submarine launched successfully.
- First use of [modern battleships](#): While America had battleships before the 1908 South Carolina class dreadnought, which started with the USS Michigan and was based on British ships; these were the first in the new era of battleships.
- First use of [naval aircraft](#): In 1911, the U.S. Navy bought its first airplane, the Curtiss A-1 Triad.

- First [aircraft carrier](#): The first flight from the deck of a U.S. Navy cruiser in 1910 led to the 1927 Lexington-class aircraft carriers, the first operational aircraft carriers in the U.S. Navy.
- First use of [Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat](#): Introduced in 1992, these rubber boats were originally meant for life boats in the 1960s, but the Navy now uses them for SEALs due to their lightweight, high speed, all-weather specifications.

International President: Joseph Santisteban, PSP (IL)



Greetings High Twelvians, Brethren and ladies. I had the opportunity to attend the Indiana High Twelve Association in Compass Park, IN in Sep and install the new officers. Always nice to see Brethren, and their ladies, that I hadn't seen in a while, and meet new ones as well. While there, I was asked if any member can attend a State convention. My answer was Absolutely, including guests. You just need to make sure you register. All the information is usually posted on our Website under Events. Many of you have already noticed that more

information is appearing on our web page.

Please remember to submit articles for our monthly newsletters and High Twelvian magazine. Our editor always encourages the membership to submit photos with the articles as well. They often tell a story by themselves. Besides our Website, this is a good way to let people know who High Twelve is and what we do. We are an active body of Freemasonry that we need to sell to non-members and the uninformed.

According to reputable feedback, it seems that I've created a monster. My idea for the new banner was for the elected officers to use during their visits. One was displayed in Indiana and another one at the Arizona Convention. I did not intend them to go world-wide, but it seems the membership has other ideas. After some requests, and a few discussions, the original banner has been modified and is now available for Associations and Clubs. You DO NOT have to get a new banner. Samples are on our Website under the Everyone tab.

Also, if you haven't joined our High Twelve International 100K Endowment Fund, please consider it. As I mentioned in the last monthly update, this fund helps ensure financial stability for High Twelve for years to come. It also benefits the membership. A numbered certificate and a special lapel pin (for individuals) are awarded to the member, club, or association for their donation. All the information is on our Website under Everyone – 100K Endowment Fund.

I attended the Ohio High Twelve Association Convention at the Masonic Home in Springfield, Ohio and had a typically great time. Mike Haxton, 3rd International Vice President, and I assisted in the installation of the new state officers. We were also joined by Mark Nokes, International Treasurer and IL State President. We enjoyed a good meal and fellowship. You should have been there; a good time was had by all attendees. I even got to take a doggy box home for my dinner the following day. More importantly, I also came back with a couple of new ideas!

By the time you read this newsletter, the Illinois Grand Lodge Annual Communication and the Annual Convention in Colorado should be over. I plan on attending the NCA Convention in Iowa later in October. We will have our banner on display at all these locations. Please check our Website for upcoming events. I will try to make myself available to visit as invited, depending on my calendar. I always look forward to seeing many of you during my travels. Until next time -- stay safe, have fun, and watch out for each other!

The deadline for the FALL Edition of your High Twelvian Magazine will be 10/15/18.

International 1st Vice President: Jonathan Dilley, PSP (CA)



September was a busy month for High Twelve International and if you haven't heard already, we have new High Twelve International Banners that are extremely convenient for travel and look great and are also available for the State Associations and Clubs! I wasn't sure how they would do on an airplane since they are just a bit too big to carry on. So, I checked it with my other bags and surprisingly it came out on the other end in one piece. As a result, it can now be said that the banners are battle tested!

Speaking of travel, I had the pleasure of attending the Arizona State Convention along with several other International Officers. We had a great time, a great lunch where masonic youth were honored and spoke of their gratitude to Masons for all that they do. The meeting was also very productive, running smoothly and I was honored to be the Installing Officer for their Installation Ceremony with our International 3rd Vice President who served as the Installing Marshall and our International Treasurer who served as Installing Chaplain and Kevin who served double duty for the State of Arizona and for International as Secretary.



I am looking forward to Colorado on October 12th and Florida on November 30th as I continue to visit my Brethren of High Twelve and meet with those who have not had the opportunity to make it to our Mid-Year Convention and/or our Annual Conventions in the past to inspire them to get involved and remain excited about who and what we are as High Twelvians!

I am so grateful for all the support that I have felt and have received. Every Brother plays

a key role in the success of our fraternity! Let's each try to learn a little bit more about our fellow Brethren and let's all lift one another in all that we do.

Fraternally, Jonathan Dilley

International 2nd Vice President: Jerry Hamilton, PSP, (PA)



Edward H. Fowler, Jr., 86, of Belle Vernon, passed away Friday, September 28, 2018 in Jefferson Regional Medical Center, Pittsburgh. A son of the late Edward H. and Lauretta Huy Fowler, he was born in Venice, California on June 28, 1932. Formerly of Belleview, Ed, along with his late wife, Lois, had resided in Belle Vernon Pennsylvania for four decades, and, for the past year, was a resident of the Masonic Home in Sewickley.

He served in the United States Navy, having served two years on board the USS Dennis J Buckley DDR 808. He retired in 1991 from Alcoa as the Manager of Property, Sales and Excise Tax division, having had responsibility for the real estate tax assessments for Alcoa's many real estate holdings throughout the United States and abroad. Having received many professional designations and certifications, Ed was a founding member and Past President of the Institute of Professionals and Taxation and an Associate Member of the Tax Executives Institute.

He was Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania 1992-93, a High Twelvian at Swickley Club and may best be remembers as the Provincial Grand Master of the royal Order of Scotland 1997-2014.



When called upon at any of the numerous Masonic organizations he headed he would always conclude his remarks by reciting verses from this poem:

*Did you win the day or lose it? Was it well or poorly spent?
Did you leave a trail of Kindness? Or one of discontent?
When you close your eyes in slumber on this day that is almost done?
Can you pray God gives you one more tomorrow
For the good that you have done.*

May the Great Architect greatly reward you Brother Ed.

International 3rd Vice President: Mike Haxton, PSP (KS)



Well, it's 9:30 am – I think. I have been in 4 time zones since September 21st, so I'm having a bit of an argument with my body as to exactly what time it is.

Today is October 4th, and I am actually home for a few days. I got to meet the Arizona High Twelvians on September 21st, and 5 days later, the Ohio guys in Springfield Ohio. That was my 3rd Springfield in 4 weeks. In both cases airlines from Kansas City do not fly there for anything resembling a reasonable price, so I loaded up the trusty Prius and drove; and had a ball.

Meeting you all and learning from you is the main reason that I ran for the progressive line in High Twelve. I have taken many things back home, ideas being your number one

export. And maybe a shot glass or two.

Next Monday Lady Becky and I are off to Colorado for the State Annual Convention, and the next weekend the MCA in Sioux City (I have had Willy Nelson's version of Sioux City Sue as an ear-worm for a couple of weeks). Then we get a break until Florida.

I took a detour on the way home from Springfield. I have a cousin north of Indianapolis. I spent the night with her family, and as I was getting in to my trunk I got attacked by their rooster. Good thing I was wearing jeans. He took great exception to me being in his yard.

Please, please post your State and Regional meetings on the High Twelve Website! That is how your International Officers know where to be and when to be there. I will be seeing you – on the road. Fraternally, Mike

It is amazing how much can be accomplished when nobody cares who gets the credit.

International Secretary: Kevin Hokerk-Robinson, PSP (AZ)



Besides the numerous reminders about the High Twelvian Publication here are a few other items of interest:

- It was great to have 3 international officers at the 43rd Annual Convention of the AZ Association of High Twelve Clubs, Inc., of which I am State Secretary. Our 1st International VP, Jonathan Dilley had a few pictures in his article and will post a few more.
- Did you know that the western actor/singer Roy Rogers was a charter member of Yuba-Sutter Club #203? In looking at the clubs history file the last mention of him was in 1980, but he lived until 7/6/98 at age 86.
- The Red Buttons Club #755 was named after the actor/comedian Red Buttons although he was never a Mason. The charter President was Adam Buttons, his son - what a tribute.
- And of course Ernest Borgnine.
- Reminder to to all EIN Contacts - has your club or association fiscal tax year ended? If so, you need to file the 990-N ePostcard now! It only takes a few minutes and if you need directions click the Link on the Home Page bottom right.
- The email addresses of *some* officer's have changed! The secretary email has not changed. This was necessitated by moving off a 20+ year old mail process into the 21st century using Outlook! If you use the old format HTI-... they will still be forwarded correctly to:
 - President joe@high12.org
 - 1st VP jonathan@high12.org
 - 2nd VP jerry@high12.org
 - 3rd VP mike@high12.org
 - Treasurer treasurer@high12.org
 - General Counsel generalcounsel@high12.org
 - Immediate Past President bill@high12.org
- By now those members who have participated in the annual pocket planner fund raiser the past 3 years should have received the 2019 edition. Donations can be made online, from the HTI Home Page, or by returning the pre-addressed envelope that was enclosed. We thank you for your support!
- Secretaries - dues are available for your club all you have to do is order them by the online form, email or phone call. BUT I need to know the period they are good for: 2018-19; 2019; mmdyy to mmdyy.
- The new banners are available for associations; clubs; Wolcott. The cost difference is in the base (\$110 or \$140), the printed cloth ones of the past 6 years are no longer available. So, if you are tired of lugging around a banner, pole and base here is your **SOLUTION!** Many clubs display their Wolcott Foundation patches directly on the club banner which was a no, no. You can not do that with the new style banners! An alternative is have a cloth strip made 6" wide with a small loop at

the top to insert a short 1/4" dowel (8") and secure it on the top bar with a binder clip - just a suggestion. I am sure your club can come up with something appropriate.

- Lastly - I am here to help associations and clubs in any way I can BUT I am only one person and spend 40 hours a week or more doing what I do for this organization that I have been a member of for 40 years this month. So if I don't get back be patient or send an email. Email's work best as I can track those a whole lot easier.

The deadline for the FALL Edition of your High Twelvian Magazine will be 10/15/18.

All copy can be emailed or US Mailed, pictures are always welcome (please identify people) and should be included as an attachment. Be aware of your picture "size" as in 27kb or 132kb these are considered 'low resolution quality' the better size is 1gb to 3gb then I have something to work with for editing (kilobytes vs. gigabits). As usual, be mindful of your back ground - don't take pictures in front of windows, dirty dishes, people that don't want to be in photos etc.

FL High Twelve Association: State President Don Robinson:

On September 17, 2018, the State President accompanied by his Lady Barb made an official visit to Orlando High Twelve Club #435. The club meets at Perkins Restaurant in Winter Park. Other State Officers and ladies in attendance were 1st Vice President Bob Cunningham, 2nd Vice President Bill Niehr, 3rd Vice President Eric Klienbach, State Secretary Mike Hemphill, State Treasurer Stew Davis and his Lady Audrey, and Co-Parliamentarian Frank Peregrin and his Lady Pat.

There were 24 State Officers, members and ladies in all at the luncheon meeting. The day was very enjoyable with a lot of laughter and good conversation. All of the members and wives know each other very well and there was a lot of conviviality. A bonus to the club holding their meeting on Monday is a free slice of pie courtesy of the restaurant.

Following the luncheon meeting, an Executive Board meeting was held for the State Officers. Orlando Club President Chris Davis also sat in on the meeting. Brother Chris has decided to run for nomination as 3rd State Vice President for the year 2019.

Villages High Twelve Club #674:



The meeting for September was held with just the necessary business, so we could enjoy our entertainer Johnny Ray, Country/Western Singer. This is Johnny's second time at the club and boy does he put on a great performance.

In addition to his singing some great songs, he strolled around the room and had the members and guest accompany him, some great voices and then some like mine.

We have a previous professional singer and a Retired Minister, who both joined in with Johnny. A great time was had by all and with everyone joining in on many songs; we could pass as the Mormon Tabernacle Choir or maybe some group on Hee Haw!

Our big event for the club will be held on October 20th at the Lake County Shrine Club in Tavares, Florida. We are hosting another Prime Rib Dinner with over 100 signed up.

One of the reasons for the outstanding turnout is that Johnny Ray will be entertaining at the dinner. He has promised us that he will do his best to have his best show ever.

I had two couples call from another organization because they heard that Johnny would be there and they attend anytime they know he will be singing. When I told Johnny about the two calls, he advised me that his wife sends out his monthly schedule to over 5,000 people, who follow him when they can. Just shows that people will support someone, who has talent.

I have mentioned our Prime Rib Dinners several times and have not had a response from any Association or member telling us the success they have had with any type of Special Event. We have brought in several members, who came to us because of the dinners and we have cemented our friendships with other Lodges, Shrine Clubs and Ladies' organizations just because we invite them to all of our functions.

In the past week, we have received requests from two individuals asking for Membership Applications to the club. We will give a short presentation at the dinner inviting anyone interested in joining the club that we have Applications and other Brochures available, which are provided by International and the Wolcott Foundation available when requested.

Your International President advises everyone to carry an Application with you because you never know when the opportunity will come to bring in a new member. You have to be ready when the opportunity arises!

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IL High Twelve Association, Belleville High Twelve Club #35:

Chartered June 1944: We meet at 951 Green Mount Road, Belleville Illinois, on the 1st and 3rd Friday at Noon. The Belleville High Twelve Club has changed its meetings to the first and third Fridays of the month, with the first meeting being our annual to take care of business. On our third Friday meetings we try to have a guest speaker. We have enjoyed speakers from a Master Gardener to legal assistance. With every guest speaker we have new information and ideas presented to us.

Some of the legal information has changed and we need our members to know what is currently available for them.

Belleville has kept its tradition of supporting the four local food pantries with a quarterly check to assist them in their endless assistance to us neighbors. We also contribute to the Wolcott Fund annually.

We have also changed our Lady's Program. We now get together on the holidays to celebrate with our Ladies and Widows. Our Valentine's Day party was enjoyed by all who were able to attend. The entertainment was outstanding, even though he lost his helper, Mr. Squirrel, who past to the giant acorn tree in the sky.

Our membership is down. There is not the big draw for our members to attend now. And like all other units we are losing our more seasoned and active members. We continue to get a quorum together for our meetings.

Our Secretary, Jim Morris, keeps us up to date with annual communications, emails and now texts. Jim also has continued to maintain the Roster for the club and keeps it current. Fraternally, Steve Hermanson, President Belleville High Twelve Club #35.

Northwest High Twelve Club No. 769:

Minutes September 25, 2018: International President Joe Santisteban assisted by Brother Ed Rund, Marshall installed Joseph Pegoraro, President, Brother Prakash Naik, First Vice President and Treasurer, and Don Van Cleave as Secretary. President Joe Pegoraro will select our members to fulfill as Wolcott Representative, Masonic Representative, and Chaplain in the near future. International President Brother Santisteban showed the new International Banner,.

Six members attended with Wolcott donations totaling twelve dollars. Special guest included Rosemarie Pegoraro, Jan Van Cleave, Cathy Curielli, and Ronnie Rund. Three months of Nursing Home Care, Hospital and Dialysis took the toll on Brother John Richard Albert on Friday, September 21, 2019. Brother Joe Pegoraro, Rosemarie Pegoraro and Don Van Cleave attended Brother Albert's Tuesday morning visitation service. In August, Brother Albert was presented his Five Year Certificate in the Nursing Home. First Vice President, Prakash Naik received his Five Year Membership Certificate today.

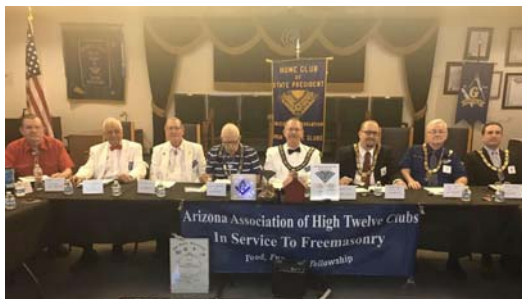
Sickness and Distress must include Brother George Rogers and his proposed back surgery pending before November 6th. George's bride, Joan continues to be active in Eastern Star. Brother Ed Rund moved swiftly with his new hips and he remains very active in the Masonic Fraternity.

Brothers Naik and Pegoraro submitted their Dues payment. Please forward your Dues payment (\$24) to Don Van Cleave, 945 N. Carmel Drive, Palatine, IL 60074. Our Wolcott donation today was twelve dollar making a total of Seventy Four dollars. We have seven members that have paid their Dues.

Your suggestion for our next meeting, October 23rd should be forwarded to Joe Pegoraro. Our checking account continues to go with your participation.

AZ Association of High Twelve Club's, Inc. - Kevin Hokerk-Robinson, PSP, Secretary

The 43rd Annual State Convention was held 9/22/18 at Oriental Loge #20 F&AM in Mesa AZ. President George Rusk did an excellent job running the meeting, making arrangements and seeing that everyone was taken care of. We were honored to have 4 International Officers present - see 1st VP article above. All clubs were represented by their President's & Secretaries (seated). After lunch was served by the Amaranth the youth group leaders extended their greetings, updated the membership on their activities and received a donation from the Association. Lunch was followed by the installation of 2018-19 Officer's.



2017 - 2018 State Officer's



Club Officer's



Club Officer's

Miss AZ Rainbow for Girls



Miss AZ Job's Daughter



DeMolay Master Councilor



Paul Howell, AZ H-12ian of the Year



2018 - 2019 State Officer's

OH High Twelve Association, DT Columbus High Twelve Club No. 453:

Below is a photo of club Secretary Frank C. Wright II on the left, speaker Andrew Peters in the middle, and club 1st Vice President Richard Van Meter on the right.

Mr. Peters was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for providing our club with a presentation about his trip to India as a representative for his church in Columbus, Ohio to participate in the RICE BOWLS Program to feed homeless children in orphanages in that country.

RICE BOWLS partners with Loving Grass- Roots Children's Homes around the world to cover 100% of their delicious, locally sourced meals. The homes can then focus on loving, teaching, protecting, and providing for the children in their care. Orphaned kids grow up to become chefs, software engineers, welders, doctors, teachers, ministers, marathon runners, and flat-out awesome human beings! Thank you, George Kirsch, Club Press Officer.



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THE WOLCOTT FOUNDATION INC.

Monthly News

The Real Purpose of the Wolcott Foundation

Michael Clark, Chairman

Each time you put money into the Little Red School House or make a contribution to the Wolcott Foundation, what is it that you are accomplishing?

The Wolcott Foundation has gained wide respect in the field of education for its work in providing Fellowship Grants at George Washington University (GWU). These prestigious Awards are greatly sought after by the incoming graduate students in International Business, Public Management and International Affairs at the University. Fellowships are restricted to only those students who exhibit outstanding scholastic achievement, social awareness and service, and high individual moral standards. All qualities we as Masons admire and respect.

So what is it that sets the Wolcott Foundation apart from any other Fellowship or Scholarship granting organization at George Washington University or any other university?

We are the oldest Fellowship granting organization providing funds for graduate level students at GWU. Each Award carries a responsibility for the recipient. Each person chosen as a Wolcott Fellow is required to enter into a legal contract with The Foundation agreeing that he or she shall serve in a non-political governmental department or agency, or in a position clearly benefiting our nation in international business for a period of four

years. Otherwise the individual must repay The Foundation for the educational cost from which he or she has benefited.

The thrust of the Wolcott Fellowship Program is to bring to the brightest of young people with an interest in government service and international business, an opportunity to become our leaders of tomorrow. For this we proudly say,

The Wolcott Foundation is An Investment in the Future of Our Country.

So what is the real purpose of The Wolcott Foundation? It is not to promote Masonry, High Twelve or even the Foundation. However, the Wolcott Fellows are well aware that the money for their tuition comes from the Masonic Fraternity.

They learn from our conversations and publications, that High Twelve International and The Wolcott Foundation work together to raise the money required for each of them to obtain the opportunity to achieve their goals and dreams of public service to our country.

No, the real purpose is shown below in the faces of some of the recipients of Wolcott Foundation Fellowships. These are the future leaders of our country in the many organizations within our federal, state, and local governments.

These are our future Ambassadors, Government Department Heads, and Government Representatives traveling throughout the world showing American leadership and managing programs that promote the good of the American people.

What is the real purpose of the Wolcott Foundation?

It is the education of those future leaders.

What better purpose could we as Masons support and promote!

Please contribute as much and as often as possible.

The Little Patch That Could



It stands 2 inches tall and 2 inches wide. It may be green, red, gold, blue, or purple, yet it stands for Commitment, Caring, Love of Country and Belief in The Wolcott Foundation's Mission. Yes, it is the Wolcott Patch that appears on High Twelve Club Banners around the country at every High Twelve Club meeting.

We proudly show it to new members when they attend their first meeting. We brag about the commitment and dedication the club has to supporting the High Twelve International Philanthropy and our Wolcott Fellows studying at George Washington University. We brag about our club's contributions and how they are helping educate

outstanding students and providing them funds to achieve their dreams of high level public service.

The patch is small, but mighty. It is the symbol of the appreciation from the Wolcott Foundation for the contributions collected in Little Red School Houses around the country and a visible emblem of the great generosity of High Twelve members nationwide.

Thank you for your contributions to the Wolcott Foundation.



Like most Masonic Organizations, the Wolcott Foundation has a lapel pin to symbolize the mission of the Foundation, and the generosity and caring of the wearer.

The new 2019 Wolcott Foundation Lapel Pin is now available from your Wolcott Trustee. Many clubs have already received pins from their Trustee and we urge club Secretaries to promote the sale of this very important way of providing funds for the Wolcott Foundation.

Lapel pins are a way to generate extra money from your club members and add to the money collected each meeting in the Little Red School House. Each pin is \$10.00 and demonstrates that the wearer is a proud member of the Wolcott Foundation and believes in supporting the students at George Washington University studying for a career in public service.

If you haven't received your pins or need more, contact your Wolcott Zone Trustee. Thank you for your contributions to the Wolcott Foundation.

Attached is an article Wolcott Chairman Michael Clark received from Wolcott Fellow Or Y Taylor for the Monthly Update.

Dear Mr. Clark,

Below I have written an article on how the Wolcott Foundation has assisted in my educational journey of public service. I am truly grateful for the opportunity that you have provided.

Service through Security by Or Taylor

Without the Wolcott Foundation's generosity, it is safe to say that I would not have accepted my offer of admission to George Washington University. The fellowship was that crucial factor that allowed me to make the leap of faith into my master's degree. Now that I am learning full time, I realize it would have been impossible to work the necessary hours to sustain myself without losing the substantial benefits of a deep dive into my course-work. This fellowship has been the key to taking the first steps in my life's work.

While my long-term career path is far from certain, the focal point of public service truly is. I have decided to pursue a Commission in the US Army and upon graduation serve as a second lieutenant if all goes well. In time, I hope to transfer to the Civil Affairs Division, where I know that my education in Security Policy will doubtlessly be useful. Civil Affairs officers are the often-crucial link between the military and civilians worlds that sometimes struggle to communicate. The Elliott School of International Affairs at GWU certainly focuses on many of the skills that are crucial to serving the public in that role: cross-cultural literacy, language proficiency, critical thinking, and communication.

Beyond the Army, I hope to continue to work in public service and other realms of government. My major educational focus is global existential threats including nuclear weapons, climate change, emerging technologies, and biochemical weapons. Not every global threat can be seen clearly solely through a military lens so I hope to join other parts of the government to do my part in diffusing those dangers. The MA in Security Policy Studies is a crucial first step to a better understanding but ultimately I hope to implement that gained understanding through policy. Thank you, Or Taylor

Humor:

In Florida we have all types of retirees with unusual occupations and hobbies. This was sent to me by a member and I do not know if it is true or something dreamed up for off color humor but thought you may like to know some unknown history if it is true. I hope it does not offend you and if it does, I apologize for publishing it. Editor.

For you history buffs, this might be my new best favorite. Manure...An interesting fact : In the 16th and 17th centuries, everything had to be transported by ship and it was also before the invention of commercial fertilizers, so large shipments of manure were quite common.

It was shipped dry, because in dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet, but once water (at sea) hit it, not only did it become heavier, but the process of fermentation began again, of which a byproduct is methane gas of course. As the stuff was stored below decks in bundles you can see what could and did happen. Methane began to build up below decks and the first time someone came below at night with a lantern, BOOOOM.

Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening.

After that, the bundles of manure were always stamped with the instruction Stow High in Transit on them, which meant for the sailors to stow it high enough off the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane.

Thus evolved the term S.H.I.T (Stow High In Transit) which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day. You probably did not know the true history of this word. Neither did I. I had always thought it was a Golf Term.

Another story sent to me by a member. SMART ANSWER # 1- A truck driver was driving along on the freeway and noticed a sign that read: Low Bridge Ahead. Before he knows it, the bridge is right in front of him and his truck gets wedged under it. Cars are backed up for miles. Finally a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, Got stuck, huh? The truck driver says, 'No, I was delivering this bridge and I ran out of gas.

Where or where do these bits of humor come from? I don't mean to brag, but I can still wear the same size sox's I wore in high school.

This story was also submitted by one of our members. Just remember...you must read the entire story to understand why it is so enjoyable.

KING ARTHUR AND THE OLD UGLY WOMAN - Young King Arthur was ambushed and imprisoned by the monarch of a neighboring kingdom. The monarch could have killed him but was moved by Arthur's youth and ideals. So, the monarch offered him his freedom, as long as he could answer a very difficult question. Arthur would have a year to figure out the answer and, if after a year, he still had no answer, he would be put to death.

The question...what do women really want? Such a question would perplex even the most knowledgeable man, to young Arthur, it seemed an impossible query. But, since it was better than death, he accepted the monarch's proposition to have an answer by year's end.

He returned to his kingdom and began to poll everyone: the princess, the priests, the wise men and even the court jester. He spoke with everyone, but no one could give him a satisfactory answer.

Many people advised him to consult the old ugly woman, for only she would have the answer.

But the price would be high; as the woman was famous throughout the kingdom for the exorbitant prices she charged.

The last day of the year arrived and Arthur had no choice but to talk to the old woman. She agreed to answer the question, but he would have to agree to her price first.

The old ugly woman wanted to marry Sir Lancelot, the most noble of the Knights of the Round Table and Arthur's closest friend!

Young Arthur was horrified. She was hunchbacked and hideous, had only one tooth, smelled like sewage, made obscene noises, etc. He had never encountered such a repugnant creature in all his life.

He refused to force his friend to marry her and endure such a terrible burden; but Lancelot, learning of the proposal, spoke with Arthur.

He said nothing was too big of a sacrifice compared to Arthur's life and the preservation of the Round Table.

Hence, a wedding was proclaimed, and the woman answered Arthur's question thus:

What a woman really wants, she answered....is to be in charge of her own life.

Everyone in the kingdom instantly knew that the woman had uttered a great truth and that Arthur's life would be spared.

And so it was, the neighboring monarch granted Arthur his freedom and Lancelot and the ugly woman had a wonderful wedding.

The honeymoon hour approached and Lancelot, steeling himself for a horrific experience, entered the bedroom. But, what a sight awaited him. The most beautiful woman he had ever seen lay before him on the bed. The astounded Lancelot asked what had happened.

The young beauty replied that since he had been so kind to her when she appeared ugly, she would henceforth, be her horrible deformed self only half the time and the beautiful maiden the other half.

Which would he prefer? Beautiful during the day -- or night?

Lancelot pondered the predicament. During the day, a beautiful woman to show off to his friends, but at night, in the privacy of his castle, an old ugly woman? Or, would he prefer having a hideous woman during the day, but by night, a beautiful woman for him to enjoy wondrous intimate moments?

What would YOU do?

What Lancelot chose is below.

BUT -- make YOUR choice before you scroll down below. OKAY?

Noble Lancelot said that he would allow HER to make the choice herself. Upon hearing this, she announced that she would be beautiful all the time because he had respected her enough to let her be in charge of her own life. ow....what is the moral to this story?

The moral is -- If you don't let a woman have her own way...Things are going to get ugly...

**The deadline for the FALL Edition of your
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