



JANUARY 2020

Together in Scripture Reading:
This month: the book of Job

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Friendship
BAPTIST
CHURCH



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MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

Marmite can: The official name for this was the "Food Container, Insulated" which was for transporting hot or cold foods from a kitchen to Soldiers in the field. Declared obsolete by the Army in 1995. However, they are still a common sight and are used by some to smuggle cold beer to the field.

At the Gate of the Year

For many, each new year begins with an optimistic outlook. As the calendar rolls into a new year, we can look back to the last year in our rear-view mirror and believe there are endless possibilities for a new start. For some, it is a time to begin a new diet; for others, a time to start an exercise program, new devotional program or just try to start practicing new habits in our lives. Others can start separating themselves from painful memories or bad experiences from the previous year. New Year's resolutions are the "catch phrase" for many of these new beginnings.

For some, the New Year offers uncertainty, particularly when times are tough, or the pundits give us a less than optimistic outlook for the future. I well remember twenty years ago when, with much trepidation, we were all entering not only a new decade, but a new millennium. Y2K was that watch word and even with months of preparation, many wondered if computers would work, if our financial system would be crippled or if even the simplest items would be rendered useless. So, we all braced for the future as best we could. Some stored-up supplies, others withdrew cash from the bank, and some stayed at home fearing the worst. The Y2K fears soon fizzled, but these past two decades have had challenges of their own that continue to test our resolve. Terrorism came to our shores on September 11, 2001, and soon after, we went to war. We've seen almost two decades of war with many of our best and brightest leaving



King George VI
circa 1940s)

home to never return. We've seen corruption in the public and private sectors that was unfathomable twenty years ago. Our country is deeply divided politically, and hateful and venomous words are regularly exchanged across the spectrum of our society. Though our economy has rebounded in recent years, we are not too far removed from seeing banks and industry crumble before our eyes; double digit un-employment; and savings and retirement accounts decimated. Even in prosperous

times, some fear that that trade wars with China and other countries across the globe could rock our economic boat and plunge us back into economic chaos. For others the threat of rogue nations, like Iran and North Korea, gaining access to nuclear weapon systems causes an inner turmoil churning just beneath the surface. For some, these uncertainties create a fearful backdrop as we begin another decade.

Eighty years ago, at Christmas 1939, England was facing a very fearful and uncertain future as it prepared for a new decade to begin. In September, they had declared war on Germany following the German invasion of Poland. The Battle of Britain was not going well, and this tiny Island nation was facing a very tough future at best and a possible German invasion at the worst. King George VI made a Christmas Broadcast to the nation in which he quoted the poem, At the Gate of the Year by Minnie Louise Harkins.

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Pray for our Military Family:

- ♦ **Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family** - US Army, serving the Lord in Fort Hood, TX
- ♦ **Merry Dare Goodwin** - US Navy, serving aboard the USS Decatur
- ♦ **Justin & Kimberly Reece** - US Air Force, stationed at Pensacola NAS
- ♦ **Timothy & Hope Robinson** - USMC, stationed at Camp LeJeune, NC
- ♦ **Sgt Aaron David de Serres** - USMC, deployed in the Middle East

"Eighty years ago, at Christmas 1939, England was facing a very fearful and uncertain future as it prepared for a new decade to begin..."



Robert DeAngelo, Senior (Part 3, conclusion)

Article by Don King, US Army (Ret).

Editor's Note: My humble apologies for my misspelling of Robert DeAngelo's last name. We pick up the story in the late 1970's after the family started attending Pleasant Hill in Wheaton, Illinois.

It was about a year or so later that a lady from Pleasant Hill Bible Church came to their house for a belated follow-up visit. Bob couldn't remember the date but recalled that it was a beautiful summer day. This lady explained that she remembered them coming to church a while back. She then presented the Gospel to them, just as Stuart had done, and invited them to come to church again. Eileen was already a saved Christian and very much wanted to go, but Bob was still hesitant. That very evening while pondering it all in the bathtub, Bob was convicted and accepted the Lord as his personal Savior.

They decided to attend Wheaton Bible Church, a much larger church in the area, and attended there for about the next six

years, during which time Becky was born (Meredith came along a little later). This is the church where Bob and Eileen were baptized, and where Bob and his family grew to know the Lord. The Lord eventually led them to a number of different churches as they tried to find the right fit.

During Bob, Jr.'s junior high years, Eileen wanted to send him to Schaumburg Christian School, a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church. Bob was reluctant because of accreditation concerns, etc., but they did have a soccer team. Bob Jr. played soccer and Bob was a soccer coach and that decided it for him. Additionally, Bob Jr., Becky and Meredith would have the opportunity to get a good Christian education at Schaumburg Christian and that sealed the decision. Bob and Eileen also joined Bethel Baptist Church and Bob taught a children's Sunday School class as the family got to feel more at home in the church and school.

Bob Sr. had been a sports official for baseball, football, basketball and soccer during his working years and



(US Navy, 1967-1970)

continued officiating sports at the high school level after retirement. He was a sports official for over 30 years and considers his love of officiating as one of the major highlights of his life. He is now writing a book about his experiences as a sports official.

Bob and his family came to Raleigh after his retirement and they joined Friendship on December 24, 2017. "And here we are", Bob concluded, "We love Friendship - Great church, great people!" Can't wait to read his book!

Thank you for your service to our country, Robert DeAngelo!

"[Bob] was a sports official for over 30 years and considers his love of officiating as one of the major highlights of his life."



Robert & Eileen DeAngelo
(as newlyweds, circa 1973)

At the Gate of the Year

The poem begins:

*I said to the man who stood
at the gate of the year*

*'Give me a light that I may tread
safely into the unknown.'*

*And he replied, 'Go into the darkness
and put your hand
into the hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light
and safer than a known way!'*



Minnie Louise Haskins
(author of poem at left)

(Continued from page 1)

We all stand "At the Gate of the Year" and we go into a new year and a new decade with a combination of optimism and uncertainty. No matter your situation or outlook, we should all go to the Bible to set our course. If you are making "New Year's Resolutions", remember that Proverbs 16:3 tells us to "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." When pundits predict the worst, I can hear the Apostle Paul boldly proclaim, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"

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Who Made January 1 the First of the Year?

Throughout antiquity, civilizations around the world developed increasingly sophisticated calendars, typically pinning the first day of the year to an agricultural or astronomical event. In Egypt, for instance, the year began with the annual flooding of the Nile, which coincided with the rising of the star Sirius. The first day of the Chinese New Year, meanwhile, occurred with the second new moon after the winter solstice.

In ancient Rome, the original calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year begin-

ning at the vernal equinox; according to tradition, it was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C.

Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today.

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Did you know that you might be able to claim a tax credit when you save for your own retirement? The Retirement Savings Contribution Credit (also called the Saver's Credit) is designed to incent taxpayers to prioritize this important financial goal. You may be eligible to claim this credit if you are not a full-time student, are age 18 or older, not able to be claimed as a dependent on another person's return, and you made contributions or voluntary deferrals to one or more of the following tax-advantaged retirement plans:

- Traditional SEP, or Roth IRA
- 401(k), 403(b), or governmental 457 plan
- SIMPLE IRA or plan
- Other qualified employer-based plans

The amount of the credit is 50%, 20%, or 10% of your retirement plan or IRA contributions depending on your adjusted gross income. The maximum contribution

amount that may qualify for the credit is \$2,000 (\$4,000 if married filing jointly), making the maximum credit \$1,000 (\$2,000 if married filing jointly). The chart below can be used to calculate your potential credit. You cannot claim this credit if you are above the highest income listed for your filing status.

Amount of Credit	Married filing jointly	Head of Household	Single and all other filing statuses
50% of contribution/deferral*	\$0 to \$38,500	\$0 to \$28,875	\$0 to \$19,250
20% of contribution/deferral*	\$38,501 to \$41,500	\$28,876 to \$31,125	\$19,251 to \$20,750
10% contribution/deferral*	\$41,501 to \$64,000	\$31,126 to \$48,000	\$20,751 to \$32,000

* Percentages only apply to up to \$2,000 of eligible contributions per individual



If you are a member of the State Employee's Credit Union in NC, you may contact your local branch or call 24/7 Member Services at 1.888.732.8562 for more information on the Saver's Credit. You may also speak to any Credit Union employee to learn more or to open an IRA.

For more info, visit www.ncsecu.org

Military Continuing Education Opportunities

Editor's Note: There are numerous opportunities for continuing education available for both members and veterans of the Armed Services. Many of these opportunities include assistance with funding. Here is some important information from ProTrain, a licensed proprietary school that has partnered with the US military. For more information, visit protrainedu.org and click the "Tuition Assistance" menu.

U.S. Army Credentialing Assistance Program - allows Soldiers to earn professional and technical credentials by offering programs approved by HRC, that align with Army COOL. This program creates new opportunities for Soldiers to enhance their skills and professionalism while serving, and increasing their employability upon transitioning from the Army. Exam costs are included.



My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) - military spouse education grant for select military spouses of Active Duty Service Members in certain ranks, and National Guard who are placed on Title 10 orders.



Veterans Administration (VA) - education funding of various types for Veteran Service members who meet eligibility



Tuition Assistance (TA) - DoD Service education funds that can be approved for certification courses if a Service Member gets that training approved as a part of the personal education plan the Education Service Officer (ESO) approves. Course may have to be part of a plan that leads to a degree.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program - Sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program. This program assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs.



Did You Know: Origins of Navy Terminology (Part 7)

www.navy.mil

Editor's Note: Continuing with part 7

Port holes

The word "port hole" originated during the reign of Henry VI of England (1485). King Henry insisted on mounting guns too large for his ship and the traditional methods of securing these weapons on the forecastle and aftcastle could not be used.



A French shipbuilder named James Baker was commissioned to solve the problem. He put small doors in the side of the ship

and mounted the cannon inside the ship. These doors protected the cannon from weather and were opened when the cannon were to be used. The French word for "door" is "porte" which was later Anglicized to "port" and later went on to mean any opening in the ship's side, whether for cannon or not.

Scuttlebutt

The origin of the word "scuttlebutt," which is nautical parlance for a rumor, comes from a combination of "scuttle" -- to make a hole in the ship's hull and thereby causing her to sink --- and "butt" - a cask or hogshead used in the days of

wooden ships to hold drinking water. The cask from which the ship's crew took their drinking water -- like a water fountain -- was the "scuttlebutt". Even in today's Navy a drinking fountain is referred to as such. But, since the crew used to congregate around the "scuttlebutt" (as office workers of the present day would gather around the "water cooler"), that is where the rumors about the ship or voyage would begin. Thus, then and now, rumors are "talk from the scuttlebutt" or just "scuttlebutt".

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

- Troy Anderson, Therry Johnson - 10
- Ethan Stewart - 11
- Dan Reece - 13
- Lorre Hayden, Bobby Shepard - 18
- Joel Harris - 28
- Joe Perez - 29

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

- Steve & Deborah Martin - 17
- Dan & Becky Reece - 31

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY:

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4 Jan 1910 - Commissioning of *USS Michigan* (BB-27), the first US Navy dreadnought battleship.

15 Jan 1974 - The first group of women ever enlisted as "regulars" in the U.S. Coast Guard began

their 10-weeks of basic training at the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May. Thirty-two women were in the initial group and formed Recruit Company Sierra-89.

25 Jan 1879 - The Arrears of Pen-

sions Act is passed by Congress. It authorizes back-payment of military pensions beginning from the day of discharge. If the veteran is dead, payments will be made to the family.

At the Gate of the Year

I think that the 23rd Psalm best encapsulates how we should enter times of uncertainty.

"The Lord is my Shepherd (relationship); I shall not want (supply). He maketh me to lie down in green pastures (rest): he leadeth me beside still waters (refreshment). He restoreth my soul (healing): he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake (guidance with purpose). Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (testing), I will fear no evil (protection): for thou art with me (faithfulness); thy rod and thy staff they comfort me (discipline). Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of mine enemies (hope): thou anointest my head with oil (consecration); my cup runneth over (abundance). Surely good-

ness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life (blessing): and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever (eternal security)."

We all live in an age of information where our phones, computers and televisions give us up to the minute news about events across the world. It seems we have an inextinguishable desire to have answers and to have those answers immediately available to us. We do not live in a patient society and we want solutions to the problems we now face and answers to the questions we struggle with about an unknown future. It is no wonder we live in a society where drug and alcohol abuse has increased; emotional problems are at an all time high; and all ages are stressed well beyond what our parents had to

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face. Yet in all the chaos of our time, the eternal truth of the Lord rings true: *"Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!"* (Ps. 27:14). *"Wait on the Lord!"* Wouldn't our lives have much less stress if we put all in His hands and trusted Him for the outcome?

Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not to thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."* As you stand at the Gate of the Year, ready to cross into a new decade, I encourage each of you to put your hand into the hand of God. It is indeed better than light and safer than a known way!

Who Made January 1 the First of the Year?

(continued from page 2)



As part of his reform, Caesar established January 1 as the first day of the year, partly to honor the month's namesake: Janus, the Roman so-called "god" of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future.

In medieval Europe, Christian leaders replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days carrying more religious significance, such as December 25 (the anniversary of Jesus' birth) and March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation). Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582.

Quote of the Month: *"Discouragement is temporary, obstacles are overcome, and doubt is defeated, yielding to personal victory."*

Gen. George S. Patton



Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Please pray for the family of Dr. John Halsey who recently passed away after a brief illness. Dr. Halsey served in the North Carolina Army National Guard before going into the ministry. Please keep missionaries Brian & Ivey Palmer in your prayers; they're serving at Fort Hood, TX ((Albert & Becky Watkins' son-in-law & daughter). Remember Justin & Kimberly Reece stationed at Pensacola NAS (Dan & Becky Reece's son & daughter-in-law). Merry Dare Goodwin is serving aboard the USS Decatur (Dale & Dixie Ulmer's granddaughter; Rachel Vradenburgh's niece). Lastly, please keep Don Small, Bob

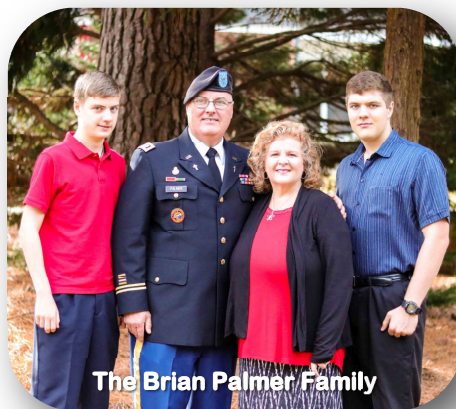
Perry, & Redgie Chambers in your prayers as each one continues to recover from recent illnesses.

New Year's Note: Deborah and I wish each member of the Yellow Ribbon Ministry a very Happy New Year! It has been our privilege to serve alongside each of you this past year and we look forward to more opportunities to serve in 2020. May the Lord richly and wonderfully bless you and your family in this coming year!

~ Colonel Martin

Coming Up Next Month:

- Proposed new dental care benefit



The Brian Palmer Family

