

VeteransAIR – Taxes, VetFest & Memorial Day

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Show title: VeteransAIR – Taxes, VetFest & Memorial Day

Play warrior intro_VeteransAir.wav (15 sec)

Welcome to VeteransAir – the Veteran’s Hour your source for news, talk and uncensored commentary here on Lone Star Community Radio. I’m your host DouglasB and along with my co-host Dangerous Dan you can listen to us Live the FIRST Tuesday of the month and wherever you get your podcasts.

Display: Contact_VeteransAIR.jpg

As always, a little housekeeping today before we get started. You can contact VeteransAir through the website at www.VeteransAir.us or leave us a message or better yet text us in the studio on our Google phone: 936-344-3083.

Charlie Daniels said it best in his song Simple Man. I can identify with the song. It starts, I aint nothing but a simple man some call me a redneck and I reckon I am but there’s things going on the make me mad down to the core. I’ve got to work like a dog to make ends meet, there’s crooked politicians and crime in the street and I’m madder than hell and I aint gonna take it no more. You know what’s wrong with the world today? People have gone and put there bibles away. They’re living by the law of the jungle and not the law of this land.

Have you gotten your Property Valuation for this year yet? Personally, my home went from \$100K to over \$162K though the land value remained the same at \$21K. So, if you are like me and live on a fixed income you are being taxed out of your home. Trust me, I live in a 1300 sqft house built in 1982 it is not worth the \$183K assessed value! This is important so pay attention you can protest but your protest MUST be filed 05/16/2022. ARB Hearings start 05/16/2022 so you don’t have much time.

I am working with the Montgomery County Judge’s office to get Judge Keough, the mayor and the tax assessor on the show to talk about this issue but it’s hard getting all of them together. Thank you, Kimberly for working on this.

All is not lost though. I went to the City Council meetings, spoke with the Mayor and select Council Member and there is something the City can do. The City Council just approved an historic tax bill. **Display: PropertyTax**

Allow me to read the Press Release to you. While this is great news, I still want Mark, Jody and Tammy to come on the show. Let’s work together to make meaningful changes at the state

level where those changes need to be made. You guys are our local elected officials but to make meaningful permanent changes we need to go to Austin as a united group!

Speaking of elected officials do you know what is going on today? Early voting for our local officials. We have proposals to vote on as well as 3 city council member and a municipal judge. As our Mayor Jody Czapkoski say "Our Future Depends On You!" and I promised him I'd remind all the veterans to go vote today or on May 7th. Look I'm not allowed to endorse any candidate on this show BUT pay attention to who went to bat for this tax break and who is championing the tree ordinance, flooding and the SJRA law suits when you vote.

Shout out to our sponsors. Display EMW-Sponsor-Ad.jpg graphic

Let me just give a shout out to our show sponsors before I forget. Veterans Air is made possible by the support of :

East Meets West Productions, full-service business and marketing consultants helping vets start and fund their businesses for 25 years. For more information call 361-904-0044

I want to talk to you about Combined Arms VetFest coming up on June 4th over at the fairgrounds. **Display: Vet-Fest-01 and Vet-Fest-02**

Yes, VeteransAIR will be there we are actually teaming up with the VFW 4709 in a double booth this year so there will be plenty of room. Combined Arms VetFest is a great outing and kid friendly so bring the family! VetFest is your chance to visit with and meet all the wonderful VSOs in Montgomery County and of course it is sponsored by our very own VFW 4709.

Combined Arms has served on 22K veterans and is comprised of 188 member organizations. You need to attend if for nothing else to see and know what VSOs and organizations are other there to support YOU!!

About this Event

It's festival time & the place to be on 6/4/22 is **Montgomery County Fairgrounds** for a FREE family-fun day with food trucks, bouncy houses, a petting zoo & BABY CAMEL!, local craft beer & spirits, live music all day, & endless veteran-service organizations on-site to support veterans & families.

Join for the **FREE** day & stay for the night concert w/a kickass line-up of terrific Texas country music for **\$40/ticket!**

Here's something for you, a freebie of sorts. Drop your business card or name in the bowl at VeteransAIR's booth and you could win this 8x12 gallery wrap canvas of American Fury. Join the VFW 4709 on June 4th and your name will be entered twice!

I guess this brings us to Memorial Day. This day is held sacred by veterans and gold star families across the country. Most of us think of it as a 3 day weekend and the start of summer. I don't

want to bring anyone down or make you feel bad about having a BBQ. By all means have a BBQ, go to the beach, relax with a cold one and friends but remember this day, teach your children why we have it. We have this day to remember our fallen our brother, sister, moms, dads, uncle and aunts that did not make it back from their wars. These brave souls that gave the last true measure of devotion so we could live in the land of the free.

Play Angel Flight: <https://youtu.be/GgkxiqKj0nU>

It has become tradition here at VeteransAIR to read this story titled Grandpa for Memorial Day. I wrote this for my brothers and sister who have fallen and if found worthy I will meet them again in Valhalla.

Let me tell you a story of a man I know. I'm sure he has a name; everyone has a name. It could be Robert, Tom, Jimmy or even Phil but everyone just calls him Grandpa. Everybody in this small town knows him. He can fix anything with just a can of WD-40 and a Craftsman wrench. Need your field mowed; Grandpa will show up with his tractor. Times get lean and Grandpa will show up with eggs, a chicken and a bag of veggie from the garden. And would you please help him out cause the damn chickens are laying too much and the garden is producing more than he can use.

Grandpa is getting long in the tooth and I've never seen him out of those beat up shore boots, jeans and that old beat to hell hat he wears. At his age he never expected to be raising a child again but here he is raising his 4-year-old grandson.

Grandpa calls me up one day asking for a ride to the airport. I arrive early because he taught me if you're on time your late. He was still getting dressed as I just walked in. He was just slipping his shirt on over his Airborne tattoo. I've seen it before, but he doesn't talk about it. It's like him old and faded but you can still make out the 173rd Airborne. I stop and stare because I've never seen him in a suit before. "Shut your hole", he says, "you're catching flies". These are my travel clothes." As I pull away from the airport I wonder where he and his small grandson are going, but I was raised better than to ask. If he wanted me to know he would have told me so.

He boards first with his grandson and settles down into First Class. He removes his jacket, rolls up his sleeves and loosens his collar and holds his grandson in his lap. Others enter and look at him. An old man, long grey hair in a ponytail and a small child in his lap. Some stare, some just look and some nod respectfully upon seeing his tattoo.

The flight attendant comes by offering drinks and snacks. She asks his grandson where he is going today. The child answers excitedly that Grandpa is taking him to see his daddy. The attendant smiles and brings the child some milk and strong black coffee for Grandpa. The attendant asks if his son lives in Maryland. Grandpa says, "No. My son is with my men in Virginia." They got a nice plot of land out there and someday that's where he'd like to settle down.

The flight lands and they take a taxi. They first stop at the Mall in DC. Grandpa walks, holding the child's hand to the Wall. The child asks, "Is this where my Daddy is Grandpa?" There are tears in his eyes as he picks up his grandson and holds him tight. He whispers, "No, he's not here" as a tear rolls down his face. The child in his arms kisses the tear from his grandfather's weathered face saying, "There I made it all, better didn't I?" Yes, yes you did.

Another taxi ride and the child stares out the window as it rolls through the big gates and past perfectly manicure lawns. They get out and walk across those laws with their rows upon rows of simple white markers that seem to stretch for as far as the eye can see. They stop at one and stand before it. The child is silent. His Grandpa taught him not to interrupt when adults are speaking. Grandpa looks at the stone and says, "Son, I've brought your son today so he can meet his father." The boy looks at his Grandpa and ask is this where my Daddy is? Grandpa kneels beside the boy and says, "Yes, this is where your daddy is. You see, your daddy was a soldier, like I was. He left you to go fight a war because his county said they needed him. Your daddy died but he was a hero and this place is where our country lays our heroes to rest. But your daddy won't be lonely for he is surrounded by thousands of other heroes. Why just over that hill are all my friends. They were heroes too." The little boy asks why his daddy had to be a hero. His grandfather thinks for a moment, takes the child's hands in his and says, "Your Daddy didn't have to be a hero. He didn't want to be a hero. None of the mommies and daddies here wanted to be heroes either. He just wanted to love and stay with you, but sometimes loving and protecting someone requires daddies to do what they don't want to do. You know what we do when that coyote gets into the hen house, right? How we hunt him down so that all the other hens can live without worrying about the coyote coming back? The little boy just nods with tears in his eyes. Well, that's what your daddy did. There were some bad men that wanted to hurt good people and your daddy and a lot of other daddies and mommies had to leave to protect their children from the coyotes. Sometime when you stand for what is right and just it take a big sacrifice.

The little boy sniffs mightily and looks deep into his grandfathers' eyes and says "When I grow up, I'm going to be like you and Daddy. I'm going to protect you from bad men and coyotes." Grandpa hugs the little boy and says a pray to God and country to not let his grandson be a hero.

This is the price some are willing to pay for "Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness" some have taken for granted. On May 30th this country will observe Memorial Day. The day set aside to remember our fallen and what they stood for..the ideals they died for. This Memorial Day I ask you to take a minute from your backyard BBQs and day at the beach to just hug your family and friends. Get to your knees and pray to whatever God you hold sacred for wisdom and understanding. Wisdom and understanding to know that others died to fulfill the promise of America for you.

These men and women stood against things some are throwing around like candy at a parade these days. They stood against racism and bigotry in places like Normandy, Rwanda, the

Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan. They stood for the right to worship God as you want without the fear of persecution and death. They stood for the right to speak your mind against the government. They stood for what it means to be an American.

America, I task you. Yes, task you and hope you can overcome what I see you becoming these days. I task you to stop the bickering, stop the persecution of your neighbors. Stop being Republican and Democrats before you tear this country apart. Memorial Day is a day of remembrance. Stop and remember what it means to be an American. Perhaps you should re-read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution for which these brave men and woman cherished so much they were willing to lay their lives down so future generation would have them and cherish them as they did. These brave Men and Women Should Not Have Died In Vain! Only you can make sure they have not.

ONLY IF TIME PERMITS:

Display TGP_0935-Ukraine_Angel.jpg I want to support the Ukrainian people. They inspire me. America, take a good hard look at the Ukrainian people. They are fighting for their country. They are fighting for their homes. They are acting like Americans SHOULD! If you want to support the Ukrainian people and get some cool art in the bargain, then go to <https://proofs.texasgrace.com> and follow the link to *Mariya – Ukrainian Angel*. 100% of the profits go directly to the World Central Kitchen | Chefs for Ukraine

Ending:

I want to leave you with this awesome song by the Warrior Song Project. Go download it from Veteransair.us or on iTunes. While we are listening let us remember our brothers and sister in uniform that today are standing in harm's way to stand for our freedoms and liberty. If you are wearing the uniform, I say thank you and I'm proud of you. Until next month, "Stay Safe and Stay Vigilant!"

Play TheWarriorSong.mp3 (3 min 41 sec)

Play: have been listening-GRUNT.wav (12 sec)

Show Links:

Election Info: <https://www.cityofconroe.org/departments/mayor-and-city-council/elections>

VetFest 2022: <https://allevents.in/conroe/2nd-annual-combined-arms-montgomery-county-vetfest/10000317728202607>

Ukraine Angel: <https://proofs.texasgrace.com/gallery/ukraine/>

World Central Kitchen: <https://wck.org/>