

The monthly newsletter for seniors who want to stay on top of their game and make their retirement the very best it can be.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Importance of Free Enterprise	1
The Coach's Corner	1
Fred of the Month	3
Canadian Fishing	4
Drinking from the Can Could be Fatal!	4
New Smoke Alarms	4

The Importance of Free Enterprise

Milton Friedman, who passed away in 2006, is considered by many to be one of the greatest economists of our time - possibly in the entire history of our nation. At a time when the very essence of our free enterprise economy is being threatened by massive government spending (which translates to massive government control) and a renewed vow to raise taxes on the wealthy in order to redistribute their wealth to the rest of our society, it is fitting to revisit some of Dr. Friedman's most notable moments in his quest to defend the virtue of free enterprise.



Milton Friedman

In researching Dr. Friedman on Google, I came across the following interview, taped on the Phil Donahue Show in 1979:

Donahue: *When you see the mal-distribution of wealth around the globe, the desperate plight of millions of people in underdeveloped countries, when you see so few haves and so many have-nots, when you see the greed and the concentration of power, did you ever have a moment of doubt about capitalism and whether greed is a good idea to run on?*

Friedman: *Well, first of all, tell me is there some society you know that doesn't run on greed? You think Russia doesn't run on greed? You think China doesn't run on greed? What is greed? Of course none of us are greedy; it's only the other fellow who's greedy. The world runs on individuals pursuing their separate interests. The great achievements of civilization have not come from government bureaus. Einstein didn't construct*

continued on page 2

The Coach's Corner

by Don Hartmann, CSA, ChFC



Is There Any Reason to Have Hope?

With so much doom and gloom in the headlines for more than a year now, many people have begun to lose their hope and faith in America. So when I received a recent newsletter from economist Jeff Thredgold, I was immediately encouraged and uplifted. I hope by sharing his "good news" I can do the same for you!

- ◆ Between 1980 and 2007, total emissions of major air pollutants within the U.S. dropped by 52%.
- ◆ The number of people who have quit smoking (46 million) now exceeds the number who still smoke (45 million). Roughly 21% of adults smoke today, versus nearly half in the early 1950s.
- ◆ Traffic deaths per 100 million miles traveled during 2008 were the lowest on record.
- ◆ Conventional thirty-year fixed-rate mortgages have been between 4.75% and 5.15% in recent weeks, some of the lowest levels ever.
- ◆ The number of new cancer cases and deaths are falling for the first time since the government began compiling a report on long-term trends.
- ◆ Incomes for the poorest one-fifth of all earners have grown an average of 3.9%

continued on page 2

Key Rates

Money Market Accounts	1.30%
Money Market Funds	0.24%
6-Month CD	1.76%
1-Year CD	2.35%
5-Year CD	3.04%
30-Year Mortgage	4.99%

Source:
Bankrate.com & Bloomberg

This Month

Milton Friedman on “Free Enterprise” (continued from Page 1)

his theory under order from a bureaucrat. Henry Ford didn't revolutionize the automobile industry that way. In the only cases in which the masses have escaped from the kind of grinding poverty you're talking about, the only cases in recorded history are where they have had capitalism and largely free trade. If you want to know where the masses are worse off, it's exactly in the kinds of societies that depart from that. So the record of history is absolutely crystal clear; that there is no alternative way, so far discovered, of improving the lot of the ordinary people that can hold a candle to the productive activities that are unleashed by a free enterprise system.

Donahue: *But it seems to reward not virtue as much as ability to manipulate the system.*

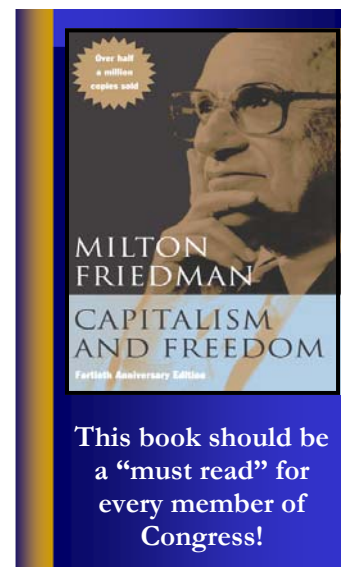
Friedman: *And what does reward virtue? You think the communist commissar rewards virtue? You think a Hitler rewards virtue? Do you think American presidents reward virtue? Do they choose their appointees on the basis of the virtue of the people appointed or on the basis of their political clout? Is it really true that political self interest is nobler somehow than economic self interest? You know I think you are taking a lot of things for granted. Just tell me where in the world you find these angels who are going to organize society for us? Well, I don't even trust you to do that.*

At a time when our nation faces its biggest fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, we need an eloquent spokesman like Milton Friedman more than ever. You can learn more about Dr. Friedman's belief in the virtue of free enterprise by researching him on Google (as I did) or by reading CAPITALISM AND FREEDOM, which has sold over half a million copies since it was first published in 1962 (an impressive feat for an economics book). The 40th Anniversary Edition is now available from Amazon.com. While you're at it, purchase an extra copy and mail it to your Representative or Senator - it should be a “must read” for every member of Congress!

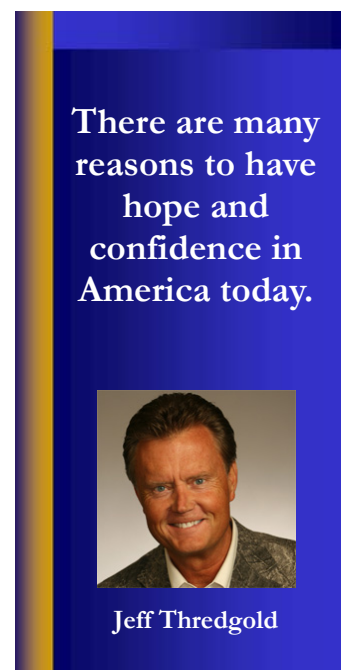
The Coach's Corner (continued from page 1)

annually since 1994, slightly outpacing the 3.4%-3.6% average gain of those in the middle three-fifths of incomes.

- ♦ Average U.S. life expectancy has reached 78 years (men 75, women 80), the highest ever. This compares to 76 years in 1995, 68 years in 1950, and 47 years in 1900.
- ♦ For every dollar of U.S. economic output generated today, we burn less than half as much oil as 30 years ago.
- ♦ U.S. stock prices have risen roughly 25% during the past five weeks, the strongest rally in more than 70 years. The stock market—typically focused 6-9 months ahead—sees a return to U.S. economic growth.
- ♦ U.S. military deaths in Iraq during 2008 plunged by two-thirds versus the prior year.
- ♦ The U.S. trade deficit with the world fell for the seventh straight month in February to a nine-year low of \$26 billion.
- ♦ The number of illegal immigrants in the U.S. declined by an estimated 1.3 million (to 11.2 million) between August 2007 and May 2008. Stronger enforcement and fewer job opportunities contributed to the decline.
- ♦ Children's deaths from unintentional injury have dropped by almost 40% since 1987. Bicycle deaths fell 60%, while firearm-related deaths fell 72%.
- ♦ Roughly 30% of trash was recycled or composted in the latest year, versus 16% in 1990.
- ♦ Violent crime declined 3.5% during 2008's first half versus the prior year. Violent crime is down 55% overall since 1993, with violence by teens down 71%. School violence has declined by half from a decade ago.



Milton Friedman was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Ronald Reagan in 1988.



The

Fred of the Month

This column is based on Mark Sanborn's best selling book, *The Fred Factor*, wherein he explains that a *Fred* (named after his mailman) is someone who has demonstrated a passion in their work and life that can turn even the most ordinary of things into something extraordinary.

I'm seeing flames coming all over this house," said Ndoye, a driver for Denver Yellow Cab. "I hear there's people in the house. I say 'what?'"

Around 11:00 Monday morning, Ndoye was picking up a customer in Denver near the corner of 33rd and Clayton. That's when he says he noticed flames shooting out of a home across the street with an elderly woman panicked outside. "She [the elderly woman] was screaming, 'My daughter, she's inside! My daughter!'" said Ndoye.



The Glover's home after the fire.

Neighbors say Ora Glover lives with her disabled daughter, a middle-aged woman who uses a wheelchair. Ndoye says she was trying to get out of the house but was stuck in the doorway trying to crawl out of the burning home. Ndoye says the fire was along the front of the home and overhead on the awning. He says that's when he decided to "challenge" the fire and carry the woman to safety.

"The flame was coming towards us," said Ndoye. "Then, I run with her." Ndoye says he took the fire victim to his cab and comforted her until the fire department arrived.

At first, Ndoye's supervisor Randy Jensen says he didn't even tell anybody about his heroics. "And, he brings in this bucket and he wants us to collect donations for that family," said Jensen, general manager of

Denver Yellow Cab. "This is above and beyond."

Eventually, Ndoye shared his story with co-workers, though he says he deserves little credit. "I just did it, because I think if one of my family or my friend or my wife in those circumstances, I would do it, too," said Ndoye.

Jensen says he wishes he had 600 drivers like, what he calls, his "humble hero".

"Someone that just shines a little bit brighter," said Jensen. "Someone that just goes a little bit further."

Ndoye came to the United States in 1998 from the western African nation of Senegal. "I always thought that one day I will be in America," said Ndoye. He says he cried when he became an American citizen because of the opportunities he would get. Every week, Ndoye says he sends money to his family in Senegal to help them out.

But it wasn't always happy for Ndoye. He got into a serious car accident on Interstate 70 and severely injured his back, mounting around \$50,000 in medical expenses. The troubles caused him to lose his home to foreclosure and nearly all his possessions. But Ndoye says he never lost faith. "You will give love. You will give a smile. You will give appreciation," said Ndoye. "It doesn't cost a dime to give a smile, to give a laugh."

He keeps more than 2,000 songs in his i-Pod of all different kinds of music just to make sure he has something which suits his customers' tastes. He works frequently with disabled customers, happy to aid anyone who might need a little extra help. Two weeks before the fire, he was awarded at work for helping someone stranded in the snow.

Ndoye says his heroics are just part of his gift of living in America. "I'm just thanking God for being around," said Ndoye

Frankly, I'm not sure how to pronounce Ndoye, so let's just call him "Fred." Welcome to America, Fred, we're glad you are here!

"He brings in this bucket and he wants us to collect donations for that family"



Ndoye

"You will give love. You will give a smile. You will give appreciation," said Ndoye.

"It doesn't cost a dime to give a smile, to give a laugh."



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“I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the US Congress.”

Ronald Reagan

2009 Canadian Fishing Trip



Over 1400 fish landed, including **15 trophies** (41" or bigger) caught by Hallmark clients in just four days!

We will return to Bolton Lake, in Northern Manitoba,

on July 7th this year and if you are like me, you are already counting the days.

If you want to reserve a spot, or would like more information, call Judy or Katherine at 303-756-8900. We will send you a brochure with all the information you need to plan for one of the most memorable fishing trips you will ever enjoy!



Drinking From The Can Could Be Fatal

A woman recently went boating in North Texas one Sunday, taking with her some cans of coke which she put into the refrigerator on the boat. The following Monday she was taken to the hospital and placed in the Intensive Care Unit. She died on Wednesday.



The autopsy concluded she died of Leptospirosis. This was traced to the can of coke she drank from, not using a glass. Tests showed that the can was infected by dried rat urine and hence the disease - Leptospirosis. Rat urine contains toxic and deadly substances. It is highly recommended to thoroughly wash the upper part of all soda cans before drinking out of them. The cans are typically stocked in warehouses and transported straight to the shops without being cleaned.

A study at NYCU showed that the tops of all soda cans are more contaminated than public toilets (i.e.) full of germs and bacteria. So wash them with water before putting them to the mouth to avoid any kind of fatal accident.

The Coach's Corner (Continued from Page 2)

- ◆ Productivity of the average U.S. worker rose an average of 2.6% annually during the past 10 years, the largest gains in 40 years. Rising productivity is a long-term key to higher standards of living.
- ◆ Air pollution declined 25% over the past 30 years even as the population and the economy grew. Water quality also continues to improve.
- ◆ Alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the most recently reported year dropped by more than half versus 20 years ago.
- ◆ The upward “mobility” of the typical American remains the greatest in the world. Why? The U.S. economy “rewards” the combination of hard work and educational achievement more than ever before...and more than any other country in the world.
- ◆ During the early 1960s, the five-year survival rate from cancer for Americans was one in three. Today it is two in three...continuing to climb...and the highest in the world.
- ◆ Recorded cases of childhood sexual abuse have fallen 49% since 1990. Physical abuse of children is down by 43%.
- ◆ The number of abortions performed in this country has

Safer Smoke Alarms

New ‘photoelectric alarms’ are better than the traditional ionization alarms at detecting cooler, slow-smoldering fires and they only cost \$15 to \$20.



- declined by one-third since 1990 and is now at a record low.
- ◆ Illicit drug use among U.S. teenagers hit a five-year low of 9.8% in 2006, down 16% since 2002.
- ◆ U.S. teen pregnancy and birth rates plummeted to all-time lows in recent years, before a slight rise.
- ◆ Flexible work schedules are now the norm for 43% of workers, up from 29% in 1992 and 13% in 1985. This allows greater flexibility for more people, especially those with children.
- ◆ The consensus of forecasting economists still expects a return to positive (not impressive, but positive) U.S. economic growth during this year’s third quarter.

Yes, indeed, there is still reason to hope in America!