

Wishes

By Hap Hansen

There are two right here-right now clichés that I recall about wishes. The first is, "If wishes were nickels, we'd all be millionaires." The second is, "Be careful what you wish for, it might come true." Today, my right here-right now wish list is personal in some ways, selfish in others. There are wishes that I hope could happen, but I would need to make sure if I would want them to come true. I have selected the first things that came to my mind.

One. I wish my late wife, Carolyn, were still alive, but I would not wish that she would have to continue living with the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease.

Two. I wish ISIS did not exist, or we could find a way to eliminate these global extremists and terrorists.

Three. I wish we could find a way to feed the hundreds of thousands of children who, right here and right now, go to bed hungry nearly every night. Those inexcusable occurrences should not happen in a country as wealthy as ours.

Four. I wish the United States Congress could find a way to solve our problems as they are supposed to do, rather than Democrats blaming Republicans for every problem and Republicans blaming Democrats for the same problems.

Five. Many of our parents, grandparents or great grandparents were immigrants. I wish we could find a pathway for all immigrants to become American citizens. Some of us call them illegal aliens, while the comedian, Jay Leno, calls them Undocumented Democrats!

Six. I wish Israel and Palestine could find a way to live together in peace. Unfortunately, their hatred for each other goes back thousands of years. Solving that problem will not likely happen in my lifetime.

Seven. I wish there was a way to negotiate with Iran to stop them from developing nuclear weapons. Negotiations are ongoing.

Eight. I wish all scientists could agree and do something about the potentially devastating effects of global warming.

Nine. I spent 30 years in the natural gas distribution and pipeline business. Right here-right now, I wish and believe that solar, wind and tidal energy must be developed as quickly as possible to eventually eliminate the burning of fossil fuels.

Ten. I did not mean for my right here-right now wish list to become political. So I will finish with a final, non-political wish. I will turn 83 years of age in a few months. My wish is to remain healthy for as long as possible, but when my right here-right now time comes, I wish to drop dead on a golf course, staring down a birdie putt!

