

Armistice Day in Raleigh and Roxboro

by John Heuer

For the first time since the NC Triangle Chapter of Veterans For Peace was formed, our Chapter 157, The Eisenhower Chapter, was allowed to march in the 2013 Raleigh Veterans Day Parade. On Saturday, November 9, we had good responses from fellow marchers and sidewalk cheerleaders, and our mission statement was read over the public address system:

"We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others

- To increase public awareness of the costs of war
- To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations
- To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons
- To seek justice for veterans and victims of war
- To abolish war as an instrument of national policy."

Our main speaker at the wreath laying in Raleigh was 94 year-old WW II WAC veteran Anne Capucille. Anne told us that all those who risk their comfort and well-being in service to others, whether soldier or community member, are heroes. And that sometimes we have more reason to be proud of our country than others.

On Monday, November 11, the Eisenhower Chapter marched down Main Street in Roxboro to rekindle the original spirit of Armistice Day. Roxboro City Councilman Mark Phillips gave us a warm welcome at Merritt Commons. Reverend Renee Burnett offered an eloquent prayer for peace. Former NC Senator Ellie Kinnaird quoted President Eisenhower asserting that "every bullet made, every rocket fired, every warship launched... is a theft from those who hunger and are unfed, those who are cold, and unclothed."

Our Roxboro Police escort joined us in holding hands while Long Memorial United Methodist and Roxboro Baptist church bells chimed eleven times, to remember the 1918 Armistice. Charlotte

Rotary North held a Veterans Peace Walk that day. In Roxboro, I had the privilege of leading a singing of "America the Beautiful," and we announced Sam Winstead's 3rd annual Ride for Peace, a 7-day, 350 mile bicycle ride from Raleigh to Washington DC, April 27—May 3. Sam is an 88 year-old WW II Marine combat veteran and Person County farmer, who has come out of retirement to be a Peace Rider. Ellie Kinnaird is shopping for a bicycle and may join Sam on this year's ride.

ARMISTICE DAY HISTORY

At 11a.m. on November 11, 1918, an armistice was declared among warring parties signaling the end of what was then called "The Great War," and "The War to End All Wars." Following the end of what we now refer to as World War I, the United States Congress declared November 11 an annual Armistice Day holiday, devoted to celebrations of peace and goodwill among all peoples and nations

Tragically, World War I was followed by World War II, and a succession of wars throughout the remainder of the 20th century that continues today, as United States armed forces are engaged in mortal combat in Afghanistan for the 13th consecutive year.

In 1954, the US Congress renamed Armistice Day to "Veterans Day" to honor those who have served in our military. While the name change was laudable, it was also an indication of a loss of faith in the idea that peace is possible.

As we remember the chiming of the bells, and the prayers and other words entreating us to work for a world at peace, we can take heart that this remembrance of Armistice Day reverberates across the nation, in communities all over our land, that remind us that peace is possible.

There is an exciting new generation of leaders emerging. But our elders, Anne, Ellie and Sam, have much wisdom to share — if we would only listen.

John Heuer is Director, NC Peace Action, in Pittsboro and Chair, NC Veterans for Peace Eisenhower Chapter.

ACA aka Obamacare

by Don Lein

As Obamacare unfolds we are struck by the economic naivete and/or disingenuousness of its adherents. To suggest that the consequences we are beginning to experience were "unintended" stretches credulity to the breaking point. Certainly, history has given every indication that when this administration touches anything, it will foul it up, but government involvement has always brought about inefficient nightmares like the Post Office, AMTRAK, TSA, the war on poverty, IRS, etc., etc. One would expect that these experiments in centralized planning and control, as well as the universal failure internationally of centralized planning throughout the twentieth century would dissuade progressive/liberals from further experimentation, but their hope/hubris is apparently unbounded.

What are the basic attributes of Obamacare?

- Individual risk rating is subsumed under a "community rating" which will include those uninsured because of inability to pay or uninsurability, because of pre-existing conditions, etc. Sounds a bit like "It takes a village" mentality.
- Defining insurance policies minimum to include "essential health services" with no caps on payments to the insured. Essential health services can include lactation/maternity service, abortion, fertility treatment, etc. for 60 year old males. This mandate effectively prohibits bare bones catastrophic policies favored by the healthy and young.
- Individual Mandate. Everyone is required to obtain health insurance, except certain groups, with government subsidies available for those deemed unable to pay.
- Employer Mandate. Requires firms with 50 or more full time (30 hours+) employees to offer coverage for those employees
- "Unintended" but predictable results of the above:
 - Spike in premiums for those with existing bare bones/catastrophic coverage as they have to assume "community risks"
 - Loss of coverage—in 2010 Obama officials projected that 93 million Americans had plans that would be unacceptable under Obamacare.
 - Total costs of health care is driven up with more people using more services in a near

static supply situation, resulting in shortages, which in turn must result in rationing of these suddenly scarce services and the dreaded death panels as suggested by Paul Krugman.

• Job losses — many labor leaders have predicted that the 30 hour provision in Obamacare would "destroy the foundation for the 40 hour work week" with the consequence that firms would seldom grow beyond 49 employees nor 29 hour work weeks.

Fundamental to the success of this scheme is that the healthy must bear the medical costs of the unhealthy and thus they must pay skyrocketing premiums and/or compensatory taxes. However, Obama, Pelosi and Reid all parroted the phrase that "If you like your policy, you can keep it". The insurance companies without the healthy underwriting the unhealthy would be put in a loss situation, however the Obama team has another rabbit to pull out of the hat. They have something called the risk corridor program in which the government provides assistance to insurance companies. Thus, if the government coerces insurance companies to provide affordable policies to those who have previously had them, the government can compensate the insurance companies for these premium losses with taxpayer money. Therefore, while the taxpayer receives the benefit of the lower premium on his insurance policy, it will be more than offset by the additional taxes they will pay both to make the insurance company whole, but also to defray the costs for the administration of this convoluted redistributionist scheme.

One thing that remains constant with this administration and that is its attempted avoidance of responsibility. Again, no fault will be admitted by the Obama administration for the defects of Obamacare — it will be our fault. In this I agree. He made no bones about his collectivist mindset, especially with Joe the Plumber. We knew about his mindset, his Alinsky — style tactics, his loving the elective spotlight but eschewing the responsibilities that leadership demands and still we elected him and what we have received and will continue to receive should come as no surprise to us.

Don Lein is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line. A Chatham resident, he is involved in a variety of civic organizations.

Running on no oil

By Jeff Davidson

In my late teens and early twenties, my father gave me access to one of his four used cars, which he had bought at a good price, had fixed up, and made available for his kids.

One day while I was driving along, I saw a flashing light on the dashboard that indicated something about oil. I drove on without giving it too much thought. The next couple of days, the light flashed intermittently and I decided at some point I should probably go into a service station and find out what it was all about. Coming back on Route I-91 from Rocky Hill, Connecticut to Bloomfield, the light began flashing off and on at a feverish pace. The car started to shimmy and shake. There was a grinding noise. I didn't know what was happening.

Finally, the engine sputtered. I pulled off to the side of

the road and made my way down to a small restaurant. I put a dime in the pay phone and called my father. He arranged to come out to see me.

A first class dummy: When he arrived, he looked at the situation and tried to start the car himself. Then he told me without a lot of anger, "You first class dummy! You were running the car on no oil. Without lubrication the engine parts wear on each other. It's just a matter of time before everything breaks down." He gave me a car-to-car tow back to a service station that he knew and trusted.

As it turned out, the car was not salvageable. I ended up costing my father several hundred dollars and quite a bit of effort. Even if I didn't know a hoot about cars, I was smart enough to know to I should have done something. What was I thinking? Why did I ignore the flashing light?

I marvel now at the equanimity with which my father

handled the issue and undoubtedly other issues long forgotten. He blew his top on occasion, but infrequently. Today, I can barely remember any of them. And he never stayed angry for long.

Quite a standard: As a father myself, I have tried to emulate the lessons that my father imparted to me through his behavior. I have done a reasonably good job, but probably have never been able to measure up to his standards. I'm sure there are times when my daughter would prefer to have my father as her father than have me as her father, even though they never met. He died thirteen years before she was born, but they would have been a famous pair.

Jeff Davidson, "The Work-Life Balance Expert®," is the author of "Dial it Down, Live it Up," "Simpler Living," "Breathing Space," and "The 60 Second Self-Starter. Jeff can be reached at www.BreathingSpace.com

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