



# Seufert Law Offices, PA

*We'll Get You Through It*

## From the Captain's Log Death of the Nine o Nine



the bar”, as sailors describe the death of a fellow sailor. However, sadly, the great machines that helped our WW II Vet's win that war are also slowly “passing over the bar”.

On 10/2/2019, the B-17 Flying Fortress known as the NINE O NINE crashed in Windsor CT, sadly with a complement of crew and paying guests. While the NTSB has not yet issued its preliminary report on the cause of the crash, eyewitnesses say they heard the engines sputtering and backfiring as NINE O NINE tried gaining altitude after takeoff. Maintained and flown by a mostly volunteer crew of the Collings Foundation, she began her life during WW II, but at the tail end such that she did not fly combat, but post-war recovery efforts and then as part of the nuclear arms program, and then as a water bomber fighting forest fires. She landed at the Collier Foundation in 1986 to begin her new career as an emissary of peace.

I had the fortune of touring the NINE O NINE in 2018 with my mother and mother-in-law at Page Field, during one of my usual winter trips to Ft. Myers FL. My late father-in-law was also a lucky paying passenger in her many years ago, which revenues helped offset the costs to keep this great bird alive. Unfortunately, some of those recent paying passengers lost their lives when she crashed.



October 2019 News

While we can armchair quarterback if continuing to fly these now 75-year old birds is a good idea, we cannot mistake that without them, we may have been living in a much different world.

NINE O NINE, and your gallant crew and passenger, you have passed the bar my friends:

**Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds, — and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of — Wheeled and soared  
and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air...  
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or even eagle flew —  
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.**

John G. Magee, Jr.

I was going to close this article with a picture taken from the video footage of her crash, but that is not how we should remember her, we should remember her as she lived... ●



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# Mexican Pumpkin Punch

This festive fall punch comes with additional options, including an alcoholic variation.

## INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 29-ounce can (or about 3 ½ c.) of pure pumpkin
- 2 limes
- Rum (optional) - **[MANDATORY]**
- Pineapple chunks and/or pecans (optional)

## PREPARATION

- Add 12 cups water, brown sugar, and cinnamon sticks to a large pot and boil over medium-high heat, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Stir in the pure pumpkin and return to a simmer.
- Meanwhile, remove the zest from the limes in wide strips with a vegetable peeler. Add to the pot and simmer 15 minutes.
- Let the mixture cool, then refrigerate 2-3 hours. The pumpkin pulp will settle to the bottom.
- Working in batches, ladle the liquid into a fine-mesh strainer set over a pitcher. Discard pumpkin pulp and lime zest. Return the cinnamon sticks to the punch and refrigerate until serving time.
- Pour into ice-filled glasses. Add a splash of rum, pineapple, and/or pecans, if desired. •



# Not Your Ordinary Mammal



The duck-billed platypus looks like it was cobbled together by a mad scientist, à la Frankenstein's monster. It has the traits of a beaver, with its paddle-shaped tail; an otter, with its sleek, furry body; and a duck, with its bill and webbed feet. But the weirdness doesn't stop there.

Duck-billed platypuses lay eggs—one of only two mammals to do so (the spiny anteater is the other). One or two eggs hatch in roughly 10 days, and the babies are weaned in approximately three months. Female platypuses do not have teats like most mammals. Instead they have milk “patches” where milk is secreted, and the newbies lap it up. It's akin to sweating milk.

They might not look the part, but duck-billed platypuses are strict carnivores; no plants make the menu. They prefer crayfish, shrimp, and other shellfish, but insects and worms are nice side dishes. Adult platypuses don't have teeth, just grinding

plates. When they scoop up their dinner, the gravel or dirt that tags along helps them mash their food.

Male platypuses possess a venomous spur in each hind leg, which comes in handy for defense and fighting over mating privileges. One injection can kill a small mammal; the pain can be excruciating for humans.

Platypuses are most comfortable in the water. They have waterproof fur and while underwater, skin folds cover their eyes and ears, and their nose seals shut. During the approximately two minutes they can stay submerged, they rely on receptors in their bill to navigate and detect potential food.

Many years ago I had a client trying to market a child's stuff toy resembling a Platypus but after all the Products Safety Commission red tape the project never got off the ground, so if you want to see a platypus in the wild, pack your bags for eastern Australia or Tasmania, the only two places you will find this rebel among mammals. •



# ‘Say It Ain’t So, Joe!’

One century ago, the Chicago White Sox were overwhelming favorites to win the 1919 World Series. However, disgruntled players and opportunistic mobsters contributed to a tainted outcome, as the underdog Cincinnati Reds emerged victorious.

White Sox first baseman “Chick” Gandil is alleged to have met with gambler Joseph “Sport” Sullivan—it was the era of nicknames—to discuss the possibility of throwing the Series. Gandil recruited seven teammates to join him, the most famous being outfielder “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, who, incidentally, wore shoes when he played.

Gandil negotiated a \$100,000 deal, with \$20,000 to be paid immediately after each loss (the World Series was best-of-nine back then) and split among the players. But the scent of a plot was in the air. There were murmurings among sportswriters, and betting odds shifted drastically.

The World Series unfolded. Some games featured head-scratching plays and performances. The mobsters shortchanged the players. Ticked-off players decided to play to win. The mobsters, being mobsters, made death threats. The White Sox eventually lost the Series.

Major League Baseball (MLB) power brokers appeared satisfied to let the controversy fade away, unexamined. However, the following season, evidence that a regular-season game had been fixed forced their hand. The spotlight returned to the 1919 World Series.

A grand jury convened. The White Sox players allegedly spilled their guts, leading to nine indictments of conspiracy. However, all the paperwork related to the grand-jury confessions mysteriously vanished, upending the case. The “Black Sox” players were found not guilty on all counts. They were, however, forever banned from professional baseball by MLB Commissioner Kenesaw Landis.

Ever since, baseball has been on high alert for gambler influence on the sport. Pete Rose can tell you all about it. •

## October 2019 Notable Dates

**October 2**  
National  
Produce Misting  
Day

**October 4**  
National Taco Day

**October 7**  
National Child Health Day

**October 10**  
National Cake  
Decorating Day

**October 15**  
National I Love Lucy Day

**October 17**  
National Black Poetry Day

**October 24**  
National Bologna Day

**October 27**  
National Black  
Cat Day





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*Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights*



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## Charlie Hustle

The article that discusses the Chicago “Black Sox” ends by stating that Major League Baseball has since taken a hard line on gambling on the sport by the players, and then references Pete Rose. Pete is the poster child for how hard that line is. He is an otherwise Hall of Fame player who will almost certainly never be inducted.

Pete was my hero growing up. I had the foolish dream when I was young that I would play shortstop for the Cincinnati Reds. Pete broke in at second base and then played in the outfield. But he played mostly third base until the last few years of his career when he played first. He holds the record for starting at the most positions in the all-star game: first, second, third, right and left. He also holds the career records for at bats, seasons with 200 or more hits, games played and singles. He won three World Series, two gold gloves and the rookie of the year award in 1961. Of course, he holds the record for the most hits in a career, 4256. The next closest active player is Albert Pujols, who has more than 1,000 fewer hits and is at the end of his career.

I had the privilege of watching Pete play when he was traded to the Phillies. We were living near Philadelphia at the time. The first time I saw Pete play live I went down to the area of the stands closest to the batting circle to take a picture of him as he got ready to hit. I was so in awe of being that close to my hero that my hands were shaking. I couldn't get a picture because I couldn't hold the camera steady. I had to go back down later in the game.

There is no doubt that Pete bet on baseball. He almost certainly has a gambling addiction. That being said, no one played baseball with more dedication to every at bat and every play in the field than Charlie Hustle. He never took a play off. That's why he was my hero. ●

