

Not Quite Right News from Mark Golden

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National Kill A Mosquito Day

Washington, D.C.

August 18th has been designated by Congress as National Kill A Mosquito Day (NKAMD). This legislation has put smiles on many faces who have scratched at swollen mosquito bites. The goal of 320 million Americans deliberately dispatching 320 million blood sucking insects in one day will significantly trim back the amount of next year's buzzing population. No other insect is responsible for more deaths than mosquitoes. But, you may ask "won't 320 million of these pests be swatted, slapped, mashed, sprayed or squished as on any day besides August 18?" True. But, if $320 + 320 = 640$ million mosquito deaths occur in one day, then the dent in the predatory population means that billions will never be born. So, the effect is exponential.

What the legislation desires to bring to the forefront is that the 3,500 species of this insect, on average, breeds from conception to predatory flight in a mere eight days. An adult lays hundreds of eggs in a few days. They carry disease such as malaria and yellow fever, and bites cause inflammation, itchiness, redness, and their invasive buzzing can ruin a good time—picnic or not. Children, like we did, grow-up fearing mosquitoes.

A grassroots effort begun some ten years ago in Bucksmith, Alabama, by Mrs. Joseph McCurry is finally the law of the land. What happened ten years ago? Mrs. McCurry's husband Joe, severely injured himself in their home while in the pursuit of one such insect. Then the tiny target eluded Mrs. McCurry too. Both were bitten in their sleep that night, hence her motivation. The date? August 18th. Due to her tireless efforts, the Alabama Kill A Mosquito Day (AKAMD) has been on the books for seven years and swatting—with notable success. Most Alabamians simply call it "M Day." Mrs. McCurry had a dream "less of them critters the better!" Consider the thrust of Mosquito Day as personal revenge on a massive scale.

The Center for Disease Control fully supports the effort, they see only good coming of it. The National Sociological Association (NSA) supports the "aggressive surge attack" as they call it. But, the NSA recommends that youngsters only three years or older be inducted into the national ranks of killers. A spokesperson stated, "A small child will sense pride and esteem given by parents upon a toddler's deadly swat or squish. Too young and the compliments of good aim and death will be lost. Family unity due to wholesome purposes such as hunting, will heighten a child's welcome entry into the global food chain."

The current number of mosquitoes in America at any moment is literally a moving target. Scientists estimate the number at 735,000,000,000,000,000. One scientist commented, "For America to lead the way in global insect-ogicide is a wonderful start. If each person joins in by targeting even one, than we begin to gain a great lasting victory over these enemies."

Merchants and retailers support NKAMD or simply, Kill Mosquitoes Day, due to projections of soaring sales of inexpensive fly swatters and fly paper, or traps, repellents, traditional chemical and "green" bug sprays, foggers and electric zappers, etc. Each dead insect represents new insects not being born. Make Mrs. Joseph McCurry proud (who sadly passed on before seeing her dream become reality) and swat a bad guy bug come the 18th.

National Kill A Mosquito Day on August 18th is also National Mail Order Catalogue Day. Do you best to honor both.