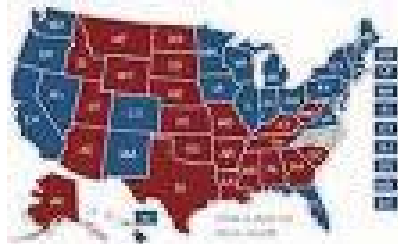


American Heroes



Usually this space is reserved for the editors of this publication to make snide comments about current events and in some half-assed way poke fun at public figures. But this week, we wish to recognize true American Heroes, the people of the United States. In this election, over 64 % of Americans who could vote did so, the highest voter turnout in living memory. 133.6 million Americans exercised their right to vote, and these 133.6 million people truly are American Heroes. Whether they voted for McCain, Obama, Barr, Mickey Mouse, Spuds McKenzie or whoever, these Americans did their patriotic duty and should be commended. For serving your country, we salute the American population and recognize that these are true American heroes.

SIGN OF THE TIMES



An oldie but a goodie from the Mountain State Fair several months back. It is hard to imagine the scenario that caused the fair's management to have to caution the public about the dangers of feeding digits to horses. With the cost of grain rising over the past few months, it is understandable that parents would not be able to afford feed for their children to use in order to feed the horse, but resorting to offering up phalanges is a bit extreme. On a side note, kudos to fair officials for referring to the 27" horse by the more politically correct "little horse" title. They really don't like being called "midget horses."

Sounds of the nation

When people hear that former Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Michael Irvin is speaking on the news, it is usually assumed that he is apologizing for being a bad role model and being indicted on some sort of drug related offense. But not this week. On Wednesday, Irvin uttered some of the most insightful words ever to come out of the mouth of an athlete, as he was interviewed on ESPN regarding his reaction to this year's historical Presidential campaign. His quote is as follows:

"What a historical moment that was last night. ... From an African-American standpoint, I watched my people — watched my people — celebrate the not guilty verdict of O.J. Simpson. They were so hungry for a victory of some kind that they celebrated — we celebrated — the verdict of O.J. And I was thinking to myself, 'Two people are dead. Two people are dead' Now, I'm not talking about my people, I'm explaining them here. They were just so hungry to say 'We have a victory.' And I cringe when I even think about that.

"But last night I watched a celebration. A real celebration. A real celebration, and it was a celebration for everybody, and everybody celebrated, and they kept showing this shot, and I was watching, of this little black girl and this little white girl, just sitting there crying together, and I thought, wow. I thought about Martin Luther King and his 'I Have a Dream' speech, and I thought about him saying, black kids and white kids playing together. ...

"Last night we removed all differences and became just one, and I thought that was a beautiful thing. It was just a beautiful thing. I stood here with my kids, we watched it and we cried and we prayed."