

Complaints vs. Gratitude

By Hap Hansen

Happy Thanksgiving. This article is about giving thanks and also about a complaint or two. My main complaint is about ambulance-chasing lawyers whose incessant and repetitive television ads are usually obnoxious. Here's the usual statement they say: "Have you taken this prescription drug and lost a limb, are now bedridden, are still having pain or died? If so, we can get you millions of dollars for your physical problems, pain and suffering." They don't mention the fact that they will also get millions of dollars if they are successful. Here's an age-old question: "What do you call hundreds of ambulance-chasing lawyers at the bottom of the sea?" The answer: "A good start!"

Here are the names of several prescription drugs, some of which have gotten the attention of sue-happy lawyers: Omeprazole, Losartan, Metoprolol, Xarelto, Atorvastatin, Tsmsulosin and Amiodarone. I mention these because I take all seven of those prescription drugs. Without them, I would simply not be here. Please understand, this is not a complaint, I am thankful they are available. I feel fine, I feel great. However, if I would have known about my ailments several years ago, I would have purchased a drug store! I rarely discuss my physical problems because no matter who I'm talking to, they almost always have something worse! And I am interrupted with, "Oh, that's nothing. You should hear what I have!" And then, they tell me, in full mind-numbing detail. I know some of you have ailments far worse than mine and I sympathize. Another old story: What if you could put all your ailments in a sack and then throw them in a pile with everyone else's? Then, you would pick a sack at random and you would have those health problems. I think most of us would want our own sack back!

Several months ago, my son-in-law's parents invited me for dinner. We got to discussing health problems and the father informed me the only medication he took was two baby-aspirin per day. He's only a few year's younger than I and I was envious. Why couldn't I be like that and take only a pill or two a day? Then, two weeks ago, at another dinner, we were informed that he was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. I am no longer envious and I am grateful and thankful that I got my own sack back!

HappyThanksgiving.