

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Frozen Chosen

This story in our American Legion November magazine caught my eye immediately as my friend, OUR FRIEND to all in Towns County, Cecil Sanders, Jr. has told me this almost verbatim story of his experiences in the Marines, several times. Cecil is now experiencing true peace at the Right Hand of our Supreme Commander, no more wars or hardships to endure.

Charlie Gebhart, from Chicago's West Side, served as an Army sergeant in that sub-freezing hell of the Chosin Reservoir also. He was 21 years old. Temperatures were 35 degrees below zero. His fingers were black and his feet felt like balls of lead. Charlie is a member of Boone American Legion Post #77 in Belvidere, IL, today. Just as our own Cecil Sanders told me the freezing temperatures took a greater toll than the Communist bullets.

Communist Chinese troops surrounded the Army and Marine Corps units as they neared the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. This evolved into a hellish seventeen day battle in extreme cold conditions. Our America lost 2,500 precious lives, KIA: 5,000 wounded and 8,000 were unable to fight due to frostbite.

They were outnumbered 10 to one and Army and Marines were forced to make a 70 mile retreat with Chinese forces fighting them all the way. Marine aircraft were the only aid they had to help them escape certain death from the cold or the Chinese. "I was just trying to survive the moment" says Charlie. "We were surrounded and outnumbered 10 to 1. We were fighting the impossible. Death was always there. You were always next." Everything was frozen and virtually nothing worked as it should have.

Charlie puts it like this, "I had to put up with a lot of combat, but got through it because I had so many great people beside me. "I don't care about the awards and decorations that much. The only badge I really respect is the Combat Infantry Badge. I'd do it all over again, because of my band of brothers."

Gebhardt came home in July, 1951 and worked for Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad as a switchman, conductor and yardmaster. In 1970 he married his wife, Linnea and had two children, John and Julie. He has also served in the Honor Guard for Veteran burials. He goes on, "I've had a good life". "The whole thing has been a good life."

There exists the high probability that Charlie Gebhardt and Cecil Sanders Junior were nearby each other during this awful battle, but for good reason, to save our allies of South Korea who are grateful allies to this day. Just like Cecil said many times over, "this is not about me, but about them", referring to all those who gave their lives. If these two fine men could have ever met, they would have formed an immediate bond, not known or felt by anyone who has never experienced what they survived. Their stories are identical. They are both wonderful Americans. Fact not opinion!

Semper Paratus

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
USCG Veteran



"You're right, son. We should thank them more often."

Phenomenal Cosmic Power

Itty Bitty Living Space

I think we would all like to forget about politics for a while, but like Colombo said, "Just one more thing," and I'll be brief(ish).

Condolences to republicans who are grieving Trump's election loss. Obviously there was hanky panky with ballots, even at a glance. Did deeper into the numbers and Benford's Law of unnatural distribution clearly indicates the implausibility of some of the vote counts in key areas.

Overall, however, the malfeasance of both parties tends to balance out, and we are talking about a difference of over 4 million votes. Let it go.

We'll be arguing about this election for years, or for as long as short term memory holds. My first message today, however, is for the core of the President's base, the millions of Americans, and the over 80% majority of our home town folks who say they are Christian.

Here's what you're going to do. (I know you don't like being told what to do, but I'm hoping you'll hear this in your head in Rip Torn's voice from the movie, "Defending Your Life.") You're going to pray for the new president. You're going to forgive those you think have trespassed against you, and you're going to move on. There's work to be done.

It's in the Book: Pray for "kings, and all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." Render unto Caesar. Pray for your enemies, especially if you think your fellow Americans and people who voted differently are your enemy. The Book is pretty clear on this. These are not suggestions, and The Book is not a one issue book.

The message for the democrats is a bit more complicated. To begin with, congratulations. Many of you worked hard; you worked smart, and you worked passionately.

Don't let it go to your head. This has all the earmarks of a Pyrrhic victory. The so called "Blue Wave" gave out long before it reached the shore.

You lost ground in the House. You lost ground in local elections and state houses. You lost at least 5 governors.

Americans don't like socialism, and they don't like being called various forms of "deplorable."

No, you don't have a mandate. The "racist" president got more non-white votes than any republican since 1960. The "hater" got 45% of the votes of gay males.

And if you intend on "reaching out" as Michelle Obama so superciliously suggested, to the millions who saw the great evil of Mr. Trump but voted for him anyway, then you're going to have to stop thinking about your fellow Americans in terms that differ from a racial slur only by virtue of the subject matter.

One of the most enduringly distasteful thing about elections is the absence of common sense in the rush of idealism. Here's the problem with idealists: Truth, honor, even decency take a back seat to "The Great Cause." You can't reason with an idealist caught up in a partisan cause. The ends justify the means.

This is particularly damning for democrats right now. When the euphoria wears off, think about how consistently media incorporated worked to suppress dissenting voices and non-woke opinions.

It's OK because republicans suppress votes, right? We'll ignore hard evidence that can indict our candidate because The Cause is more important. (This has been equally true of republicans.)

Think about it this way. Cheaters in relationships never stop to consider that the character flaw which allows the cheating partner to betray their relationship will still exist in the new coupling.

If corporate media will betray the trust of the Fourth Estate to further the current political cause, what will stop them from betraying you when their agenda is at cross purposes to your own?

Finally, for left and right and for all concerned, there's a fundamental fact about humanity that is consistently overlooked. A brief review of history, and especially the history of warfare, should be all you need to confirm this for yourself. It is helpful for understanding why the leaders of nations say one thing but do another, and why politics is a distraction from the true business of running the world. Democracy and our republic, the freedoms we enjoy, the street level reality of all the ideals and platitudes we wave about like flags in a parade, are rare species in the history of humanity.

Human rights, equality, diversity, social justice, even legal justice, are empowered by a healthy economy, and a healthy, sustainable economy is only possible when this one condition is met:

The availability of cheap and abundant energy.

I'm concerned that too many Americans now believe that coercing the former conjures the latter. It has the opposite effect. I'm also concerned that too many in government believe it can all be paid for by conjuring pixel money which is backed up by nothing but coercive power.

Conservatives have ignored deficit spending during 4 years of Trump all the way back to the Bush Administration, and democrats who ignored Obama's spending will continue to look the other way when their party accelerates that spending. Modern Monetary Theory, in effect, is fatal to free markets. It also gives government, and its host of unelected officials, what must feel like a phenomenal cosmic power to monetize the human condition, and that has never ended well on this itty bitty living space.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry
onthemiddlepath.com

Moles and Voles

Moles and voles can be very damaging to your yard. They can dig up long tunnels through your yard and make a meal out of the plant roots. The key to treating these issues is figuring out whether you have moles or voles in your yard. Understanding some of the differences between moles and voles is important to decide how to treat them. Technically speaking voles are rodents, but moles are not. Moles are carnivorous animals that eat insects and grubs that they find underground. If you look at a picture of a mole they have very large front feet. They're able to use these big, meaty claws to 'swim' through the soil creating the tunnels in your yard. They are looking for insects to eat in the soil. They won't eat the roots of plants, as those aren't in their diet. Voles are smaller in size than a mole, looking similar to a mouse. The easiest way to tell the difference between a vole and a mouse is that a mouse's tail is about the same length as its body. A vole has a much shorter tail. Voles are herbivores, meaning that they feed on plants.

Bulb plants are often a particular favorite of voles. Voles have much smaller front paws than moles do. This means that voles are not nearly as adept at digging tunnels through the ground. Voles will often use tunnels that have been left behind by moles.

Because moles and voles have different diets and behavior they must be treated differently for control. There are a couple of different methods for mole control. The first one is to use a granular insecticide to get rid of all the insects and grubs in your yard. Once the food source is removed the moles will move on to find a new food source. A second way of removing moles is by placing a trap in their main tunnel. Go out into your yard and tamp down all the tunnels that you can find. Wherever the ground has popped back up the next day is the main tunnel. Repeated trapping may be necessary because a single yard could be host to several moles. Some of the grubs that moles eat, such as earthworms, are a sign of healthy soil. Moles also like moist soil because it is easier for digging. This means that if you do a good job taking care of your garden you will also inadvertently be encouraging moles to tunnel!

Voles can also be trapped. Place a mouse trap with peanut butter near an active site to catch the voles. If you are able to get rid of the moles in your yard oftentimes the voles will also leave because they can't do a good job of digging their own tunnels. If you're unsure if you have voles or moles take a slice of apple and tie a piece of string around it. Place it in the hole and let it sit for a couple of days. When you pull it back out, if the apple is gone you have voles (herbivores), if the apple is still there you have moles (carnivores). If you have questions about vole and mole control please contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

Watching and Working
Jacob Williams



GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

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Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

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