

Saving People Money Since 1936

... that's before there
were TV Dinners.

GEICO has been serving up great car insurance and fantastic customer service for more than 75 years. Get a quote and see how much you could save today.

geico.com | 1-800-947-AUTO | Local office

GEICO



Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2015 GEICO

Contents

MARCH 2016

Life in These United States 64 FUNNY FAMILY STORIES

You can't choose your relatives—but you can choose to laugh at them.

Extraordinary People 74 ANGELS IN AMERICA

Heroes who make a difference in our darkest hours.

REPORTED BY
AMY PATUREL

Drama in Real Life 82 MAULED!

An Arctic trek turns into a desperate attempt to stay alive after a chance encounter with a polar bear.

SABRINA SHANKMAN
FROM THE E-BOOK
MELTDOWN

Medicine 100 A LEGACY DENIED

Many terminally ill patients want their death to help others. So why won't hospitals let them donate their organs?

JOSHUA MEZRICH, MD,
& JOSEPH SCALEA, MD
FROM THE ATLANTIC

Human Interest 108 EDITH'S HOUSE

As steel and concrete rose around us, my unlikely friendship with an intriguing old woman grew too.

BARRY MARTIN WITH PHILIP LERMAN
FROM THE BOOK UNDER ONE ROOF

114 Personal Essay ROMANCING THE TERRORIST

A journalist posed online as a young woman interested in ISIS. What she wanted was a story. What she got was the fright of her life.

FROM THE BOOK IN THE
SKIN OF A JINADIST

122 My Most Unforgettable Character

**BILLIE HOLIDAY
SANG TO ME**
She's been the soundtrack to my life—and one of my greatest teachers.

LARA DOWNES
FROM THE RUMPUS



4 Editor's Note 6 Letters



P. | 16

READER FAVORITES

- 16 Points to Ponder
- 27 100-Word True Stories
- 28 Photo of Lasting Interest
- 54 News from the World of Medicine
- 58 All in a Day's Work
- 92 The Moth
- 96 Laughter, the Best Medicine
- 113 Laugh Lines
- 127 That's Outrageous!
- 132 Look Twice
- 141 Word Power
- 143 Humor in Uniform
- 144 Quotable Quotes

Everyday Heroes

8 The Bold Bus Driver

ALYSSA JUNG

11 The Birthday Party Project

BETH DREHER

VOICES & VIEWS

Department of Wit

13 Best Companies Ever!

You'll be rushing to get your application in after you hear about their generous benefits—working from home after 6 p.m.!

FROM THE ONION

Finish This Sentence

18 The Movie Everyone But Me Loves Is ...

Words of Lasting Interest

20 Mother of the Bride

As she considers advice to give her daughter, Ruth Pennebaker realizes that marriage is an ever-changing adventure.

FROM TEXAS MONTHLY

You Be the Judge

25 The Case of the Relentless Robocalls

Should a company pay for continuously dialing the wrong number?

VICKI GLEMBÖCKI

ART OF LIVING

31 I'm a Slob, and You Should Be One Too!

ANDY SIMMONS

Food

34 Genius Uses for Your Microwave

KELSEY KLOSS

36 Foods That Trick Your Taste Buds

KELSEY KLOSS

Technology

38 Picture This

Health

44 Urine Trouble

SUSAN INCE

50 A Lifesaving At-Home Checkup

JESSICA CASSITY

52 Seeing My Diagnosis Differently

MELISSA ZHU MURPHY FROM PULSE—VOICES FROM THE HEART OF MEDICINE



P. | 36

WHO KNEW?

128 13 Things Sleep Doctors Won't Tell You

MICHELLE CROUCH

130 Mind-Blowing Facts About Some Beloved Songs

BRANDON SPEKTOR

134 Psychoanalyzing Dictators

DAVE GILSON FROM MOTHER JONES

138 6 Priceless Things Sold on eBay

MARC MANCINI FROM MENTAL FLOSS

P. | 52



PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIN PATRICE O'BRIEN
WARDROBE STYLIST: ELYSHA LENKIN; PROP STYLIST: SARAH GUIDO-LAAKSO FOR HALLEY RESOURCES; GROOMING: AMY KLEWITZ AND CHRISTINE HERBECK