



## National Active and Retired Federal Employees APPLETON-FOX VALLEY CHAPTER 437 NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2020

### FROM MERLIN SANDERFOOT, PRESIDENT

Need to start out by mentioning H.R. 1553, the Fair COLA for Seniors Act. Under this legislation, COLAs would be calculated by measuring seniors' spending habits using the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E), rather than the current method. Now that the Government Accountability Office (GAO), stepped in with a report about concerns about the accuracy, timeliness and relevancy of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) calculations for federal retirees and Social Security beneficiaries. GAO's main concern stems from the method the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses to derive price indexes, which hasn't been tested in thirty years. Without a proper evaluation of the methodology, GAO said, federal retirement benefits could be subjected to adjustment based on potentially inaccurate information. Seniors rely most on the COLA, yet BLS' current methodology misrepresents their spending habits and lifestyle. Seniors spend a disproportionate amount on medical care, which continues to outpace the costs of other consumer goods

(as we all know). As a result, the current method of COLA calculations shortchanges retired public servants, veterans and all seniors who rely on Social Security for income. This is why **WE All** need to support H.R. 1553, which would switch the COLA calculation from the CPI-W to the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E), a move that would result in higher COLAs of an estimated 0.27 percentage points **PER YEAR**. As of 9/1/2020 H.R. 1553: Fair COLA for Seniors Act of 2019 has 39 cosponsors, of which Rep Mark Pocan D-district 2 and Rep Gwen Moore D-district 4 are 2 of the Wisconsin's 8 Representatives to cosponsor this bill. The latest action on H.R. 1553, it was referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means, Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Reform, and Armed Services.

Next, what I know to be the latest on our normal meeting place, the Golden Corral, in Appleton. The company website still lists its status as "operations temporarily suspended." Now, signs are posted on its locked doors, directing customers to the

Golden Corral in Oshkosh. Gift cards will be accepted at the Oshkosh location, even though the restaurants have different franchise owners. ( in my mind not a good sign for the Appleton Golden Corral).

According to the Oshkosh manager, they haven't been given any information about the Appleton location future plans. All this according to the BUZZ, Appleton Post Crescent. Hoping our Chapter will not have to look for a new location.

#### **FROM TOM BUSS, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER**

Past efforts to reform the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) would have required current and future postal retirees to enroll in Medicare Part B or lose their federal health insurance benefits altogether. Postal retirees should retain the choice as to whether to add Medicare to their existing retiree health benefit coverage. Eliminating that choice, as proposed in postal bills from the 115th Congress (H.R. 756/H.R. 6076/S.2629), breaks a basic promise to avoid altering retiree benefits for those in retirement and heaps significant additional costs on aging postal retirees. (source: NARFE website)

#### **FROM THE DESK OF LEE BENNER**

It is again with a heavy heart that I must report the death of another of our chapter members. On September 2, 2020, Bud Prentice, our long time Secretary of Chapter 437, passed away. We have noticed at our last meeting in February that Bud was not doing well. He was 91 years old and he still walked at least 2 miles a day regardless of the weather. He had fallen just before our meeting that month and he fell again just shortly before he ended up in the hospital. He is at peace, I am sure and reunited with all of his family. He will be sadly missed by

those of us who knew him well. We will just have to take comfort in knowing he is at last in peace. I will include with this letter a page set up by Dr. John Edwards and his wife, Dr. Jill Edwards to keep those of us who were aware of Bud's situation, advised of how things were with Bud. Of course we were not allowed to see him because of Covid-19. The Edwards' were Bud's neighbors and also his POA's for his estate. Dr. John Edward's, had planned to sit with Bud that evening for a while, but Bud had passed away just before Dr. Edward's got to him. There will be no service or memorial for Bud, per his wishes. We will each have to do our own time of remembering Bud.

Again the Birthdays and Anniversaries were all in the June issue through October 8<sup>th</sup> so there are no others to report for now.

Hope all of you are well and staying busy with really no place to go because of this Covid-19. I am blessed to at least have my yard with enough room to move about a bit so I am doing okay. My brother has finally made it home last Saturday after his bout with Covid-19 and Congestive Heart Failure. He has been cleared of the Covid-19 and his heart doctor said his heart is doing great. Just need some time to get his strength back and he should be fine. All of the rest of the family are all doing great and were not affected anywhere nearly as bad as Bob with the virus. Guess that is why I am being extra cautious and we all need to stay extra cautious because the virus is harder on the older people.

I just checked Dr. Edwards page and it is 11 pages long and growing. I will not be able to include the whole thing in this news letter, the cost would be prohibited. I will have copies to handout at our next meeting, when ever that will be.

## Status update re Eldon "Bud" Prentice

This document is designed to provide a simple way for Bud's family and friends to stay updated on his status. Bud asked my wife (Jill Edwards) and me (John Edwards) many years ago, in writing, to be his healthcare powers of attorney and to support healthcare decisions he has clearly expressed over decades. We have also been talking regularly through this past month with his nephew Ken Jozwiak and grand nephew Dan Jozwiak.

Everyone is allowed to edit this document so you can add updates if you get them. Feel free to add other people to the "share" link in the upper right corner of the screen, if you wish. Please feel free to add to this document if you like. If you are adding, it will be helpful if you put your addition at bottom of this document, briefly introduce yourself and time/date you are entering item(s), by writing something like this: John Edwards Tuesday 9/2 10am

John Edwards (neighbor) Tuesday 9/2, 10:15 am

I spoke with Bud's nurse, Deb, at Bethel home in Oshkosh. She also worked with him 8/31 and notes that he is peaceful and comfortable seeming. He is less awake/aware than he was for her 2 days ago. He has refused meds last night and this am. His oxygen requirement is up slightly (to 4 liters, about the highest they can go there), and his body is slowly shutting down. He is receiving meds for comfort. Letting nature take its course is all entirely in keeping with the very clear wishes he has expressed in writing in his living will that he has reaffirmed every couple years for decades and again very clearly for the nurse and me during my visit with him on 8/31. He was clear in his thinking at that time and clearly able to communicate his wishes. He expressly said he did not want to go to the hospital, have further testing or additional treatment. His COVID-19 test is still pending (the rapid COVID19 test was negative on 9/1, but it's not as reliable as the one that is still being run)

We are supporting him to stay comfortable and to honor his very consistently expressed wishes after a life well-lived.

As you may be aware, Bud has been very very clear and consistent through many years that he does not want any type of "service" or memorial after he passes. We'll honor that request, too. However, we can "celebrate" him together online. If people would like to add thoughts, remembrances, etc, to this document, that's fine. We might all enjoy hearing about how Bud has touched this special group.

John Edwards Tues 9/2 11:11am. Bud's nurse, Deb, called to let me know Bud is having some longer pauses between breathing now. He remains comfortable.

John Edwards Tues 9/2 12:30pm. John (i) will go sit with Bud today 4-5ish. Dan Jozwiak will sit with him this pm after supper.

There was a request to know who is on the emails of this document. Please correct any errors I've made here, if you see any. Thx. Pls feel free to add to the list if you'd like, and if you add other emails.

In no particular order...  
friends/neighbors/associates

Becky Schwaller  
Todd Schulz  
Dawn Schulz  
Bill & Betty Ottoson  
Jerry Sanderfoot  
Merlin Sanderfoot  
Mike Roselle  
Jill Edwards  
John Edwards  
Jerry & Jo Bohren  
Lee Benner  
Marilyn Besch  
Tom McGreevey

Relatives

Dan Jozwiak  
Ken Jozwiak  
Christie Dearborn  
David Coddington  
Kara Roeming  
Nadine McGlone

Dan Jozwiak 9/2 1:00 Added Nadine McGlone and Vicki Tollefson (friends/"granddaughters") to the group. Added Tom McGreevey (friend) and Joe Winkel (uncle)

John Edwards 9/2 5:15pm. I came down to visit Bud this afternoon and sit with him. On my arrival, I realized that in the few minutes between when his nurse had last checked on him and when I arrived around 4:45, he apparently passed on peacefully and comfortably. He had some favorite music playing in the room, including the MacDowell male chorus spiritual songs. With each of you, Jill and I hold our dear friend in our hearts and thoughts. Although none of us know the plans of "the man upstairs" as Bud referred to him, I am assured that Bud's peaceful passage from this world into the next is exactly what Bud was hoping for and that there are happy reunions taking place as we think of our dear friend moving on.

With love, John Edwards

Kara Roeming (great niece) 9/2 6:00 pm

Rest in Peace Uncle Bud. May you now be at peace and have everlasting comfort. Thank you so much John for being there for him and for sharing updates with us all.

Lee Benner, Friend and former co-worker. Rest in peace Bud. God Bless you and wrap his arms around you. Thank you Dr. Edwards for what you and Jill have done for Bud through the years. We will miss him very much, but know he is in a better place.

NARFE FOX VALLEY CHAPTER 437  
1137 East Nawada St  
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AND WILL AT THE GOLDEN CORRAL ON WESTHILL  
BOULEVARD OFF OF WISCONSIN AVENUE IN  
APPLETON.  
MEETING BEGINS AT 12:30 PM**

**IF YOU PLAN TO EAT PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE IN  
TIME TO FINISH BY THE TIME THE MEETING STARTS.  
THE GOLDEN CORRAL OPENS AT 10:30 am  
THANK YOU!**