THE EPOCH TIMES LIFE & Control of the control of th



D-Day veteran, French Legion of Honor recipient discusses his lucky century

DUSTIN BASS

uck has seemed to follow Jack Hamlin like a shadow. He was born on Oct. 15, 1921, in Springfield, Missouri. Over the past 100 years, his life has been full of providential moments, even when it seemed otherwise at the time.

Hamlin is a product of interesting and tumultuous times for the nation and the world, having grown up as a child in the Roaring '20s and becoming a teenager during the Depression years. Just as he exited his teenage years, he enlisted in the military, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

But before the war, Hamlin's focus was on two things: girls and baseball.



Hamlin in his cutter.

referred

cutters.

COURTESY OF JACK HAMLII

matchbox

Leopoldville, carrying U.S. soldiers of the

66th Infantry Division, had been torpedoed

about 5.5 miles from Cherbourg. Hamlin's

cutter was one of the 35 boats to assist in the

rescue of what is now known as the Leop-

"We saved probably 15 or 20," Hamlin re-

called. "I had a line tied around me again, I

was in the water, and one soldier was drift-

ing away from me. My line wouldn't go any

further and I couldn't reach for him. I can

remember him crying. That's the only thing

The sinking of the S.S. Leopoldville was

kept secret by the U.S. military to keep

morale up in America and keep morale

low among the Axis powers. Of the more

than 2,000 soldiers who were headed to

fight in the Battle of Bulge, 763 were killed,

either from the initial blast, drowning, or

hypothermia. The bodies of 493 were never

Hamlin returned to Cherbourg with his

new love, Jacqueline. Their "love affair" lasted until he left for home in November 1945.

Hamlin's ability to be in the right place at

the right time struck again when the Ger-

mans surrendered in May 1945. He drove

the cutter that delivered several high-rank-

oldville Troopship Disaster.

I regret from the whole war."

recovered.

The End of the War

The Lucky Life of

Continued from Page 1

In his Model A, he was busy going to the movies at the Princess Theater and enjoying double-dates with friends, like the eventual longtime host of "The Price Is Right," Bob Barker. His baseball days had begun when he was very young and continued throughout high school.

After graduating in 1939, Hamlin attended Drury College (now University). But his baseball days were still ahead of him. His athletic ability caught the eye of Missouri Sports Hall of Fame baseball scout Tom Greenwade, who signed him to a minor league contract with an affiliate of the New York Yankees. Hamlin continued his schooling and would later play in the semi-professional Ban Johnson League, the same league Mickey Mantle would play in nine years later. (Greenwade would sign Mantle to a Yankees contract in 1949, and four years prior, recommend Jackie Robinson to a major league contract; he had scouted Robinson for the Brooklyn Dodgers before joining the Yankees.)

A Dire Miracle

While playing baseball in 1939, Hamlin developed rheumatic fever, which commonly results from untreated scarlet fever or strep throat. The inflammatory disease kept him away from baseball and most everything else for nearly a year. In his wing of the hospital, he was one of four who was suffering from rheumatic fever; the other three would die His physician, Dr. Max Fitch, saved his life when he discovered the recent development of a pill for rheumatic fever.

At the time, suffering from rheumatic fever seemed anything but providential. His doctor's timely discovery not only saved his life then and there, but quite possibly in the long term as well. About a year later, on the first Sunday of December in 1941, 353 Japanese aircraft took off from four carriers and attacked the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. The attack resulted in the deaths of 2,403 people, including 68 civilians, and wounded more than 1,000 others. Nineteen naval vessels were destroyed or damaged, including eight battleships. When news hit that America was "suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan," it took only 24 hours for Congress to declare war. Hamlin was one of the many who would enlist to fight.

He and four friends, who had been fellow Boy Scouts, decided to enlist in the Marines. Hamlin was turned down. He tried enlisting in the Navy with Barker. Again, he was turned down. The issue was a result of his rheumatic fever; it had enlarged his heart, making him physically ineligible to join any of those branches. Then two of his fellow baseball players told him about the U.S. Coast Guard. He soon became a boatswain's mate.

"At the time when we were working in the United States, we were chasing submarines out of Newport, Rhode Island," he said. "We had eight depth charges on the stern. We had two 50-millimeter guns, and a 20-millimeter gun."

Those four friends who joined the Marines ended up fighting on Iwo Jima, with one being killed in action. Not being able to join the Navy kept Hamlin from fighting in the naval battles of the Pacific. His call to arms wouldn't be about taking lives, but rather saving them.

In April 1944, he was stationed in the small port town of Poole, England. When he joined the Coast Guard, he never figured he would leave the coast of America, much less be part of the greatest amphibious invasion in military history.

Joining the D-Day Invasion

Well before this invasion took place, President Franklin Roosevelt suggested a rescue flotilla be part of Operation Neptune, the naval component of Operation Overlord.









COURTESY OF JACK HAMLIN Cherbourg, France. Hamlin fell in love with a French nurse named Jacqueline.

It was on my mind, 'Will I survive?' But you had to bring these wounded soldiers and the drowning soldiers out of the water as quick as can be.

Jack Hamlin

Hamlin has returned numerous times to France, particularly for D-Day commemorations in Normandy, a trip he will be making a seventh time this year.

Its purpose was to rescue as many soldiers on was a pair of dungarees, tennis shoes, as possible left floating in the turbulent

This rescue flotilla was composed of 60 25 to 50 soldiers each trip and took them 83-foot U.S. Coast Guard cutters, referred to to a hospital ship 10 miles away. In all, the as the "matchbox fleet." The boats were dispersed among the five beaches and would roam relatively close to the shore during the invasion. On each boat were 13 men. Hamlin was on Rescue Flotilla #1.

"They didn't tell us until we were on our way that we would be rescuing people,"

On June 6, 1944, that great invasion took place as about 160,000 Allied troops stormed the five beaches of Normandy: Sword, Gold, Juno, Utah, and Omaha. No beach is more famous, or infamous, than Omaha.

The Invasion Begins

As scores of thousands of soldiers stormed the beaches, Hamlin stood at the ready. He was one of two soldiers on his boat with a line about 30 yards long tied around the waist to dive in and rescue soldiers. According to Hamlin, he never saw the beaches, and the closest they ever got to Omaha Beach was about 500 yards. Despite the distance, Hamlin was busy rescuing wounded and drowning soldiers over the next two and a half days.

"It's hard to describe," he said. "There were so many bodies you could see out there that we'd get alongside and sometimes we didn't even have to get in the water. We had hooks and we'd catch onto them. Most of the time, I would have to dive in. I wouldn't go out any more than 30 or 40 feet. The larger boys stayed aboard our cutter so they could be there when we pulled the bodies of the wounded or drowning soldiers to the hull, so they could pick them up."

Often, the soldiers weren't from the beaches, but rather from sinking ships and LSTs (Landing Ship, Tanks) that had either hit a mine or were hit by German guns.

"I had never seen a wounded person. I had never seen a dead person," he said. "This was a shock to me. All I know was that I was scared to death the whole time. It was on my mind, 'Will I survive?' But you had to bring these wounded soldiers and the drowning and that meant I had to get out of the water also. That water was cold. I've heard that it was probably around 42 degrees. Now, that's awful cold for water to be in. All I had

and a Navy shirt." Hamlin said the cutters gathered around

soldiers of the "matchbox fleet" rescued 1,486 soldiers and one British female nurse. Hamlin had always been an exceptional

swimmer, and his athletic ability was being utilized when it was most needed. But there came a moment on the second day of the invasion that took his attention away from the water and toward the air.

On that day, two German planes began strafing the beaches. Though Hamlin had received little training with the cutter's 20-millimeter gun, he grabbed it and began firing. The shooting proved accurate as the bullets slashed through the plane.

"The gunner's mate was in the water," he recalled. "One of the other crew members said, 'Jack, you've shot the 20 millimeters before. Get on there. Everybody else is shooting at that plane.' We just so happened to have a Commander Stewart we had picked up off the Augusta battleship and he wanted to go into shore. That was the only reason we had Coast Guard Commander Stewart aboard. He happened to witness some of my shells going into this German plane, probably along with other shells, but he wrote up and gave me a citation that I did shoot down the last of the German planes over the beach."

Love in the Midst of Tragedy

The "matchbox fleet" finally made its way back to England. Hamlin remained in Poole until October, when he headed back across the English Channel to the port town of Cherbourg in northwest France.

It was there he met and fell madly in love with a French nurse named Jacqueline, who would later become a model. They first met on Christmas Eve 1944 aboard his cutter.

"I had met a sergeant who was in charge of the food for the American hospital, and he said, 'Jack, I'm going to come down to your cutter on Christmas Eve. I'll bring some wine. I'll bring some turkey. And I'll bring two nurses.' I said, 'That'll be wonderful, and what I'll do is I'll take four of my crew, which soldiers out of the water as quick as can be, are the best-looking ones and I'll let them go into Cherbourg and let them go to a bar, and we'll get rid of the good-looking boys." His first date with the French nurse was

cut short when a call came in that the S.S.

ing officers to Guernsey Island as part of Liberation Force 135. The Channel Islands had been occupied by the Nazis since June 30, 1940, shortly after the British government decided the territories weren't of strategic value and would not be defended. Once Hamlin returned home seven

months later, he wasted little time pursuing a career and a family. Most of the men in his family, dating back to his grandfather, had been lawyers. He graduated from law school but failed the bar exam twice.

"It was a good thing I didn't [pass]," he said, "because I never have had the patience to study the books."

So he decided to pursue a career in a different industry: insurance. He started a business that would thrive in Springfield, and he eventually sold it to family members. He married Virginia Schreiber in 1953 and had a son, Jeff, and two daughters, Julie and Jacqueline. He and Virginia were married for more than 50 years.

He continued to play baseball and retained his relationship with Greenwade, a relationship that resulted in him receiving a Babe Ruth jersey that he eventually sold for \$75,000. Among his other relationships, he became close to the late golf legend Payne Stewart. He played golf with Buddy Hackett and Mickey Rooney, and softball against fastpitch softball icon Eddie Feigner. He is friends with the granddaughters of generals George C. Patton and Dwight D. Eisenhower. He has also developed a friendship with Frenchwoman Marie-Pascale Legrand. This French connection resulted in his meeting the daughter and granddaughters of his former French wartime love. They met for the first time last year.

Hamlin has returned numerous times to France, particularly for D-Day commemorations in Normandy, a trip he will be making a seventh time this year. He said he loves returning to Normandy because the people are so good to him and the other World War II veterans. The French government displayed their gratitude in no uncertain terms by awarding him the French Legion of Honor, the "highest French decoration."

When it comes to being honored for his duty and sacrifice during D-Day, one return is especially memorable, although it wasn't

"I got a call at home and they said, 'Jack, we're calling about an invitation to come to England to have dinner with the Queen of England," Hamlin said. "I forget the words I used, but they weren't very good. I thought I recognized the voice of a man I knew and he was pulling a joke on me. He finally said, 'Jack, don't be so rude. This is Mr. Brewster in Washington D.C. of the War Department, and you will get a call in the morning at 7 o'clock from the British Embassy, and you are being invited to come over to have dinner with the Queen of England on the 50th anniversary of D-Day.' I traveled over there and got to have dinner with the Queen of England. What an honor and what a pleasure.' And what a lucky call to receive.

100 Years of Good Luck

It's been 100 years of providential moments. Moments that weren't simply providential for himself, like surviving the rheumatic fever, but also providential for others, like those he saved during the D-Day invasion and the Leopoldville tragedy.

"Everything has fallen right at my feet, and all I had to do was pick it up and use it and do the best I could with it," he said. "I've tried to do that. I've been very lucky."

Dustin Bass is the host of Epoch TV's "About the Book: A Show About New Books With the Authors Who Wrote Them." He is an author and co-host of The Sons of History podcast.

The Joys and Amusements of Old Age

JEFF MINICK

Amusement is rarely a word associated with aging.

After all, the great majority of those who have passed their three-scoreand-ten years face physical ailments, declining mental powers, and the certainty that they are sailing ever closer to the end of life.

Though a relative newbie to this milestone, I find myself fitting right in with this hoary crew. Every couple of months or so, some new and often mysterious injury afflicts me. This week, for instance, an inexplicable pain in my ankle has me shuffling around the house in the mornings. The pain disappears by noon, only to clamp down hard when I wake the next morning. My mental faculties remain intact, though I may require several minutes for the name of the lead actor in "Gladiator" to float from my brain to my tongue. And I'm aware, naturally, that I am a great house, or sit absorbed in a book brings many steps closer to the grave than true delight

In "A Geriatrician Reviews Cicero's 'On Old Age,'" Dr. Jeffrey Levine summarizes four reasons cited by the Roman philosopher and statesman Cicero on why "old age appears to be unhappy:" decreased active pursuits, a weakened body, the deprivation of physical pleasures, and impending death.

I was 20 years ago.

But as Cicero reveals in "De Senectute," and as Levine shows us, the speaker Cato in this Ciceronian dialogue concludes of this final stage of life that "My old age sits light upon me ... and not only is not burdensome, but makes me happy."

Cato had his reasons for the consolations and joys we might find in

Here are some of mine.

An Appreciation of Beauty

Years ago, when I used to visit my father in Florida, we'd often drink coffee or a glass of wine in his backyard, where Dad would comment throughout our conversation on the birds that came to the feeder he'd set up, the squirrels scampering under the pines, and the flowers his wife had planted in the rock garden he'd built. To be honest, those interests seemed a bit dull to me.

But now I understand.

the obligations of life fall away—chil-running late for an appointment, the Jeff Minick has four children and a old have more time to absorb and the house to phone and postpone the For 20 years, he taught history, enjoy the everyday panorama tak- meeting. The property tax bill would ing place around us. Like my dad, arrive in the mail, leaving me down for example, I now spend some time in the dumps for days. Frigid winter daily, even on most winter days, on temperatures would burst a pipe in the porch, watching the rabbits and the basement, a frequent occurrence the deer, and the hawks, buzzards, and other birds. The clouds and blue skies roll across the hills, the rain falls, the wind offers gentle breezes or gusts

that can blow the outdoor furniture into the yard, and meanwhile, I soak

up nature's pageantry. People often elicit this same interest. Many women, for instance, who are younger than me by 40 or 50 years, strike me as beautiful. That barista may need to lose some weight, but her eyes shine like the sun; my librarian may look forbidding in her glasses and tight bun, but her smile lights up the room; the stranger on the sidewalk may be wearing a sweatshirt and running shorts, but she glides past me as graceful as a ballerina. I enjoy them as I do flowers in a public park.

My grandchildren bring pleasure whenever they visit or in the memories I've stocked-piled of them over the years. Whether in real-time or in my imagination, watching them climb trees, wrestle in the living room, ride their hoverboards around the

My old age sits light upon me ... and not only is not burdensome, but it makes me happy.

Cato

Other children do the same. My church, for instance, is crammed full of families with lots of kids. Though some older parishioners frown when a baby wails or that 8-year-old makes her fourth trek to the restroom, I get a kick out of watching all these wiggling bodies, the infants and toddlers giving their parents a workout as they squirm in their arms, the brothers who whisper together until their father shushes them. This carnival of young people and little ones who are the promise and hope for the future brings a smile every Sunday.

Most Troubles Are Trifles Here, too, is one of the great gifts be-

stowed on me by the passage of years. As is the case with many people, in my younger days, life often seemed like a ticking bomb that from time to time exploded when least expected, driv-As the body slows and as some of ing me into anger or depression. I'd be drearing, the 9-to-5 job—we who are car wouldn't start, and I'd stomp into in our old house, and I'd spend the next couple of hours muttering away while I patched the leak.

Growing older has brought a per-

spective I lacked. These days, the expression "come what may" has become my watchword. There are things of vital significance in my life the health and safety of my children and grandchildren, the well-being of friends, even the course of our country in these unhappy times—but troubles that once seemed mountains have become less than molehills. They're just problems to be solved and are no longer sources of rage or sorrow.

Thanksgiving Comes Every Day Until I entered my 60s, I rarely gave much thought to gratitude, or if I did, those moments have vanished from

my memory. But gratitude is surely one of the

graces bestowed by growing old. Every dawn shortly after I wake, I offer a simple prayer, "Thank you, God, for another day." As I wend my way through that day, I add other appreciations, things I'm grateful for, everything from my grandkids to a good cup of coffee. I consider myself fortunate for discovering, even so late in life, this deeper consciousness of the good in this world, this ability to cherish people, places, and things I

once took for granted or ignored. Recently, I ate supper with a young couple and their children whom I've befriended. After the meal, as is their custom, we gathered for family prayer in the den. Their two little girls offered up their prayer intentions for their parents, some relatives, their baby brother, and even me. When it was the turn of the mother, she thanked God for all the good in her life.

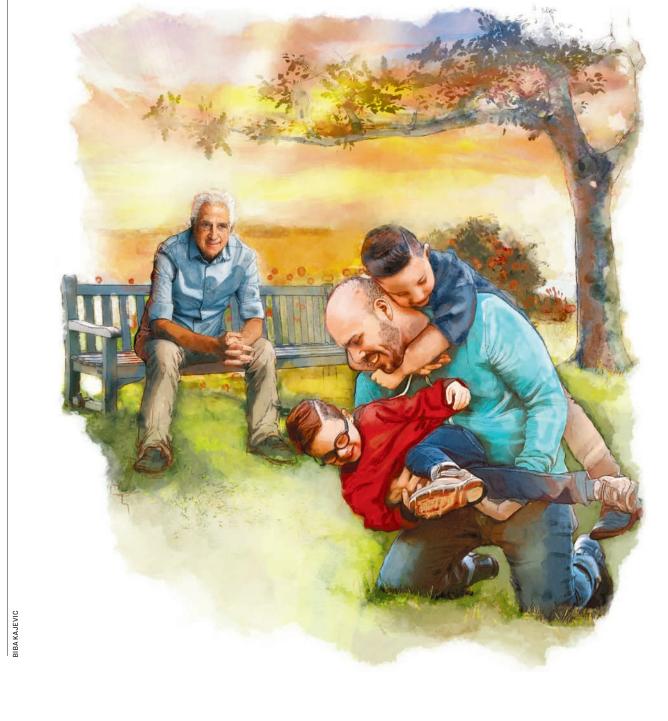
She's not quite 30, but she gets it. And now I get it, too.

Which is one more thing to be grate-

Getting older makes time more precious and also often frees us to pursue our delights, and I know plenty of people who do just that. Several older friends of mine play golf or tennis, a millionaire and his wife have spent their retirement traveling the country, and another acquaintance enjoys nothing so much as gardening and reading historical fiction.

Illness, the death of friends and family, hard times: Old age can be one tough old bird, and there are horrible times when pain and sadness can take us down. Rightly so. The trick is to not let them keep us down.

growing platoon of grandchildr literature, and Latin to seminars of homeschooling students in Asheville, N.C. He is the author of two novels, "Amanda Bell" and "Dust on Their Wings," and two works of nonfiction, "Learning as I Go" and "Movies Make the Man." Today, he lives and writes in Front Royal, Va. See JeffMinick.com to follow his blog.



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Meet the Man Who's Helped Thousands of Animals With Limited Mobility Walk Again

ANNA MASON

An animal prosthetic expert from Virginia is giving animals with limited mobility a second chance at life by creating custom artificial limbs—gifting them with the opportunity to walk again.

Through his organization, Bionic Pets, Derrick Campana, 43, has transformed the lives of close to 35,000 animals, including dogs, goats, cows, camels, raccoons, and elephants.

"Every animal deserves to walk and have a great life," Campana, who stars in the TV series "The Wizard of Paws," told The

Campana's mission to help animals in an owner of a black Labrador dog came into the opposite is true. his office, where he made prosthetics for humans, and said she needed a prosthesis and have animals heal in a different way for her dog, Charles. At that time, Campana without undergoing surgery or the knife," wasn't aware nor had he seen an animal in

completely, Campana took a week and built

"It took me quite a while to create my first device because it was very foreign to me, I didn't know what I was doing," he said. "Even though I had all the skills for making human prosthetics, it was a lot different.

"I kind of had to invent the whole process and figure out what would work well for

Although it was something he hadn't done before, fitting Charles with a prosthesis gave Campana immense joy, since it worked well.

After the success of the first device he created, Campana began to research more to see if anyone else in the world did this and found that no one else was making animal prosthetics at that time. Thus, he began a business immediately, and developed it into a worldwide entity.

"Everything I learned on the human side, I wanted to introduce to the veterinary side, and it was just this completely open market," he said. "I'm also an entrepreneur at heart, and I love building things with my hands."

Realizing that he had a "knack for this," Campana worked more with Charles's owner, a veterinarian who comes across many dogs with injuries and sends these different cases to him.

Through this, Campana was able to slowly develop his skills. However, it wasn't all that easy, and in some cases, he found it so hard that he had to make the device or prosthesis over and over again.

For instance, Campana recalled a dog named Evany that had a front leg amputation that was fairly high. With no prior experience in making a prosthetic like that, he tried about eight to 10 times.

"When I finally got it to work, to stay on, and the dog was walking, I was so happy because I knew there are so many more dogs in the world that need that exact same type of treatment," he said. "I realized that

I just broadened my patient base."

Having cracked the formula over all these years, Campana's operation now runs as smoothly as it can. Everything is made on-site in Sterling, Virginia. Owners who live more locally bring their animals in to be cast, or if they are further afield, the company ships out a casting kit. A mold is then taken using instructional videos, or with the help of a veterinarian.

Campana, who loves using his hands, sculpts every single mold himself. The animals are either fitted with their prosthetics in the shop or it's shipped to them.

According to Campana, there's a common misconception among people that need started about 18 years ago. One day, prosthetics are for the rich. He stresses that

"It can actually take the place of surgery he said. "For example, a dog tears their ACL and they have to do a \$5,000 surgery However, instead of giving up the idea on his knee. Well, that isn't always necessary—we can put a knee brace on a dog. And within just a few months, you can take the knee brace off, and they heal without surgery."

> He emphasizes that the process is also much simpler and, in the long run, people can save more money.

"The biggest thing I want people to realize is, compared to surgery, the cost of our prosthetics and our braces are a lot cheaper, and they're just as effective, if not even better,"

So far, the biggest animal he has helped by fitting a prosthetic leg is a bull elephant. He has helped many elephants, having recently returned from Thailand after assisting these animals.

Nonetheless, Campana clears up a very important issue. He said most people think it will be an instant miracle every time, but it's not always like that.

"Just like people, it takes a while for ani-



It can actually take the place of surgery and have animals heal in a different way without undergoing surgery or

Derrick Campana

the knife.

Campana has made prosthetics for birds and elephants.



up helping other animals.

COURTESY OF DERRICK CAMPANA

mals to get adjusted to braces and prosthetics," he said. "Once they finally understand and get used to it, there's the miracle." Once it works well, witnessing the ani-

mal's, caretaker's, and family's reactions are the best thing, Campana said. "I love it," he said. "[It's] just the most

beautiful thing you'll ever see." "The Wizard of Paws," meanwhile, has been an incredible endeavor, as people all over the world have the opportunity to watch Campana, accompanied by his dog, Henry, travel across the nation in a mobile "limb lab," helping animals in need. This has also been great fun for Campana's

"He's 9 years old and loves coming to all the different sanctuaries with me," Camnna said. "My youngest son is still 3, so he doesn't quite understand everything, but he loves watching my show. He's always looking at the TV saying 'Oh, Daddy helps animals. He's building legs for animals."

So what's next for this busy entrepreneur? He's currently working on opening a nonprofit called Bionic Barn, a place that will allow pet owners to travel with their animals, big or small, and stay on-site while their prosthetics are built.

"People will get to watch what we do and experience the whole process," Campana said. "We're also going to have a few robot animals as well."

He also wants to start an accreditation body to standardize the industry, as there aren't many standards at this point, he said.

"This is really, really important," he said. "A lot of people just want to do this, but there is no standard, and so you end up hurting animals, and I don't want that to happen."

For Campana, helping animals in need has become his heart's calling.

"It's such an addictive feeling ... to watch these animals walk again," he said. 'You're not only helping the animal, but you're helping the entire family."

The father of two said that sometimes he's helping a particular species for the first time, but knows that by offering help to this one animal, he will end

> The feeling of helping is so indescribable, he said, that he wants to do it over and over again.

"That's why I keep doing it, and that's why I'll keep doing it for the rest of my life.'

"The Wizard of Paws" is available to stream for free on the BYUtv app and at BYUtv.org.

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Laughing on the Bumpy Road of Life

Comedian Chonda Pierce on clean humor and personal hardships as source material

ALICE GIORDANO

Spend an hour with Chonda Pierce, and you could count on laughing for the rest of the day—maybe even the rest of your life. Her fairly innocent irreverence is applied to topics ranging from growing up as a preacher's daughter to shopping at Walmart to political fodder. Pierce also performed at several White House events when Donald Trump was president.

Pierce has appeared on a myriad of major television shows, including daytime ABC talk show "The View," where she left the show's liberal hosts and longtime stand-up comedians Whoopi Goldberg and Joy Behar—both known for their raunchy skits—scratching their heads over her success. Pierce recalled Behar telling her, "I don't introduce myself as a Jewish comedian," after Pierce was introduced on the show as a Christian comic.

'Queen of Clean'

What may stump Hollywood comedians even more is just how Rated G, with the occasional PG jokes, her popular standup is.

Andrew Tenenbaum, Pierce's manager who represents an A-list of clients, said the 62-year-old comedian, known as the "Queen of Clean," was an easy sell for three reasons: "She has talent, talent, and also—talent."

While Tenenbaum usually won't take on a client until he sees them live, he booked her after watching just 10 minutes of one of her DVDs.

"She had all the comedic chops of the greatest female stand-ups I've ever seen, including Roseanne Barr, Ellen DeGeneres, Rosie O'Donnell, Joan Rivers," he said. "She was as good as any of them: Her instincts, her comedy, her engagement with the audience—it was all just top-rated."

Even the U.S. military has appreciated her wholesome wisecracking, having invited her to perform at USOs, the well-known nonprofit that provides live entertainment globally to the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. The wife of an Air Force general once told Pierce that she insisted that Pierce be booked after sitting through the act of a very famous comedian, who she described as "embarrassing."

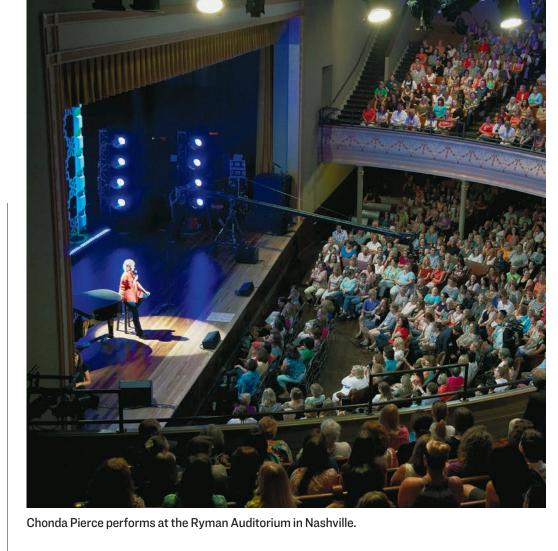
To fans of what she calls filthy-mouthed comedians, Pierce says this: "Go home and and take a magic marker and mark out all those obscene words, all those Fwords, and all the nasty words. Then, read it back. If it's a funny story ... see, all these words were not needed at all. But most of the time, if you mark them all out and read it back, it ain't that funny.

"They had to flavor it up with something, to shock you into laughing. To me, I love comedy too much. That's just a cheap shot." In spite of this, she has offended a few people with her occasional mild one-lin-

Pierce ultimately hopes the laughter she brings will offer some relief from everyday problems and 'the tougher ones,' as she put it.

Comedian Chonda Pierce has also founded Christian counseling centers throughout Tennessee.





husband. Some have also taken umbrage with her poking fun at faith, which is somewhat funny in itself, considering how devout a Christian she is.

With demanding tours on her plate, Pierce never misses church. She also founded several Christian counseling centers throughout Tennessee. Under the name Branches Counseling Center, trained Christian therapists offer counseling to people on the A to Z's of life challenges, including alcoholism, obesity, family counseling, religious abuse, sex addictions, and depression. The center has been recognized with a variety of local awards.

Source Material

Pierce makes no excuses about the source of her material: her own long list of personal tribulations, including the loss of her husband, an adult daughter that she has estranged herself from, and a bout with deep depression that landed her in a psychiatric facility. Her autobiography, "Laughing in the nation-specific jokes, Pierce tells her audience, Dark," one of eight books she has written, was an Amazon best-seller.

"For years, we've known the voice and have seen the smiles of Chonda from her light side, and we've always been encouraged. In this new book, she gives us the privilege of expe-Mary Graham wrote about the 2015 book.

fodder for criticism by the religious.

Pierce said she can understand when people sometimes get offended by comedians who turn tough times into punchlines, referring to Bill Maher as an example of a legendary stand-up comedian who often turns tragedies into jokes and ridicules religious people. But that's because "he didn't earn the right."

"I walked in these people's shoes; I am not an outsider poking fun at Christianity. I am a

ers about intimate moments with her late Christian. And I paid my dues. My family was poor, and we still pastored a little church," she said. "Why Bill Maher sometimes gets beaten up by Christians is because he's never earned the right to say some of the things he says."

Asked if liberals provide her with a lot of material, she laughed hysterically.

"That's the whole problem with the 'love thy

neighbor' thing: that it includes the Democrat living next to you," she said in jest, joking that she still hasn't seen Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg in any of her audiences. However, Tenenbaum is quick to point out

that, politically, Pierce's shows are made up of what he called "a purple crowd"—50 percent red and 50 percent blue.

"You're not going to find any New York Times-editorial page-reading, Upper East Side residents at a Chonda show," he said. "But I'll bet you this: If those kinds of people went to see the show, they'd laugh."

When she pokes fun at religion, no one is offlimits. If a crowd "oohs" at one of her denomi-"Hey, I'll get to your church in a minute."

Even Tenenbaum, who's Jewish, is fair game. Pierce turned their trip to a Christian bookstore into 15 minutes of sidesplitting stand-up.

Pierce ultimately hopes the laughter she riencing another side that's equally as bril- brings will offer some relief from everyday liant and engaging," Women of Faith President problems and "the tougher ones," as she put it. As a bonus, she hopes that somewhere On the flip side, turning her personal struginal her irreverent rollicking there's even gles into material for her acts has also been a message or two that "shines out"—for all of us to do a little better in realizing the true meaning of life.

> "I always thought, 'Why waste your pain?" she said. "You walked a road for a reason. You may not know why, but maybe it's to warn the person walking behind you where the potholes are."

> Pierce's "laughter lane" has definitely paved a new road to success over life's bumpy roads.

DEAR NEXT GENERATION

Missed Opportunities

→ Advice from our readers to our young people

Dear Next Generation,

Throughout my life, I have observed people I thought were often kind, gentle, and willing to smile at life as it speedily passes by, yet never criticize what they observed. I often thought what a wonderful way of living one's life enjoying the things we see or the people we meet and yet not letting the negative affect our outlook on our own lifestyle.

If you can think of people who have made a tremendous effect on your personal life, either as a child growing up or as an adult, make these thoughts known to the person before time passes and they are gone. A missed opportunity will haunt you for the rest of your life.

In doing so, personal reward to yourselves is minimal compared to the joy and feeling of love you will see on the face of the recipient!

When I was growing up as a boy, I had a paper route and the last people on my route were an older childless couple. I would hang around and talk and watch him make things as he was a carpenter and even built his own

house. I learned they were both raised under the shadow of the Ohio State horseshoe football stadium and were staunch supporters of Ohio State football teams. I loved Michigan football so discussions were often heated, in a friendly way, when Michigan and Ohio State played.

As I grew up and moved on, I would stop by sometimes and see how they were doing, as I felt very close to them. I sat down one day and wrote a letter to them telling them how I thought they were influential in my growing up since my father was not living

I visited one day and took the letter to them, and when she read it, she cried and made me sign and date it. Never thought so much of it, but as time passed, I heard she had died. When I went to the funeral home, there on the pedestal next to the casket was my letter! He had laminated it and thought it was the best place for it.

As I walked out the door of the funeral home, I thought to myself, that letter probably meant so much to them since they had no children and that I maybe had become their foster child, just as they had become my foster parents.

I have written several letters since to both



my uncles who were very influential in my

ing buddy who has since passed away. I guess my advice to give to the younger generation is never miss the opportunity to express to people the deep feelings of love and appreciation you have for them because that expression may be the one thing that person will cherish for the rest of their life. All this may sound like an old sentimental busy body, but maybe this is what is lacking in our elected and unelected officials in

growing up and to my best fishing and hunt-

Washington, D.C. -Roger Bogenschutz, Michigan think of people who have had a tremendous effect on your personal life, let them know.

the younger generations? We call on all of our readers to share the timeless values that define right and wrong, and pass the torch. if you will, through your wisdom and hard-earned

What advice would you like to give to

experience. We feel that the passing down of this wisdom has diminished over time, and that only with a strong moral foundation can future generations thrive. Send your advice, along with your full

name, state, and contact information to NextGeneration@epochtimes.com or mail it to: Next Generation, The Epoch Times, 229 W. 28th St., Floor 7, New York, NY 10001

Finding the Good in Every Day

Virginia man, now 16 years past Alzheimer's diagnosis, celebrates 35th anniversary to loving wife

LOUISE CHAMBERS

A happily-married Virginia man diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's at the age of 41 was given four to five years to "get his affairs in order." Yet, bolstered by his wife's love and support, their faith, and their deep mutual understanding, he has lived 16 years past his diagnosis and celebrated his 35th wedding anniversary to the woman he loves.

Don Talbott, 57, lives in Gloucester, Virginia, with his wife, Christy Talbott, 55.

The couple first met when Christy was still in high school, working at a Hillside Cinema movie theater in her small Virginia hometown, Gloucester. Don was a regular visitor but never approached her. He moved to Idaho with his family after graduation. It wasn't until two years later that he returned and rode past the cinema on his motorbike, catching Christy's attention.

"He came up and started talking to me, and we just became friends," Christy told The Epoch Times. After eight months, they tied the knot on May 2, 1987, when Don was 22, and Christy was 21.

As it turned out, Don had a crush on Christy since the beginning.

"I told my buddies, 'I'm gonna marry her when I get back," he recalled. "My first impression of her was there's no way a girl like that would even talk to me ... it just so happened that my family had moved away, but she never moved away from inside my

Christy wanted light, laughter, and God in her life, and Don provided all that to her. They welcomed a son in 1989, who grew up to become a school teacher in the STEM program. "We're very proud of him," said Don.

Christy has battled multiple sclerosis (MS) since her late teenage years. Her official diagnosis came right after she married Don. With no drug-altering medications yet on the market, she got involved in medical trials and was placed on the very first MS medication, Betaseron.

"Sometimes, God wants you to build your character, or learn lessons," she said. "But I now know that everything I went through, my experiences, were so that when Don was diagnosed I could act quickly."

At the age of 38, Don was in a high-responsibility job that he loved as supervisor of a construction crew for Verizon telephone

But when Christy began getting reports from some of Don's men that he was locking himself out of his office and car several times a day, falling asleep at work, and making out-of-character statements; alarm bells

Additionally, Christy started noticing that Don, who'd always been musical and played bass guitar for the church band, local orchestras, and community theaters, was "messing his music up." At this time, she suspected he was having seizures, and took him to see her neurologist, who agreed with her.

Diagnosis

They soon moved him to the University of Virginia's teaching hospital. Don was put on a seizure study for a week where his brain was monitored. There, they realized he wasn't having seizures, but confirmed there was something definitely wrong with his

brain. The long process of diagnosis began. "It took two years to get a definite diagnosis of Alzheimer's," Christy said. "They told us, because he was so young, just 41, that the disease would go quickly; he probably had four or five years to live at home and get our affairs in order."

After receiving the shocking diagnosis, the





Married for 35 years, the Talbotts share many memories together.

Every day, I

get to love the

same woman;

because of my

has to learn to

love someone

illness, she

different

Don Talbott

every day.

The couple got married

in 1987; Don was 22,

couple couldn't believe it, as they thought the disease only affected the elderly.

They then ended up at Johns Hopkins, as Christy found out that her husband was eligible for Alzheimer's drug trials, despite his young age. Don retired from his job at the telephone company and Christy went "full throttle" on finding new trials and keeping Don safe at home.

The couple sifted through the well-meaning advice of friends—"You should eat this," or "Do puzzles, that will bring your memory back," Don recalled—preferring to find their own way. In 2012, Don became one of just 30 Alzheimer's patients to be fitted with a deep brain stimulation (DBS) device, a pacemaker-like piece of apparatus implanted into his brain. Christy said that this has helped him to still communicate and share.

A Sense of Purpose

However, after Don's Alzheimer's diagnosis, he struggled to find a sense of purpose, since he really liked his job. But Christy was resolute and explained that Don's "new job" would be to fight the disease, every which way they could.

Despite the change in focus, Don was willing to try for the sake of his son, possible future grandkids, and the world at large. With some financial support from a disability program he paid into before leaving his job, he and Christy began sharing his story to educate others on early-onset Alzheimer's, even filming a PBS documentary for YouTube to that end.

Nonetheless, it wasn't all that easy; Don still struggled with his changing role.

"It took a while for me to get over the fact that here I am, 40-some years old, walking away from my job, not being able to support my family anymore because I hadn't built up retirement savings by then," he explained. "We had no idea what our finances were going to be."

Christy maintains that the couple "couldn't have done this without God," and the massive success of Don's DBS device is the reason he's able to speak today.

Don echoes similar sentiments as his wife. "Would somebody like myself be privileged enough to continue to have the right to speak?" Don said. "I mean, it just amazes

Giving Care

Over the years, Christy has learned how to steer her husband toward rest and sleep, or administer medication when needed, with the support of their doctors, and Don has placed his full trust in his wife, claiming she is his "anchor."

"No matter what I need, no matter what I ask for, no matter what I'm thinking," he explained, "I can come to her with the most illogical conversations and she'll sort

"The Alzheimer's has me kind of just float-



Christy Talbott has battled with multiple sclerosis since her late teens.

ing out here ... she literally is my anchor," he said. "I'm on a little raft, and that's the only thing that keeps me from floating away in the wind. I know all I have to do is grab that rope and pull a little bit, and she's right there. We know that about each other, I just happen to be the one that's at the mercy of

Christy explained that patients with Alzheimer's usually lose their filters a lot of times and say things that they usually wouldn't say. Nevertheless, she has understood Don really well and knows that he would never say things to hurt her or anyone else, and thus even if he says something, she knows it's not him but the disease talking, so she doesn't expect an apology from him.

Christy has also encouraged her husband to continue being an active member of society. In the early days, they were still able to go out with friends and attend church, but as his disease progressed, his capacity for social interaction shrank. Don claims it's "like you start off with an onion, and then little by little, over time, the layers start to peel back."

As a caregiver, however, Christy still tries to make each day successful. She explains that, on certain days, they still go out for lunch, but on other days, they stay at home. The couple also takes each day as it comes despite how Don wakes up every morning.

Moreover, Don's condition hasn't eradicated the romance in his and Christy's re-"Every day, I get to love the same woman;

because of my illness, she has to learn to love someone different every day," Don said. The couple also shares innumerable fond memories of their 35 years together, including a funny memory from the day they tied

the knot.

Christy regaled: "Our family had gotten us a limo ... we'd never been in a limo. We got in and I'm sitting in the back, here [Don] comes, he sits in the back, and the limo driver puts the glass down.

"I'm thinking we're gonna hold hands and maybe kiss, and just talk about what a wonderful day it is," she continued. "I had expectations. Right expectations? Wrong! My new husband moves up to the front of the limo, right next to the glass, and the entire hour to get to our hotel he talks to the

Indignant at the time, Christy now laughs whenever she recalls the farcical moment. Over the years, Don has recorded many of his most profound feelings on paper. In 2019, he published a book, including poems he wrote about his wife, which Christy

holds dear. Besides his poems, the 57-year-old's romantic gestures are often less traditional than chocolates and flowers. "If I have a good day, and I get up, move the furniture out, and vacuum the whole house, she would rather have that," he explained.

"So many people want that quick feeling of excitement. To me, that's cut flowers,' Christy agreed. "What you need to build is that foundation of faith and friendship and laughter; build that base, and let the relationship mature. To me, our relationship is more like a potted plant."

It's all about letting go of expectations and trying to do a little better than yesterday, every single day. It also helps to remember the "special things," said Christy, who hasn't lost sight of why she fell in love with Don in the first place.

"I've lived most of my life with him, versus the other way around," she said. "The one thing we always know is that no matter what, we're there for one another."

Share your stories with us at emg.inspired@epochtimes.com, and get your daily dose of inspiration by signing up for the Inspired newsletter at: The Epochtimes.



The linear approach leads to, frames, and presents both the French Pavilion (the small building in the center foreground) and the Petit Trianon's elegant west façade (the building in the middle ground). The domed Love Pavilion can be seen here in the background, set on the same axis and amid the English landscape garden.



LIFE & TRADITION

French Pavilion where summer luncheons and royal feasts would occur. The bas-relief ornamentation above the columns represents a variety of fruit and vegetables grown in the estate. A view from the reception room through to one of the wings in the French Pavilion reveals the refined gold leaf plaster work and subtle green and pink hues of the marble, which draw on colors found in the surrounding garden.

LARGER THAN LIFE: ART THAT INSPIRES US THROUGH THE AGES

The Remote Gardens and Pavilions of VERSAILLES

JAMES HOWARD SMITH

et far back in the grounds of Versailles are the refined gardens and pavilions of the Petit Trianon. Together, they show how European garden design transitioned in the 1700s with two contrasting styles: On the west side, there's a calm yet uplifting formal French garden, and on the east side, a romantic and picturesque English landscape.

The French garden style was originally inspired by the classical harmony and order of the Italian Renaissance. The Petit Trianon Garden displays this in the calm horizontal lines of the Linden trees as the rhythm of their trunks provides a sense of stability, while the geometry of the pavilions, the linear promenade, and circular ponds create order.

The colorful, aromatic flower beds nourish that inner realm. The linear approach frames and presents both the French Pavilion and the Petit Trianon's elegant west façade. Both buildings were designed by Ange Jacques-Gabrielle in a simple classical style that would later be known as

Louis the XVI ascended the throne in 1774; he soon married the young Marie Antoinette and gifted her with the Petit Trianon. Marie was instrumental in the design of the English gardens and pavilions. This style was based on recreating an idyllic and pastoral landscape similar to those depicted in English and French landscape paintings

This romanticized view of nature was in effect a gentle revolt against the calm James Howard Smith, an architectural order of the formal garden. The English garden also combined components imported from China.

Louis XV's large botanical gardens that stood on the grounds were removed to make way for the new garden design. Marie and her official architect, Richard Mique, developed two pavilions, the Love Pavilion and the Belvedere. Although the two garden styles greatly differ, they inspire awe in their respective domains and create a harmonious setting for those who visit.

photographer, designer, and founder of Cartio, aims to inspire an appreciation of classic architecture.

T. GARNIER/CHATEAU DE VERSAILLES







1. The French formal garden was thought of as a place where the sovereigns could occasionally entertain, or just enjoy walks in the refined setting. In 1749, King Louis XV directed architect Ange Jacques-Gabrielle to create the French Pavilion in the garden as a dining room; it was built in the reserved classical style from 1749 to 1750.

2. Ornamentation above the columns enjoys a similar exquisite treatment with the Petit Trianon as it is adorned with rosettes and Arabesque scrolls. The rosettes can also be seen here on the interior ceiling.

3. Royal architect Ange Jacques-Gabrielle designed the French Pavilion as a vast rotunda supported by four small wings. The four façades represent and depict the four seasons. The façade is topped with a balustrade, sculptures of children, and flower-filled vases.

4. The Love Pavilion was also designed by Richard Mique, and is set on an island amid the picturesque garden, and it aligns with the Petit Trianon and French Pavilion beyond. Marie Antoinette enjoyed a direct view of the Pavilion from her apartment on the second floor of the Petit Trianon.

5. The Belvedere is the name of this pavilion and also a term to describe a place that offers a view of the surrounding landscape. The pavilion's timeless classical architecture combined with the weathered grotto in the lower left are set in a mature natural landscape to create an ancient atmosphere. It was positioned offering views out over the pond and the landscape beyond.



When Taking Notes, the Hand Still Reigns Supreme

The allure of convenience and speed promised by typing comes at a cost in terms of memory and academic achievement, research suggests

MATTHEW JOHN

vernote. OneNote. Notability. Agenda. Ulysses. Supernote. Mobiscribe. Day One. Moleskine Journey. Oodles of note-taking apps now populate the Mac and Windows ecospheres, while an ever-swelling array of tablets, laptops, and e-ink notepads have sprung up on which to use them. The lot seems to grow only more feature-rich—and attractive—by the day. (I've taken more than my fair share for a spin, admittedly.)

The options for going digital with your notetaking have never been more plentiful, if not tempting.

But if deep learning and long-term retention of information is your primary concern (students of the world, that's you!), you might do well to balk at the convenience. As it turns out, old-school beats new: Pen and paper look to be your best bet.

'Mile Wide and Inch Deep'

A growing body of research is finding that digital notetaking, while attractive for its speed and convenience (e.g., syncing across devices), comes at a cost: both learning and retention of information suffer for it. What the medium allows for in speed (over 100 wpm isn't unheard of on the keyboard), it lacks in depth. It's the proverbial "mile wide and inch deep," it would seem.

For me, the topic is charged with personal meaning, going back to two distinct chapters masterful proofs of God while pouring over in my life.

scrawling away with pen on paper whatever the occasion—lecture classes, seminars, jotting down reading notes, journaling.

And sure, it came with its minor inconveniences. A slow (but steady) hand. Laboring to integrate reading and lecture notes onto the same page (which meant copying the two

over). The sometimes misplaced binder.

But the thing was this: what I wrote out stuck. I could remember it. Not just minutes or hours later, but days and weeks. There was a kind of tacky, glue-like adherence to those notes. They had personality. They had character. Each word, line, and page took on its own shape and vibe.

Options for

taking notes

comes at a price.

And things popped from the page. Key points were circled or underlined with three well-imprinted lines; arrows called all-due attention to facts not to be forgotten.

Those pages, though I knew it not at the time, were drawn like a battle plan against

Students don't think as much when taking notes on a computer; they just peck away, racing to keep up with the spoken word and capture it all.

It also didn't hurt that I valued them more, crafted as they were by my own hand. They were much like an extension of me on the page. A lot of thought and care went into what I put down—be it scrawling scientific formulas during class or capturing the meat of Anselm's his work.

paper cost but a buck.

Fast forward to my graduate school days, and it was to the laptop that I often turned so ubiquitous, light, and convenient had it become. It was all you needed in your bag. Pop it open and you had the equivalent of five binders on your lap, not to mention the vast

expanse of the burgeoning internet.

And man could I bang out lecture notes fast (a tribute to a high school typing class, many years before). I could pretty much keep pace with my instructor's remarks, capturing them nearly verbatim.

And reading notes? Likewise light lifting. Why bother to summarize a page when I could just type out, word for word, full paragraphs at lightning speed. It was exhilarating in a sense, feeling that you could "capture" it all. The only problem was, it was a fleeting high. Or fleeting learning, I should say.

Things just didn't stick like they had before. It wasn't about time on task—I was putting in just as many hours—or about studying methods—as I was only savvier than in my youth, if anything.

It was the medium, I slowly but only later came to realize.

The digital notes I was taking—however exhaustive—just weren't the same. (A lesson I've only recently learned, once again, in the world of digital versus paper daily planners.)

Research Findings

Fast forward to the present, when I'm the one delivering the instruction, and I strongly urge—or even cajole, if need be—my students to turn back the clock and stick with the tried and true pen-and-paper approach.

While it might not be the game-changer for everyone that it was for me, recent studies have shed light on my own experiences and those of colleagues who have reminisced similarly.

(and here I'm referring to typing) seems to be the different cognitive processes that it entails. According to some fascinating and wellconceived research by Pam Mueller and Daniel Oppenheimer, students who write out their notes actually learn more.

The pair had students in two different groups

taking notes either by hand or with a laptop in a classroom setting, and then tested them to see the relative effects of each.

While those who took notes on their laptops did manage to record more information (thanks to their typing speed, much like I experienced), it came at a price. Those in the by-hand group scored better on subsequent tests (though working off fewer notes).

The researchers assessed several different types of learning, including factual detail, conceptual understanding, and ability to generalize and synthesize information

Where the difference really showed, Mueller and Oppenheimer found, was in the realm of understanding. Students who took notes by hand had a better conceptual grasp of the class material, as well as a better ability to apply and integrate that learning.

The use of the laptop "impaired learning," as the researchers describe it, because its use "results in shallower processing."

In other words, students don't think as much when taking notes on a computer; they just peck away, racing to keep up with the spoken word and capture it all.

Simple take-home: Less is more when it comes to notes. Old school beats new.

And we haven't even touched on the startling studies that have found that roughly 90 percent of students in a given class will use their laptops for online activities that have no relevance to class—with nearly 60 percent being distracted for fully half the class. Needless to say, academic performance

So, if you want to remember what you just read, please, by all means, jot it down ... but just be sure to do it by hand.

Matthew John is a veteran teacher and writer who is passionate about history, culture, and good literature. He lives in New York.

HOMESCHOOLING

Creating a Homeschool Portfolio

Required by some states, portfolios also offer several benefits

KAREN DOLL

Even though my two kids are grown and have long since graduated from our humble homeschool, the memories and experiences play vividly in my mind like cherished home movies. That's why I'm so thankful we created portfolios for our kids each year.

Whether or not you live in a state or region Putting It Together that requires a portfolio to be submitted for every home-educated child, these unique, scrapbook-like school records satisfy that requirement while also serving as wonderful keepsakes for both you and your kids.

A homeschool portfolio is a visual record chronicling a child's entire homeschool year. There are basically two types of portfolios. The first, an academically-focused portfolio, serves as part of an annual assessment per your state homeschool law, and its primary purpose is to show that academic progress has been achieved. The second is meant to be a personal keepsake.

There are several benefits to creating homeschool portfolios. They can be powerful motivators and self-esteem boosters for your child. The simple act of seeing how far he or she has come in a single year can encourage your child to persevere, work harder, or consider setting more challenging goals next year. Invite your kids to join you in the assembly process and have fun reminiscing together as you look back over the school year.

The simple act of looking through your kids' portfolios can also serve to validate your role as a teacher, especially in the first few years when you may be feeling stressed and unqualified to teach your kids.

Whether academic or personal, portfolios are a wonderful way to share your homeschooling journey with others, including family, friends, neighbors, and even potential employers if your child is seeking a part-time job.

For the annual assessment, be sure to include every item required by your state homeschool law—documents including your letter

A homeschool portfolio chronicles the student's progress throughout the year.



of intent to homeschool, parent credentials or degree, immunization records, pertinent standardized test scores, and a notarized affidavit if applicable.

It's also helpful to add a briefintroduction, with the name of the child, the child's age and grade level, and a brief description of your homeschool program for that child. For example, you might want to describe your approach or style of homeschooling and list the subjects or courses your child studied, accompanied by short descriptions of each. This is a good place to insert a list of your educational objectives for the school year.

If your child is willing and able, he or she might want to write a short biography and share some highlights of the school year.

Include a dated log showing number of days or the hours of instruction. I recommend using a teacher lesson plan book because you can easily refer to previous lessons and assignments, see the number of days or hours you've worked, and keep track of field trips and extracurriculars.

Next, you'll need to include a variety of completed work samples from all the subjects your child studied during the past school year. Choose work samples throughout the year because it can be stressful to do this at the end of the school year, especially if you are homeschooling multiple kids. Be sure to choose work samples that show academic progress.

You'll also need to include a list of all books your child has read, field trips, extracurricular activities and clubs, volunteer hours, films and documentaries watched, concerts and plays attended, and photos of artwork and

To assemble your academic portfolio, all you need is a binder or an accordion file. We at AtHomeWithKarenDoll.wordpress.com

always chose binders that had a clear pocket on the front so we could insert a personalized cover page highlighting our school name, Countryside Academy, accompanied by original artwork.

If you need help or inspiration, both Homeschool.com and HomeschoolGiveaways. com offer free downloadable printables to help guide you, and A2ZHomeschooling.com has a free homeschool portfolio checklist, video tutorials, and tips. Tools such as Evernote, Instagram, the Seesaw App, Google Drive, and Microsoft OneNote can also help you create portfolios with impressive graphics.

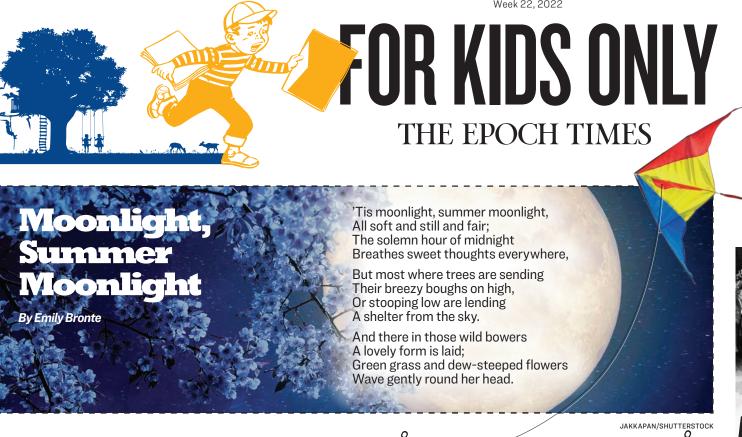
If you need help, veteran homeschool $moms\, and\, founders\, of\, websites\, The Waldock-$ Way.com and ForgetfulMomma.com walk you through the process step by step.

Creating a Keepsake Portfolio

Celebrate the end of the homeschool year with a heaping tablespoon of creative flair —host a design-your-own keepsake portfolio party. Beforehand, help your kids gather photos and schoolwork samples and set everyone up at the table with binders or scrapbooks and art supplies.

Your kids will no doubt inspire each other during the creative process, while also honing important skills such as organization, creative writing, spelling and vocabulary, design and layout, and editing.

Karen Doll is a freelance writer and homeschooling consultant based in the small village of Wassergass, Pa. She enjoys writing about homeschooling, gardening, food and culture, family life, and the joys of chicken-keeping. Visit her



WHY DON'T **BECAUSE THEY'RE SHELLFISH.**

This Week in History



n June 2, 1953, England's Princess Elizabeth of York was crowned Queen Elizabeth II at age 25 in a coronation ceremony at Westminster Abbey Her father, King George VI had aceeded to the throne in 1936 after his brother, King Edward VIII abdicated (meaning gave up) his role. Queen Elizabeth II inherited the throne upon her father's passing.

Queen Elizabeth II still reigns

This year, Queen celebrates her 70-year reign. The United Kingdom is celebrating a four-day Platinum Jubilee holiday weekend on June 2 to 5, 2022.

By Aidan Danza

AMERICA'S DESERTS

t's hard to fathom, especially in this age of fast travel, how large this country

actually is. In America, there are many different kinds of land, from dense forests of pine or oak to high mountains and green pastures in the valleys, to fields of corn and wheat so vast they seem to reach around the world. Additionally, a huge swath of the United States is covered by barren desert.

GREAT BASIN DESERT

The Great Basin Desert is the United States' largest desert. It covers almost the entirety of Nevada, western Utah, and parts of California and Idaho, taking up 150,000 square miles. It's considered a temperate desert, meaning it doesn't have extreme,

What is one to say about

June, the time of perfect

fulfillment of the promise of

the earlier months, and with

as yet no sign to remind one

GERTRUDE JEKYLL (1843-1932), BRITISH HORTICULTURIST

young summer, the

that its fresh young

beauty will ever fade.

stifling heat for much of the year. Generally, about 7 to 12 inches of precipitation falls annually in the Great Basin, with much of this falling as snow. For a desert, it contains a large amount of

vegetation, especially small shrubs like sagebrush. Also living in the Great Basin is a tree called the bristlecone pine, which holds the title of "oldest non-clonal species in the world." The oldest of these has been found to be 5,065 years old. Some of these trees will grow directly in solid limestone, where no other plant can survive

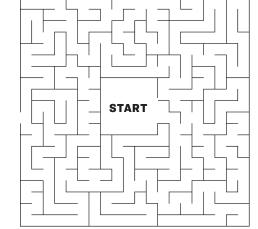
SONORAN DESERT

The Sonoran desert is situated in southern Arizona, southeastern California, and Mexico. It's America's hottest desert. Unlike America's other deserts, rain falls twice a year, at the same time in July and August, as well as in the winter. It's rich in plant and animal life, being the home of the famous saguaro cactus and the home of the Gila monster, a species of venomous lizard

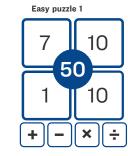
CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

Only a small part of the Chihuahuan Desert is situated in the United States—in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The rest is in Mexico. This desert is drier and hotter than the Great Basin, and it contains around 3,500 species of plants, including one-quarter of the world's cacti. Less than 10 inches of rain falls here every year, with most of this occurring in the summer. It's also a desert that is high in elevation: between 3,500 to 5,000 feet. Like the Great Basin, it's covered mostly by shrubs.



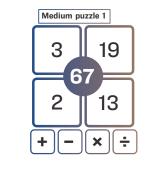


USE THE FOUR NUMBERS IN THE CORNERS, AND THE OPERANDS (+, - AND X) to build an equation to get the solution in the middle. There may be more than one "unique" solution but, there may also be "equivalent" solutions. For example: $6 + (7 \times 3) + 1 = 28$ and $1 + (7 \times 3) + 6 = 28$



- Solution For Easy 1

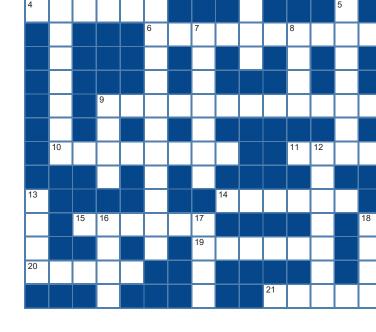
01 - 01 × (1 - 7)



Solution for Medium 1 (19 + 13) × S + 3

(30 + 6) × 5 + 12





3 Kicks (3) Two-piece bathing suit (6) Swimming or hiking (10)

Cooler (3) 2 Source of vegetables (6)

Sweat (12)

14 Go places (6)

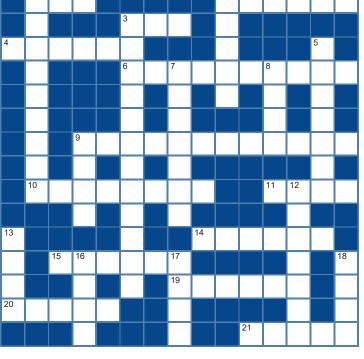
11 Toy with a tail (4)

15 Favorite summertime pants (6) 19 Last month of Summer vacation (6)

20 It can burn your eyes (5)

10 Cold carnival treat (8)

21 It must be mowed (5)



3 4th of July explosives (12) Picnic (7) You may need a sleeping bag for this (7) Camping shelter (4) 9 Swimming location (4) **12** Summertime drink (7) 13 Playmates (4) 16 Try to beat the ____ (4) **17** Beach "dirt" (4) 18 Don't step on them! (4)

Down

1 Summertime footwear (4-5)

2 Doubleheader pair (5)

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