



Association of Former Intelligence Officers

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AFIO Colleagues,

My mother was born in January 1918, the last of nine children in a family of sharecroppers in the Red River Valley in northeast Texas. As an infant, she caught the dreaded great influenza and survived. She went on to raise four children, serve as a minister's wife for more than four decades, and go to Turkey as a missionary in the late 1950s. We buried mother several years ago at age 98. She was a tenacious fighter and sweet spirit to the last.

Like mother, America and Americans are tough, resilient, and compassionate. We have a monumental task ahead of us in coming months, but we will survive this current crisis and persevere. I urge all of you to be smart, safe, take care of yourselves and your families.

AFIO will continue to be there, representing the many American patriots who have sacrificed and served our nation for so many decades under difficult and dangerous circumstances. In order to protect our membership, we took the decision to postpone our May AFIO luncheon until the fall. We will advertise the fall event well in advance for all of you to mark your calendars. In the interim, we will continue to share news, information, and ideas on a regular basis via our weekly emailed newsletter (the "WIN") and our scholarly journal "The Intelligencer," the latest copy of which has just gone to press.

And once this crisis has passed, and it will pass, AFIO will continue to perform thought leadership in the areas of intelligence and national security. Our new chairman and the AFIO board are working on a number of exciting new ideas about how to better represent our community and inform the American public. We look forward to rolling out some of those ideas once public events are again possible.