

Notes in Passing
Gene Pinkney, 7-14-2025

The visit of our children from California will likely be the highlight of our summer; nothing compares with seeing, perhaps for the last time the reunion of family. But truly world-shaking events in the weeks around and following the 4th, have lately consumed most of our attention.

First the Guadalupe flood has proven so devastating and heart breaking to caring Americans as to overshadow all too many the happier events in other areas of the country. Frankly, we've been spared much grief here in North Dakots.

In my own arena, follow-ups in findings in my blood tests have resulted in several trips to the VA, and a chance to meet some of its truly fine doctors and technicians.

My need for an echo cardiogram (ECG) put me in the care of an amazing technician, Cleo, who has been giving these test for more than 30 years. She administers the ECG by tilting the bed to 45 degrees, putting her left arm around my upper body and guiding the sensor with her right hand, using plenty of balm to slide it.

I was able to see the monitor the whole 40 minutes. Cleo's instructions to me on position changes were clear, firm and gentle. I was amazed at the different parts of the heart I could see, all waltzing to the beat of my, now steady, heartbeat. The whole time supplied oodles of new information. Cleo is an amazing technician. And that long session went by with no discomfort at all

My last visit was with my hematologist. I'll call him Oscar, and he gave me 30 minutes of the most revealing blood analysis I'd ever experienced.

From my blood sample, Oscar was able to unwrap nearly my whole medical history. He very much saw into my smoking, till when I finally quit in 2001, and correlated it to my present situation. He could clearly show its effect on my lungs, bladder and other organs. I learned how deadly smoking was and the COPD, diagnosed in the 70's which I thought I'd completely been cured of, was still there and needed to be treated.

And my early social drinking too, and its effects could easily be traced. I was amazed at what a story a vial of blood can tell. The main revelation of the interview was I would need an infusion of iron to combat a low red blood count that had been showing up a long time and the need for other therapy for other problems.

But thanks to the great team at the VA., I can still keep my hope alive, and that's the confident expectation of good results.

I would like to have gone deeper into interesting personalities at the VA. I've really come to love and respect, but these evil days, too many lost souls of the sort mentioned in the book of *Jude* will use any info they can find to do evil to anyone out there doing good. This troubled and divisive times demand our keeping all first-responders police and our elected congressmen and women in our prayers, proclaiming the protections of Psl 91 constantly in force on their behalf.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, which will assure America's blessing as well.

Gene Pinkney – for the Daily News 7/14/25