

RETIREMENT PLANS THAT “CLEARLY” WORK FOR YOU.



Prizant Group



DRESSED TO THE NINES: To be dressed flamboyantly or smartly



Nine is the most troublesome number in etymology. There are several phrases of uncertain parentage that include the word. Examples are, cloud nine, nine days' wonder and the infamous whole nine yards. We can add 'dressed to the nines' to that list.

The most frequently heard attempts to explain the phrase's derivation involve associating the number nine with clothing in some way.

Dressed to the nines: One theory has it that tailors used nine yards of material to make a suit (or, according to some authors, a shirt). The more material you had the more kudos you accrued, although nine yards seems generous even for a fop.

Another commonly repeated explanation comes from the exquisitely smart uniforms of the 99th (Lanarkshire) Regiment of Foot, which was raised in 1824. The problem with these explanations is that they come with no evidence to support them, apart from a reference to the number nine (or 99, which seems to be stretching the cloth rather thinly). The regiment was in business in the early 19th century, which is at least the right sort of date for a phrase that became widely used in the middle of that century.

We know what the phrase means, but what are 'nines'?

The first example of the use of the phrase that I can find in print is in Samuel Fallows' *The Progressive Dictionary of the English Language*, 1835. In his entry for the phrase 'to the nines' Fallows gives the example 'dressed up to the nines' and suggests that it "may perhaps" be derived from 'to thine eynes' - to the eyes. Not bad as a hypothesis, but without any evidence (and I can find none) 'may perhaps' is as far as we can go with that.

What counts against the above explanations, and indeed against any of the supposed explanations that attempt to link the number nine to some property of

clothing, is the prior use of the shorter phrase 'to the nine' or 'to the nines'. This expression was used to indicate perfection, the highest standards and doesn't relate to clothing. That was in use in the 18th century, well before 'dressed to the nines' was first used, as in this example from William Hamilton's Epistle to Ramsay, 1719:

The bonny Lines therein thou sent me,
How to the nines they did content me.

[Nines](#)



Having been born in the 1950's (1953 to be exact), getting "dressed up" was Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in the Prizant household of five children. I was required to wear a sport coat, tie, and extremely itchy wool pants (demanded silk lining as my "sensitive skin" rebelled against anything wool) to go downtown on Thursday to meet dad at the Jewish men's club, or attend Sunday school (Yes, even Jewish kids go to Sunday school), or a birthday party (painfully remember that mom didn't read the invitation for the "gym party" and I was "Dressed to the Nines"). As for traveling, one **NEVER** enter an airplane cabin door an (DC-3 or DC-8 back then) without appropriate clothing on one's back. Til this day, I generally will wear a sport coat for air travel. Though I admit , it is not a fashion statement , but useful for the many pockets that can be filled with all sorts of necessary accoutrements. Interestingly enough, I have notice an increase in "Black Tie" affairs which might be a harbinger of a return to a more civilized time (though heaven forbid we go back to "Downton Abbey" days.

[Downton](#)



On August 4, 1790, Congress passed the Funding Act of 1790, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton's plan to pay off the public debt. _

_ The law provided for the federal government to assume and retire the debts incurred by the states during the War for Independence, which totaled \$25 million.

Hamilton's proposal was to combine what the states and federal government owed, and sell bonds to the public to raise money to pay it off. His idea was a resounding success. With the U.S. showing it was willing to meet its obligations, European investors began pouring money into the new nation, and the U.S. economy boomed. _

(Source: City University of New York)_

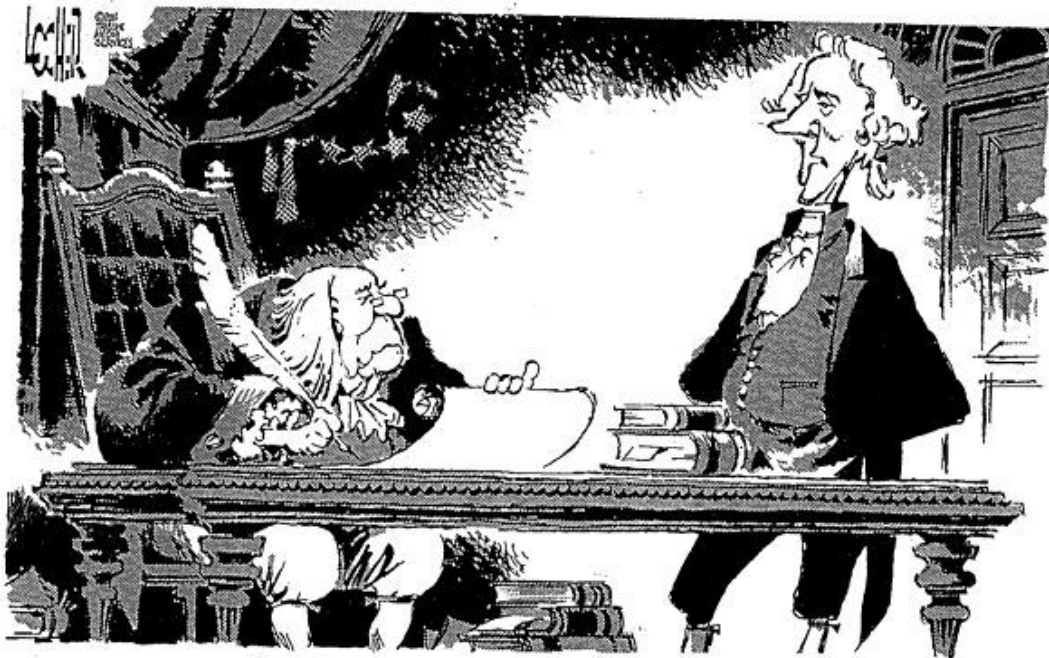
If you want to put a modern spin on the financial burden of war, one does not have to look far. Per Brown University, we spent an astounding \$2.26 Trillion. That would have paid for a good number of domestic assistance programs that are being ferociously debated in today's Congress.

AFGHANISTAN - The United States spent \$2.26 trillion during its 20-year presence in Afghanistan in fighting the Taliban, rebuilding the Afghan government and training the Afghan military (source: Brown University).

Cost of War

Unlike Mr. Hamilton's success in retiring Revolutionary War debt, the cost of armed foreign conflicts has contributed to the downfall of all great empires going back to the Romans. Wars are damn expensive and somebody has to pay for them. [Empires](#) Conflicts bleed national treasuries dry to the point that taxes must be increased. The financial burden of maintaining a troops in the colonies required the British to start imposing taxes on the colonists. The first such tax was the hated Stamp Act that set into motion the **"No Taxation Without Representation"** cry from the colonists.

The Stamp Act of 1765 was an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain which imposed a direct tax on the British colonies in America and required that many printed materials in the colonies be produced on stamped paper produced in London, carrying an embossed revenue stamp. Wikipedia



***"Let's leave out 'NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.'
What Congress would vote taxes without consulting the people?"***



Getting back to more mundane every day issues (as the ultimate collapse of the United States as world power might be a little too much for the "American Exceptionalism" contingent) are the "**Safety Nets**" of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Income Support, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other mandatory programs. The costs are staggering. Furthermore, it is indicative of the dire straits that a sizable amount of Americans (regardless of Race, Creed, or Color) are in. [Federal Spending](#)

AVERAGE PER MONTH - The average Social Security retirement benefit is \$1,503 per month. The average "food stamp" benefit (SNAP) is \$157 per month per person (source: BTN Research).

MONTHLY BENEFIT - 54 million Americans receive monthly Social Security retirement benefits, including retired workers, dependents of retired workers, and survivors of deceased workers. 42 million Americans receive monthly assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), aka "food stamps" (source: SNAP).

If one takes into account the financial predicament of a majority of Americans, then I find it laughable (if it wasn't so absurd) to read countless articles about "**How To Manage Your Savings in Retirement.**" Evidently, Americans are sitting on trillions of retirement dollars that need a professional money manager to apply their brilliant tactics, I question that supposed fact and wonder **WHAT STINKING SAVINGS ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?**

I don't care if 401k balances are at a all time high. **All Time High** The average American retirement account in 2019 was a whopping (excuse the sarcasm) **\$65,000**. Whoa, Nellie! That is some chunk of change , and that might get you to the nearest "retirement bus stop."

As for All Time High the only "High," I see on the streets is the plethora of extremely potent weed that is being smoked at all hours of the day! Give me a break all you financial mavens. The majority of Americans **"Do Not Have A Pot**

to **Piss In**" as my ne'er-do-well father used to say.

We, at **The Prizant Group** have seen progress of late from our erstwhile plan sponsors. They are warming up to the concept of "**Automatic Enrollment**" and instead of the historical 3% deferral percentage; we are cajoling them into 6%. Now, we would like to see an "**Annual Automatic Increase of 1%**", but beggars can't be choosy. Though "Mandatory" is considered "UnAmerican" (especially when it comes "THE RONA" a.k.a. COVID-19); it really does work in defined contribution plans. Thankfully, the younger generation of workers is beginning to heed the call of the necessity to save for retirement and goes a long willingly with the concept. **Youngsters** So, their parents may have torpedoed their retirement years (Hello, Home Depot Orange Apron, Disneyland Trolley Operator, Starbucks Barista, Whole Foods Deli Counter), but they **WILL NOT FOLLOW THEM OVER THE CLIFF**. Only to be young again (Nah, I am too damn tired for another go around). As I use to say to my three sons, "**The Train is Leaving!**" and they best jump on for a financially comfortable retirement.

[Petticoat Junction](#)

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