

— THE POINT —

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POW's – Kia's Editorial Opinion

So, New Year's Eve I was driving down to the market to get some raw oysters, it's a tradition I enjoy, no I was not trying to load the gun, I just like raw oysters. Anyway, as I pulled into the parking lot I noticed the license plate bracket on the car in front of me. In bold lettering it had the word "FREEDOM" on the top and on the bottom of the bracket also in bold lettering was the word. "KIA." I became confused as I tried to decipher the meaning of this apparently hidden message. After a few minutes of contemplation, 'wham' a moment of clarity. There was no hidden message, the car had apparently been purchased at the "Freedom" dealership and the make of the car was a "KIA." Now why anyone would buy a car that spells its name KIA is beyond me. Seems like you are just asking for trouble or tempting fate, I don't know. I guess it's probably a pretty good car, but maybe the Koreans should have thought the name out a little better. I mean when "Pepsodent" started selling toothpaste in the Asian market they dropped their slogan "You'll wonder where the yellow went."

Then again this event got me thinking about the term "POW" prisoner of war. Who is, or are the prisoners or war. There are more than you realize and they are all around us. I am not talking about those incarcerated in some hell hole far from home. I am talking about us right here at home. If you were in a war it has you forever, you will never forget that period of your life. I defy anybody who served in a war to say that he or she seldom thinks about it. Let's talk about us, Vietnam vets. How many of you can honestly say that you can go a whole day without a reminder of the war. For that matter, how many of you can go an hour? When you go to bed how many of you look out the door to make sure everything is quiet? Do you prefer to sit with your back to a wall when you are in a restaurant? Do you sleep with a gun beside your bed? How many of you hear this from your wife? "If I hear one more god dammed story about Vietnam..." you know the rest. That's it then you are a prisoner of war. I am not only talking about Vietnam vets. We currently have a whole new batch of veterans coming home, who will, or are going to go through the same thing. They won't have a "Re-Entry" program that so many of us were able to rely on, but still help is out there for them. Maybe that should be our legacy; we should encourage and direct these younger veterans to seek help. As our founding principles state, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." We are still in the fight for our brother and sister veterans. Don't be too timid to lend a hand or point a veteran in the right direction. Life isn't easy, but we can soften the bumps just a little. However, I still wonder about a car called a KIA, scares the hell out of me.

Steve Parsons
January 2013

Christmas Party 2013

As you no doubt know we have lost the Rocky Gap Lodge as a location for the Christmas Party and that's why we were at the Holiday Inn Cumberland this year. But, the committee got right to work and have secured another location for the next big Christmas blast. This year's Christmas Party will be at the Cumberland Outdoor Club, on Industrial Boulevard in Cumberland. There will be no crowd restrictions this year and the club will prepare the food. There is also an elevator to the banquet room. We are working on a deal with the Fairfield Inn at Canal Place for rates and we hope to have a shuttle bus running from the Inn to the ODC. All in all a nice location close to the Chapter and shops at Canal Place, so it looks like we have hit the ground running.

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Cell Phones

As of this year your cell phone numbers will be released to telemarketers. Here's the number I was given to get on the do not call list. 1-888-382-1222. When you dial the number it is self-explanatory it is the same number for your land line.

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Helpers

Every event we have here at the Chapter or some other location we always have a small dedicated group of helpers who work to bring everything together. Seldom do they get a "good job" or even an "Atta boy." So from time to time I will try to make a mention of those who have put forth effort as MVP's.

First I would like to mention my own fundraising committee, Shirley Riggleman and Charles Fisher. They are both here week after week helping with the fundraising and raffles. Thank you.

Denise Saunders and Helen (Red) Forbeck for decorating the social room and various other activities including fundraising. Thank you. More next time

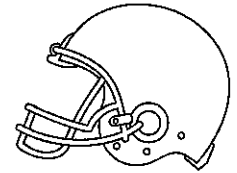
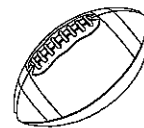
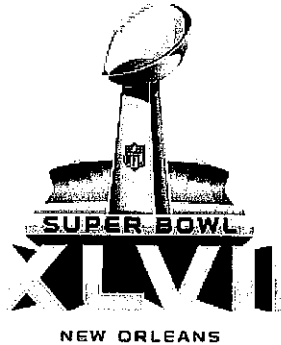
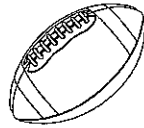
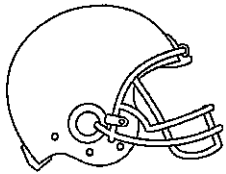
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Downward Facing Dog

Recently it was approved that a certified yoga instructor will be offering lessons to members and their significant others. I am told that some of us could benefit from a little exercise. Call the Chapter for more info.

Super Bowl Party

Don't forget the SB party it kicks off at 16:00 which is early, but most of you come early anyway. It would also be nice if you would bring a dish, something nice like lobster bisque or crab cakes, how about wild game? Of course all of you Redskins fans will still be in mourning.



From the Sky Pilot The Gift of Sleep

Sleep is essential for good health. Scientists don't know exactly why we need it but they know what happens when we don't get enough. We put ourselves at risk of premature aging, weight gain, and diseases ranging from cold and flu to cancer. What God accomplishes in our bodies while we drift off to dreamland is nothing short of miraculous. While we do nothing. God replenishes our energy, rebuilds and restores our cells, and reorganizes information in our brains.

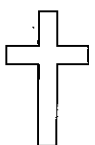
The reasons for not getting enough sleep are many, and some we can't solve, but the Bible indicates that overwork should not be one of them. Sleep is a gift from God that we should receive with gratitude. If we're not getting enough, we need to find out why. Are we rising early and staying up late to earn money to acquire things we don't need? Are we involved in ministry efforts that we think no one else is capable of doing?

I'm sometimes tempted to believe that the work I do when I'm awake is more important than the work God does while I sleep. But refusing God's gift of sleep is like telling Him that my work is more important than His.

God does not want anyone to be a slave to work. He wants us to enjoy His gift of sleep.

The love of God is my pillow,
Soft and healing and wide.
I rest my soul in its comfort,
And in it calm I abide.

If we do not come apart and rest awhile, we may just plain come apart.



Chaplain: Rodger Long