



Ray's Retire Right Report

Retire Right — Retire Smart!

Raymond T. Martin, Retirement Coach and Medicare Planning

July 2024

Happy Independence Day! This month I bring you trivia from our country's earliest years plus the usual oddball assortment. Enjoy!

ZANY HOLIDAYS!

July is

National Deli Salad Month

July 7th – 13th is

Nude Recreation Weekend

July 8th is

Savor the Comic, Unplug the Drama Day

Naked Colonial Weddings

It was the custom in England that a groom took possession of everything belonging to his bride. This included her debts. If she were a widow, that would include her late husband's debts as well. This tradition was carried forward to 1700s colonial New England. They believed that a way around this custom was if a woman married *"in her shift [underwear] on the king's highway"* it would make a public declaration to her creditors that she took no property to her husband which would make him responsible for her debts. For modesty, those weddings were often held at night. From a diary of the time, one bride wrote *"in a perfectly nude state, [the bride] thrust her fair, round arm through a diamond hole in the door of the closet, and the gallant major clasped the hand of the buxom widow."* Hopefully creditors honored this custom.

TRIVIA TEASER

Every Independence Day, how many times does the Liberty Bell Ring?

(See the Answer Area.)

MEDICARE MATTERS

Benefit Reductions and Cost Increases i

Over the past 12 years, Medicare Advantage plans have experienced lower costs and lower out-of-pocket maximums. Plans have added dental, vision, hearing, transportation, personal emergency response devices, over-the-counter allowances and other benefits. However, payments these plans get from the government for each person enrolled are going down. Additionally, many plans had their Star ratings reduced in 2024 and a thus a reduction in their reimbursements. Also, due to the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, plans will be forced to absorb much more in drug costs.

In 2025 there will be a cap of \$2,000 on what each person will have to spend for Part D drug costs. It's possible plans might choose to absorb this and not raise costs or reduce benefits, but that seems unlikely. In 2024, once your out-of-pocket spending on prescriptions tops about \$3,300, you qualify for Medicare's "catastrophic coverage" and pay nothing for your covered Part D drugs for the rest of the year.

This new rule applies only to medications covered by your Part D plan, not to out-of-pocket spending on Medicare Part B drugs such as vaccinations, injections a doctor administers, and outpatient prescription drugs. The \$2,000 cap will be indexed to the growth in per capita Part D costs, so it may well rise each year after 2025. The \$2,000 cap will likely save money for some Medicare beneficiaries, particularly ones taking expensive brand-name drugs. But it's possible the cap will have bad effects on people who have or who are looking for Part D plans too.

Call us for help when you're looking for a Part D or Medicare Advantage plan. That's what we do!

Early Americana

- The 1787 Constitutional Convention was convened because of the "Oyster War" between Virginia and Maryland over their border on the Potomac River.
- Although America had declared independence 11 years earlier, in 1787 states still functioned more as a troubled alliance with no central government.
- The first capital of the United States was New York City.
- In 1737, Benjamin Franklin wrote the first list of American slang words for drunkenness – 228!
- The Constitution was signed by 39 delegates, some as young as their 20s, 30s and 40s!
- The opening line of our Constitution was borrowed from a treaty with the Indians written 250 years earlier, "*We, the people, to form a union...*"
- The words "nation" and "national" were purposely omitted from the Constitution. Instead, the word "federal" was used because back then it meant *a relationship based on trust*.
- Massachusetts accidentally overlooked ratifying the Bill of Rights in 1791 so did it 150 years later.
- The first U.S. patent in 1790 was for a new method of making pearlsh and potash and was signed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Oops Invasion!

Liechtenstein has been accidentally attacked or invaded by Switzerland three times since 1968. In 1968, chairs were broken by artillery. In 1976, soldiers were offered drinks by locals. In 1985, a forest fire was started. Switzerland apologized or compensated for damage each time.

That's Fruity!

In 1900, Boston refused to accept a shipment of oranges from Los Angeles because they thought the fruit's name, *navel* was "indelicate and immodest".

Greek Growth

When Greece won its independence in 1822, Athens was just a small village of 4,000 residents. Over the centuries it had faded into irrelevance. The new nation selected Athens as its capital for historical and sentimental reasons. Since then, the city has become the largest in Greece with over 3 million inhabitants.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The glow of one warm thought is to me worth more than money."

Thomas Jefferson

B S N S U P R E M E S O S
 L E D E S R O N E T T E S
 O C N T B T S N O R L E D
 S R E T I C X E A L Q S U
 S E S E L L E B E U L B R
 O T S L D F L R Z A O M S
 M S T E A R I T T B A D S
 S Y T V Y H S S E R I C L
 C R E L S Z Y T V A S W E
 H R N E I R T E M N J I T
 I E Y V C E L R O G H K N
 F H A C S E U L H E T E A
 F S J R T M R I N L U T H
 O T Y T T O L X E S W T C
 N F E O F S C O O K I E S
 S S K S T A R L E T S S P

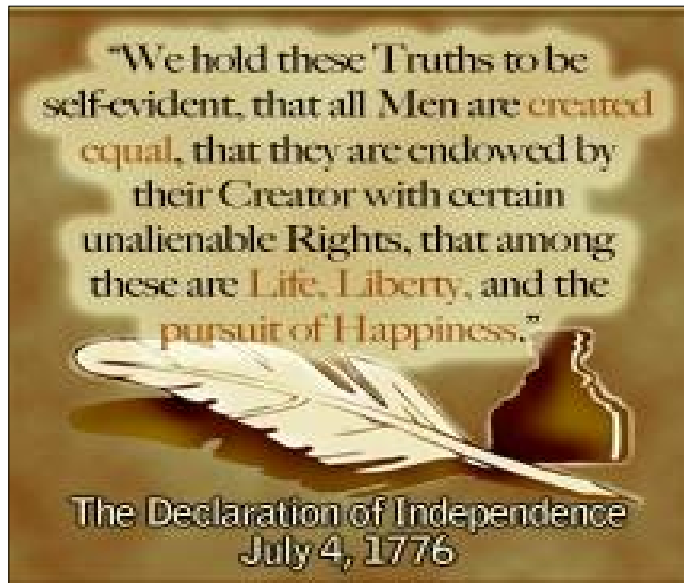
Girl Groups of the 50s

AD LIBS	JAYNETTS
ANGELS	MARVELETTES
BLOSSOMS	MURMAIDS
BLUE BELLES	ORLONS
BOBETTES	RONETTES
CHANTELS	SECRETS
CHIFFONS	SHERRYS
COOKIES	SHIRELLES
CRYSTALS	STARLETS
DELRONS	SUPREMES
EXCITERS	TOYS
HEARTS	VELVELETTES
IKETTES	

(See the Answer Area.)

RANDOM FACT FILE

- Until the 20th century, the people of Fiji used whale teeth as currency.
- The population of Washington, D.C. is greater than the population of Wyoming.
- In the 13th century, July's birthstone, the ruby, was ground up and used as a prescription for liver problems and later as a cure for indigestion.
- In Australia, watermelon is a traditional Christmas day food.
- Dogs are mentioned 14 times in the Bible, but cats not once.
- Louis Pasteur gave the first successful rabies treatment in July 1885.
- Hummingbirds hold their nest together with spider webs.
- The scientific term for left-handedness is sinistrality; Right-handedness is dextrality.
- The city of Winchester, Virginia was captured 84 times during the Civil War.
- A hippo's call can be heard from more than a mile away.
- In Italy, the number 17 is considered unlucky.
- The planet Uranus was briefly known as Herschel.
- November 7, 1848 was the first time all eligible Americans voted for president on the same day.



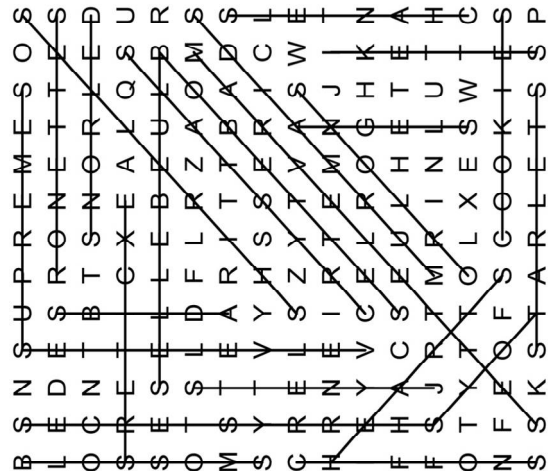
Funny Bone

“I’ve learned that life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.”

Andy Rooney

The Answer Area

Trivia Teaser: 13, once for each colony



Staff Directory

Lori Verst	Mohan Martin
Craig Kennedy	Tessa Korkowski
Dave Hart	Becky Hatfield
Keith McCarthy	Joe Chow
Stan Salah	Joseph Martin
Elliott Martin	Matt Leone

Scan for Facebook Group



Links & Lines

Raymond T. Martin

Investor Coach and Registered Investment Advisor

Sales & Service (800) 464-4941

Fax (949) 266-9508

Schedule a phone appointment at www.SpeakWithRay.com

www.FreeMedicareBook.com

Ray@WeRetireSmart.com

4000 Barranca Pkwy, Suite 250, Irvine CA 92604

Join our Facebook Group:

Medicare Matters with Martin & Associates



Ray Martin
 Martin & Associates
 4000 Barranca Pkwy, Suite 250
 Irvine, CA 92604

Here's your next issue of
Ray's Retire Right Report



Ray Martin specializes in Personal Finance, Investor Coaching, Medicare Planning and is the author of ...

Educational Guide
The Nuts & Bolts of Original Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement Insurance
 Understand Your Medicare Options in 30 Minutes ... or Less!
 by Ray Martin

New Clients Accepted!

The finest compliment I can receive is a referral from a satisfied client like you. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me with your retirement needs. Please send your friends and family to me knowing that I will care for them as I have cared for you!

Heartfelt Thanks for Referrals!

Debbie Z, Steve W., Marcy W., Steve C., Shelly W., Mike P., Audrey M., Mike M., Jim H., Helen H., and Robin W.

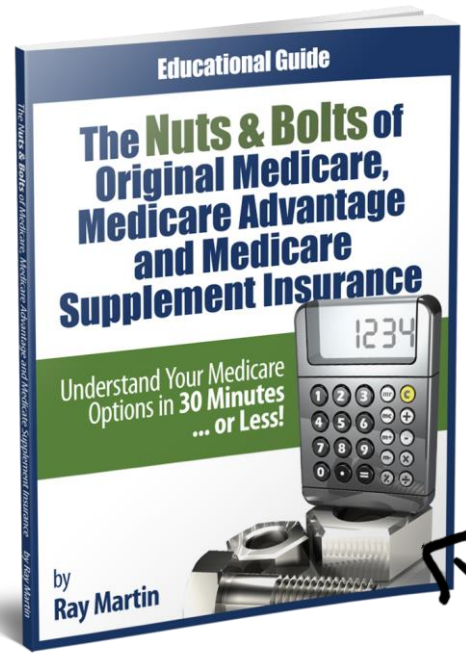
Need a Speaker for Your Group?

Invite Ray Martin to be a guest speaker at your next club meeting, retreat or gathering for an informative presentation on Medicare or Social Security, crucial for a successful retirement. Ray is a frequent speaker at local colleges, school districts and major corporations. To schedule an available date for your group, call Ray or Lori today at (800) 464-4941 or email ray@WeRetireSmart.com

LIMITED
NUMBER
AVAILABLE

Get a **FREE**
One-Year Subscription to
"Ray's Retire Right Report"
PLUS
This Book **FREE** By Mail!

(Just complete and return this form ASAP!)



Yes! Please send me Ray's Retire Right Report each month **FREE BY MAIL**. I want to receive a monthly dose of funnies, trivia and useful investment, retirement and Medicare information!



Yes! Please send me **FREE BY MAIL** this book as bonus, The Nuts and Bolts of Original Medicare, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Supplement Insurance .



You will never, ever sell, share or trade my contact information, period so, **Yes, please invite me to upcoming workshops** on topics of vital interest to seniors. I consent to receive an occasional brief voice broadcast to my home phone and an email but only ...

- (1) When a workshop is scheduled for my area or
- (2) To notify me of important deadlines for Medicare benefits.



Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Spouse _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Best time? _____

Email address _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Return by Fax to (949) 266-9508 or **Mail to**
Martin and Associates Ins., 4000 Barranca Pkwy, Suite 250, Irvine, CA 92604
or **scan and email** to ray@WeRetireSmart.com.

If you have questions, please call Ray Martin at (800) 464-4941
License 0765088 © 2013 RTM. All Rights Reserved.

THANK YOU!

Who Is the Real Enemy?

In a recent commentary, I alluded to the fact that the famous Dalbar study fully illustrated that likely, the greatest problem, or enemy that investors had were their own emotional responses to both news, equity [stock] pricing and markets.

Several years ago I also wrote that from what I was reading in the financial trade journals at the time, the problem wasn't just limited to investors, but, worse, their advisors -- who should have known better.

In response to what was happening during the 2007 - 2009 bear market, most of what I was reading from these so-called professionals was how they were shifting their clients' assets into fixed income in response to "demands" from their clients to do just that -- at the exact worst time -- the market bottom.

A classic example of selling low and buying high! Basically, they were revealing their true selves - not as professionals, but rather, enablers and facilitators of destructive investor behavior.

This is what explains that past Dalbar studies that illustrated that even with the "assistance(?)" of financial



advisor investor, returns were far below those of the market itself. A recent article in *Think Advisor* had an interesting reference to another past study: "... According to a 2013 study in *The Journal of Financial Therapy*, a whopping 93% of advisors suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder after the market crash of 2008... there was a definite shift from equities to fixed income in the years that followed, based on *International Monetary Fund* data."

So, as equities started their current five year run to new highs, advisors were taking their clients out of equities and moving them into fixed income -- bonds! Simply a version of telling investors what they wanted to hear

rather than what they needed to hear!

PTSD? Gimme a break! Was anybody shooting at them or placing roadside IED's on their route home? While it's oft been said by a fair number of my colleagues: "financial planning is the problem -- coaching is the solution," it appears that the ones who need coaching the most might just be the advisors themselves!

Contributed by
**Frederick C. Taylor CLU,
CFP®, AIF®**

BEFORE you make any financial move, call with your "Here's what I'm thinking about doing..." as opposed to the dreaded, "Guess what I just did..." announcement! We offer a one-hour Complimentary Consultation.

Ray Martin is an Investor Coach and Investment Advisor Representative for Martin Wealth Management (800) 464-4941
Registered Investment Advisor
© 2015 Ray Martin.
All rights reserved.

Notice required by FINRA: The information provided is educational in nature and is not intended to be construed as, legal, tax or investment advice and does not necessarily represent the views of the presenting party. Specific state laws relevant to a particular situation may affect the applicability, accuracy or completeness of this information. Material presented is believed to be from reliable sources, but its accuracy is not guaranteed. If additional information is needed, the reader is advised to seek professional services.