

Weekly Commentary
May 26, 2008

THE MAJOR INDICES WERE off for the week. By the numbers, for the week ended Friday, May 23, 2008, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 12,479, down 508 points, or 3.9%. The Standard & Poor's 500 closed at 1376, down 49 points, or 3.5%, and the NASDAQ closed at 2444, down 85 points, or 3.3%.

American Airlines is cutting flights and staff, and adding a \$15 fee for the first checked bag, in an effort to keep from drowning in fuel prices. Home Depot posted a 66% decline in first-quarter net income.

Senator Ted Kennedy is fighting for his life. Is it possible that Hillary Clinton could follow in his steps, by giving up a bid for the presidency, and instead become the leading liberal of the Senate?

The U.S Transportation Department reported on Friday that in March, Americans drove 11 billion fewer miles than in March 2007. It was a decline of 4.3%, the first time since 1979 that traffic has dropped from one March to the next.

Yesterday, we celebrated Memorial Day. Memorial Day had its official beginning on May 5, 1868, by order of General John Logan, in his General Order No. 11. It was first observed on May 30, 1868. Memorial Day has been, and continues to be, a time when we honor our war dead, and is a day for reconciliation, rather than division.

If my history is correct, Americans have not had arms raised on their soil, against Americans, from the end of the Civil War, until September 11, 2001, with the exception of Pearl Harbor. We continue to live in an era of unparalleled prosperity and peace. I believe we have benefited from the blessings of our Creator, and continue to do so.

Over the last 150 years, we have had many young men and women who have willingly given their time and lives to keep America and her allies free. These battles have been fought almost exclusively on foreign soil, allowing our infrastructure, and our way of life, to continue uninterrupted. Many of these young people have lived out what Jesus said, "Greater love has no man than this, that he would lay down his life for his friend".

There are those among us who believe we should look like Europe, and others who believe we are best served living on the plantation. This is not the America the founders had in mind when they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

To those who, like many of our founders, have served, even to the giving of their lives, we owe a great debt. One way to repay that debt is to choose to be involved, by giving of our time, our experience, and our resources. By choosing to be an ambassador of all that is right with America, we help maintain America's strength, and set an example for the following generations.

Quote of the week:

“It is the veteran, not the preacher, who has given us freedom of religion;
It is the veteran, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press;
It is the veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech;
It is the veteran, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble;
It is the veteran, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial;
It is the veteran, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote.”

Until next week, wishing you the best.

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