



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

From the Captain's Log Last of the Greatest Generation



A few years back I wrote about a client of mine, Mary Turner. I represented Mary on a pro-bono basis (free legal services) for over 15 years. She died last month, a few weeks shy of her 101st birthday, but she lived a full life by all measures. Mary was born in Hopkinton NH on 1/9/1924. At the age of 17, during WWII, having just graduated from high school, she asked her mother if she could go to CT and help the war effort by working as a "Rosie the Riveter" at the Curtis-Vought airplane factory in Stratford, CT. Her older brother was stationed at the Groton Submarine Base not far from away and while in port could keep an eye on his little sister. Mary was tall and slender and would straddle the outside fuselage of the Vought F4U Corsair fighters, with rivet gun in hand, while her co-worker worked from the inside holding the anvil. Over the 18-months Mary worked there she lost count of the number of fuselages she helped build of these amazing fighter planes for the US Army Air Corp., which helped turn the tide of the war. Service ran deep in Mary's family, her grandfather a US Naval Captain in WWI, her dad a US Naval Captain in WWI and WWII, her brother a submariner in WWII.



But Mary's life also saw tragedy as well, her 1st husband was a US Airforce Pilot assigned to the United Nations. While ferrying UN supplies to Africa in the 1960's his cargo jet crashed, killing all aboard. Mary eventually remarried to Garth, a US Airforce enlisted man, and they were stationed for a long time at the airbase on Key West, FL. There, Mary and Garth each rode their Harley Davidson's to the bars on weekends and Mary would often sit with Ernest Hemmingway, she says he was funny – but drank an awful lot. When Garth retired from the Air Force they moved back to NH and bought a home in Franklin, where they lived until Garth's death. Mary then moved into a nursing home. Mary had no children and outlived all her relatives. Her passing went almost unnoticed, her funeral attended by just my wife and I and the funeral director on a cold December afternoon at the NH Veteran's Cemetery. But we laid to rest one of the last of the Greatest Generation.

When I hear our current crop of children/grandchildren whine that their internet is not fast enough, or their Starbucks barista didn't put enough whipped creme on their latte, I wonder how they would have fared in Mary's era. Maybe, and hopefully, we will never have to know. Mary – fair winds. •

February 2025 News



Auto Accidents and Traumatic Brain Injuries

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, auto accidents are the third-leading cause of traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) in the United States (falls rank #1). TBIs can range from mild concussions that clear up relatively quickly, to permanently disabling injuries and/or premature death.

Head strikes, i.e. direct blows to the head (e.g., windshield, steering wheel, other wreckage) can cause TBI's, but also whiplash—a sudden back-and-forth jerking of the neck and head during a crash can also cause the brain to slam against the hard interior of the skull, leading to TBIs. TBIs can also result from objects that penetrate the skull, but this, fortunately, is a rarer occurrence.



As if trauma to the brain wasn't enough, there may also be bleeding and swelling of the brain tissue, which could necessitate surgery. Nerve damage is another common byproduct of TBIs, as is chemical changes in the brain tissue as it reacts to trauma.

The brain has four lobes: frontal, temporal, parietal, and occipital, each is associated with different functions. The nature of a TBI may vary from person to person, depending on which lobe(s) was injured. TBIs can result in impaired motor skills; reasoning; diminished ability to process information; memory loss; changes in personality; and compromised language skills and speech perception, among other conditions.

Reduce your risk of incurring an auto accident-related TBI:

- Always wear your seatbelt.
- Make sure your young child is properly secured in a child-safety seat.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs (legal or illegal).
- Do not text and drive.

If you suffer a TBI due to another driver's negligence, contact an auto accident attorney to protect your rights. An attorney can also determine if other factors, such as an automotive defect, played a role in your injury. •

Top-Shelf Stuff



Garrett Morgan, born in Kentucky in 1877 to freed-slave parents and who later became an Ohio citizen, is an often-overlooked inventor in American history.

In 1895, Morgan became a sewing machine repairman, which guided him to an early invention: hair-straightening cream. We'll explain. While sewing, heat was created by the friction of rapidly moving needles upon fabric, sometimes scorching it. In seeking a chemical solution, Morgan found that one of his concoctions also straightened out the

fabric threads. Further experimentation on his neighbor's dog (fur) and then on himself (hair) proved fruitful. A thriving business was born, paving the way for a land purchase that evolved into one of the first African American country clubs in Ohio.

In 1914, Morgan received a patent for a smoke protection hood. Morgan had witnessed the perils of industrial fires — smoke, toxic gases, etc. — on employees and rescue workers. Morgan utilized the device himself in real time when he assisted in rescue efforts following a water intake explosion beneath Lake Erie in 1916. His invention eventually garnered a contract from the U.S. Navy and was the precursor to the gas masks donned during World War I.

In the early 20th century, busy intersections were outfitted with traffic signals that had only two positions — stop and go, with no interval in between — and were often manually operated. Confusion and collisions among motorists, animal-drawn wagons, bicyclists, and pedestrians frequently reigned supreme. Morgan designed an electric-powered T-shaped pole unit featuring three positions: stop, go, and an all-directional stop position to restore order. In essence, the yellow light. He received patents in the United States, Great Britain, and Canada.

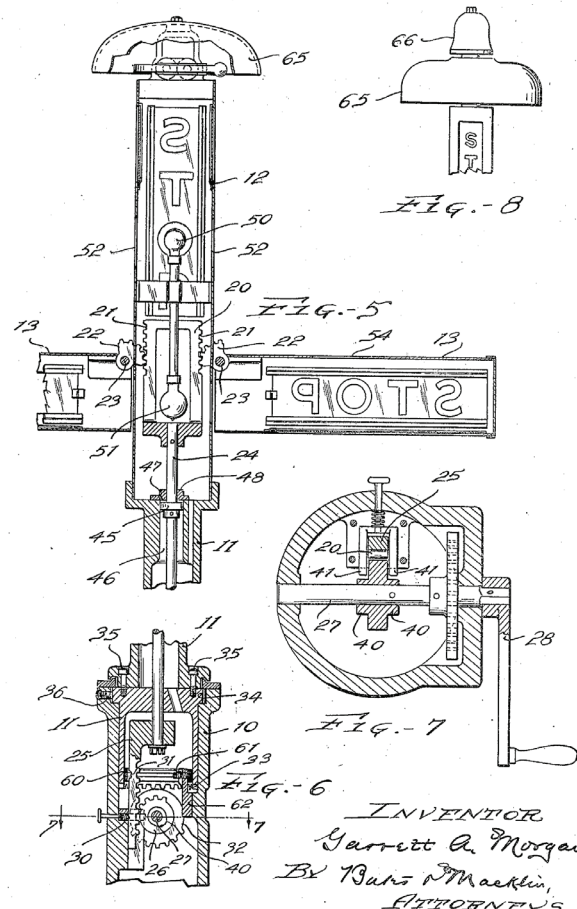
Morgan occasionally referred to himself as the “Black Edison.” The National Inventors Hall of Fame agreed, inducting him as one of their members in 2005. •

Nov. 20, 1923.

G. A. MORGAN
TRAFFIC SIGNAL

Filed Feb. 27, 1922

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February 2025 Notable Dates

Feb. 1
No Politics Day

Feb. 2
Groundhog Day

Feb. 9
Super Bowl Sunday

Feb. 14
Valentine's Day

Feb. 17
Presidents' Day

Feb. 22
Margarita Day

Feb. 27
Polar Bear Day

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Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



Last of the
Greatest
Generation

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Shining a (Head)Light on Safety

Imagine driving at night with high beams constantly on — without blinding oncoming drivers (or drivers in front of you with the rearview-mirror rebound). Well, the technology to pull off this feat is available and enjoyed in various countries. Unfortunately, the United States is lagging behind.

Adaptive driving beams (ADB) are headlights that utilize a system of LED lights, cameras, and sensors to detect other cars on the road and adjust their light patterns accordingly. Some ADB systems use shutters within the headlamp assembly, while others utilize multiple LEDs, some of which disable when their light is directed at another vehicle. In other words, the light emanating from your ADB headlights will dim for the occupants of vehicles in your light's path but will retain full brightness to the sides or over top of said vehicles.

ADB's help drivers maintain good visibility without lifting a finger, making it easier to spot animals, pedestrians, and bicyclists and navigate curves without impairing the vision of other motorists. AAA conducted a study and found that ADB lighting systems improved roadway lighting by as much as 86% and produced no more glare than standard low beams.

ADB's have been taboo in this country due to a standard that car headlights need distinct low and high beams. ADB's don't meet this standard. The Infrastructure and Jobs Act passed in November 2021 seemingly gave the go-ahead for ADB's; however, a few bureaucratic and specifications bugs apparently still need to be worked out before automakers can incorporate the technology in all its intended glory ... hopefully soon.

If you are injured due to the negligence of another driver, contact our firm to protect your rights. ●

