

## Many Small Victories

*By Hap Hansen*

Today, I write about many small victories and those things for which I am thankful as I approach my 82nd birthday. First, today would have been my wife's 80th birthday. She is now at peace. Small victories include my participation in the Alzheimer's Association, serving on the Home Owners' Association Board and the Optimists Board of Directors, writing articles for the Writers Group, being able to play an occasional round of golf and most of all, having healthy children and grandchildren. There are many other small victories for which I am thankful and I observe almost every day:

- for my grandchildren who may not be doing their assigned chores and are watching TV because it means they are at home and not on the streets,
- for the taxes that I pay because it means I can participate in the American way,
- for windows that need cleaning, carpeting that needs vacuuming and dishes to be washed because it means I have a home,
- for all the complaining my friends and I do about the Government because it means we have freedom of speech,
- for my shadow that follows me when I walk because it means I am capable of enjoying the sunshine,
- for the mess I have to clean up after a party because it means I have friends,
- for the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat,
- for the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking and am still able to drive a car,
- for my heating and cooling bills because it means I am warm in the winter and cool in the summer,
- for the lady behind me in church who sings loudly and off-key because it means I am capable of hearing,
- for the pile of laundry and ironing because it means I have clothes to wear,
- for the alarm that goes off in the morning because it means I am still alive.

Finally, I consider all the aches and pains I endure to be small victories because it means I am neither wheel-chair bound nor bedridden.

Thank you Lord, for providing me with all these small victories.