

The Arnold Sentinel

“Serving the South Loup River Valley”

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2026

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“Objects of the most stupendous magnitude, measures in which the lives and liberties of millions, born and unborn are most essentially interested, are now before us. We are in the midst of revolution, the most complete, unexpected, and remarkable of any in the history of the world.”
- John Adams

250 Years of the American Dream: What’s Your Hope for the Future?

As the country celebrates 250 years of freedom on July 4, 2026, the *Sentinel* reached out to five of its readers - all members of The Greatest Generation and the Silent Generation.

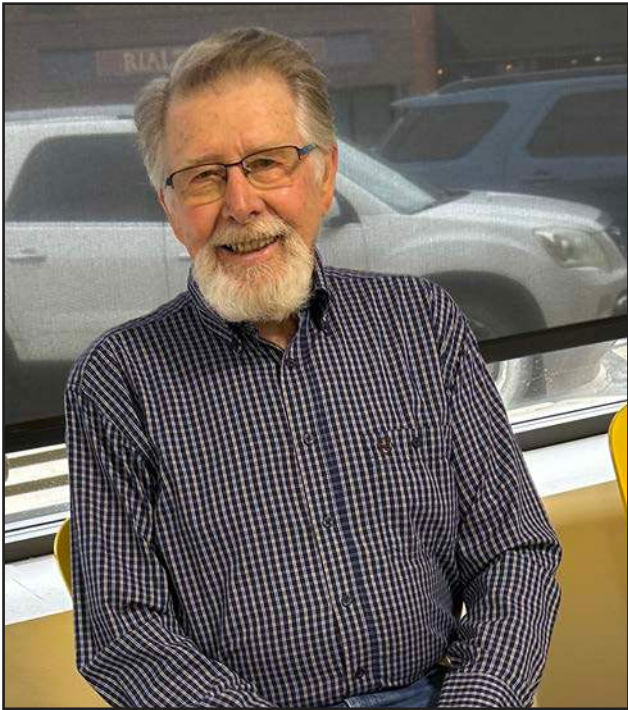
The Greatest Generation—born between 1901 and 1927—lived through the Great Depression and fought as the primary enlisted forces in World War II. This cohort also navigated unprecedented technological shifts, from the birth of aviation and radio to the dawn of the atomic age and early television. Their historical timeline spans several major eras. Less than 0.5% of this generation remains alive today.

The Silent Generation (born between 1928 and 1945) makes up only about 4% of the overall American population. They lived through the Great Depression, World War II rationing, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. This profound turbulence shaped their cautious, resilient, and traditionalist approach to life.

A person born in 1932 has a slim but possible mathematical chance, ranging roughly between (0.2%) and (0.5%), of surviving to see the country’s 250th anniversary.

Their voices and wisdom are important at this time in the country’s history, so we asked them the question, “As America looks towards the next 250 years, what piece of advice or hopes do you have for America?”

Thank you to each one for allowing us to hear their voice.



Roger Best
Silent Generation (1928-1945)

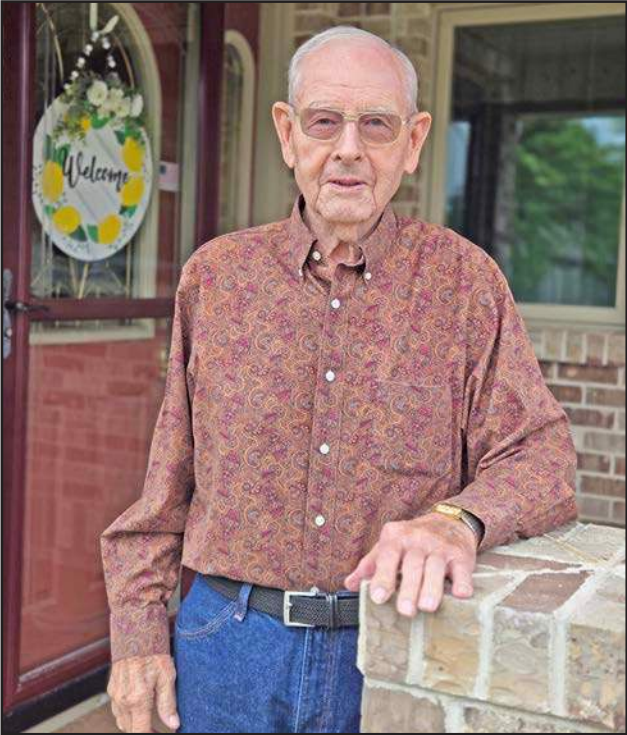
We need to reverse the current national trend towards less social interaction and more towards where people mingle and join together to achieve common goals at both the local and national levels. Radical changes in technology, such as computers, the internet, and now artificial intelligence, have caused people to live in more individual silos where they can tailor and limit their views and human interactions.

My hope for the future is for our nation to become more like our Arnold area community, where people interact to fund and complete projects. Individuals have many options for how they can use their time and resources. In Arnold they join together to develop ideas, generate funding, and achieve final results. This type of community involvement has worked for our country in the past and needs to be our foundation for the next 250 years.



Mildred Smith
Greatest Generation (1901-1927)
Current age: 104

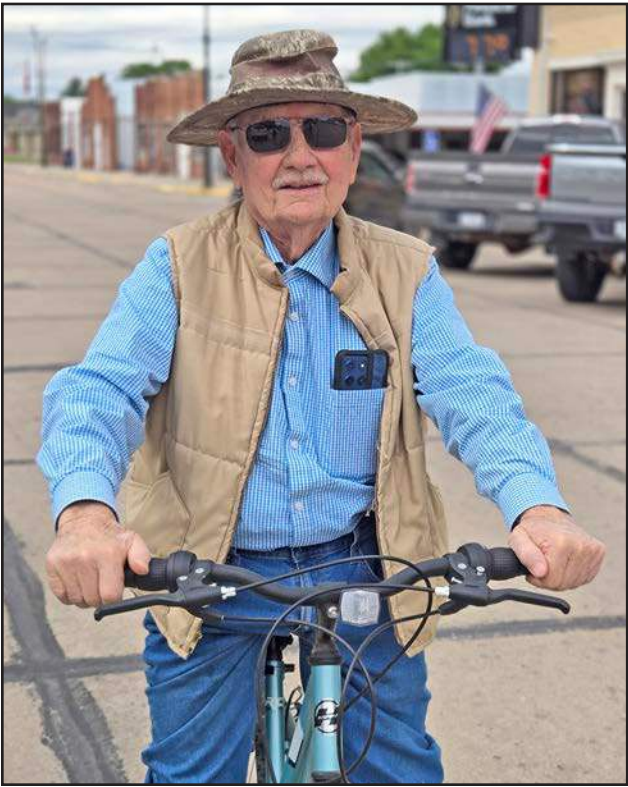
I am hoping for more advancement in medical care and more peace between nations. I don’t really know what to say, I’m just happy with the way things are. Look where we’ve come from! From putting a man on the moon to going from dirt roads to paved roads.



Max Smith
Silent Generation (1928-1945)

As I get older, I have seen many changes in this Nation. My father was in WWI, my brother in WW2, and I served in the Korean War. My family believed in this country and what it stood for. The country’s declaration was framed as a declaration of dependence on God. My prayer would be that we would work together more and think of our country more than our politics. May we continue to trust and depend on God for the future of the nation and our families.

Congratulations America for 250 years.



Duane Romans
Silent Generation (1928-1945)

I look back 250 years, on the history that I was taught. (I believe I was taught the important parts of history as it evolved with time, but certainly not all history). One thing comes to mind that made America the greatest country on earth was freedom.

Freedom allows you to see a need and then provide that need. A good education helps see needs that one might not normally be aware of.

I believe our great country is on the path back to more freedom. I hope the country continues on this path and common sense prevails.



Betty Cole
Silent Generation (1928-1945)

I believe the next 250 years will experience much as it did the first 250 years, and will know: “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

Life is for learning. There will be choices to make all the way, and each one will learn their choices, make a difference, just as those who lived in the first 250 years, and find there is more to learn.