

Our City

My deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Glascock family on this Memorial Day weekend. Like I have written the past two weeks American Falls has lost another pillar of our community. Doug Glascock succumbed to his battle with cancer on May 7, 2015. Like the Tiedes I have known the Glascock family since moving here in 1990. I immensely enjoyed coaching Andrew and his little brother Kyle and got to know Doug through them and local politics. Ellie, Doug's other half, and I worked together for nearly 25 years as every spring we would pool kids and resources to put on the second grade farm safety fair. Marg, his mother, gave Sally her first job in American Falls as an Assistant County Clerk. Like so many stalwarts in our community Doug was compelled to give back through his service through the Lions Club and the Methodist Church. For years I thought he and I were connected somehow supernaturally as he would be mowing the Church's lawn at the same time I mowed my own. It was like having another dependable neighbor as he spent a lot of his free time doing various projects around the Church. I enjoyed our neighborly chats very much. I tell my students continuously that, "tomorrow is promise to no one." While they don't believe me, that is exactly how Doug Glascock lived his life. He made every day and moment within it count for something good and positive. I miss my neighbor. Thank you Doug for always giving American Falls and Power County your very best. To his grandchildren I say, "Follow his example!" To Marg, all I can tell you is that you raised him right! Ellie, I have no words beyond my heartfelt sympathy and love. Andrew and Kyle, carry on the lessons of your father.

As it continues to rain during these dark hours on the first day of Memorial Day weekend I find myself alone. Sally has gone to Oregon to visit a lifelong friend who, like Doug, is battling cancer. Although I am not depressed I am lost in reflection. Not so much of myself, although it can't help but creep in, but of those like Doug Glascock, Helen Tiede and her Marine Corp husband Otto. It should be a time of reflection for all of us I think.

On Tuesday of this past week I visited Hillcrest Elementary for the "Pinning of the Poppy" ceremony put on by the American Legion, our veterans of war. The poppy memorializes those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I felt vastly undeserving, but as tradition has it, the Mayor in the community is always the first to have a poppy pinned on their lapel. As the story of the poppy ceremony and its significance was read to the second graders I wondered how many in the room besides the veterans actually got the significance. My granddaughter was in the group; her father has served in the National Guard almost continually since he was old enough to enlist. Did she get it? I hope so. I hope too that the intent of Memorial Day is not lost on all those that head out for a three day vacation. I hope they realize why they are able to take that vacation at all. To all those who have served and are serving you have my unwavering respect, admiration and commitment to do whatever I can to ensure that your sacrifice will never be in vain. You deserve no less from all of us who call this country home.

At the conclusion of our City Council meeting three weeks ago Al Longoria spoke to the Council about somehow recognizing those who have achieved a higher than usual level of success or sacrifice. His point that as a community we don't do much to showcase the accomplishments of so many of our citizens. He is right. Al was at the meeting to specifically talk about our own Maria Sanchez. Maria was a three sport athlete while at American Falls High School and arguably the best soccer player in Idaho high school athletics, ever! This past

season she contributed greatly to the success of the Idaho State University women's soccer team and had since been asked to play on the Mexican Women's National Team in World Cup play. Yes, I would say that's a pretty big friggin' deal and a huge accomplishment! Al's point was that something beyond retiring Maria's jersey needed to be done to recognize Maria and her hometown. The Council agreed.

What that recognition was to be didn't come to light until last week. A group made up of Al Longoria, Superintendent Ron Bolinger, Public Works Director Jeremy Peirsol, Principals Travis Hansen and Randy Jensen, teachers Hailey Lusk and Caroline Wight, four 2016 senior girl soccer players and me will be working collaboratively to memorialize and equip a soccer field in honor of Maria Sanchez. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact me. The senior girls are hopeful that the project could be done this summer with a dedication this fall when Maria returns to ISU. One of Randy Jensen's ideas is to have the ISU team play an early season exhibition game on the field as it is dedicated. That would be just too cool! A lot of things need to come together to make this possible. And, yes, it will involve to no small degree some sacrifice and giving by many if it is to become a reality.

Speaking of volunteering, I need to thank Tammy Ramsey for once again organizing the Music in the Park summer series, every Thursday evening from 6 to 8, which will begin on June fourth and culminate in a huge Music Festival that coincides with American Falls Day on August first. Great job Tammy! Your efforts are another reason American Falls is the best place to live.

I received a picture on my phone yesterday as again the second graders from Hillcrest were out and about. Yesterday they were learning about the City of American Falls, what the City provides its citizens and a little bit about how City government works. The picture that I received was sent to me by Jeremy Peirsol with the caption, "Mayor Jackson." Which, my granddaughter Leila may well be one day. The six Council chairs were also occupied by girls. Upon forwarding it to family I receive a text back from Leona that stated, "Girls Rule!" Perhaps they should, as I continue my reflection as the morning sun turns clouds light pink in the east. I often reflect on the lessons I have learned from the women in my life; my grandmothers, mother, wife, daughters, teachers, students and Amy Manning, each of the latter two.

Largely because of Amy's initial efforts at long last the American Falls Waste Water Treatment plant will be completely finished this next month. An Open House is scheduled from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. on June 11th at the plant. Although Amy has been gone from American Falls for a few years her efforts on our behalf remain steadfast and evident. Thank you Amy for being a way better teacher than I will ever be. I hope I do you justice as I try daily to carry on the lessons you have taught me.

Until next week...