

## Citizenship is a privilege not a right

■ Advocate General Manager John Finney



Did you see the new Budweiser commercial that came out for the Super Bowl? It has created a lot of talk about immigration, especially considering Trump's Executive Order that put a 90-day hold on refugees from seven countries the FBI and

Homeland Security have stated cannot be properly vetted.

The immigrant Adolphus Busch, in Budweiser's commercial, boards a ship and leaves his home in Germany. The journey is long and hard as he makes way to the United States. Once here, he goes through immigration and receives paperwork showing that he is in the country legally.

The controversial part of the commercial happens when he has just left immigration; as he walks through a crowd he is told he is not wanted here. The scene appears to happen in New York City, where it is overcrowded and jobs are scarce.

He pushes his way through the crowd and heads West. He boards a riverboat which catches fire and has to be abandoned. He makes his way across the country by foot until he reaches Saint Louis, Missouri, where he is welcomed by Eberhard Anheuser.

During his journey to America, he is constantly taking notes and jotting down ideas in his journal. Adolphus Busch and Eberhard Anheuser end up working together to produce beer and form their company, Anheuser-Busch.



In the commercial, Adolphus Busch follows our country's laws and immigrates to this country legally. Adolphus Busch assimilated into this country, learned our language and became a United States citizen. To me this commercial shows how the immigration system is supposed to work.

The policies we have in place today to bring refugees into this country are all screwed up. Charities are paid thousands of dollars for 90 days to bring these refugees here and settle them into communities across the country. They are promised jobs, housing, and aid to come to the United States. Once they arrive, they are provided with room and board, put on government assistance and when the 90 days are up they are on their own.

They are given little to no help finding a job, learning our language or other skills that would help them

assimilate into our culture. They become frustrated and bitter with the system. These charities and our government abandon them to fend for themselves, and this is a disservice to these refugees. These charities are for profit and that is all they are worried about.

Anyone from any country who wants to immigrate to the United States should be vetted to assure that they are not a threat to our country, then put into programs where they will learn English, become familiar with our customs and our culture, and prepare to become citizens of this country. If they do not want to become a citizen, they do not need to immigrate to this country. If we cannot vet them to know who they are or what their background is, they should not be allowed in this country.

The immigration system the United States should have should be one that allows people like Adolphus Busch to enter this country and become a productive citizen. They should want to be here; they should want to be a citizen of the United States, assimilate with our culture and abide by our laws.

Legal immigration is the only way to make sure these immigrants assimilate and are given the opportunity to become United States citizens. Open borders do not allow for the legal path to citizenship to be followed.

Giving amnesty to immigrants that broke the law and are in this country illegally is a slap in the face to all immigrants who have entered the proper legal way. There is a legal process to become an American citizen and it should be followed. If one does not qualify, they should not be in this country.

Becoming an American citizen has always been a privilege, not a right.

■ Guest Columnist Emily Weathers Kennedy

people not prepared for authoritarian control. I imagined myself cut off from friends and family and fed propaganda along with the meager rations of potatoes and bread. I saw myself starving, both for food and for news.

Then came a radio broadcast called Voice of America that fed people what they needed, if not in the form of food sustenance, then in the form of hope (information that was not jaded by politics). Walled-in people heard the music of popular musicians of the time, particularly jazz. They learned the basic outlines of the US political system and current events. I saw these people huddled around their radios listening as what they were told to believe by their governments was contradicted by reality from the free world. To me, America represented the very best of that free world.

When Donald Trump was elected, I anxiously watched and listened as his propaganda machine spun story after story even as literally broadcast after broadcast revealed contradictory information caught on film. A lie became "alternative facts." Still, I held out that real news sources would carry on and investigate, reporting reality. Even though people bought into these fake stories, flowing like Russian propaganda, I held out hope in our press to challenge and report.

But the Trump administration pushed back against the media's challenges, calling them false and threatening access even to the White House Press Room if unflattering stories embarrassed Trump.

Then, within all the flurry of Trump's presidential appointments and executive orders, I heard the fate of Voice of America. After Congress voted to remove the bi-partisan Board of Governors who had striven to keep it free of politics and true to its original mission, Trump appointed two twenty-something-year-old political operatives from his campaign to oversee the \$800 million enterprise until he finds a CEO who will be answerable to him.

This bastion of America represented what our country was founded on—FREEDOM AND TRUTH. That freedom depends on an independent press whose primary job is to present real and unadulterated news and information. Voice of America spoke for us and, like true impartial news sources, let the world hear real news without telling the world what to believe. Even Trump supporters should be very afraid of this turn of events. Just imagining Trump's Voice of America scares the hell out of me as it should the rest of the world.

*Emily Weathers Kennedy is a freelance writer, blogger, artist, photo stylist, and decorator. Her work is online and in product catalogs. Emily lives with her husband, 4 dogs, and 1 cat and writes from their farm in Loretto, where she was born and raised.*

## America's voice mustn't be silenced

By Emily Weathers Kennedy



We all have our individual concepts and imagery about what it is that makes America great. For some it is our military might. For others it is our stature on the forefront of advances in science and technology. Whose heart does not swell with pride when thinking of Alexander Graham Bell's first sentences over the telephone or Neil

Armstrong's first words on the moon?

As a child in school, we stood around a flagpole every day and

pledged allegiance before singing a patriotic hymn. As an adult, I feel chill bumps still when those hymns are sung or played, my favorite being America the Beautiful. I still revel in singing along because I know the words to most of the verses of the songs thanks to that school ritual.

But, my real sense of American pride came to me in college when studying history, particularly World War II and its aftermath. There I learned of the postwar carving out of the world, particularly Europe with its spheres of influence. I couldn't believe the ability of the Soviet Union to close borders and seal inside

evolves and matures.

Initially, everything is shiny and new. Then the only thing shiny is the husband's dome. At first those Three Little Words are either "I love you" or "I forgive you." Then they become either "Watch your cholesterol" or "Toilet seat DOWN."

That first Valentine's Day probably involves a revelation of "You had me at hello." As time passes, it's more like "You almost LOST me at I just need to finish reading one more chapter before...ZZZZZZ \*Snort\* \*Choke\*"

Early on, you try to be in love-Dovey agreement about everything. Then comes "You're not really going to wear THAT?" – which is especially bad if you're wearing your birthday suit.

Relationship maturity means combining our snuggling with reviews of our 401(k) account, plans for a last will and testament and consideration of funeral preferences. Of course there are still madcap antics such as "When we eat our elegant Valentine's supper at McDonald's, be sure to swipe extra napkins and sporks so we'll have something to put IN the will."

Don't get me wrong. Longtime couples still have chances to enjoy an R-rated Valentine's Day. R-rated in the sense of "Remember to put out the cats. Remember to leave the water dripping because of the freeze warning. Remember to take your Metamucil..."

I love Melissa so much that have written a marriage advice book, which will soon be coming to Amazon.

I hope it sells well, because Melissa's actions have limited my career options. With that "cradle robber" stigma, I can certainly kiss a furniture salesman job in an IKEA store goodbye. ©2017 Danny Tyree. Danny welcomes email responses at tyreetyrades@aol.com and visits to his Facebook fan page "Tyree's Tyrades." Danny's weekly column is distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons Inc. newspaper syndicate.

## 30 Valentine's Days: Where did the time go?

Tyrades! by Danny Tyree



While brainstorming angles for this Valentine's Day column, it suddenly occurred to me that this February 14 will be the 30th my wife and I have celebrated as a couple (combining courtship and married life).

I'm glad I can share this milestone with you. Melissa grows more beautiful every day, but she was initially self-conscious about my trumpeting the three decades aspect. She relented only when she was able to pull some strings in Washington and get me listed on the Federal Cradle Robber Registry.

Perhaps I exaggerate when I say we've "celebrated" 30 Valentine's Days, since we shun ostentatious gestures and keep the holiday rather low-key. We never fully forget the occasion; but some years – what with jobs, parenthood, health issues and such -- we need our memories jogged. ("Valentine's Day – that's the one that comes every fourth year, right? No, wait...there's something about a groundhog having 5 o'clock shadow...")

We've become accustomed to frugal Valentine hacks such as NOT treating the date as set in stone. There's no shame in celebrating your love BEFORE prices of everything go up in February. ("Remember that candy apple you enjoyed so much last September? Courtesy of ol' Dan Cupid! How about some Private Displays of Affection??? OW! Now I need a Private Duty Nurse worse.")

I'm glad I'm not the only person who doesn't get wrapped up in Valentine folderol. One trivia site says 64% of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with the Love of their Life. (Strangely, 73% of men DO make plans in advance for dealing with a possible beer supply disruption during the Zombie Apocalypse of 2023.) Those 30 Valentine's Days have become a blur, but there are some general distinctions one can draw as a relationship

## Tennessee rural development depends on broadband plan

By Randy Boyd  
January 30



The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development has been working to ensure that Tennessee is the No. 1 state in the Southeast for high quality jobs and succeeding.

In the past two years, TNECD has received nearly 50,000 job commitments from expanding or relocating busi-

nesses that have committed nearly \$11 billion capital investment in our state. Tennessee has also been recognized as first in the nation for advance industry job growth, first in foreign direct investment job creation, and second in the household median income growth.

But there's a critical piece to continuing this momentum — **broadband**.

Broadband, high speed internet, is critical not just for economic development but also for education, health care, agriculture and quality of life. Too many Tennesseans (around 800,000 people including 34 percent of all rural areas) are living without the connectivity they need for growing businesses and thriving communities, and our neighboring states and others across the country continue to launch new broadband initiatives. We cannot afford to fall behind.

Last week, Governor Haslam rolled out his plan to increase broadband access through targeted investment, deregulation and education.

The main barrier to the availability of broadband

is the high cost of getting it to areas with low population density. That's why Governor Haslam's plan includes a targeted investment of \$45 million over three years to provide grants and tax credits to offset the capital costs in the hardest to reach areas. Ten million dollars in grants will be available each year to provide broadband for unserved areas. In addition, business tax credits of \$5 million will be available to providers that deploy broadband in target areas.

In addition to providing financial incentives, Governor Haslam's broadband plan deregulates the broadband landscape by allowing electric cooperatives, as private, membership corporations, to enter the retail broadband market. New entrants into the market provide greater opportunities for access and competition.

Specifically, electric cooperatives have unique experience providing universal service throughout their entire, often rural, service areas. While opening up the market, this legislation strengthens protections that prevent the use of electric system assets to subsidize broadband services and any activity that limits consumers' choice of broadband service providers.

The final piece of these efforts is education. Digital literacy increases adoption of broadband, strengthening the business case for providers considering future deployments while maximizing the economic development return from broadband access.

While providers in Tennessee continue to work hard to expand their coverage areas, low population density and geography in some areas necessitate incentives to ensure access for Tennesseans in more rural areas. This plan provides a conservative approach to broadband access, supported by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations' broadband findings and their efforts led by Sen. Mark Norris, by providing targeted incentives for the hardest to reach areas and deregulating the

broadband arena to create the right environment to increase private sector broadband deployment.

The Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act is right for Tennessee because better broadband doesn't have to mean bigger government.

**Randy Boyd is the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.**

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