



the TASC Examiner

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JULY 2009

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Luncheon Speaker
- President's Corner
- USJFCOM Industry Outreach Program

TASC Luncheon Speaker for July

TASC is honored to have Mr. William D. Sessoms Jr., Mayor, Virginia Beach, as our July Luncheon Speaker. Mr. Sessoms is a native of Virginia Beach and began his political career in 1988 as an at-large member of the Virginia Beach City Council. In 1992, his fellow council members selected him to be Vice Mayor, a position he held until 2002. In 2008, Sessoms was elected to serve as Mayor.



Mayor William D. Sessoms, Jr.

For more than 20 years, Mr. Sessoms has been actively involved in community service and has worked with numerous local and regional organizations. These include the Virginia Beach Jaycees, the Life Saving Museum of Virginia, the American Heart Association, the Planning Council, the Boys and Girls Club, the Norfolk State University Foundation, and the Tidewater Regional Transit Authority.

Currently, Mr. Sessoms contributes his time to the Virginia Beach Foundation, the Virginia Beach Neptune Festival, the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad Foundation, the Virginia Beach Central Business District Association, Virginia Beach Vision, Eastern Virginia Medical School, the Sentara Health Care System, the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild, and the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center.

Between 1994 and 2004, Mr. Sessoms was appointed by two Virginia governors to serve on the state's Public School Authority, the Local Health Benefits Advisory Committee and the Governor's commission on Environmental Stewardship.

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President's Corner

On behalf of TASC, I would like to extend my gratitude to Captain Bret McGough, Deputy Commander, USCG, for a great luncheon presentation on Coast Guard Modernization.

This month we are excited to welcome Mayor Will Sessoms as our luncheon speaker on July 15, 2009. Mayor Sessoms will be discussing topics that touch on the City's strong partnership with the military, supporting defense contractors, and overall business growth. Representative Glenn Nye has accepted an invitation to speak at our August luncheon. TASC luncheons are held the third Weds. of each month at the Norfolk Airport Hilton starting at 11:30 a.m. Advance registration is required and can be made online at <http://tasc-tgic.org/reservations.htm>. Also, please join us for our monthly TGIC meetings which are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at UNISYS, 600 Lynnhaven Parkway, Suite 101, Virginia Beach, VA 23452-7319 at 8:00. No reservations are required to attend.

I ask that all members of TASC recommend membership to your business associates and colleagues that are active in the service contracting community. As you know, as a non-profit, volunteer organization, we are totally dependent on the dues we receive from memberships to sustain our activities in the local community. For more information, please contact the TASC Membership Chairperson, Mary White at mary.b.white@saic.com. As always, we are looking for feedback on what you want to hear about at our monthly luncheons, on our website, or in our newsletters. Please send feedback to our TASC Publicity Chairperson, Triffy Erickson at terickson@zenetex.com.

As we celebrate our independence on July 4th, remember to thank those men and women who are serving our great nation and risk their lives for us both at home and abroad in order for us to retain our freedom.

Thank you for supporting TASC, and we look forward to seeing you at future events.

Beverly Arviso

ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

Welcome New Members

Individual Members

Dick Costello	AT&T
Michael Grow	Mission Essential Personnel
Gregory Hale	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Rosa Holmes-Turner	Graysmith Construction Company, LLC
Mary Simmons	Patrona Corporation

Upcoming Speakers

August: Representative Nye, (Confirmed)
September: Lt Col Robert Darling, USMC (Confirmed)

TASC Officers/Committee Chairs

President	Beverly Arviso	Membership	Mary White
Vice President	Mary White	Programs	Jon Gallinetti
Treasurer	Kevin Camp	Newsletter	Triffy Erickson
Secretary	Joan Grippo	Speakers Bureau	Beverly Arviso
Councilor/TGIC Co-Chair	Dennis Garcia	Publicity	Triffy Erickson
Councilor/Nominations	Steve Kelley	TGIC Government Liaison	Jeff Brunner
Councilor/Strategic Planning	Don Remy	Bylaws/Financial Assessment	Joe Yurso
Information Systems	Steve Kelley	Arrangements	Butch Bondoc
		Organization Liaison	Fenton Priest III

IT IS UP TO EACH OF US TO BE VIGILANT

By Joe Yurso

Two hundred and thirty three years ago our Founding Fathers met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to draft the Declaration of Independence. This document dissolved the ties with Great Britain. A new nation had been conceived, free and independent from oppression.

Only after this nation has won on the battlefield, many of the same drafters of the Declaration of Independence met again in Philadelphia to draft plans for ruling this new nation. This was eleven years following the writing of the first document. Another two years passed before the plan for governing was ratified. The plan, the Constitution of the United States became the supreme law of our country.

When I try to understand this magnificent document I must first digest the Declaration of Independence. It is a moral statement of the highest order. The framers looked to God and our Creator for guidance. The Founders immediate aim in the Declaration was to justify breaking away from the mother country. They set forth the theory of legitimate government and then to point out how far that English rule had strayed from the ideal. By these words: “*We hold these Truths to be self-evident*” The framers invoked the long tradition of natural law, which confirms there is a “*higher law*” of right and wrong which gives man the authority to criticize immoral law at any time. It was moral reasoning available to all people that became the foundation of our political system. Thus the fundamental moral truth~ are found in the words “*that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed.*”

These are powerful words with much meaning. They form the foundation of our system and must never be ignored or weakened. The Constitution of our great country was ratified in 1789.

Two years later the Bill of Rights, the first Ten Amendments to the Constitution was ratified.

When the framers came to draft this wonderful document, they utilized the principles they had outlined in the Declaration. They had overthrown an oppressive English rule and were not about to recreate oppression on themselves. To that end they devised a system of government that would be strong and would secure our rights against domestic and foreign oppression but not so powerful or extensive as to be oppressive itself. They designed a most unique system of checks and balances. God truly inspired them.

Let’s review some of the current misconceptions of our system of laws. Nowhere in the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution of the United States do the words separation of church and state appear. This phrase has become a standard password to eliminate God from our lives. The specific words in the first amendment are “*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances*”.

Now imagine men of law concluding based on those words, that saying a prayer at a high school football game violates the Constitution of the United States or saying a prayer at a baccalaureate ceremony is forbidden.

We have traveled so far down the path of life of this great country that we can no longer have reference to God in our public schools or public places. If taxpayer money is used in any organization, prayers are forbidden. I urge each of you to reread the words of the first amendment to our Constitution.

IT IS UP TO EACH OF US TO BE VIGILANT

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Skipping to the tenth amendment, the last of the Bill of Rights is as follows *"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively or to the people."* Once again we have strayed so very far. We now have a government that spends an inordinate amount of money and wealth on things that were never intended by the framers.

The one primary and foremost responsibility of the Federal government to defend and protect the country is where we spend approximately 3% percent of our Gross Domestic product.

All of the ten amendments to the Constitution known as the Bill of Rights are specifically written to protect the people of this great country.

I urge all of us that have such wonderful capacity for reading and writing to communicate with our elected representatives in government and remind them of these great documents. Insist they read and follow the laws of this land of liberty and freedom. Why do I ask this, because in the end, no constitution can be self-enforcing? Government officials must respect their oaths to uphold the Constitution; and we the people must be vigilant in seeing that they do. The Constitution will live only if it is alive in the hearts and minds of the American people (each of us).

TASC July Luncheon Speaker

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In 1997, Mr. Sessoms was honored to serve as King Neptune XXIV during the Neptune Festival. In 2006, he was recognized with the distinguished Virginia Beach First Citizen award.

Mr. Sessoms graduated from First Colonial High School and Virginia Commonwealth University. In 1976, he returned to Virginia Beach to pursue a career in banking. After working at Sovran Bank for eight years and Wachovia Bank for 20 years, he joined Towne Bank where he has served as the Virginia Beach President since 2005.

Articles of Interest

Mark Your Calendars for Tuesday November 4th and Stay Tuned

Our next TASC/TGIC Exchange Briefing will be held November 4, 2009, at the Meyera Oberndorf Library, formerly the Central Library, in Virginia Beach, 0830-1130. The topic will be determined and announced soon as the TGIC's various Standing Committees (Small Business Affairs, Legislative Affairs) and Working Groups (Acquisition Workforce, Contracting Approaches and Techniques) identify potential topics for the program from their committee or working group's areas of interest. Please participate in the TGIC meetings and suggest topics that you would like researched and discussed at upcoming TGIC meetings where some will likely become the subject of an Exchange Briefing. As soon as the Library's calendar for 2010 opens up in October, we will identify dates for our January, March, and June 2010 Exchange Briefings.

United States Joint Forces Command: Industry Outreach September 16, 2009

If you attended the recent Joint Warfighting Conference and sat in on the USJFCOM Business Management Office's presentation in the USJFCOM Theater on the exhibit floor, you already know that USJFCOM will be holding Industry Outreach Sessions several times during the year. These sessions are designed for all Industry members interested in USJFCOM business opportunities and networking, and will feature presentations and opportunity updates by the Business Management Officer, CAPT John Polowczyk; the Contract and Acquisition Management Officer (CAMO), Mr. Jeff Brunner; and Mr. Dan Judy, Director of the Office of Research and Technology Applications (ORTA).

The next session has been scheduled and will be held Wednesday, September 16, 2009, 1330-1530, at the Norfolk Airport Hilton with seating for 200. Watch the TASC Examiner, the USJFCOM public website, and FedBizOps for registration information.