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Made in America Panel Wants to See Veterans get the Opportunities and Support they Deserve

Host Neal Asbury, together with co-host Dr. Rich Roffman, opened their nationally syndicated "Neal Asbury's Made in America" show on Radio America (aired by almost 100 affiliates) by noting that despite the vastly improved economy, there are still too many people left out of the workforce. And that the nation should continue to be optimistic about our economic future despite the roller coaster week experienced by the stock market.

The first guest on Made in America was retired rear admiral Thomas Charles Lynch who was Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland from 1991 to 1994. He retired in 1995, in the position of Director of the Navy Staff at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Lynch was invited on the show to discuss the fact that of the 21 million military veterans only 49 percent are employed, with 1.3 under-employed, and with 20 percent making under \$15 an hour. It is estimated that 1.4 million veterans are in danger of losing their homes. Lynch is working to improve the economic future of veterans.

"Most Americans don't understand the plight of veterans or the stress that it causes on the family when veterans cannot make the money they need to survive. We have highly skilled veterans coming home that possess the work ethic, discipline and team building skills that employers look for. We have the most educated military in history and they deserve an opportunity to make a good living," maintained Lynch.

Dr. Roffman concurred, adding that veterans have learned today's most in-demand technologies, and they will make great job prospects.

Neal reminded listeners that a previous show tackled the question of unnecessary licensing that keeps veterans and others with the skills required, but lack a license that can take a year or more to qualify.

"We need the government to do more for our veterans and give Americans a greater appreciation for the contributions of veterans and the value they bring to the workforce. Since only 1/2 percent of Americans have ever served in the military, they often fall off the radar screen but we need to find solutions for veterans. We need to help them gain college degrees so they can apply for good paying obs. They make such sacrifices, we need to reward them for their service," proposed Lynch.

Neal would like to see a partnership between entrepreneurs, the government and academia, as

well as with the military.

Dr. Roffman noted that "people in the military don't work by the hour --they do the work until it's done. They have great skills and live in the real world. In short—they accomplish."

Neal returned to the topic of the fluctuating stock market, but proposed that most people are not invested in the stock market, so we should be paying more attention to the job market which has seen a spike in jobs due to a revitalized domestic energy industry currently producing 10 million barrels a day – the most since 1970.

Dr. Roffman agreed, adding that the U.S. is now exporting oil, which makes it less dependent on Latin and Middle East oil.

"Meanwhile, GDP could hit 5.4 percent – an historic high. We are creating jobs and Trump's approval rating has now surpassed Obama's during this same time in his administration," noted Dr. Roffman.

The next guest on Made in America was Carl Schramm, author of Burn the Business Plan, which proposes that entrepreneurship has been completely misrepresented by the media, business books, university programs and MBA courses. He believes that the perception of what it takes to start a business no longer matches the reality - which is bad news for everyone because it stops great ideas coming to life.

"If you need any proof about the value of a business plan, neither Apple, Microsoft or Google started with a business plan. It's revealing to note that contemporary business plan writing was created through the lens of hi-tech companies. But 99% of businesses have nothing to do with hi-tech, such as franchises or small service or retail stores. Instead of business plans, teach young people about the way businesses actually work, how they get started, and how they prosper. What's troubling is that 4 out of 5 instructors teaching entrepreneurship classes have never been an entrepreneur. You wouldn't want to learn surgery from someone who has never been in an operating room," maintained Schramm.

The final guest on Made in America was Jim Roberts from The Heritage Foundation, whose organization over the past 24 years, has released the Index of Economic Freedom, an annual index and ranking to measure the degree of economic freedom in the world's nations. The creators of the index took an approach similar to Adam Smith's in The Wealth of Nations that "basic institutions that protect the liberty of individuals to pursue their own economic interests result in greater prosperity for

the larger society".

"The world average score of 61.1 is the highest recorded in the 24-year history of the Index. The world average is more than three points higher than that recorded in the first edition of the Index in 1995. Among the 180 countries ranked, scores improved for 102 countries and declined for 75. Only three remained unchanged," according to Roberts, who added that the Index is based on a) the rule of law; b) size of the government (taxes); c) regulations (cronyism); d) investment in other countries.

Roberts noted that the U.S. ranking started slipping 10 years ago, and the U.S. rank had previously not even hit the top 20. Although it's gone up to 18 out of 180 countries, the U.S. has to overcome out-of-control spending and corruption. Roberts predicted that under Trump, the U.S. ranking will continue to improve.

Neal and Dr. Roffman have given light to rampant corruption and cronyism under Obama, and agreed with Roberts that it can keep entrepreneurs from starting a new business. Another factor is the growth of licensing and regulations, which includes the fact that to become a shampooer, a candidate must attend 248 days of study.

Neal and Dr. Roffman want to see America embrace the welfare of our veterans.

"We live in the greatest nation in the world. We created the free market economy. The U.S. has helped create wealth in America but also help sustain the economies of other countries. The U.S. is a nation of dreamers. We want to be able to let veterans become dreamers—and fulfill those dreams," concluded Neal.

Each week Neal Asbury's Made in America provides Neal's insights into the week's top news stories and their impact on the worlds of entrepreneurship, small business ownership and the overall economy. Neal's analysis, together with co-host Dr. Richard Roffman, a veteran 30-year publisher with extensive domestic and international experience, takes a non-biased approach based on real life experience in business as an American manufacturer and exporter. Made in America airs nationally each Saturday from 7-8:00 PM on Radio America. Link to Made in America at <http://www.nealasburysmadeinamerica.com>.



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