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The Discoverer

The Monthly Newsletter of The Lodge of Discovery

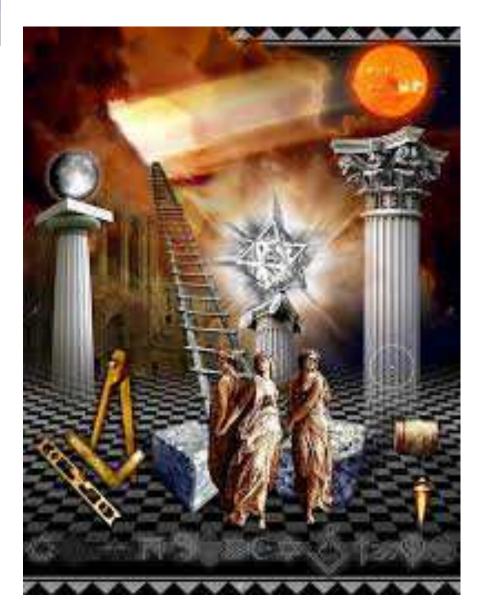
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Greetings Brethren,

We have now embarked on a new Masonic year with another good Installation ceremony—alas, no photographs are available.

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A list of current members and their e -mail addresses is available on request.



Bulletproof Freemasonry

What I Learned about the Craft in Afghanistan by Bro. Lieutenant Joseph F. Curry, Intelligence Officer, Canadian Armed Forces; The Beaches Lodge No. 473 and Canada Lodge UD (Kandahar), both of the GL of Canada.

This is an edited version of a first-person account by a Mason in a military lodge deployed in the field and presented at the London Masonic Conference, Ontario Canada, on November 9, 2013. If you liked this article, you might also like Lt Curry's articles "The Rifle and the Apron" on the history of military lodges and their influence on spreading Freemasonry around the world, including here in Australia and "The Craft at Work in Kandahar." They're both Googleable.

What I would like to do is highlight some of the lessons I've taken away from my time in Afghanistan. I believe they can be useful and relatable to Masonry.

Keep your sense of humour. War is a dark and evil thing for anyone at any time, but especially so for this Canadian boy who grew up in the privileged bubble that is rural Ontario life. For eight long months that felt like eight long years, I lived the evil that is war. This affects everyone differently.

Every time I left the base on a patrol, we would stop just before leaving the gate; we would load our weapons, prepare our grenades, turn on our Electric Counter Measures and prepare to step off. I would look around at the men in my patrol and see how they were prepared emotionally to go out there. I saw seasoned soldiers shaking like a leaf, not just the first time, but the 50th time and the 100th time out. I was always calm, cool and collected; not because I have nerves of steel, not because I'm stronger mentally, but because of my coping mechanism. You see, in my mind I was already dead. When I stepped onto the aircraft heading to Afghanistan I knew I wasn't coming home. It was only a matter of time until an Improvised Explosive Device got me, whether it was this time or the next time out didn't matter. You can't hurt a dead man.

I recently had a conversation with another officer in my unit about how he dealt with the stress of going on foot patrols in Taliban territory. His method was the exact opposite of mine, but to the same effect: he told himself that he was Superman, and that nothing could hurt him. So he too freed his mind to focus on the task at hand. The result was that we were better mentally prepared to focus on the mission at hand and not be distracted by mortal fears.

This is a helpful ploy in the situation, but it is clearly delusional; a part of the insanity of war. So where then does the balance come in? For many soldiers there is no balance to be had, and the resulting Operational Stress Injuries (including sometimes PTSD from critical traumatic incidents)



are inevitable. I would be lying to you if I told you I came home with no degree of Operational Stress Injury (in fact I think any soldier who has been on operations in a theatre of war would be lying to you if they told you they had no Operational Stress Injury), but I think the degree of my injury was less than it could have been, and the recovery quicker because I was able to find that balance in Lodge.

The only laughter I remember from those eight months was with my Lodge Brethren. Lodge was a world away from everything else there. It was a safe retreat. We chided and teased each other, laughed at ourselves and one another, and regained some of our humanity. To Grand Lodge Officers I say this: the best support you can ever give to the Canadian Armed Forces is to ensure that we are never deployed again without being afforded the privilege of meeting in a military lodge. So keep your sense of humour.

Bullet-proof Freemasonry is Masonry that reminds us to laugh. Here in Canada we too often become unbalanced. We are too easily indulged in ourselves, our lives, our work, even with the work of the evening; but when we take time to laugh together we increase the bonds of fellowship. When we laugh at ourselves we break the bonds of narcissism.

When we laugh with each other we realize the Chief Point of Masonry which is to be happy ourselves, and to communicate that happiness to others. Be Flexible. The Worshipful Master is asked at his installation to agree that it is not in the power of man, or any body of men, to make innovations in the Body of Masonry.

I say the following carefully, so please hear me out before objecting. There is room for "flexibility" in Masonry without the threat of "innovation" in Masonry. We have the tendency sometimes to become very rigid in our traditions, which is not necessarily a bad thing, but is not always a good thing either. Sometimes the answer to "why do we do it this way?" is simply "because we always have". I'm not talking here about our ritual, or our constitution.

Of course we did not improvise without Dispensation from Grand Lodge where necessary. Let me give you some examples of how we improvised in Canada Lodge:

None of us were there long enough to be elected to and pass Chairs. Solution: the Worshipful appointed Master Masons to serve as required. We had Dispensation for this.

We didn't have suits and tuxedos. Solution: we wore combat uniforms.

We could not disarm: Solution: we had our weapons in lodge.

We had to defend the building in an attack. Solution: we tyled the lodge with an assault rifle instead of a sword.

We needed to be in contact with our Chain of Command. Solution: we had our cell phones on in lodge.

We didn't have a hoodwink or a cable tow. Solution: we used a piece of cloth and a rope.

We didn't have a "convenient room adjoining the lodge". Solution: we put the candidate behind a curtain and had him wear ear phones.

Sometimes we can get hung up on process and forget about results. Bulletproof Freemasonry is goal oriented, flexible in its approach, all the while staying within due bounds and respecting the ancient landmarks. Masonry has a history of being flexible, but sometimes we forget that fact. If I were to suggest that we hold our next Lodge meeting at the local pub I would fully expect to get several aghast looks and many objections. But in the early days of the Craft that is exactly where many Lodges met.

Masonry became global because soldiers in military lodges talked to good men about being Masons. We don't recruit, but it's OK to talk about being a Mason. Many of us wear Masonic jewellery, and I find it is often a conversation starter. The first candidate that was initiated in to Canada Lodge started down the path to initiation when he inquired about my ring. The second candidate similarly started the conversation with another brother. We were not shy of talking about the Craft.

Sometimes we don't talk about Masonry because we aren't sure what to say, or how much to say. If we just talk about the parts of it that we really like on a personal level, chances are we'll do just fine. My message here is not new or revolutionary. Stay flexible, on a personal and a lodge level, and always with our goal in mind. At the end of the day, if we are doing justice to the work and to the Candidate we cannot err.

Comment

As we near the celebration of Christmas it is easy for us to forget those brethren who are in military service, and actively serving their Country in places all over the World. They are apart from their family and we as Freemasons MUST add them to our prayers for a "safe and speedy return to their native shores should they so desire"

A simple toast, used in many Lodges is " To our absent Brethren. "

With acknowledgement to The Educator

SEVEN

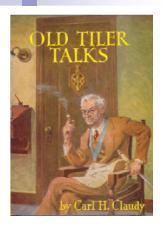
Seven, a primary number, has been regarded in many countries over the centuries as a sacred number with references to it appearing in various forms in most religious and philosophical systems of the ancient world. Seven is referred to in many early manuscripts as the number of perfection.

There is frequent mention of this number in scriptural history. In particular the Sabbath was the seventh day of creation, there are numerous references to seven in relation to Noah and the Ark, while the stories of biblical characters such as Elijah, Jacob, Samson and Pharaoh often turn upon the number seven.

From a Masonic point of view, brethren are informed in the ritual that seven Freemasons make a perfect lodge. This is said to be related to the fact that the temple of Solomon took seven years to complete; in this regard, it is also matter of historical that the temple was dedicated in the seventh month and the related festival lasted seven days. The most common number of steps shown on Jacob's ladder is seven and we speak, Masonically, of seven liberal arts and sciences and seven virtues while, at one part of the third degree ceremony, seven steps are taken by the candidate.

Many secular references to the number seven being a number of importance can be quoted, such as the seven wonders of the ancient world, the seven colours of the rainbow and the seven days in the week.





Old Tiler Talks— FOOLISH SPENDING

"Why do Masons spend their money so foolishly?" asked the New Brother.

"A fool and his money are soon parted," answered the Old Tiler.

"Do you think Masons are fools?"

"Certainly not. I was just agreeing that if Masons

"Oh, a lot! We spend five dollars to send a funeral wreath to every brother's funeral, and three dollars for flowers every time one is sick, and four dollars for fruit when one goes to a hospital. We decorate the lodge room when we have an entertainment. We spend money for food for men who are well fed at home. We hire entertainers for a blowout! My idea would be to put all that money in an educational fund or a charity fund or . . ."

"By any chance," interrupted the Old Tiler, "are you delivering a lecture? I want to talk, too!"

"I want you to talk. Tell me that I am right and that we do spend our money foolishly!"

"I can't do that," answered the Old Tiler. "But perhaps I can show you something on our side. You object to five dollar funeral wreaths to deceased brethren, and would rather see the money put in charity. Do you think we send the wreath to the dead man? With it we offer consolation to the family! We show that his brethren care that he has died and that the world may see that we hold our deceased brother in honor. If we are careless when grief comes to the loved ones of those we love, the world will hold it against us, and our influence be lessened.

"We send flowers to the sick and fruit to the hospital, that the ill brother may have the cheering comfort of knowing that in his hour of need his brethren forget him not. Is it, then, more charitable to feed a hungry body than a hungry heart? Have you ever been ill in it hospital? Did no one remember you with a card, a flower, a basket of fruit? If you were unremembered, you passed a sad hour in the thought that no one cared. If friends brought their friendship to you when you needed it you were helped to recover. If we do not cheer a worthy brother, for what does our brotherhood stand?

"Of course we decorate a lodge room for an entertainment! In your home are there but bare walls, without pictures, carpets or furniture? Do you give to the poor all you make over a bare subsistence? Do the poor spend only for food? In a poor man's home you will find a flower, a book, a picture. Beauty is as much a need as bread. Cows chew cuds contentedly, but man must chew the cud of life with a spiritual as well as a physical outlook.



The lodge room is our home. We decorate it for entertainment that all may remember their Masonic home as beautiful with pleasures taken together.

"Refreshment, whether sandwiches and coffee or a vocal or instrumental solo, refreshes mind and body. The solo we hear alone gives us not half the pleasure which comes from listening in company. The few cents per capita we spend for refreshment is no more wasted than were the twenty cents you paid for your cigar or the fifteen cents for your shoe shine!

"Suppose the world spent only for food, clothes and charity? The poor would become rich; ambition, thrift, independence arid manhood would become extinct. If there were no music, painting, love of flowers, beautiful buildings in the world, where would our hearts reach when they seek something they know is just beyond? We do not see God in the ham sandwich as in the beautiful notes of music. I'll agree He is everywhere, but if we find Him easiest through our appreciation of the lovely, rather than the mundane things of life.

"Would you cease printing Bibles that more hungry people be fed? You argue that money not spent for charity is ill spent, but charity is but a part of Masonry. Masonry teaches men to help themselves, to think-, to aid their fellows, not only by gifts, but by encouragement, cheer, help, aid, the kindly word. When we express them in the flower, the basket of fruit, the song or refreshment, we spend our money wisely.

"Truly the fool and his money are soon parted, but the fool parts with his for foolishness. We part with ours for value received, to carry Masonic cheer to the hearts of our brethren."

"You are right, as you always are," agreed the New Brother. "By the way, you are chairman of the committee on hospitals, are you not? S tick that in your pocket and make the next bunch of flowers or basket of fruit twice as big."

That with which the New Brother soothed his conscience crinkled as it was folded.

SERPENT CLASP (ON APRON)

While the serpent or snake is often shown to represent evil, a quite different quality is ascribed to it in many parts of the world. In a number of countries, particularly in India and Egypt, the serpent has been regards for many centuries as an object of veneration, wisdom and eternity, either depicted in a lengthened form or with its tail in its mouth.

Referring to scripture, in Matthew x,16, the Lord issued the following direction to his disciples: "Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: Be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves".

While one cannot be dogmatic in this matter, it is suggested that the serpent-shaped clasp could be related to the aspect of wisdom, leading brethren to feel that the fixing of the clasp completed the clothing of a brother, encircling him with a sense of holy







Installation Dinner-The Melanesian

Lodge Birthdays

Andy Donaldson	37 (HM)
Brian Mott	36
Tony Ryan	22
Don MacQuoid	20
Keith Thomas	18
Peter Phillipps	15
James Kluck	9

News from the South

At the March Installation we had visitors from Lautoka Lodge , Fiji, Lodge of Fiji and a representative from District Grand Lodge, North Island, New Zealand. We welcomed back, after an absence of 22 years, W. Bro. Andy Donaldson and his wife Paulette. Andy was the first initiate of LOD to be awarded Overseas Grand Rank. Now that Andy is living in Australia it is hoped he will grace us with his presence yet again.



Famous Freemasons—ARNOLD PALMER





'THE KING

When you hear the name "Arnold Palmer" what is the first thing you think of? Is it golf? Is it the refreshing mixture of iced tea and lemonade? Is it brotherhood and the countless years of service Bro. Palmer has given to Freemasonry? Or is it all of the above? Bro. Arnold Palmer has lead an incredibly active life, which brought him down many paths including Freemasonry!

Born on September 10, 1929, Arnold Daniel Palmer was raised in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Growing up he spent much of his time at the local country club learning how to play golf from the head groundskeeper, his father Milfred Palmer. In his youth he attended Latrobe High School, Arnold would go on to attend Wake Forest College on a golf scholarship. However he did not finish due to the tragic death of his close friend, and Arnold left Wake Forest and enlisted in the Coast Guard, where he served for three years.

A gifted golf player, Arnold Palmer's golf career began in 1954, when he won the U.S. Amateurs Tournament. After his win he decided to play professional for a while, and spent 1955 touring the tournament circuit. During his rookie season Palmer won the Canadian Open, and would go on to dominate the golf scene for the next fifteen years. Palmer has seven major championships under his belt: four Masters wins (1958, 1960, 1962, 1964) one U.S. Open (1960) and two Open Championships (1961, 1962). Arnold appeared in the Master's for the last time in 2004 after 50 consecutive appearances, and announced in 2005 that he would not be entering any more tournaments.

Arnold Palmer joined Freemasonry in 1958 in his hometown of Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason at Loyalhanna Lodge No. 275, where he remained active all his life. Bro. Palmer has been the recipient of many awards during his life, among which was when he received the distinction of the 33 Inspector General Honorary in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and was invested with the Honorary Legion of Honour from Pennsylvania DeMolay.



However, Brother Arnold Palmer has led a far more interesting life than what can be packed into this short article.

The saga of Arnold Palmer began when he was four years old, swinging his first set of golf clubs, cut down by his father, Milfred J. (Deacon) Palmer, who worked at Latrobe Country Club from 1921 until his death in 1976, much of that time as both golf professional and course superintendent. Before long, Arnie was playing well enough to beat the older caddies at the club. He began caddying himself when he was 11 and worked at almost every job at the club in later years.

The strongly-built young man concentrated on golf in high school, soon was dominating the game in Western Pennsylvania and twice won the Pennsylvania high school championship. He won his first of five West Penn Amateur Championships when he was 17, competed successfully in national junior events and went to Wake Forest University (then College), where he became No. 1 man on the golf team and one of the leading collegiate players of that time. Deeply affected by the death in an auto accident of his close friend and classmate, Bud Worsham, younger brother of 1947 U.S. Open Champion Lew Worsham, Arnold withdrew from college during his senior year and began a three-year hitch in the Coast Guard. His interest in golf rekindled while he was stationed in Cleveland. He was working there as a salesman and playing amateur golf after his discharge from the service and brief return to Wake Forest when he won the U.S. Amateur in 1954 following his second straight victory in the Ohio Amateur earlier that summer.

It was during that period that he met Winifred Walzer at a tournament in Eastern Pennsylvania. They were married shortly after he turned professional in the fall of 1954 and Winnie travelled with him when he joined the pro tour in early 1955. They would have two daughters, Peggy and Ann. Mrs. Palmer died of cancer on November 20, 1999. Arnold and his second wife, Kathleen (Kit), were married in a private ceremony in Hawaii on January 26, 2005.

Arnold Palmer was many things to many people...world famous golf immortal and sportsman, highly-successful business executive, prominent advertising spokesman, skilled aviator, talented golf course designer and consultant, devoted family patriarch and a man with a down-to-earth common touch that made him one of the most popular and accessible public figures in history.

His popularity and success grew with the tremendous golf boom in the latter half of the 20th Century to heights few ever anticipated and they have been recognized in countless ways over the years. Certainly each contributed to the other, a fact given recognition when he was named "Athlete of the Decade" for the 1960s in a national Associated Press poll. Before, during and after that great decade, the famous golfer amassed 92 championships in professional competition of national or international stature. Sixty-two of the victories came on the U.S. PGA Tour, starting with the 1955 Canadian Open.

Besides the magnificent performance record, his magnetic personality and unfailing sense of kindness and thoughtfulness to everybody with whom he comes in contact have endeared him to millions throughout the world and led to the informal formation of the largest non-uniformed "military" organization in existence -- Arnie's Army. Seven of his victories came in what the golfing world considers the four major professional championships. He won the Masters Tournament four times, in 1958, 1960, 1962 and 1964; the U.S. Open in spectacular fashion in 1960 at Cherry Hills Country Club in Denver and the British Open in 1961 and 1962. He came from seven strokes off the pace in the final round in that U.S. Open win and finished second in four other Opens after that. Among the majors, only the PGA Championship eluded him. He finished second in the PGA three times.

Arnie's springboard to professional fame and fortune was his victory in the U.S. Amateur Championship in 1954. He turned professional a few months later.



His hottest period was a four-year stretch from 1960 to 1963 when he landed 29 of his titles and collected almost \$400,000 at a time when the purses were minute by today's standards. He was the leading money-winner in three of those years and twice represented the U.S. in the prestigious Ryder Cup Match during that time, serving in 1963 as the victorious captain.

It was also during this period that his rapidly-growing business interests got their start, through the impetus of Palmer himself and with the guidance and efforts of his business manager, the late Mark McCormack, and his wide-ranging organization. Arnold was president of Arnold Palmer Enterprises, a multi-division structure encompassing much of his global commercial activity. He was involved in automobile and aviation service firms over the years and was the principal owner of a car dealership in his Latrobe (PA) hometown.

Arnold was president and sole owner (since 1971) of Latrobe Country Club and president and principal owner of the Bay Hill Club and Lodge, Orlando, FL, which he and a group of associates acquired in 1970. Bay Hill hosts the annual Arnold Palmer Invitational, on the PGA Tour. In 1999, Arnold and a group of investors purchased the famed Pebble Beach golf complex on the California coast. He was also a tournament professional and member of the board of directors of Laurel Valley Golf Club, Ligonier, PA, with which he has been affiliated since its founding in the late 1950s.

Palmer was consultant to Golf Channel in Orlando, which went on the air on cable networks in January, 1995. Another important facet of his activities involved the Arnold Palmer Design Company, which continues to thrive headquartered at the Bay Hill Club. Since the mid-1960s, Palmer put his stamp on about 300 new courses throughout the nation and world.

His modest business empire and golfing activities kept Palmer on the move much of the year, most of the travel in his Cessna Citation X jet aircraft. He was recognized in 1999 for his contributions to aviation and his Western Pennsylvania community when the Westmoreland County Airport at Latrobe was renamed the Arnold Palmer Regional Airport. He was a member of the Westmoreland County Airport Authority.

Arnold lived in his hometown of Latrobe, a small industrial town in Western Pennsylvania at the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains some 50 miles east of Pittsburgh during the warm months of the year, but spent the fall and winter months at his homes at Bay Hill and at the Tradition Golf Club in La Quinta, California.

He had numerous active and honorary memberships in clubs throughout the world, including famed Augusta National in Georgia, St. Andrews in Scotland, Pine Valley in New Jersey, Winged Foot in New York and Oakmont in Pittsburgh. The golfing great was the recipient of countless honours, the symbolic plaques, trophies and citations scattered throughout his personal, club and business worlds, the epitome coming when he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2004 and the Congressional Gold Medal, passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in 2009. He has received virtually every national award in golf and after his great 1960 season both the Hickok Professional Athlete of the Year and Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year trophies. He was a charter member of the World Golf Hall of Fame and a member of the American Golf Hall of Fame at Foxburg, PA, and the PGA Hall of Fame in Florida. He was chairman of the USGA Members Program and served as honorary national chairman of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation for 20 years. He played a major role in the fund-raising drive in the 1980s that led to the creation of the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Women and subsequently the Arnold Palmer Medical Center in Orlando. A long-time member of the board of directors of Latrobe Area Hospital, he staged a major annual fund-raising golf event for that institution for six years that led to the formation of the Latrobe Area Hospital Charitable Foundation.



Arnold Palmer was one of the first true celebrity golfers, known all over the world. Long before Tiger Woods, there was Arnold Palmer. He made the game of golf the most popular program to be shown on television with countless millions of viewers, and he was largely responsible for the popularity of golf for the last half century.

"Arnold Palmer's go for broke style of golf bolstered a legion of fans, coined by the press as Arnie's Army, who lovingly bestowed the title of "The King" upon him not only because of his prowess on the course, but more importantly because of his unfailing sense of kindness and thoughtfulness."

Brother Arnold Palmer's humanitarian awards are too numerous to mention, but here are just a few of them: Order of Eagle Exemplar, U.S. Sports Academy; Arthur J. Rain Award, Catholic Youth Association, Pittsburgh; Lawman Humanitarian Award, Los Angeles; the Theodore Roosevelt Award, National Collegiate Athletic Association; Outstanding American Award, Los Angeles Philan-thropic Foundation; Sports Legend Award, Jr. Diabetes Foundation, Pittsburgh; Humanitarian Award, Variety Club International; and, The "Good Guy" Award, American Legion National Commanders.

There is no doubt about it. Arnold Palmer is a "Good Guy," an outstanding Mason, and American hero.

Arnold Palmer died on September 25, 2016 (shortly after his 87th birthday) while awaiting heart surgery.

The article was collated from a variety of sources, the main ones being the Arnold Palmer website, Freemasonry for Dummies and the Scottish Rite Journal, my thanks go to them and SRA 76.

I've always made a total effort, even when the odds seemed entirely against me. I never quit trying. I never felt that I didn't have a chance to win.

Bro. Arnold Palmer.



Being awarded the Medal of Freedom

Arnold palmer Hospital for Children & Women

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Humour

While walking down the street one day, a US senator is tragically hit by a truck and killed. His soul arrives in heaven and is met by St. Peter at the entrance. "Welcome to heaven," says St. Peter.

"Before you settle in, it seems there is a problem. We seldom see a high official around these parts, you see, so we're not sure what to do with you...." "No problem, just let me in," says the senator. "Well, I'd like to, but I have orders from higher up.

What we'll do is have you spend one day in hell and one in heaven. Then, you can choose where to spend eternity." "Really, I've made up my mind. I want to be in heaven," says the senator.

"I'm sorry, but we have our rules." With that, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell. The doors open, and he finds himself in the middle of a green golf course. In the distance is a clubhouse and standing in front of it are all his friends and other politicians who had worked with him.

Everyone is very happy and wearing casual clothing. They run to greet him, shake his hand, and reminisce about the good times they had while getting rich at the expense of the people. They play a friendly game of golf; then, everyone changes into evening clothes; and then, they dine on lobster, caviar, and champagne and enjoy an evening of dancing. Also present is the devil, who really is a very friendly guy who has a good time dancing and telling jokes. They are having such a good time that before he realizes it, it is time to go.

Everyone gives him a hearty farewell and waves while the elevator rises. The elevator goes up, up, up and the door reopens on heaven where St. Peter is waiting for him. "Now, it's time to visit heaven."

So, 24 hours pass with the senator joining a group of contented souls moving from cloud to cloud, playing the harp and singing. They have a good time and, before he realizes it, the 24 hours have gone by and St. Peter returns.

"Well, then; you've spent a day in hell and another in heaven. Now, choose your eternity." The senator reflects for a minute, then answers: "Well, I would never have said it before, I mean heaven has been delightful, but I think I would be better off in hell." So, St. Peter escorts him to the elevator and he goes down, down, down to hell.

Now, the doors of the elevator open, and he's in the middle of a barren land covered with waste and garbage. He sees all his friends, dressed in rags, picking up the trash and putting it in black bags as more trash falls from above. The devil comes over to him and puts his arm around his shoulder. "I don't understand," stammers the senator.

"Yesterday I was here, and there was a golf course and clubhouse, and we ate lobster and caviar, drank champagne, and danced and had a great time. Now, there's just a wasteland full of garbage and my friends look miserable. What happened?"

The devil looks at him, smiles and says: "Yesterday, we were campaigning. Today, you voted !!"