

“DECLUTTERING” – Let’s Start Now! ©

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – September 12, 2025

As a result of one of my very special high school classmate’s postings on Face Book, I have been in-spired to write this article! Without giving up too many secrets about my classmates and me, it is sufficient to say that we are all “advanced senior citizens”! And, therein lays a problem that has led me to discuss something a bit further here!

Throughout most everyone’s lives it is typical that we continuously acquire more and more “things” (stuff) to our likings that throughout the years are considered to be meaningful possessions that are scattered about & become part of the “woodwork” in our homes! This is without much thought as to the continuing usefulness and true need or benefit to us in retaining such items for overly-extended periods of time! Although it may be hard for we “sexy senior citizens” to acknowledge that some of our “life-time treasures” have little or no value to anyone else but us and, given some serious thought, we should even acknowledge that such extraneous items have no further use to us either! So, let’s think about the following:

-How many of us even have a clue about all the things we have tidily tucked away in our attics, closets, garages, and elsewhere over the years? Obviously, whatever is stored in any location is mostly forgotten and if it was no longer there at all, it’s doubtful that this stuff would be seriously missed – well with the possible exception of our special (?) Christmas decorations!

-There’s no space in our closets and exactly why is that? Well, we have long-ago-outdated and under-sized clothes that couldn’t possibly be worn by us again – in spite of how many times we pray or make trips to the gym these days! These same clothes, when hanging in a Good Will or Salvation Army store, could indeed be someone else’s “new-found gems”! So it’s time for all of us to get real and thin-out our closet at our earliest convenience!

-There are various other “secret hide-a-ways” where we store our stuff, but certainly our garages have become a popular place to store long-ignored and basically useless stuff. I have often found myself moving all of this “debris” outside while I sweep the garage floor and instead of getting rid of this stuff once and for all, I then reposition it back to its original locations! (Unfortunately, I can’t recall when I last visited my “shrink”!)

In conclusion, in looking ahead to our final days, we seniors need to give some meaningful thought about our survivors and not harness them with the responsibility of sorting through and disposing of our stuff that has no meaning to them! Instead, let’s de-clutter NOW and place our stuff that may have meaning and value to others - in their hands!

