

A happy Summer to you all from Ellen and me. We hope you're enjoying the weather and able to get out and rid yourself of the pounds you gained sitting inside during the winter. Sounds a lot easier than it is, Right?

Ellen and I had plans for an active Spring and early Summer which included a quick trip to Mobile to scope out the reunion venues. But all that came to a very sudden stop on April 17 when Ellen, while doing some cleaning, slipped on a wet floor, fell and broke her femur. Five days in the hospital and 10 days in a rehab facility, she finally got to come home. Two to three more weeks of home healthcare giving instructions on exercises, walking with a walker, etc., finally took her to where she is now, going to physical therapy twice a week. But she's made great improvements, has been walking short steps without help and using a cane more and more. The surgeon said it would be a minimum of 12 weeks for a woman her age, but she's ahead of that schedule due to a lot of determination, exercise and hard work. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it will just be a painful memory.

I hope you were able to see the "60 Minutes" segment on Sunday, July 2, regarding the readiness of today's Navy. Nora O'Donnell caught up with the USS NIMITZ, a carrier operating in the Pacific. She spoke with the admiral in charge of PACFLT, whose name escapes me. He is a 40 year naval officer, former pilot, Top Gun graduate and was clearly in charge – of PACFLT and the interview. The main jest of the interview had to do with the U. S. readiness in the face of a growing Chinese Navy and China's threat to take back Taiwan. According to the interview, the Chinese now have a larger Navy than the U. S. with over 350 fighting ships. But the admiral assured us that larger does not necessarily mean better. If you have the capability with your TV provider to go back and see former telecasts, I would greatly suggest you look at this one. I was overly impressed with the admiral's ability to speak, answer all questions honestly and the total leadership that he presented. I'm sure Ms. O'Donnell is quite used to getting her way and having the upper hand in most that she does, but this time I think she met her match and knew it wasn't her that was in charge of this one!

Again, Ellen and I wish you all a very safe, happy and prosperous summer season. She's starting to get out a little more, enjoying a pool where she can exercise and do some water aerobics and I'm hitting the golf ball about 3 times a week when the weather cooperates. Actually, I'm hitting the ball more times that I like on most occasions! But at this age it's more about the ability to get out and the score shouldn't matter that much. I keep telling myself that, but I remember what Adolph Rupp said one time when a reporter told him the score really didn't matter: "If it doesn't matter, then why the hell do they keep it?" Nuff said.