

# LAGNIAPPE



**LOFTON**  
SECURITY  
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ENERGY SERVICES MEDICAL SERVICES

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SAFETY SERVICES

## Monthly Employee News

May 2017

### Window Safety

By: Steve Ham, Lofton Safety Services

This spring, when you open windows to let in fresh breezes, it's a good time to keep window safety in mind. For safety's sake, adults need to supervise children at play, and teach them to keep their play away from windows and doors.

About 4,700 children in the U.S. are injured by falls from windows each year, according to window safety organization, The Timothy Healy Foundation. In many cases, the fall occurred within the child's own home. More than 70% of window falls are from the second or third story; however, even falling from a first floor window can cause injury, according to the foundation.

Whether you're in an existing home or moving to a new one, take a few minutes to review window safety tips. Simple changes could help protect your loved ones and decrease the risk of accidental falls.

- Keep furniture, like beds or dressers, away from windows so children don't climb on them.
- Keep children from playing around windows, doors and balconies. This will help prevent accidents such as falls.
- Remember, insect screens are designed to provide ventilation and to keep insects out, NOT to prevent falls. For added safety in children's bedrooms, consider installing window guards or window fall prevention devices that meet American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards.
- Window treatments with traditional cords can contribute to childhood injuries. For added protection, choose blinds and shades with no room-side cords.
- Plant soft shrubs, like boxwoods, under exterior windows that might be used as an emergency escape route to help soften a fall.
- While spring cleaning, do a "clutter sweep" and remove tripping hazards near windows, doors or balconies.
- Do not allow children to jump on beds, especially ones near windows.

### Officer Kudos



Not only do we like to hear from our clients on a job well done by our officers, but when it comes from a State Senator and Ted Cruz, well that's something else. While touring the client facility, **Houston Officers: Erik Brandlen, Krystal Miller, Robbie Moore, Amber Salas, Chris McGuckin, Vincent Jackson, Kiearra Jones, and Blake Insel** were praised by their staff as well as the CEO of the company on the outstanding job done by our Lofton Security officers. These officers embody the superior service that sets Lofton apart! Congratulations to each of you on an outstanding job!

Kudos to **Officer Feldricka Reed**, Gonzales for her outstanding performance with a tanker load. The driver attempted to load clear diesel into his tanker. Officer Reed noticed his last load was dyed diesel and would require a wash-out ticket before proceeding. The driver was reluctant, but Officer Reed contacted the client to make sure. Sure enough, it could have contaminated the load which could result in a huge financial burden to the client. Good catch! It's attention to details and knowing the ins-and-outs of your post that make our officers the best in the business. Great job, Feldricka.

Another shout-out to **Colonel Stacey Matthias**, Lake Charles. Our client reached out to Corporate to praise Colonel Matthias on the outstanding job she did during a recent investigation with an incident. *"Colonel Matthias is a great example of the pure leadership you exhibit when dealing with our clients."* Colonel Matthias supports the Outstanding Customer Program that Lofton Security has begun with our "Vision For The Future".

We are truly honored to hear reports from our clients, like the ones above, who took the time to say what an outstanding job our officers are performing for them. Keep up the excellent work!

### What's Happening This Month

May 5

Cinco de Mayo

May 6

National Nurses Day



May 14

Mother's Day



May 20

Armed Forces Day

May 29

Memorial Day

Lofton offices will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day



## “Grow Old Along with Me” By: Glenda G. Lofton, Ph.D.

As noted in my article last month, I often find myself reflecting on poems or lines from poems I memorized in Mrs. Clark’s ninth grade English class. For some reason (perhaps since Tommy and I both recently celebrated “big” birthdays), the following lines from a poem written by the English poet Robert Browning keep echoing in my head:

*“Grow old along with me!  
The best is yet to be,  
The last of life for which the first was  
made;”*

Recently, after my physical therapy for lower back pain and Tommy’s replacement of both knees, I began to question the writer’s message, particularly, “The best is yet to be.” “How old was Browning when he wrote these lines,” I wondered, “and why did he write them?” So I got out my English literature book from my freshman year at LSU (yes, I still have it), and began to read about the author and the poem. It is believed Browning wrote this poem in 1862 when he was 50. (That explains it, I thought. He was still young. At my age, 50 is definitely young!) But, I kept reading. The poem was written a year after the death of his beloved wife, the famous English poet, Elizabeth Barret Browning. When I read that, the next four lines of the poem took on even greater meaning:

*“Our times are in His hand  
Who saith, “A whole I planned,  
Youth shows but half; trust God; see  
all, nor be afraid!”*

The poem, I learned, is entitled “Rabbi Ben Ezra” and was written about a real rabbi who lived from 1092-1167 and wrote a commentary on the book of Isaiah. A strong believer in immortality, the Rabbi fled from persecution in Spain during his middle years, and found the second half of his life more pro-

potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” I loved two of the concluding lines to the poem:

*“My times be in thy hand!  
Perfect the cup as planned!”*

In today’s world, even in retirement, these same principles apply. As Tommy, who so beautifully applied these beliefs to the world of work, often reminds me, we’ve retired from employment, not from our work—living, learning, loving, serving God and others, and leaving a legacy.



With those thoughts in mind, we just returned from a Caribbean cruise with Bart, Michelle, Via and Zach. On Easter Sunday we observed God’s beautiful world sailing on the world’s largest cruise ship “Harmony of the Seas”, and to our delight the band played and sang religious songs as we sailed that morning. The staff on the ship represented countries from around the world, and they modeled one of the beliefs on which Lofton Staffing was founded, “We are all called to serve.” For Tommy and me, our grandchildren, Via and Zach, were visible evidence of the benefits of growing older, and their hugs and smiles were reminders of God’s grace—unmerited favor. We also received texts from Bret and family and friends which added to our joy and reinforced Browning’s words and the message of Easter: “Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be...”

ductive and satisfactory than the first. The ideas are consistent with the beliefs of Robert Browning, who despite the loss of his wife when their son was only 13, focused the poem’s 32 verses, and the rest of his life (he lived to 77) on Isaiah 64:8, “But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are clay, and thou our

## Memorial Day-Tomb of the Unknown Soldier By: Julie East, Corp. Marketing & Recruiting

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery serves as a memorial to honor those who have died without their remains being identified. The Tomb sarcophagus was placed above the grave of the first Unknown Soldier of World War I. West of the sarcophagus, are the crypts of the unknowns from World War II, Korea War, and Vietnam War. Those three graves are marked with white marble slabs flush with the plaza.

The remains of the Vietnam Unknown were exhumed May 14, 1998. Based on DNA testing, the remains were identified as those of Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie. It was decided that the crypt remain vacant and his remains were reburied near his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri. The Vietnam crypt cover has been replaced with the inscription “Honoring and Keeping Faith



“Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God”

**This Memorial Day...Honor all those that have served and lost their lives for our country, whether known or unknown...Thank You for your service and sacrifice.**

with America’s Missing Servicemen, 1958-1975.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and in all weather conditions. The tomb guards are soldiers, all volunteers, from the 3rd Infantry Regiment of the United States Army, known as “The Old Guard”. It is considered one of the highest honors to serve as a Sentinel at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Fewer than 20% of all volunteers are accepted for training. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Guard Identification Badge is the second least-awarded qualification badge in the US military. The soldier “walking the mat” does not wear rank insignia, so as not to outrank the Unknowns, whatever their ranks may have been.