
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

It's been a busy week as usual, with tours, meetings and of course, the Legislature.

It's always a pleasure to show off our facilities to visitors, and Tuesday we were able to showcase Jetson for several members of the J-Board – the LA Commission on Law Enforcement/OJJDP. Three board members toured the facility, Kathy Guidry, LCLE/JJPD Program Manager and JDAI State Coordinator; Julie Calzone, CEO of Calzone and Associates, a Lafayette advertising, public relations and marketing agency and Beth Touchet-Morgan with the MacArthur Foundation. They really enjoyed the tour, escorted by Director Daron Brown and Program Manager Belinda Thomas. The visitors were able to meet with staff as well as youth, and observed a CQIS audit taking place.

I promised that I would keep you apprised of how our budget is moving through the legislature. HB1 passed out the chamber and went on to the Senate. It contains an additional \$400,000 cut from our budget, that appears to be a pro-rata cut to our agency, in accordance with the percentage that all agencies are being cut. The bill now goes on to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration. We appeared before Senate Finance this afternoon to testify about our budget. I felt that the initial hearing went well, and we can anticipate more Q and A will follow in subsequent meetings. So far, so good.

If any of you know any people employed by the state agencies that are working so hard to address the Gulf oil spill catastrophe, please take a moment to thank them for the work they are doing to save our coastline. They have been working non-stop for the past 37 days – please let them know that OJJ appreciates their efforts and the sacrifices of personal time they are making. The state agencies that are involved include GOHSEP, the Louisiana National Guard, the Departments of Wildlife and Fisheries, Agriculture and Forestry, Corrections, Economic Development, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, Louisiana State Police, LSU Health Services, Health and Hospitals, Justice, Board of Regents, Social Services, Transportation and Development and Workforce Development, plus the Governor and his staff, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard, FEMA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross.

A lot of staff will be off on Monday for National Memorial Day. Monday is not just a day to stay home and barbecue. Memorial Day is set aside as a day of remembrance to honor the service of veterans and those who have died in our nation's service. It was first observed in May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. In the past a lot of towns and cities had parades and events to honor the fallen and veterans, but most of these celebrations have fallen by the wayside. To help remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, Congress passed the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution in 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps." I would ask you to please take a moment to tell the veterans in your life that you appreciate their service. This country would not be here today if not for the sacrifices of our veterans.

A special shout-out to the fighting men of the 487th Air Expeditionary Wing, 8th Air Force, and WWII veteran George Livers! Thanks, Dad, for your sacrifice for us and for our country.

So, have a great weekend, and as ever, thanks to each of you in every office and facility, for all you do to meet the mission.

Sincerely,

“Doc”

Dr. Mary Livers

Mary L. Livers, MSW, PH.D, Deputy Secretary

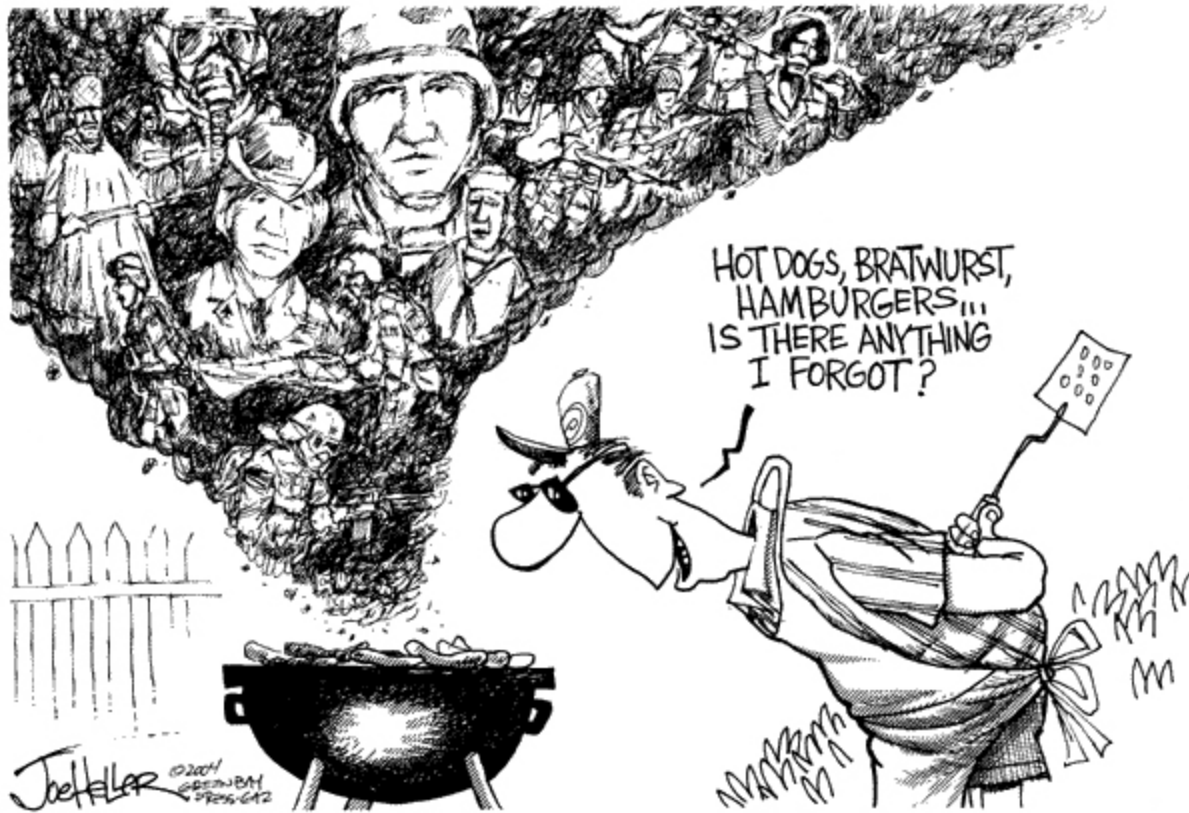
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MEMORIAL DAY



THIS WEEKEND, TAKE TIME TO THANK A VETERAN FOR THEIR SERVICE.

“DOC” *Dr. Mary Livers*

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