



## Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*

### From the Captain's Log An M-16 and a *blivet*

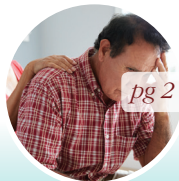
My Grammy Gray, God bless her soul, immigrated from the Alcase region of France when she was 6. Speaking only français upon her arrival, she quickly learned English, but until her death at 96 told me she would always “think” in French. A saying she taught me was be mindful of a blivet, roughly translated “ten pounds of shit in a five pound bag, a situation so vile that no matter how well you deal with it you will still get dirty.”

So up the Piscataqua River we steam, back to our marina at the end of a long weekend at sea, when we round a bend and there, sideways in the river, sits my blivet, the Vulcan, a 600’ oil tanker that unloads every month at the Irving Oil docks; she is being pulled off the docks by the tugs to begin her journey back to her “marina”- so big that her bow and stern kiss opposing banks of the river while turning. Immediately upon seeing this dance, I veer to the starboard side of the channel and pick up an empty lobsterman’s mooring and head for the cooler and the hour wait.

My alumna, the U.S. Coast Guard, have patrol craft fore and aft of the Vulcan with their 50 cal’s on deck, but the Marine Patrol screams over to us in their rubber ducky with its officer brandishing his M-16 asking for our “intentions”. Looking at my boys 50 cal’s, his M-16 had **martel** written all over it. I inform him that we plan to hang here for the duration of the Vulcan’s dance downriver, he glances towards his trigger finger on his B-B gun and I just shrug and head into the cabin to finish my beer, this blivet is over, my alumna had control of the situation. ●



July 2017 News



# Cash Bail and When its Set



Bail may be cash or a bond that an arrested individual gives to the court to regain their freedom—at least until their trial—and to ensure that they show up for all scheduled court appearances. If they fail to appear, the court may keep the bail money and issue an arrest warrant.

The bail amount may be set initially by a bail commissioner, but it is always reviewable by a judge. Factors taken into consideration in the decision in the amount of bail include the seriousness of the crime, the accused's prior criminal record and the individual's likelihood of being a flight risk.

In New Hampshire, the only crime for which the state may ask for no bail is an offense punishable by life in prison. The accused is entitled to have bail set for any other offense, prior to a conviction.

In addition to cash or surety, the defendant may be required to follow certain conditions upon his or her release on bail. If a defendant violates the conditions of release (e.g., obeying all laws, staying away from a specific individual), bail may be revoked and the defendant remain incarcerated pending trial.

Bail can be set as cash only, for the full bail amount, or by surety, in other words a bond, which is like a personal loan, with an upfront, nonrefundable payment of roughly 10 percent of the bail amount paid to the bail bondsman. If the defendant makes all of his or her scheduled court appearances, they get any money they posted as bail returned.

If you've been accused of a criminal offense, contact a criminal defense attorney to protect your rights. ●



## This Sign of Alzheimer's May Precede All Others

Familiar symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and dementia include memory loss; inability to follow or continue with a conversation; a decline in exercising good judgment; confusion as to what day, month, season, or year it is; and social withdrawal. But a recent study points to a warning sign that precedes all these symptoms, to the surprise of many.

According to research published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, navigational issues may crop up before memory loss, and well before a clinical

diagnosis of Alzheimer's is made. Participants in the study were asked to navigate a virtual maze on a computer, using various patterns and landmarks to find their way around. The study consisted of a control group of healthy subjects and a group who had preclinical Alzheimer's—they had a few markers but weren't clinically diagnosed.

The preclinical Alzheimer's test subjects had far greater difficulty assessing, mapping, and navigating their virtual environment than the healthy subjects, indicating a cognitive gap that may have previously gone unnoticed but is a sign of disease-related change.

The findings point to navigational tasks possibly being a potent tool for detecting Alzheimer's disease at its very earliest stages. This would enable patients to receive earlier medical interventions and support services to deal with later Alzheimer's-related changes, and to plan for the future and make their wishes known before the disease makes it more difficult to do so. ●



# The Sunniest Places on Earth

Let's think sunny thoughts. Where are the most sun-soaked places on earth, meteorologically speaking?

Ellesmere Island in Canada during some parts of the year has bright sunshine for over 15 hours a day. Just one problem: The daily average temperature is 14 °F. Its weather fit for scientific researchers and military personnel only. And...there are other parts of the year when the sun never gets above the horizon for months at a time. Talk about a split personality.



Yuma, Arizona, is another interesting place, sun-wise. Weather-station records cite it as the sunniest place in the world. It has 11 hours of bright sunshine per day in the winter, and over 13 in the summer. In addition, high-pressure systems create many cloudless days. There's nowhere for the sun to hide.

The dirty little secret about many of the world's most sun-drenched places is that we don't have a lot of meteorological information on them, and they go unrecognized. For example, deserts are inhospitable for people and weather instruments alike. Scorching days, freezing nights, and wind-whipped sand have that effect.

A NASA project in 2007 used satellites to attempt to pinpoint the world's sunniest spots. Out at sea, the sunniest locale was a patch of the Pacific Ocean south of Hawaii. Over land, part of the Sahara Desert in Niger ranked most highly.

The world's sunniest places could one day, theoretically, have a major impact on energy needs. However, many of these locations are often the least accessible; transporting energy great distances may not be economically feasible; and many areas are in politically unstable countries.

Sunniest places on Earth, NH was not one of them this past Spring. •

July 2017 Important Dates

**July 1**  
Canada Day

**July 4**  
Independence Day

**July 14**  
Bastille Day (France)

**July 16**  
National Ice Cream Day

**July 23**  
Parents' Day

## Did You Know?

According to aviation data companies that track such things, at any given moment during the past year there were an average of 9,728 planes in the air, carrying over 1.2 million people. The lightest day for air travel was January 1, 2017, when "just" 3,354 planes were in the air at the same time. The heaviest air travel day in the past year? That would be August 5, 2016, when nearly 13,000 planes were in the sky at the same time carrying over 1.5 million people.

That's a lot of passengers to "re-accommodate". •





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*Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights*



An M-16  
and a *blivet*

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## Cathy's Corner

# Fourth of July: Deconstructing a myth of American history

America's independence was actually declared by the Continental Congress on July 2, 1776. The night of the second the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* published the statement: "This day the Continental Congress declared the United Colonies Free and Independent States."

So what happened on the Fourth? The document justifying the act of Congress—we know it as Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence—was adopted on the fourth, as is indicated on the document itself, which is, one supposes, the cause for all the confusion.

When did Americans first celebrate independence? Congress waited until July 8, when Philadelphia threw a big party, including a parade and the firing of guns. The army under George Washington, then camped near New York City, heard the news July 9 and celebrated then. When did the British in London finally get wind of the declaration? August 30.

Hanging in the grand Rotunda of the Capitol of the United States is a vast canvas painting by John Trumbull depicting the signing of the Declaration. Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams wrote, years afterward, that the signing ceremony took place on July 4.

So when was it signed? Most delegates signed the document on August 2, when a clean copy was finally produced by Timothy Matlack, assistant to the secretary of Congress. Several did not sign until later. Their names were not released to the public until later still, January 1777. The event was so uninspiring that nobody apparently bothered to write home about it. Years later Jefferson claimed to remember the event clearly. The truth about the signing was not finally established until 1884 when historian Mellon Chamberlain, researching the manuscript minutes of the journal of Congress, came upon the entry for August 2 noting a signing ceremony.

So, let's enjoy our traditional, but historically inaccurate, Fourth of July. ●

