



The Illinois Billiard Club

"The Country Club of Pool and Billiards"

1975 - 28th Anniversary - 2003

"A Nations Silent War"

By Jim Parker

Since 1775 when our ancestors fired the first canon to gain our nation's independence, until today's sea and land cruise missiles recently launched to overcome tyranny and threat of global terrorism, we as a nation for over two centuries have realized the mass devastation and human sufferings of war.

Amid every battle of every war, we've repeatedly heard uncontested claims that whatever horrors had, or shall result from this evil word are through God's will and divine scheme of things. Yet in search of more earthly answers as to who truly is responsible for man's insistence on invoking such primitive and barbaric measures as maiming and killing his fellow man, with logic we conclude the answer is clearly not God at all, but rather someone much closer at hand ... us.

God, in the past, present and future tense is totally and permanently exonerated from ever having anything to do with the evils of war. Our Heavenly Father has never even remotely condoned, qualified, justified, indorsed, sanctioned or even vaguely suggested this inhumane and cancerous act. ...Not my God or I would have long since sought out his indictment.

Today, we're again involved in another war, yet a war unlike those fought by our ancestors on the battlefields of Gettysburg or in the trenches of Germany's Hindenburg Line. Nor is this war being fought on the blood stained beaches of Guadalcanal, Wake Island, Iwo Jima, Quam or Normandy ... or in the frozen hills of Korea's 38th Parallel. Or within this war, shall our boy's crawl through the infectious swamps and life threatened jungles of Vietnam, or battle on the blistering sands of Iraq. For this, is a silent war, and we'll not hear the wails of air raid sirens and screams of falling bombs, or thunder of anti-aircraft guns.

For this, is a war launched against drug and alcohol abuse, and quietly being fought on our streets, in our schools, work places, and within our very homes throughout the land. The enemy flies no flag and is not of distant saber rattling nation's set out to abolish man's precious rights of freedom and democracy. But rather an enemy most often living on our soil and within our cities, towns and villages. Ironically, this enemy of drug and doom peddler's exist throughout our nation, sheltered by the freedom and democracy bought and paid for by the fathers and grandfathers of the very children whose lives they've crushed, and those they continue to seek out and destroy.

Their weapons are seldom bullets or fixed bayonets aimed to take the lives of their victims, but rather through drug and alcohol abuse, decay their mentality and integrity. And with this inhumane act, destroy the hopes, dreams and futures of our nations youth. ...Whose very ancestors have time and again paid the ultimate price to protect against such evil, our nation and its forthcoming generations of hopeful God loving children.

We, together and as a nation, have both a human

and spiritual obligation to one another as well as to those that have gone before us, to do battle with this subculture enemy. Yet unlike the wars of our fathers, ours is one that shall not be fought with bloodshed, but rather won through the human and spiritual inner-strength of our nations greatest wealth and anti-drug ...the American family.

The ever-present and luminous impact experienced from this division of our society is seen within every phase of our American culture. From agriculture to zoology, from sports to science, and from social struggles to even the quicksilver in our economic thermometer, these are the people that have given the most, yet for some reason and know only to them, ask for the least.

In sports, by participation in family inner-activities the American family examples the deep-rooted connection between childhood interests and endeavors, to the end result of a young person attaining superior status throughout endless varieties of life's objectives.

Whether family participation in games rated as national sports; as tennis, golf, baseball and the like, or simply table and board games as billiards and chess, is of little or no importance. What is important, is simply a families sharing and enjoying quality time together that ultimately builds a child's wholesome character, and an adults loving and lifetime relationship as a family united.

While not a miracle solution to our nations drug and alcohol abuse problems, when early-on parents and their children share quality time together as a family, they most often all evolve into a healthy and prosperous segment of our society. Yet none of this comes with guarantees, other than a parent's reassurance that their children have initially been given love, encouragement, a sound education and a healthy family environment.

If through all of this, after reaching adulthood a young person sadly chooses whatever mix of drugs, alcohol and other forms of self-indulgence that ultimately leads a potentially wholesome person to becoming dysfunctional and abusive to society, family and friends, the burden of responsibility falls totally upon this self-absorbed individual. And any hope for a cure can begin only where these self-inflicted problems initially began ...within one self.

The Illinois Billiard Club is the oldest, self-owned, operated and prestigious private billiard club in the United States. Complete with an adjoining hundred-seat banquet room. The club was founded for the preservation and promotion of the elegant, historical, professional and social side of billiards. The IBC is not a poolroom, barroom or any other form of public place of amusement. Yet by its design, popularizes the game of billiards to all positive sides of society.

Further information can be found either by writing to: The Illinois Billiard Club / 8446 Archer Avenue / Willow Springs, IL 60480. Or by visiting: www.IllinoisBilliardClub.com.



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Courtesy of The Illinois Billiard Club



BCA BOOTH
#3623

Custom Cues
by

Joseph Pechauer
4140 Velp Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54313
Phone: 920-434-7793
Fax: 920-434-7757
E-mail: joe@pechauer.com