



'Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness'...

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness is a well-known phrase in the United States Declaration of Independence that gives three examples of the "inalienable rights" which the Declaration says has been given to all human beings by their Creator, and for which governments are created to protect. The three landmark events below are part of the still unfinished history of inalienable rights in our nation.

Happy Birthday Social Security!

At the time, August 14, 1935, many considered Social Security a radical idea. And it had many critics. Some likened it to social engineering. Others called it a "hand-out." Still others feared an invasion of privacy. They thought of Social Security as little more than a dehumanizing, intrusive government program, where the individual would be under surveillance and reduced to a 9-digit number.

But, in fact, this Depression-era legislation, signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt 80 years ago, was a resounding success among most Americans who appreciated government providing a "helping hand." It was such a success that within four months of the law's enactment, almost 26 million Americans were already on the Social Security roster.

Today, the discussion about Social Security is more political than factual. For example: With a \$2.7 trillion fund projected to grow to \$3.7 trillion by 2022, Social Security is far from broke. As reported by the Alliance for Retired

Americans, despite the fact that Social Security is paying out more benefits than it currently is collecting in taxes, the program is not in the red. This is because the Treasury bonds it has in the trust fund are more than enough to make up the difference. Despite the shortfalls that have occurred 17 times since 1958, the system is still alive and well.

As the politicians ponder the proposals to sustain Social Security, just ask Doris Welch, a longtime union activist and 237 retiree, why it must never end. For her, it adds quality time to her life. As Doris puts it: "Social Security enables me to spend valuable time with my family and my friends on vacation." So Doris, one of its lead organizers, along with some of our other retirees (pictured) and with the New York City



Alliance for Retired Americans, NYC Chapters and Molly Krawkowski of JASA, recently made sure to mark the 80th anniversary of Social Security with a spectacular celebration.

Ask anyone who was there and they would say that Social Security is needed not just for them, but for future generations. We cannot forget that Social Security is a family protection program intended for retirees, their surviving families and the disabled.

Civil Rights Act Turns 50

This past July marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act by President Lyndon Johnson. This law made it illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. President Barack Obama, in marking the occasion, said: "Few pieces of legislation have defined our national identity as distinctly, or as powerfully."

But this law was not the first attempt at ending discrimination in America. In fact, each year, from 1945 through 1957, Congress tried to pass legislation which was thwarted through various political maneuvers, including a record-setting one man, 24-hour filibuster by Democratic Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina. Despite Thurmond's efforts, Congress passed, and President Dwight Eisenhower signed into law, the Civil Rights Act of 1957, which created a civil rights division of the Justice Department and a U. S. Commission on Civil Rights.

President John Kennedy was aiming to make some real and lasting progress by asking Congress, in a televised speech, to "make a commitment to the proposition that race has no place in American life or law." Tragically, he was assassinated, but rather than letting the struggle die with him, President Johnson, shortly after Kennedy's

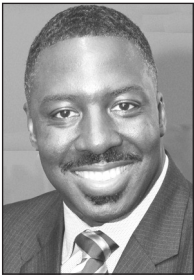
Medicare Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Landmark social program now covers 49.4 million Americans

Talk about a national health insurance system for Americans goes all the way back to the days of President Theodore Roosevelt, whose platform included health insurance when he ran for president in 1912.

But the idea for a national health plan didn't gain steam until it was pushed by President Harry S. Truman. On November 19, 1945, seven months into his presidency, Truman sent a message to Congress calling for creation of a national health insurance fund open to all Americans.

The plan Truman envisioned would provide health coverage to individuals, paying for typical expenses such as doctor visits, hospital visits, laboratory services, dental care and nursing services. Although Truman fought to get a bill passed during his term, he was unsuccessful, and it was another 20 years before Medicare would



A Message From the President

Gregory Floyd

THE FIGHT FOR FAIRNESS IN THE WORKPLACE — A STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING

School Safety Agents have a tough job. They protect a most precious commodity: our children. They help to create a safe and nurturing school environment where youngsters can learn and grow. But SSAs, over 70% of whom are women — mostly African Americans and Latinas — have children of their own too, and need to put food on the table for their own families.

They had been earning \$7,000 less than their counterparts performing similar work in other agencies, 70% of whom are male. That is why our union fought, since 2010, to end this injustice. The class-action, gender-based pay discrimination lawsuit that ensued was the largest of its kind in the nation at that time, and presented a long and complicated legal battle spanning two mayoral administrations.

Along the way, we had several allies to help shine a light on pay inequity that existed in New York City, where we tout our progressive pedigree on issues such as marriage equality, paid sick leave, \$15 an hour minimum wage for fast food workers, and universal pre-K, yet where pay inequality for our very own public employees — School Safety Agents — remained unchanged.

We were proud to have Lilly Ledbetter, the nationally renowned women's rights pioneer; Sonia Ossorio, president of the

New York City Chapter of NOW; Hazel Dukes, president of the New York State Chapter of the NAACP; and Mary Lou Urban and Mary Campbell, co-presidents of the League of Women Voters, among those to stand with us at the countless rallies to proclaim: inequality for one group means inequality for all groups — and inequality cannot be tolerated by any group.

I am delighted that in August of 2014 we finally reached this historic settlement with the City, giving the more than 5,000 School Safety Agents the wages they so justly deserve. I want to commend the three lead plaintiffs in the lawsuit: Corinthians Andrews, Bernice Christopher and Patricia Williams, for their courage and perseverance throughout the long legal process.

It should be noted that both Ms. Andrews and Ms. Christopher are retirees and that all three plaintiffs played a key role in ensuring that retirees were part of the settlement.

The 264 who retired after the start of the litigation in March 5, 2014, and before September 1, 2014, and any retirees since September 1, 2014, will all receive \$7,000. Clearly, this settlement underscores the vital contributions of retirees, not only to the history of our union, but to battles of fairness in the workplace.



STARTLING STATISTICS – HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST DIABETES

By Nancy B. True, Director, Retiree Division

The statistics are startling! According to the American Diabetes Association (ADA), 29.1 million Americans have diabetes. (That's 9.3% of our population.) Of the 29.1 million, 8.1 million are undiagnosed. Diabetes also disproportionately affects older adults. Among seniors aged 65 and older, 11.8 million, or 25.9%, have diabetes, both diagnosed and undiagnosed.

It is widely acknowledged that with the increased aging of the American population, diabetes can be viewed as having reached epidemic proportions that will impact longevity, functionality and the risk of institutionalization.

Right here in New York, with 66,000 newly diagnosed cases annually, the numbers are even greater. An estimated 2 million

New Yorkers — a whopping 12.3% of the State's population — have diabetes, including 517,000 undiagnosed and 36.2% who are pre-diabetic. Of those diagnosed, 31% are African Americans and 28% are Latinos. Overall among seniors, 632,047, or a stunning 42.6%, have been diagnosed with diabetes.

Clearly, diabetes is a disease that touches the lives of many, from youngsters to older adults alike. It is also a disease that presents many challenges, including being properly diagnosed, managed and, hopefully, one-day, cured.

Diabetes affects our members and their families. This is why Local 237 supports ADA's efforts to wage the battle against diabetes.

And you can help too. Every year, the American Diabetes Association sponsors a nationwide event to help raise awareness and funds. Teamsters Local 237 is a proud participant in the "Step Out: Walk To Stop Diabetes," taking place Sunday, October 11, kicking off at 10 a.m., from Pier 84 (located at 44th Street and 12th Avenue). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

All of the proceeds from this event go to ADA to be used for research and direct services for diabetics. Last year, the Retiree Division raised over \$4,000; this year our goal is \$5,000. We hope to achieve this with the participation of working members. This year is also a very special occasion since ADA celebrates its 75th anniversary.

The Walk's festivities will culminate in live entertainment, refreshments and health screenings at the Pier. I encourage you to join the Teamsters' team. For more information and to get involved, contact **Luz Carty at 212-807-0555**.

We hope to see you there!

RETIREE news&views

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El Comite Latino Plans This Year's Festivities



Hold the date! Friday, September 25, the 2015 Latino Heritage Celebration will take place, at 11 a.m. in Local 237's Marguerite Feinstein Conference room. The Latino Committee, pictured here, has been planning this year's celebration of Latino culture and traditions. The theme is "Caribbean Conflict and Convergence: Cuba, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico." Everyone is invited!

¡VIVA PUERTO RICO!



Retirees enjoyed this year's Puerto Rican Day parade, joining Local 237's contingent marching to the beat of Latin music coming from 237's decorative float. With their former co-workers, families and friends, they and more than two million spectators celebrated Puerto Rico's rich heritage.

Did You Know that Local 237 Provides Legal Services?

By Mary Sheridan, Esq.

Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan

How many Local 237 members and retirees are unaware of their free legal services benefit? More than I would have guessed. The vast majority of people in the United States must pay thousands of dollars to a private attorney when they need legal assistance. As members and retirees of the largest Teamsters local, you have a free attorney available to you for many of your day-to-day legal issues.



Local 237 was a trailblazer when it created the legal services benefit. The notion

that working people should have access to a lawyer was an innovative and radical one. Even today, for example, one can visit the New York City Landlord Tenant courts and see that more than three-quarters of tenants are unrepresented while landlords have attorneys. Our legal system does not guarantee the right to a lawyer even when one is at risk of losing his or her home. Local 237 believes you should have that right. Your Legal Services Plan spends significant time in court insuring that landlords provide you with your legal entitlement to a habitable apartment.

In addition to representing tenants, we represent thousands of members and retirees for the following matters in New York State covered counties: purchase and sale of co-op, condo, 1- and 2-family primary residences; wills, health care proxies and powers of at-

torney; bankruptcy; divorce, separation and prenuptial agreements; family court matters; and many consumer and civil court matters.

Not only are you provided with a free attorney, your Welfare Fund provides you with \$500 toward your litigation expenses after you pay a \$150 deductible.

Why shell out your hard-earned money for a private attorney when you have an attorney available for free? Do not hesitate to call our Legal Services Plan at 1-212-924-1220 for assistance or advice. And, remember, if you reside outside of the metro area or in another state, there is a schedule of reimbursement for covered legal services too.

Medicare Celebrates

Continued from page 1

become a reality.

President John F. Kennedy made his own unsuccessful push for a national health care program for seniors after a national study showed that 56 percent of Americans over the age of 65 were not covered by health insurance. But it wasn't until 1965 — after legislation was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson — that Americans started receiving Medicare health coverage.

Today, Medicare continues to provide health care for those in need. By the end of 2014, there were 49,435,610 people receiving health coverage through a Medicare program. Benefits paid in 2013 amounted to about 14 percent of the federal budget. The retirement wave of baby boomers was once expected to cause Medicare to become a budget buster, but the Congressional Budget Office is now projecting increases in spending to be much smaller than once thought, thanks in part to cost savings embedded in the Affordable Care Act, called Obamacare.

The Civil Rights Act Turns 50

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death, implored Congress to act, saying: "No memorial, oration or eulogy could more eloquently honor President Kennedy's memory than the enactment of a civil rights law."

The passage of the Civil Rights Act was also due, in part, to the dedicated and often perilous work of civil rights activists, labor leaders and faith-based organizations who tirelessly struggled for years to end inequality in America. Congressman John Lewis described a 1965, 50-mile march to Montgomery, Alabama, that he led as a young college student in the following way: "I thought that was going to be my last demonstration. I thought I might die that day. We knew the dangers that lay ahead, but we marched anyway, hoping to usher in a more

fair society — a place where every American would be able to freely exercise their right to vote...we knew that standing up for our rights could be a death warrant. But we felt it would be better to die than to live with injustice."

While the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related legislation that came after have forever changed racial inequality in America, much work still remains ahead. Just two years ago, for example, the Supreme Court nullified a key provision in the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that curbed discriminatory and restrictive voting rules and statutes. Clearly, what this shows is that, while civil rights have made tremendous strides over the last 50 years, the fight for equality is still a work in progress and it is incumbent upon all of us to remain vigilant.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Phyllis Shafran was recently appointed Director of Communications by President Floyd. In her fifth year working for



Teamsters Local 237, Ms. Shafran brings to this job more than three decades of public relations experience in government, labor and the private sector. Ms. Shafran said: "I welcome the opportunity to work with our members and retirees in this new capacity and thank President Floyd for the confidence in me he has conveyed with this appointment."

RETIREE NEWS & VIEWS

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Retiree Drug Benefits In A Snapshot

By **Mitch Goldberg**

Retirees' Benefit Fund Director

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Your cap depends on your age and/or disability and your health insurance plan.

Non-Medicare retiree; (prior to age 65) must carry 3 cards for drugs:

- Health Insurance Card for Diabetic Medications.
- PICA card for injectable and chemotherapy drugs.
- Aetna card for all other Rx which includes psychotropic and asthma drugs formerly covered on the PICA list.

Non-Medicare cap is \$2,500 per family/yr.

Copays: generic \$15 & brand \$25, for up to 34 days at retail.

90-day supply at retail is double \$30 for generic & \$50 for brand.

90-day supply Aetna mail order single



copy of \$15 generic & \$25 brand.

Medicare eligible retirees; disabled and 65 or older

Basic health plans only: GHI/CBP, HIP. (No Rx rider)

Annual family cap for the Local 237 Retirees' Fund Part-D creditable coverage plan is \$6,600 / year for member and family. The \$6,600 cap became effective in January 2015.

Only one card needed: included are diabetic medications as well as all other prescriptions. (Excluding injectable drugs)

Copays: \$5 generic & \$15 brand for up to 34-day supply retail.

90-day supply at retail doubled to \$10 generic & \$30 brand.

90-day supply Aetna mail order drugs single copy of \$5 generic & \$15 brand.

For Medicare eligible participants who elect a health plan such as HIP/VIP HMO, all prescriptions are received with

your health insurance card from the health insurer. (Medicare Advantage Plan)

The Retirees' Fund will provide partial reimbursement for anyone who chooses this option.

\$24/month for single coverage & \$36/month for family coverage.

Checks are sent out twice yearly usually February & August. Single \$144 & \$216 family, reflects six months of premium reimbursement.

The above information is strictly a guide to help you better understand your benefits that the Retirees' Fund provides. For specific information about your individual situation please call us so we can help with your concerns.

For further benefit information please call the Fund office at 212-924-7220.

On a personal note...

Congratulations to **Raymond Limbert**, retired assistant superintendent at Amsterdam Houses. Raymond graduated on June 27 from Strayer University with a B.A. in Criminal Justice. The commencement ceremony was held in Washington D.C. and was attended by his proud wife and family — cheering him on. For their love and support, Raymond gave them all a certificate of achievement in appreciation.



Condolences to the family of **Ralph Stabile**, housing superintendent, who died on August 25. In the words of 237 Trustee Edmund Kane, "We are deeply saddened by the passing of recently retired NYCHCA superintendent Ralph Stabile. Ralph was a 'tough' superintendent. Tough but fair. He knew the job inside and out. He demanded of his staff as much as he gave. Those who worked with him learned how to 'get the job done.' He made the Housing Authority a better place to live and to work. While we remember the cowboy boots and hat, we will also not forget Ralph's dedication and leadership."

Unite to Stop Diabetes!

STEP OUT | WALK TO STOP DIABETES

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Pier 84 in Manhattan

Westside Highway & 44th Street

Check in at 8:30 a.m. • Walk Begins at 10 a.m.

Last year, the Retiree Division raised over \$4,000 to support diabetes education, prevention & advocacy programs. This year, our goal is \$5,000. You can help by joining the team, make a donation, or both. Register online at

www.TeamstersStopDiabetes.org

For information call Luz Carty, 212-807-0555