

FEBRUARY 2021

OPENING



STATEMENTS

WWW.LAWYERSREADYTOFIGHT.COM

317-934-9725 | INFO@RDLAWOFFICE.COM

FROM THE DESK OF *JOHN RAZUMICH*



It's good to have the opportunity to sit down and write one of these columns again. Things have been crazy busy around here, and I hope that everyone had a great (in order) Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. That catches us up on the well-wishes that I missed.

One of the reasons that I've got time to write to you again is that after a long search, we finally have an extra set of hands around the office. By the time this gets to your mail or inbox, Megan Reiley will have been with our Firm for a little over two weeks. Megan is in her final semester of law school, and has joined us as a Team Member to make sure that we are properly taking care of your needs, and will hopefully be joining us as a full attorney before the year is out.

Beyond that, I hope that things are as well for you as they have been for us recently. We managed to help nearly the same number of people in 2020 as we did in 2019, and are positioned to help even more people moving forward in 2021. Here's to another year of Great Justice!



A DAY FOR PRESIDENTS

A Few Presidential Facts That May Surprise You!

Most people associate February with Valentine's Day, and thanks to all the chocolate and flowers, it gets all the attention. But history buffs and civics nerds are all about Presidents Day, which falls on every third Monday of February.

It's a day that commemorates George Washington's birthday (Feb. 22, 1732) and has also come to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's birthday (Feb. 12, 1809), though Lincoln's birthday never received federal holiday status like Washington's birthday did.

This year, Presidents Day lands on Feb. 15. Federal employees get the day off as do many others. Some cities, like Alexandria, Virginia, have celebrations — Alexandria being Washington's hometown. To celebrate, many people even bake a cherry pie in homage to the old story of 6-year-old George chopping down the cherry tree.

In recognition of Presidents Day this year, I wanted to dive into a few interesting and odd presidential facts. In reading about offbeat presidential history, I learned a few new things worth sharing!

As we all know, presidents live fairly restricted lives. Being *the* head of state, rules make sense. It's all about keeping the president and former presidents safe. Many of the rules were established by the U.S. Secret Service, while others are actually unwritten rules that follow tradition more than anything else.

One of the biggest rules is that sitting and former presidents are not allowed to drive. This is one of the unwritten rules, but the Secret Service tends to be strict about it. That said, former presidents are allowed some leniency — they can only drive on their own private property or the White House property, but they cannot drive beyond that (and they definitely can't drive without the Secret Service).

The reason is understandable. Driving is precarious, and the Secret Service doesn't want the president to take any unnecessary risks. Plus, Secret Service agents are well-versed in advanced driving techniques, and it's literally part of their job to drive the president. The "no driving" rule was put in place after the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Continued on Page 2 ...

Along similar lines, former presidents are never allowed to venture out on their own, even if it's just for a nice walk around their property. Secret Service agents follow them *everywhere*. I guess when you become president, and after you leave office, you can say goodbye to your privacy! Former presidents even have to submit their agendas in advance (sometimes months in advance) so the Secret Service can prepare.

And here's the cherry on top: The Secret Service can actually deny agenda items submitted by a former president. If they deem an activity too risky, according to former Secret Service agent Jonathan Wackrow, they will "push back." Of course, they will try to reach a compromise, but a president's safety and well-being come before everything else.

Another curious rule former presidents must follow is they have to establish their own presidential library. Several former presidents have undertaken that task and now have libraries named after them, thanks in part to the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955. The act was aimed squarely at former presidents as a way to preserve any and all "historical materials" created during their presidency.

These historical materials include everything from simple documents signed by the president to executive orders and other major documents created during their administration. Presidents must also abide by the rule that they can't censor content included in the library. So, if the



president was at the center of a major scandal, as many have been, those documents will be there.

It's basically like capturing history in a bottle. These libraries often act as both a library and a museum, making them an important part of our nation's history because of the documents they house. And while the act was established in 1955, several presidential libraries have been established in the name of presidents before that time, including both Roosevelts, Lincoln, Grant, and Jefferson.

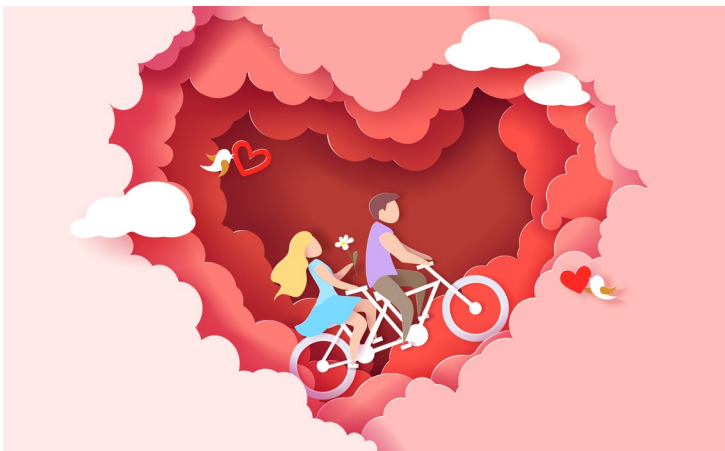
We've just barely scratched the surface of presidential curiosities, but there's only so much room in this newsletter! I hope you enjoyed this peek into presidential history. Happy Presidents Day!

IT'S IN THE CARDS

WHY VALENTINE'S DAY IS THE ULTIMATE CARD HOLIDAY

This may be the first year in a long time that kids don't pass out Valentine's Day cards at school. Going in to the new year, the seasonal section of most stores is lined with cards featuring fun characters from superheroes to unicorns. Handing out cards is now a well-loved tradition, but have you ever wondered how Valentine's Day became one of the biggest card-giving holidays of the year?

Like many holiday traditions, the convention of handing out Valentine's Day cards goes back centuries. During the 1700s, it became



fashionable to trade Valentine's Day cards with a short poem or verse. The popularity of swapping cards only increased throughout the 1800s. Sometimes, people would go as far as to paint or draw spring-like images on the cards. They were much more elaborate than what we typically see today, though they were still usually very small.

But where did those folks get the idea? People of that era were likely inspired by stories that go back even further. There are legends that the originator of this holiday tradition was Saint Valentine himself. One story says that on the night before he was set to be executed, Valentine wrote a small letter to a jailer's daughter. He ended the note with "Your Valentine."

It's unknown whether that story is true, but to 18th century Europeans and Americans, it was inspiring! So inspiring, in fact, that the entire Valentine's Day industry began to gain traction. A guidebook called "The Young Man's Valentine" was published in 1797 to help suitors garner the attention of their love interests through the written word. Eventually, books aimed at women were also published, including "The Lady's Own Valentine Writer," which served much the same goal.

These publications, along with young people writing notes to one another every February, have made Valentine's Day cards an ingrained tradition, and now people can't get enough of them!

HEROES COME IN ALL SIZES

The American Humane Hero Dog Awards competition is an annual celebration that honors some of the world's most extraordinary canines. The awards recognize dogs that have gone above and beyond the call of duty, whether it's saving lives on the battlefield, comforting the ill or elderly, or demonstrating just how powerful the bond between humans and animals can be. Winners are crowned in several categories, but the "American Hero Dog" is the top winner selected by expert panelists and a popular vote. It most often goes to dogs who show astute bravery in what they do, and in 2020, that bravery came in a 4-pound package.



MACKENZIE THE CHIHUAHUA IS ONE BIG HERO

MacKenzie the Chihuahua bested over 400 competitors to be selected as 2020's American Hero Dog. Born seven years ago with a cleft palate and severe pneumonia that nearly took her life, MacKenzie fought hard to overcome her sickness and birth defects. Soon after she defied all odds, her owners noticed her affinity for other animals — despite being tiny compared to many of them. That's when they gave her a special job: caring for baby animals born with birth defects just like she was.

Many of the rescue animals MacKenzie helps care for have medical problems that prohibit them from staying with their mothers, but MacKenzie takes a genuine interest in each baby from the moment they're introduced, no matter its species or size. She plays nurse, cleans, and comforts them through their recovery, becoming a pseudo-mother that teaches them how to socialize and play. She's nurtured countless puppies, kittens, birds, squirrels, mice, goats, and turkeys. Despite her tiny size, she's even mothered a Great Dane.

In addition to caring for rescued animals, MacKenzie also helps kids learn to be open-minded about both animals and people with physical differences or disabilities. The Chihuahua teaches the kids kindness and patience and shows them that no matter how small you might be, you can make a big difference.

MacKenzie lost her ability to bark very early in life, but she has one of the loudest voices when it comes to speaking for disadvantaged animals. Heroism truly comes in all shapes, sizes, and forms, but MacKenzie demonstrates that the most heroic act of all is exuding compassion for others, no matter their circumstances.

TAKE A BREAK!

P	M	Q	W	A	N	D	I	C	V	L	R	R	Y	I
E	L	K	F	K	L	Z	F	A	U	E	D	A	E	C
N	K	N	G	H	O	B	L	C	T	P	D	E	A	S
N	J	P	F	R	C	E	X	N	U	S	I	N	K	B
S	R	C	S	Q	N	O	I	F	T	Y	D	D	P	H
Y	Q	W	E	T	I	W	J	N	X	Y	L	I	H	P
L	P	R	I	F	L	R	E	Q	R	B	A	I	N	U
V	S	N	G	O	H	D	N	U	O	R	G	Z	F	B
A	E	U	D	G	I	P	J	X	H	V	Y	N	M	F
N	F	A	I	S	U	O	Y	W	I	W	J	O	O	K
I	E	A	E	R	N	S	A	N	G	E	A	R	P	S
A	S	R	B	L	A	C	K	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y
X	P	I	S	G	U	U	H	H	E	A	R	T	H	T
E	W	O	W	A	Y	R	Q	U	W	U	K	I	G	O
I	A	L	M	H	M	L	A	N	F	R	G	G	V	P

AQUARIUS

BLACK HISTORY

CANDY

CUPID

GROUNDHOG

HEART

LINCOLN

MLK JR

PENNSYLVANIA

PHIL

PRESIDENTS DAY

VALENTINE

WINTER

STRAWBERRY KISSED ALMOND BUTTER MUFFINS

Inspired by [AmbitiousKitchen.com](#)

Ingredients

- 1 cup ripe bananas, mashed
- 3/4 cup natural creamy almond butter (can substitute creamy peanut butter)
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup pure maple syrup (or honey)

- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup oat flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup strawberry fruit spread, divided (we recommend Bonne Maman INTENSE)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. Line a 12-cup muffin tin with liners and spray with nonstick cooking spray.

3. In a large bowl, mix bananas, almond butter, eggs, maple syrup, and vanilla extract.

4. Stir in oat flour, baking powder, and salt until smooth.

5. Evenly divide batter into liners. Add 1 tsp strawberry fruit spread to the top of each muffin.

6. Use a butter knife to gently swirl the spread into the batter.

7. Bake for 22–27 minutes until a toothpick comes out clean.

8. Transfer muffins to wire rack to cool and enjoy!



RAZUMICH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

LAWYERS READY TO FIGHT

DEFENDING YOUR RIGHTS, FIGHTING FOR YOU

www.lawyersreadytofight.com

317-934-9725

156 East Market Street, 13th Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BOISE, ID
PERMIT 411

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Desk of Razumich & Associates

PAGE 1

Presidents Day — A Few Presidential
Facts That May Surprise You

PAGE 1

What's the Deal With Valentine's
Day Cards?

PAGE 2

A Tiny Dog Is Crowned the Biggest Hero

PAGE 3

Strawberry Kissed Almond Butter Muffins

PAGE 3

The Deadly Revenge of 17th Century
Chocoholics

PAGE 4

THE ORIGINAL DEATH BY CHOCOLATE 17TH CENTURY CHOCOHOLICS GET REVENGE

How much do you love chocolate? Would you be willing to die for a taste of your favorite candy bar? Would you kill for one? You've probably never thought to ask yourself these questions, but if tall tales can be believed, arguments over chocolate have, in fact, turned deadly.

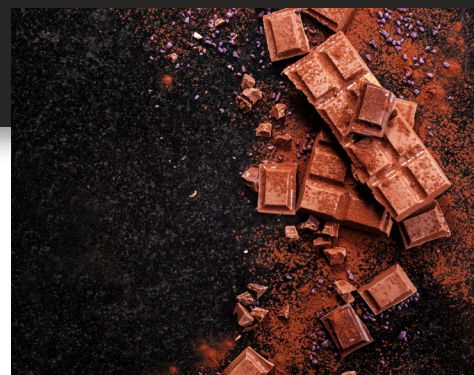
National Dark Chocolate Day and National Chocolate Fondue Day both fall this month (on Feb. 1 and Feb. 5, respectively), and in honor of those tasty holidays, we investigated the original "death by chocolate" — an act of legendary revenge.

Rumor has it that the controversy started in the 1600s in Chiapas, Mexico, when a group of chocoholic churchgoers started bringing their favorite sweet snack to services. This annoyed the bishop, who resorted to banning parishioners from eating chocolate during

church. As an article in Indian Country Today tells it, the chocoholics got back at the bishop by poisoning his daily cup of *chocolatl*, an Aztec chocolate drink. Who knew the ancestor of hot cocoa could be so deadly?

Surprisingly, this crazy story isn't the origin of the "death by chocolate" cake we love today. That dessert was created in 1993 by Chef Marcel Desaulniers, then-owner of The Trellis restaurant in Williamsburg, Virginia. Here's the restaurant's mouthwatering description of the seven-layer confection, which takes three days to make:

"The decadence begins with layers of moist chocolate cake, dark chocolate ganache, crunchy chocolate meringue, and an airy chocolate mousse. The cake is then coated in a glaze of dark chocolate and served on a pool of chocolate sauce with house-made



milk chocolate ice cream, topped with a hand-rolled white chocolate truffle, and finally dusted with white chocolate powder."

Is your mouth watering yet? The original version of death by chocolate might be a bit complex for the average chef, but if you're craving a slice, you can find more accessible recipes at Delish.com and SugarGeekShow.com. Just remember that when you pull it out of the oven, we don't live in the 1600s, so you should probably restrain yourself from poisoning anyone who steals a bite!