

**From:** [David Kraemer](#)  
**To:** [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)  
**Subject:** FW: One Person's Response to Communal Fear 5.8.20  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 9:46:19 AM

---

**From:** Morris Allen <mojo210al@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 8, 2020 9:29 AM  
**To:** MOJO210AL <MOJO210AL@aol.com>  
**Subject:** One Person's Response to Communal Fear 5.8.20

NO WAGON WHEEL CENSUS TODAY explained below May 8, 2020

**World War 2 Census:** As of September 2019 389,000 US Veterans of the War were still alive. For those without a handy pocket guide—16 million US servicemen served during WW2

Seventy-five years ago, today, Victory in Europe was officially proclaimed by the allied forces. While the Soviet Union waited an extra day to officially declare victory, for American servicemen serving in Europe, VE day on May 8, 1945 was a day that would remain vivid in the hearts and minds for the remainder of their lifetimes. Some would go on to write extensively about it, others would maintain those memories of battle and scar deep within their hearts. For those of us born in the great baby boom that followed the war, we were privileged to grow up in a world that was saved from genocidal designs and grow up in a moment of hope and prosperity not known by those who came before us. For most of those soldiers had been born only prior to the collapse of the American economy and lived their childhood years during the Great Depression. As children we were regularly told that nothing that we experienced would ever be as bad as seeing an economy go to hell, your parent sitting at home jobless and hopeless, your life being lived day by day and hour by hour. The only problem with those stories was that then my parents—particularly my dad-- would regale us with pranks he pulled, dates he had and college stories from the fraternity (until he went into the Army Air Force). Go figure.

Today, with numbers not seen since that Great Depression, we are told that at least 20 million jobs were lost in April. Unemployment has surged to 14.7%. In just two months—since March 2020, decades of job growth have been completely wiped out. From the bankruptcy of major retailers to the fact that it is estimated that anywhere [from 1/3](#) to a 1/2 of all restaurants in the Twin cities will never re-open, America will emerge from this pandemic and the President's handling of it a changed country. I am not sure that anyone really understands what the political dynamic will be come November as the reality sets in about the serious failings that have reshaped both the short term, and I believe, the long-term picture of America.

In announcing VE Day, President Truman rightfully acknowledged his sadness that FDR did not live to see the War's end. Having died less than a month before its conclusion, the longest serving President in American history, not only guided America out of the Depression and oversaw its entry into WW 2, he saw his role as one who needed to provide hope in the midst of overwhelming despair that gripped the country. We can and should argue about whether he could have saved

more Jews (he could have), but his leadership of the country through the ravages of the Depression and the War remain a standard of leadership by which every President should be judged. However, President Truman deserves much credit for his understanding of the importance of restoring Europe and the Marshall Plan remains a living legacy to the wisdom this midwestern Senator demonstrated upon assuming the Presidency after having been a compromise candidate for VP in 1944.

I am not a politician—I only work for one. But were I to take what little I have gleaned from the folks living in Zumbrota or Belle Plaine, it would seem to me that the individual who seizes upon a domestic Marshall plan moving forward to restore America's small businesses and economy would be speaking the language that is needed to be heard. Just [this morning](#), when I awoke, I heard from a small town florist in Zumbrota who railed against the fact that Big Box stores were able to remain open during this pandemic and sell their flowers, but she in her one-person floral store had to close. A smart business lady, she figured out alternative uses of her floral stock and had residents of towns she served buy flowers for residents of the senior facilities in those towns. But once her stock was finished, so was she and her day to day business. What is needed today is a domestic Marshall Plan to reinvigorate America's towns and cities—support its family farmers and restore some sense of hope for individuals to sustain an entrepreneurial spirit that has enabled this country to prosper throughout the centuries of its being. Anger is not the answer-but it is only a symptom. It is a symptom of seeing continued consolidation by the powerful groups who have the means to lobby effectively for their agenda. Bold leadership is not standing at a podium and suggesting that disinfectant is curative for Covid-19 if ingested. Bold leadership is listening to the voices and developing a vision for what a renewed country following this devastation looks like. It demands a strategy and implementation of tactics. I hope folks more connected than me are thinking along these same lines. In any event, 75 years is a long time. America's path over those years has been uneven but is still capable of bending towards justice

BTW—no walk today. I have blisters on my feet and although I have plowed ahead for three or four days with the pain each day on those walks, I decided to rest [this morning](#). I didn't want to miss my 90-120 minute Shabbat walk tomorrow. Thus, no WAGON WHEEL CENSUS. Shabbat Shalom and Happy Mother's Day. Morris

Sent by my iPad