

# Bubba Living



March 2016

Volume Seven Number Two

## On Our Cover:

It's March and time to salute the Irish especially great, great grandfather Patrick Sullivan and great grandfather John Hennessy who made it to the USA. Happy St. Patrick's Day!  
Image from <https://www.pinterest.com/davidfordisney/play-boy-of-the-western-world/>.

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## How to Subscribe:

Thank you all for your gifts and contributions to this issue of *Bubba Living*. We received a lot more words and pictures than we could use in this one issue, but we are already working on a May issue. And, you can be part of *Bubba Living* by sending images, stories, etc. to [bubba@micropressbooks.com](mailto:bubba@micropressbooks.com)

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# Descriptions of Life

*The following are quotes from a few people who realized that life is a fleeting commodity. Appreciate each day! We all have stories...what's yours?*

- Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my Psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said, "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."

- Today, I asked my mentor - a very successful business man in his 70s- what his top 3 tips are for success. He smiled and said, "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."

- Today, after a 72 hour shift at the fire station, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go with tears of joy in her eyes and the most sincere smile and said, "On 9-11-2001, you carried me out of the World Trade Center."

- Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and crying. And just before he died, he licked the tears off my face.

- Today at 7AM, I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3PM I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, we chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow.

- Today, as my father, three brothers, and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."

- Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed, I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.

- Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "And why do you want to save the planet?" Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said.

- Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics, I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.

- Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving he said, "I hope you feel better soon."

- Today, I was feeling down because the results of a biopsy came back malignant. When I got home, I opened an e-mail that said, "Thinking of you today. If you need me, I'm a phone call away." It was from a high school friend I hadn't seen in 10 years.

- Today, I was traveling in Kenya and I met a refugee from Zimbabwe. He said he hadn't eaten anything in over 3 days and looked extremely skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, "We can share it."

- The best sermons are lived, not preached. Appreciate the day.

*from John in Florida who passed it on from Fred in Arizona*

## I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager)

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared.

And I don't have acne. Life is Good! Also, you will feel much more intelligent after

reading this, if you are a Seener. Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe.

This also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear. Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they

stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!! I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. So, please explain this to your friends; they may be my friends, too. And finally, Happy 2016!

*from Nick in Georgia*

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## Snowbirds of North America

### How to identify and attract

The Dakai Field Guide to North American Snowbirds is a birdwatching book on snowbirds, retired people who migrate in the winter to a warmer, southern location. After contacting many actual snowbirds around the country, I compiled the information into a humorous guide.



Go to <https://www.behance.net/gallery/Snowbirds-of-North-America/1992127> for more information.

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## Scared me!



I got caught taking a pee in the swimming pool today. The life-guard shouted at me so loud, I nearly fell in. When you are over seventy, who cares?

image from <http://www.wearieu.com/blog/thecheesebox/exercise-exercise-wiggle-my-toes-wiggle-my-nose>

## HOMESICK SNOWBIRD GETS HELP!!!

In Sarasota, Florida the other day, there was a bumper sticker on a parked car that read: "I miss Chicago." Someone broke the window, stole the radio, shot out all four of the tires, added an Obama bumper sticker and left a note that read: "Hope this helps!!!"

*From Chuck in Tennessee*

## Readers Write

Thank you for Christmas laughter! Fred loves to read *Bubba Living* out loud to anyone who is in the room! He laughs at the same story every time he reads it! This periodical was made for him! Have a happy, healthy, prosperous, humorous 2016! Keep 'em coming!

Marty Rogan

## Take a Cab

I would like to share a personal experience with my friends about drinking and driving. This might save you the cost and embarrassment of being arrested for DUI! It personally saved me.

As you know, people have been known to have unexpected brushes with the authorities from time to time, often on the way home after a “social session” with family or friends. Well, over the weekend, it happened to me.

I was out for the evening to a Christmas Party and had more than several margaritas, coupled with a bottle of rather nice red wine. It was held at a great Mexican restaurant!! Although relaxed, I still had the common sense to know I was slightly over the limit.

That's when I did something I've never done before - I took a taxi home! Sure enough on the way home there was a police check point, but since it was a taxi they waved it past and I arrived home safely without incident. These check points can be anywhere and I realized how lucky I was to have chosen to take a taxi!

This was a real surprise to me, because I had never driven a taxi before. I don't know where I got it, and now that it's in my garage I don't know what to do with it. So, anyway, if you want to borrow it give me a call. Merry Christmas and be safe out there!

*from Michael in Virginia*



USS O'Bannon

## Death by Potatoes a True WWII Navy Story

The warship pictured above was the USS O'Bannon, which served in the United States Navy during World War II and the Korean War.

The destroyer's armament was impressive by any measure—depth charges for submarines, seventeen anti-aircraft guns, torpedo tubes for ships and subs alike, and five 5"/38 caliber guns for surface targets. There were few threats that the O'Bannon and other ships in its class didn't have an answer for.

But in April of 1943, while in the Pacific, the O'Bannon's crew was faced with one of those exceptions. It detected the Ro-34, a Japanese submarine, which for some reason had surfaced. The O'Bannon's officers decided to ram the Ro-34, which would have almost certainly sunk the sub while doing little damage to the destroyer, but before the O'Bannon made contact, its leadership realized that the plan had a flaw.

The Ro-34, the officers feared, may have been laying mines in the water—a reasonable conclusion given that it had come to the surface—and therefore, getting the O'Bannon too close could be a fatal error. The O'Bannon turned hard, avoiding the intended collision, and ended up cruising right next to the submarine (which, it turned out, wasn't laying mines).

The Japanese went to their surface gun, intending to fire on the O'Bannon. As it turned out, the Japanese had the Americans exactly where

they wanted them. The O'Bannon, despite its weaponry, had no way of defending itself, as none of its weapons were designed for close combat. Those 5"/38 caliber guns, for example, could hit targets ten or twenty football fields away, sure, but ten or twenty meters? Not a chance.

To make matters worse, the crewmen aboard the O'Bannon weren't expected to be in close combat, so they weren't carrying guns. Even though they could have pretty easily shot the Japanese submariners, they simply weren't armed to do so.

At a loss for what to do next, the sailors looked for a readily-available projectile to hurl at their enemies. And there was a plentiful one nearby: potatoes.

In most cases, that wouldn't be a very good plan—while airborne tubers could hurt, they're no match for a submarine-mounted gun. But the untold number of flying potatoes were, perhaps unexpectedly, effective. The Japanese crew didn't think they were being bombarded with starchy vegetables; rather, they thought the Americans were throwing hand grenades.

Fearing the onslaught of hand-thrown explosives, the Japanese took cover, leaving the gun on the deck unmanned as the ship retreated from the O'Bannon and began its descent beneath the surface. This, to say the least, was a mistake. Had the Japanese simply ignored the flying potatoes (or stored them for later eating), the submarine would have likely inflicted

heavy damage to the destroyer.

Of course, that's not what happened. By fleeing, the Japanese not only gave up the upper hand, but also put themselves in harm's way. The O'Bannon now had enough distance between itself and the Ro-34 to fire its weapons and launch

it depth charges—which it did with great success. With help from another U.S. destroyer, the O'Bannon sunk the Ro-34. All 66 crewmen and officers aboard the Japanese ship were lost, and the 300 or so Americans survived to see another day.



USS O'Bannon (DD-450)  
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

USS O'Bannon (DD/DDE-450), a Fletcher-class destroyer, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon (1784–1850), the Marine Corps's "hero of Derna".

O'Bannon was laid down by Bath Iron Works Corp. in Bath, Maine on 3 March 1941, and launched 19 February 1942, sponsored by Mrs. E. F. Kennedy, descendant of Lieutenant O'Bannon. O'Bannon and her sister ship Nicholas (DD-449) were the first two Fletchers to be launched. O'Bannon was commissioned at Boston on 26 June 1942, Commander Edwin R. Wilkinson in command.[1] O'Bannon was the US Navy's most decorated destroyer during World War II, earning 17 battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation.

from Charles and Susan in North Carolina

