



IN MY OPINION

By Irene Mandra

In My Opinion May 2018

Dear Members,

This will be the first time that I'm going to write something that is not an opinion. It's a fact. We are all getting older. Some more than others.

This concerns me both for our own organization and for the men and women in government who are trying to find and bring our loved ones home. It seems hard to believe

that our very dear friends Norm Kass, Phil O'Brien, and Herb Artolla been retired from DPMO almost six years ago! We are so lucky that Phil and Herb volunteer each year to come back to help the new DPAA during our annual meeting! I don't know what we or DPAA would do without them! I remember when Dan Baughman and Bill Woodier were young strapping Army and Air Force lieutenant colonels and Danz Blasser was a young Air Force master sergeant. Heck, you know things are bad when the ageless wonder Jim Connell starts to show his age. What concerns me the most is who are the men and women that are going to replace these experts with all their knowledge of the issue and who know all our cases. I hate to say I don't trust the younger folks today because I have wonderful and dear grandchildren but, let's face it, anyone younger than 40 today seems more interested in texting on their phones than anything else. Am I right? Sorry if I offended

anyone! So I just want to remind folks to be thankful and appreciative of those who are getting older and may be slowing down. I hope the leadership of DPAA has experts like Dan, Bill, Danz, and Jim to fill in when they retire because I don't know what the Agency and the families will do without them. I also want to say that I hope the men and women who make up our own organization are ready to carry on the torch of this organization as it takes a lot of work to keep it going.