

## Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

### The Old Man and the Marine

*This story is reprinted in honor of our Veterans*

A nurse took the tired, anxious serviceman to the bedside. “Your son is here,” she said to the old man. She had to repeat the words several times before the patient’s eyes opened.

Heavily sedated because of the pain of his heart attack, he dimly saw the young uniformed Marine standing beside his bed. He reached out his hand.

The Marine wrapped his toughened fingers around the old man’s limp ones, squeezing a message of love and encouragement.

The nurse brought a chair so that the Marine could sit beside the bed. All through the night the young Marine sat there in the dimly-lit room, holding the old man’s hand and offering him words of love and strength. Occasionally, the nurse suggested that the Marine move away and rest awhile. He refused.

Whenever the nurse came into the room, the Marine was oblivious of her and of the night noises of the hospital - the clanking of the oxygen tank, the laughter of the night staff

*(Continued on page 2)*



**Veterans Day**  
*by Cheryl Dyson*

On Veterans Day, we honor all  
Who answered to a service call.  
Soldiers young and soldiers old,  
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.

Some have lived, while others died,  
And all of them deserve our pride.  
We’re proud of all the soldiers who  
Kept thinking of red, white  
and blue.

They fought for us and all our rights,  
They fought through many  
days and nights.  
And though we may not know  
each name,  
We thank ALL veterans  
just the same.



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**Former Secretary of State Colin Powell's Rules for Life:**

1. It's not as bad as you think. It will look better in the morning.
2. Get mad, then get over it.
3. Avoid having your ego so close to your position that when your position falls, your ego goes with it.
4. It can be done!
5. Be careful what you choose, you may get it.
6. Don't let adverse facts stand in the way of a good decision.
7. You can't make someone else's choices. You shouldn't let someone else make yours.
8. Check small things.
9. Share the credit.
10. Remain calm. Be kind.
11. Have a vision. Be demanding.
12. Don't take advice from your fears or your naysayers.
13. Perpetual optimism is a strength multiplier.

**The Old Man and the Marine** *Continued from Page 1*

members exchanging greetings, the cries and moans of the other patients. Now and then she heard him say a few gentle words.

The dying man said nothing, only held tightly to his son all through the night.

Along towards dawn, the old man died. The Marine released the now lifeless hand he had been holding and went to tell the nurse. While she did what she had to do, he waited.

Finally, she returned. She started to offer words of sympathy, but the Marine interrupted her, "Who was that man?" he asked.

The nurse was startled, "He was your father," she answered.

"No, he wasn't," the Marine replied. "I never saw him before in my life."

"Then why didn't you say something when I took you to him?"

"I knew right away there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son, and his son just wasn't here. When I realized that he was too sick to tell whether or not I was his son, knowing how much he needed me, I stayed. I came here tonight to find a Mr. William Grey. His son was killed in Iraq today, and I was sent to inform him. What was this gentleman's name?"

The nurse with tears in her eyes answered, "William Grey....."



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**I went bald,  
but I hung on to my  
comb.**

**I just couldn't part  
with it.**





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Twenty years ago today I asked my childhood sweetheart, my best friend, and the most beautiful woman in the world to marry me. All three said no.



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### Distracted in Small Groups

My daughter handed me her school progress report. Although it displayed a steady stream of positive check marks, there was one check mark standing dejectedly alone from the rest.

“How am I doing, Mom?” my child asked with a level of maturity that did not match the small disheveled person gazing up at me with smudged eyeglasses that teetered on the tip of her nose.



With her small finger, she pointed to her teacher’s neatly printed words next to the lone check mark.

It read: “Distracted in large groups.” But I already knew this. I knew this long before it was written on an official report card. Since she was a toddler, this child has offered astute observations of the world around her.

After pointing out all the positives on the progress report, I told her what was written. Upon hearing the news, she gave a tiny, uncertain smile and shyly admitted, “I do look around a lot.”

But before my child could feel one ounce of shame, one iota of failure, I came down on bended knee and looked her straight in the eye. I didn’t want her to just hear these words; I wanted her to feel them. This is what I said:

“Yes. You do look around a lot. You noticed Sam sitting off by himself with a skinned knee on the field trip, and you comforted him.”

“You noticed Banjo had a running nose, and the vet said it was a good thing we brought him in when we did.”

“You noticed our waitress was working really hard and suggested we leave an extra good tip. You noticed Grandpa was walking slower than the rest of us, so you waited for him.”

“You notice the beautiful view every time we cross the bridge to go to swim practice.”

“And you know what? I don’t ever want you to stop noticing because that is your gift. It is your gift that you give to the world.”

As I watched my daughter beam with the glow of acceptance, I realized her approach to life had the power to change the world.

You see, we are all just waiting for someone to notice—notice our pain, notice our scars, notice our fear, notice our joy, notice our triumphs, notice our courage. And the one who notices is a rare and beautiful gift.

*By Rachel Macy Stafford, author of "Hands Free Life."  
Her author page is @TheHandsFreeRevolution on Facebook.*

### You’re Fired!

The new company manager decided it was time to get rid of the company slackers.

On a tour of the plant, he noticed a guy leaning against a wall. Seeing a chance to show he meant business, he said to the man, “How much money do you make a week?”



A little surprised, the young man replied. “I make \$400 a week. Why?”

The boss said, “Wait right here.” He walked into the office and came back a few minutes later.

He handed the guy \$1,600 in cash and said, “Here’s four weeks pay. Now get out and don’t come back!”

Feeling like a real boss now, the manager looked around and said, “Does anyone want to tell me what that goof-off’s job was around here?”

From across the room, a voice spoke up, “Pizza delivery guy from Domino’s.”

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## Thanksgiving Dinner!

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## Buying Her Some Bling

An older, white-haired gentleman walked into a jewelry store late one Friday with his beautiful, young 20-something girlfriend at his side. He told the jeweler he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend.

The jeweler looked through his stock and brought out a \$5000 ring and showed it to him. The old man said, "No, I want something very special."

The jeweler went back and brought out a \$15,000 ring.

Looking it over, the old man shook his head and said, "I don't think you understand. I want something VERY special for my girl."

At that statement, the jeweler went to his safe and brought another ring over. "Here's a stunning ring, one of the finest I have. It is \$40,000" the jeweler said.

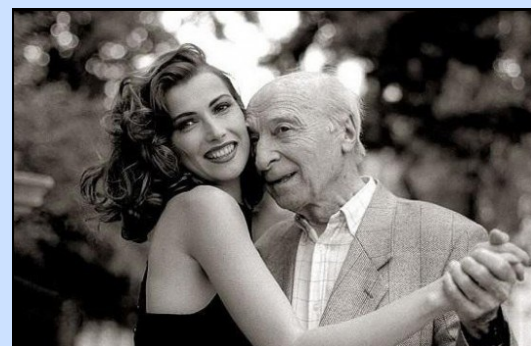
The young lady's eyes sparkled, and she trembled with excitement. Seeing her reaction, the old man said, "We'll take it!"

Then the jeweler asked how payment would be made. The old man calmly stated, "I'll be paying by check. I know you need to make sure my check is good, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank on Monday to verify the funds. Then I'll pick up the ring Monday afternoon."

The couple left with the young lady hanging on his arm and grinning from ear to ear.

Monday morning a very upset jeweler phoned the old man. "There's no money in that account!" he exclaimed.

"I know," said the old man, "But ask me about my weekend!"



**I burned 2000  
calories today.  
That's the last time  
I leave brownies  
in the oven  
while I take a nap!**

## Final Resting Place

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests. First, she wanted to be cremated, and second, she wanted her ashes scattered over at Wal-Mart.

"Wal-Mart?" the preacher exclaimed. "Why Wal-Mart?"

"Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week."