



## MAKING OUR WAY - A McMahon/Cheyne Podcast Citizenship 101 (Season 1; Episode 24) - 4/24/24

### Today's hosts:

**Jan McMahon**  
**Rob McMahon**  
**Deanna Cheyne**  
**Jim Cheyne**

*[music]*

**(voice-over)**

Today we have two mini episodes to present, one on history and one on government. Starting with history. Can our crack team put familiar historical events in the correct chronological order? This proved trickier than we'd care to admit. Then on government, Dee, Jan and Rob take a U.S. citizenship test and find out if they get to stay in the country or if they have to pack up in need. Finally, this past weekend, we gathered in Chicago to remember and to honor a person very special to all of us. So let's get started. I won't tell you to put your thinking caps on because that kind of sounds like I thought you took them off once, which I don't want to think about. Well anyway, let's see how we do.

**JIM**

Okay, history, I'm going to name three things in history and I want you to put them in chronological order and then say which two of them are the closest together. Does that make sense?

**JAN**

Oh my gosh, yes, but it's going to hurt my head.

**JIM**

Okay, here they are. Cleopatra, the building of the pyramids at Giza, and today.

**DEE**

The building of the pyramids, Cleopatra and today?

**JIM**

That is correct. Now, Cleopatra, is she closer to the building of the pyramids or closer to today?

**DEE**

Today.

**JIM**

That's true. I looked this up because I didn't believe it. She's like Julius Caesar's time, right? So it's like 30 years before Christ and the pyramids are back about 2,500

years before that. And so she's closer to today. Let's put these in order. Today, building of the pyramids of Giza, and the extinction of the wooly mammoths.

**DEE**

I think the wooly mammoths and then the pyramids.

**ROB**

Mammoth pyramid today.

**JIM**

And then today. And then which would be closest? The building of the pyramids to the extinction of the mammoths, or the building of the pyramids closer to today?

**DEE**

The building of the pyramids are closer to today.

**JIM**

To today, extinction of the wooly mammoths?

**DEE**

Yeah.

**JIM**

The actual answer. First, the pyramids were built. Then the mammoths went extinct. And then today. The wooly mammoths went extinct about 2,000 years before Christ. About 500 years after the pyramids were built.

**JAN**

That's amazing.

**JIM**

What are the differences between an African elephant and a wooly mammoth? What would you guess?

**ROB**

Wool.

**JIM**

That's right.

**JAN**

They're hairy.

**JIM**

They're hairy. They have two coats to protect them against the cold. And the elephant - the African elephants ears are really big. Why?

**JAN**

To cool them.

**DEE**

To fan them?

**JIM**

To disperse heat. The mammoths ears were very small for the same reason. I thought that was pretty cool. T-Rex, Stegosaurus and today. This blew my mind.

**ROB**

I have to - it's a toss up between T-Rex and Stegosaurus first.

**JAN**

T-Rex, Stegosaurus, today.

**ROB**

And I'll say Stegosaurus, T-Rex, today.

**JIM**

Okay. And which is closer together? Today to whichever dinosaur you picked, or the distance between the two dinosaurs?

**JAN**

Well.

**ROB**

Which is closer? It's probably going to be between one of the dinosaurs and today.

**JAN**

That's what I'm thinking is true.

**JIM**

That's true. However, it was T-Rex that's 20 - that's 66 million years ago to about 70 million years ago. The Stegosaurus is another 75 before that. They never would have seen each other, except in certain museums in Kentucky.

Here we go. Oxford University, today, and the founding of the Aztec Empire.

**JAN**

Toh. In order.

**JIM**

Yep. Now, this is the founding...

**JAN**

Of Oxford.

**JIM**

...of Oxford, the founding of the Aztec Empire.

I don't know, but I'll go with Oxford Aztec today.

**JIM**

Oxford started teaching in 1091, officially recognized as a university in 1231. The Aztec Empire, surprisingly to me, was founded in 1428.

**ROB**

Really?

**JIM**

I had no idea.

**ROB**

That's not... Wow.

**JIM**

No, it wasn't that long ago.

**ROB**

No.

**JIM**

There it was. When did - uh, John Tyler was born during Washington's presidency, right?

**JAN**

Okay.

**JIM**

Then he becomes president of the United States. When did his last grandchild pass away?

**JAN**

It's recent. Because he had children when he was very old.

**JIM**

As did his son.

**JAN**

Okay. Well, there you go.

**JIM**

John Tyler's grandson is still alive.

**JAN**

Oh, okay.

**JIM**

This guy was born during Washington's presidency and his grandson is still alive. It's Harrison Ruffin Tyler - I mean, I didn't check the news this morning, but he was born in 1928 and he lives in Virginia. Long time. Let's do some wars, okay? Revolutionary War, okay? Let's do another one. The War of 1812. What comes next?

**DEE**

The Civil War?

**JIM**

Civil War? The Spanish-American War? World War I? And we'll stop there. Three of us were alive when the last veteran of one of those wars was alive. Which wars are they? We were alive during World War I veterans.

**JAN**

Yeah.

**JIM**

Yep. I've met some. In fact, the last one to pass away from - of all, was a woman from the Women's Air Corps in England. She died in 2012. World War I veteran died in 2012. Before that Spanish-American War, do you think we were alive during any of those veterans?

**JAN**

Yes, I do. We were.

**JIM**

Civil War.

**JAN**

Yes.

**JIM**

His name was Albert Woolson and he was at the Battle of Gettysburg. He died in 1956. Who was elected president when the last Civil War veteran's widow died?

**JAN**

I'm going to go with JFK.

**JIM**

JFK.

**JAN**

Yeah.

**DEE**

Nixon.

**JIM**

Nixon.

**ROB**

Um, Reagan.

**JIM**

The correct answer is Barack Obama.

**JAN**

That's insane.

**JIM**

It is insane.

**DEE**

Oh.

**JIM**

What?

**DEE**

He married a young girl.

**JIM**

Yes, he did. In 1934, when he was 86 years old, he married a girl who was 19 years old.

**ROB**

Oh, geez.

**DEE**

What would have been the motivation?

**JIM**

She said the marriage was done due to poverty.

**DEE**

Okay.

**JIM**

So there was some sort of thing that she married someone and then she died after the election in 2008.

**JAN**

That's insane.

**JIM**

Okay. One more bizarre one. In 1959, Samuel J. Seymour was a guest on the TV show, "I've Got a Secret" in 1959. What was his secret? Samuel J. Seymour.

**JAN**

Was he in politics?

**JIM**

No.

**ROB**

Was he a scientist?

**JIM**

No.

**DEE**

Was he related to someone famous?

**JIM**

No.

**JAN**

Was he an academic?

**JIM**

No.

**JAN**

Did he invent something?

**JIM**

Not that I know of.

**JAN**

Okay.

**DEE**

Can you give us a hint?

**JIM**

Yes. You would ask yourself, "Why would he be on a show called 'I've Got a Secret' if it's not for anything that he invented or his job?"

**DEE**

He did something?

**JIM**

Closer.

**ROB**

Did he know someone who did something?

**JIM**

Not really.

**DEE**

Did he find something?

**JIM**

Not found something, but we're getting closer.

**JAN**

Did he...?

**JIM**

It's something he saw.

**JAN**

So I was just going to say, did he see something?

**JIM**

He saw something.

**DEE**

Did he see something that had been lost?

**JIM**

In a poetic sense, yes, but no.

**JAN**

Did he see somebody murdered?

**JIM**

Yes.

**ROB**

Did he see Lincoln murdered?

**JIM**

Yes.

**JAN**

Wow. Really.

**JIM**

When he was a kid - isn't that amazing? When he was a kid, his parents took him to see a play called Our American Cousin...

*[music begins]*

...at Ford's Theater on April 14th, 1865.

**ROB**

Wow.

**JIM**

Now when he's being questioned as it's revealed on the show, he has some things that he admits are kind of given memories because no one knows what's going on. So he doesn't know exactly what was going on, but he was there in the theater.

**JAN**

That's amazing. That's amazing.

**JIM (voice-over)**

Don't know much about history? How about government? To become a naturalized citizen of the United States, one must pass a basic citizenship test. Of those who try, an impressive 95.7% pass. 95.7%. Deanna is one of those. To be a natural born citizen of the United States, no citizenship test is required. But of those who do take one, the results are, well, take a guess.

How would you do on a citizenship test? Try one. A simple online search for a U.S. citizenship practice test will give you several options. We took the one provided by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. It's found at [uscis.gov](http://uscis.gov). Look under the citizenship menu. How did our panel do? Well, our one naturalized citizen saved our score on this one.

**JIM**

All right, now here comes the biggie. Are we ready? Dee, what did you become a United States citizen?

**DEE**

In 2005.

**JIM**

2005. And when you were there, what did you have - Jan and Rob came in support. We were there. What did you experience that day?

**DEE**

A large room full of people from all over the world.

**JIM**



They said something about 250 countries were represented in that mass service. What else do you remember about that ceremony?

DEE

We had to raise our right hand and repeat certain things.

JIM

Certain things. Right. Who was president at the time?

DEE

George W. Bush.

JIM

George W. Bush. He had a message for you. That was nice.

DEE

Yeah.

JIM

They sang a song. Do you remember what that song was?

DEE

Was it "God Bless America"?

JIM

No, it was the old biblical hymn "God Bless the USA."

DEE

Oh, right.

ROB

Did they really? Oh.

JAN

Wooooooowww.

JIM

And people actually [singing] "stood up" at the right time.

ROB

Oh, gosh.

JIM

Yeah, it was that. You were here under a work visa.

DEE

Yeah.

JIM

And then when you were applying for your green card, and from time to time, when we would go down to Argentina, you would have to get what was called an advanced parole that allowed you to leave the country and come back in for this work visa.

DEE

Yes.

**JIM**

And one time you went for the advanced parole and what happened?

**DEE**

They handed me a letter saying that I had 30 days to leave the country because I had failed to do something in my process for applying for a green card.

**JIM**

So this is a Tuesday. We get this news - because we're just ready to go to Argentina - we get this news that you have to leave the country. So I'm thinking, "Okay, we're moving to Canada."

**DEE**

Right.

**JIM**

That would be fine. And what happened next?

**DEE**

Well...

**JIM**

What was it they said that you had failed to do?

**DEE**

They said that I had failed to get my fingerprinting done. And I knew I had, and I had my receipt from that visit. And luckily, we had an attorney working for us who I contacted and faxed her the copy of my receipt.

**JIM**

So the government is not going to admit that they made a mistake. There's no way to reopen your case. Once they cancel it, they sent you that letter. Your case is gone. So what do they have to do?

**DEE**

Okay. The attorney said, I'm going to let them know that they made the mistake and just hope and pray that we can get somewhere, but she couldn't guarantee anything. Anyways, after she did whatever she did, she called me back and she said, "Can you get to the U.S. immigration office in 30 minutes? If you can, they're going to just issue you a green card."

**JIM**

Just leapfrog over the whole process.

**DEE**

Yes.

**JIM**

You called me. I was at the time - I was at the band director's office in the Clearwater Corps kind of assembling some things...

**DEE**

Yes.

**JIM**

Thinking, "Okay, time to pack up and go." And you said, can you get there in 30 minutes? And I'm thinking, "Clearwater to the Tampa airport. I can do that."

**DEE**

Yes.

**JIM**

That's just nearby the airport. There was an interview with a Marine colonel where he was trying to explain to you how...

**DEE**

...why I needed to become a citizen after getting my green card.

**JIM**

The United States was so much better than Canada.

**DEE**

Right.

**JIM**

I remember him saying that.

**DEE**

Yes.

**ROB**

Oh my gosh.

**DEE**

Oh yeah.

**JIM**

So you become a citizen and you passed your naturalization test.

**DEE**

Yes, I did. With flying colors.

**JIM**

With flying colors, as do 95.7[%] of those seeking citizenship. Meanwhile, those who became citizens by being born here - I like to call them anchor babies [laughter] - what percentage of natural born U.S. citizens would pass a basic multiple choice U.S. citizenship test? That number stands at 36%.

**ROB**

Yup. I believe that.

**JIM**

36%. For those of us in the room who are 65 and older, we are in the highest scoring percentile, 74%. Only 19% of test takers who are 45 and younger passed. Okay?

**JAN**

Yeah.

**JIM**

Here are some of those Jay-Walking type results. Only 13% knew when the U.S. Constitution was adopted. When was the U.S. Constitution adopted?

**JAN**

1787.

**JIM**

1787. 60% did not know which countries the U.S. fought against in World War II. Dee, can you name a country we fought against in World War II?

**DEE**

Germany?

**JIM**

Ja, wohl. 57% did not know how many justices are on the Supreme Court.

**JAN**

Nine.

**JIM**

Nine as number nine or are you saying "no" in Germany?

**JAN**

Oh, no, I'm saying there are nine.

**JIM**

Okay. 72% of respondents either incorrectly identified or were unsure of which states were part of the original 13. Do you want to try and run them down?

**JAN**

Sure.

**JIM**

Okay. Which way? South to North? North to South?

**JAN**

Let's go South to North.

**JIM**

That's easier.

**JAN**

Georgia.

**JIM**

Georgia.

**JAN**

South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia...

**ROB**

Virginia.

**JAN**

Maryland.

**JIM**

Maryland. One, two, three, four, five. Well, you got five.

**ROB**

Delaware.

**JAN**

Pennsylvania.

**JIM**

Pennsylvania. Delaware.

**ROB**

Delaware.

**JIM**

Six and seven.

**JAN**

New York.

**JIM**

Eight.

**JAN**

New Hampshire.

**JIM**

Nine.

**ROB**

New Jersey. Ten.

**JAN**

Oh yeah, New Jersey.

**ROB**

Connecticut.

**ROB**

Massachusetts.

**JIM**

That's right. Connecticut.

**ROB**

Massachusetts.

**JAN**

Massachusetts.

**JIM**

Massachusetts, and...

**JAN**

Rhode Island.

**JIM**

Rhode Island. And Maine was then part of...?

**ROB**

Newfoundland.

*[laughter]*

**JIM**

So those were the 13. And that's better than 72 percent. Only 24 percent could correctly identify one thing Benjamin Franklin was famous for.

**JAN**

Oh my gosh. Libraries.

**JIM**

37 - libraries. U.S. diplomat. 37 percent thought he invented the light bulb.

**JAN**

Okay.

**JIM**

Only 24 percent of those taking this test could tell why the colonists were fighting the British.

**JAN**

Taxes without representation.

**JIM**

And while most knew the cause of the Cold War, 2 percent said it was due to climate change.

**JAN**

Oh, my gosh.

**JIM**

Isn't that fun? We're going to take a test.

**ROB**

You're kidding me.

**JIM**

I have a 20 question test...

**JAN**

Okay.

**JIM**

...for us. This is multiple choice. We can discuss it. And are we ready?

**JAN**

Yes. We're discussing.

**JIM**

We're going to get all 20 of these.

**JAN**

Okay.

**JIM**

Okay? Number one. Name one right only for a United States citizen. Here are the four choices. Attend public school. Freedom of religion. Run for federal office. Freedom of speech.

**JAN**

Run for federal office.

**ROB**

Federal office.

**JIM**

That is correct.

**DEE**

But they can run to be a senator, can't they?

**JIM**

That's a federal office.

**DEE**

So if I wanted to run for senator of Florida, I would not be eligible?

**JIM**

Yes, you would.

**DEE**

Yeah?

**JAN**

You're a citizen.

**JIM**

You're a citizen.

**DEE**

Oh, I'm okay. I was thinking natural born citizen.

**JIM**

Nope.

**DEE**

Okay.

**JIM**

That one's for president.

**DEE**

Right, right, right.

**JIM**

That's why Schwarzenegger had to say, "Nein."

**DEE**

Yes.

**JIM**

Who is the current Chief Justice of the United States? The choices are Joe Biden, Anthony Kennedy, John G. Roberts, Jr., and Barack Obama.

**ROB**

Robert.

**JAN**

Roberts.

**JIM**

Roberts. That is correct. Next question. Under our constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government? A, provide schooling and education. B, provide protection like police. C, declare war. D, issue driver's licenses.

**DEE**

Declare war.

**ROB**

Declare war.

**JIM**

Declare war is correct. Four, what do we call the first 10 amendments to the constitution? The four choices are the inalienable rights, the declaration of independence, the bill of rights, the articles of confederation.

**ROB**

The bill of rights.

**DEE**

The bill of rights.

**JIM**

The bill of rights is correct. Next one. Question five. What are two cabinet level positions? Okay. Here are some choices. Secretary of weather and secretary of energy. B, secretary of the interior and secretary of history. C, secretary of health and human services and secretary of the Navy. And D, secretary of state and secretary of labor.

**JAN**

D.

**ROB**

D.

**DEE**



D.

**JIM**

D is correct. What did the emancipation proclamation do? A, gave the United States independence from Great Britain. B, freed slaves in most southern states. C, gave women the right to vote. And D, ended World War I.

**JAN, ROB, & DEE**

B.

**JIM**

That was right. What is the capital of the United States? Philadelphia, Washington, Boston, New York.

**JAN**

Washington.

**ROB**

DC.

**DEE**

DC.

**JIM**

That's correct. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

**JAN, ROB, & DEE**

Nine.

**JIM**

Ja. Nine. What did Susan B. Anthony do? Founded the Red Cross, fought for women's rights, first woman elected to the House of Representatives, and made the first flag of the United States.

**JAN & DEE**

B.

**ROB**

Fought for women's rights.

**JIM**

Fought for women's rights. 36% could pass this. Who is in charge of the executive branch? Is it the prime minister, the chief justice, the president, or the speaker of the House?

**DEE**

The president.

**ROB**

President.

**JAN**

President.

**JIM**

All right. When must all men register for the selective service? Is it at age 16? Is it between 18 and 26? Is it men do not have to register? Or is it at any age?

**DEE**

18 to 26.

**ROB**

C. They don't have to.

**JIM**

We've got a split decision, Jan. You have to decide.

**JAN**

They no longer have to register, right?

**JIM**

The correct answer is between the ages of 18 and 26.

**JAN**

So they're still...

**JIM**

They still have to register.

**JAN**

I did not know that.

**JIM**

I didn't either.

**ROB**

What?

**JAN**

I thought that ended.

**JIM**

That's right. "All men must register for the selective service between the ages of 18 and 26. When you register, you tell the government you can serve in the military if necessary. Selective service was used in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War..."

**ROB**

Wow.

**JIM**

"The government calls this the draft. The United States does not have a draft now. You do not have to serve in the military unless you want to." But you still have to register.

**ROB**

I did not know that.

**JAN**

I would have argued about that. Okay.

**JIM**

Do you remember doing that, Rob?

**ROB**

No.

**JAN**

You did.

**ROB**

Oh, I know. I had to, but I don't remember doing it.

**JIM**

Do you remember your classification?

**ROB**

I remember that my number was - I remember that it became moot because they did away with it.

**JIM**

It was about that time.

**ROB**

Yeah.

**JIM**

So we would have registered in '73. Yeah, I was 4F or F4, whatever it was. That generally you said an academic future.

**ROB**

I don't know.

**JAN**

It is actually true.

**JIM**

You didn't want an A1.

**JAN**

"Failure to register is a felony."

**JIM**

Yep. And there's things like that where I don't know how the government makes sure you know what is supposed to happen.

**ROB**

It must happen automatically somehow.

**JAN**

I'm thinking they notify you, just like they do for Social Security.

**ROB**

Yeah.

**JIM**

Yeah. But that's the thing. How does the government know that you have been informed that this has to happen? You know, it's just word of mouth or what? All right. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy? Here's choice A. The two things are write to a newspaper, and call senators and representatives. Here's choice B with two things. Give an elected official your opinion on an issue, and join a community group. C, all of these answers. And D, vote and join a civic group.

**DEE**

I would say all of these answers.

**JIM**

All of these answers is correct. I always knew when taking a test, a multiple choice test, they would give you four choices. You'd have to pick one, four choices and pick one, four... When you finally fit that first question that had an all of the above on it?

**DEE**

It's always, always.

**JIM**

That was probably the answer.

**DEE**

Right.

**JIM**

If you didn't study for the test and you got to know a trick, that's one of the tricks. Name one war fought the United States in the 1900s. Okay? The 1900s. Civil war, Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and World War I.

**JAN & ROB**

World War I.

**JIM**

There you go. Who signs bills to become laws? Is it the secretary of state, the vice president, the president or the chief justice of the Supreme Court?

**JAN**

The president.

**ROB**

The president.

**JIM**

Good job. What is one promise you make when you become a citizen of the United States? Dee? What's one promise that you make? You will A, disobey the laws of the United States. B, give up loyalty to other countries. C, never travel outside the United States. And D, you will, you promise not to defend the constitution and the law of the United States.

**DEE**

B.

**JIM**

When was the US constitution written? 1790, 1787, 1789 or 1776?

**JAN**

1787.

**JIM**

On September 17th. And what territory did the United States buy from France in 1803, Hawaii or Louisiana territory or Alaska or Quebec?

**JAN & DEE**

Louisiana.

**ROB**

The Louisiana Purchase.

**JIM**

How old do citizens have to be to vote for president?

**DEE**

18.

**JIM**

16 and older, 18 and older, 35 and older, or 21 and older?

**JAN**

18.

**ROB**

Should be 16 and older. Should be.

**JIM**

Why?

**JIM**

I think.

**JAN**

You should be what?

**ROB**

16 and older. I think it should be.

**JIM**

Why?

**ROB**

I just think, at that age, a kid in high school should be able to vote.

**JIM**

Should be able to vote?

**ROB**

Yeah.

**JIM**

When we were kids, just before high school, the age was 21.

**ROB**

Yeah.

**JIM**

Do you remember the argument used to move it down to 18?

**JAN**

The draft.

**JIM**

The idea was...

**ROB**

They're good enough to go to war.

**JIM**

You can go to war for your country, you can vote for who's going to send you there. So that was the 26th amendment that changed that. So it's 18 is the current standard - law. Name one branch or part of the government, state government, Congress, parliament, United Nations.

**JAN, ROB, & DEE**

Congress.

**JIM**

And the last question, we're right now 19 and 0. Let's go for 20. When do we celebrate Independence Day? June 30th, March 4th, July 4th or January 1st?

**ROB & DEE**

July 4th.

**JIM**

That's correct. We got them all right. Well done. So, but that is an amazing thing. We've got this, this time coming up where we have to vote and some people don't even know how their government works.

**ROB**

I know.

**DEE**

I know that's what...

**JIM**

But they know what they like. Yeah. With the demise of the president, who takes over? Vice president. Oh

**JIM**

Vice president is right. Who takes over after, who's next in line of succession? And the answer is not Kiefer Sutherland.

**JAN**

No, it's Speaker of the House.

**ROB**

Speaker of the House.

**JIM**

Speaker of the house. Who's next?

**ROB**

President Pro Tem of the Senate.

**JIM**

That's right. And do you know who's next?

**ROB**

Secretary of state.

**JIM**

That's right. And do you know who's next?

**ROB**

No.

**JIM**

Okay. Of those first five, today, how many of them are women?

**JAN**

Oh, one.

**ROB**

Wait.

**JAN**

Wait, say them all again. Vice president.

**DEE**

Yes, it is.

**JAN**

One. Who am I missing?

**ROB**

Secretary of state. Yeah, one.

**JIM**

There are three. The vice president. The president pro tem is Patty Murray.

**ROB & DEE**

Oh.

**JAN**

Oh, I forgot about...

**JIM**

The secretary of the treasury.

**DEE**

Oh, yeah.

**JIM**

Of the first 10, half of them are women. And, of all 18 positions in the Presidential Succession Act of 1947, the 18 positions named, eight of them are women.

**JAN**

You need to go back. Is treasury five?

**JIM**

Treasury is number five.

**JAN**

Okay.

**JIM**

Then it's defense. That's a guy. Attorney general. That's a guy. Secretary of the interior is a woman and a native American. Deb Haaland. Agriculture is a guy. Commerce is Gina Raimondo. Labor is Julie Su. Then we've got a guy for health and human services. Then in housing urban development, Adrienne Todman. Uh, transportation is Pete. Uh, energy is Jennifer...

**ROB**

Jennifer Granholm.

**JIM**

...Granholm, yeah. And then the rest are guys. So we have eight out of our 18 in line for president are women.

**DEE**

Senate pro tem, that's not an elected official though, is it?

**JIM**

No, it's in the constitution as a stipulation in case, uh, the vice president who is the presiding officer of the Senate is unable to preside. Then the president - the Senate chooses somebody. It could be anybody in the country, but they typically choose a senator, and it's typically from the majority party. And that's how it is. And she doesn't have much to do except some record keeping. She's not allowed to cast a deciding vote in the way the vice president is, but that's, that's the president pro tem.

*[music]*

**JIM (voice-over)**

Finally, we experienced an unwelcome milestone recently. Lieutenant Colonel Marjorie Cheyne - Aunt Midge - passed away after an extended illness. Jan and I first lost our grandparents, and then our parents, and all our uncles and aunts. Aunt Midge was the latest, and the last. We traveled to Chicago this past weekend to celebrate her life and to be with her children, Craig and Barbara, and their families



and with friends. Jan posted a tribute to Aunt Midge on Facebook. I asked Jan for her permission to read it to you now.

“We celebrated the life of my Aunt Midge Cheyne today. Barbara and Craig have lost their mom. Their kids have lost their grandmother. Andrew and Chelsea's girls have lost their great-grandmother. It is truly the end of a generation. In the midst of the loss, we had the best time together as family remembering the gifts she gave us.

“For me, she was Aunt Midge after knowing her for well, 70 years, I can say with assurance, everyone needs an Aunt Midge. That's the long and short of it. Everyone needs a person in their life who smiles whenever they see you, who laughs easily, who has a good enough sense of humor to laugh at themselves without it being false modesty. That was my Aunt Midge. I never entered her presence without being greeted with a warm smile that went all the way to her eyes. And I never left without being sore from laughing and wishing I had just a bit more time.

“She had that effect on people. Whenever I encountered her in a group setting, there seemed to be laughter. I'm pretty sure everyone loved Midge Cheyne. If you tell me otherwise, I won't believe it. To me, Midge was forever young, at least until these last few months. She simply didn't age. I watched for clues as to how this could be true, and I think it was simply her spirit. She didn't take herself too seriously, even in the midst of some who did. Those may be the most important lessons for me. Let my smile and laughter be genuine and don't take myself too seriously. Barb and Jon made sure that Rob and I were able to visit with Midge this past August. She was failing them, but she still managed to smile all the way to her eyes. How grateful I am for her influence in my life and in the life of so many I know. I will miss her laugh. I will miss her spirit. I will miss how I felt in her presence.”

Thank you, Jan. The memories of the times we spent with Aunt Midge will linger on in our hearts. Until next time.

*[music ends]*