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FANCY DEGREE - 222 members of the 535 members of Congress (41%) hold law degrees including 55 of 100 senators (source: Congressional Research Service).

FIVE THOUSAND A DAY - 1.7 million more Americans are employed as of 3/31/17 than were employed as of 3/31/16, an increase of +4,655 new jobs per day. There were 153.0 million employed Americans as of 3/31/17 compared to 151.3 million employed Americans as of 3/31/16 (source: Department of Labor).

NOT ENOUGH WORKERS - 73% of contractors surveyed in January 2017 said they had "a hard time filling salaried or hourly craft construction jobs" in 2016 (source: Associated General Contractors of America).

These are the views of James Steen & Jason Pearson. No independent analysis has been performed and the material should not be construed as investment advice.

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Spring cleaning is defined as "a thorough cleaning of a house or room, typically undertaken in spring." But perhaps it can be more than that. The following is a story about a woman who discovered that spring cleaning isn't *just* about cleaning. It can be about unearthing treasures you had long forgotten. Treasures you didn't know you had.

Here's what she said:

This year, spring cleaning for me didn't mean cleaning my house. I was cleaning out a box! In the midst of doing my spring cleaning this year, I found something very dear and old that I've been carrying around with me for over 10 years.

I am sure we all have something like this: a little trinket box, a lunch box, or an envelope. Something that we have been carrying around with us unconsciously everywhere we live because it has been a part of who we are—yet we do not ever look through it and sometimes forget what we have kept in them.

In my case, it's my memory box. I noticed that I have taken this box with me everywhere. When I move, the box moves. When I clean, I move the box from one place to another to make or free up space. While doing my spring cleaning, I moved it and thought, "What is so important in this box and why do I still keep it around?" I decided that it was time to go through the memory box to find out what was so important about it.

In my memory box I found: birthday cards, anniversary cards, letters, and poems both from my spouse and children that they had written in their grade school years. I also found pictures my kids drew with dates on them. As I looked at the dates on the pictures and letters, I was transported back in time. I could distinctly remember the feelings I felt the day I first saw those things, and remember the many things that followed during that time frame.

Going through my memory box, I started thinking about my *future* memory box and what kind of memories I would put in there. I realized that every moment is important, because the moments we live in create memories, and memories are more valuable than any other form of riches. "*Memories are timeless treasures of the Heart.*" Take time to notice the things you tend to overlook while you do your spring cleaning this year.

Happy spring cleaning!

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