

Sean James Dolan Memorial Fund

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Greetings Everyone!

For some it seems like Winter will Never end! For almost two months now, it's been cold enough to "freeze the balls off a brass monkey!" (*See last page) A month ago, the Delaware River's ice flow officially stopped and froze up with the ice in front of the house. I can imagine how George Washington and his Army struggled to cross on that infamous Christmas day a few centuries ago.

It seems like so much has happened since my last correspondence - the loss of the Colombia crew and a heightened level of National Security. We all Hope you stay safe and alert.

Last month, we received word from our dear friend "Angie" from Virginia. It was both Great to hear from her, and sad because she told us that her Dad passed away at the end of December. We had the opportunity to meet him last summer when we went to her house so my Godson & his brother could ride one of their horses. He was certainly someone special - to Angie and her daughter Donnie, all of his children, family and to us all. He was buried with Full Military Honors, along with special Honor Guards from Rescue & Special Services Squads from many surrounding townships & counties. He was to have received 2 Special Awards, including one for responding to more fire-calls than Any Other Member (over 400 with the next closest at 230). Angie had told her Dad before we even met him how we were collecting can tabs. For the longest time Angie thought that he had just pushed off the idea and hadn't told the rest of his team at the Firehouse. While she was doing that difficult task of helping with his belongings, she had found a whole stockpile of tabs for us that he never told her about !!! We look forward to hopefully seeing later this year.



"Small collection" of (mostly crushed) cans at the recycler

An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit

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We're becoming more familiar with where the local recycling facility is. This is the second time I've recently gone there to take both aluminum cans (acquired by my neighbors) and some file cabinets for ca\$h! After finally emptying out the back of the truck and going to the recycler's window, we ended up w/a whole \$13.10. It may not sound like much, but just like all of those people out there that only collect a few tabs a week for us, it all adds up to help out families of sick kids in the future.



Office "Wall Art"

In addition, many years ago, some folks in one of the offices had started a "Collection"/"Art Deco" of empty soda cans on the wall. Well, they're no longer here, so the current office occupant said I could have them. It's taken quite a few lunch breaks, but I've already removed over 200 cans from 1.5 of the walls! Using the "average" of 'a case' (24) of 12oz. cans is approximately a pound, SJDMF should yield quite a few pounds of aluminum by the time I'm finished!

Thanks Again To All of You and Everyone Who Helps You, for thinking of and helping us to help the families of sick children from All Over the World at Ronald McDonald Houses All Over! You Are All Truly Appreciated !!! ☺ ☺ We hope you The Best Holiday & New Year Season! Please visit Sean's Web site at www.fysd.com/Sean and 'e-sign' his Guest book!

God Bless You All & Keep Those Tabs Coming ! ☺

Chuck Dolan
SJDMF Administrator

*"A Hundred Years from Now . . .
it will not matter what my bank account was,
the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove . . .
But the World Might Be Different Because I Was Important
In the Life of a Child . . . "*

An Angel With A Small Body, Giant Spirit

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"Brass Monkeys"

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon, but how does one prevent them from rolling about the deck?

The best storage method devised was a square based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem...how does one prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others? The solution was a metal plate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations. But, if this plate was made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled.

Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey".

And all this time, you thought that was a dirty expression, didn't you?

Feel free to send this fabulous bit of historical knowledge to your unsuspecting friends.

(E-sent by "Chief Bill")

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