



David Glatthorn, Esq.

## DAVID J. GLATTHORN CIVIL TRIAL LAWYER

AGGRESSIVE, ETHICAL REPRESENTATION FOR OVER 30 YEARS

# The Bahamas Need Our Help!



There are multiple agencies available for donations of either cash or goods (check ahead of time as there are generally lists of certain items that are necessary).

If you have any questions about a particular charity, go to [CharityNavigator.org](http://CharityNavigator.org) before giving.

I prefer the Salvation Army because I know they are a very legitimate organization and all funds go to the specific designated disaster. The internet address is [helpsalvationarmy.org](http://helpsalvationarmy.org). You can also go through [Bahamas.com](http://Bahamas.com) or the Bahamas Red Cross at <https://bahamasredcross.org>

Also, Amazon is accepting wish lists and cash donations via its website [Amazon.com/DisasterRelief](http://Amazon.com/DisasterRelief).

South Florida dodged the bullet or else we would have seen the type of devastation that the Bahamians are dealing with. It could be our turn next time. Please do whatever you can to help these poor people who in many cases have lost everything. •





# Mexican Pumpkin Punch

This festive fall punch comes with additional options, including an alcoholic variation.

## INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 4 cinnamon sticks
- 1 29-ounce can (or about 3 ½ c.) of pure pumpkin
- 2 limes
- Rum (optional)
- Pineapple chunks and/or pecans (optional)

## PREPARATION

- Add 12 cups water, brown sugar, and cinnamon sticks to a large pot and boil over medium-high heat, stirring until the sugar is dissolved. Stir in the pure pumpkin and return to a simmer.
- Meanwhile, remove the zest from the limes in wide strips with a vegetable peeler. Add to the pot and simmer 15 minutes.
- Let the mixture cool, then refrigerate 2-3 hours. The pumpkin pulp will settle to the bottom.
- Working in batches, ladle the liquid into a fine-mesh strainer set over a pitcher. Discard pumpkin pulp and lime zest. Return the cinnamon sticks to the punch and refrigerate until serving time.
- Pour into ice-filled glasses. Add a splash of rum, pineapple, and/or pecans, if desired. •



# Not Your Ordinary Mammal



The duck-billed platypus looks like it was cobbled together by a mad scientist, à la Frankenstein's monster. It has the traits of a beaver, with its paddle-shaped tail; an otter, with its sleek, furry body; and a duck, with its bill and webbed feet. But the weirdness doesn't stop there.

Duck-billed platypuses lay eggs—one of only two mammals to do so (the spiny anteater is the other). One or two eggs hatch in roughly 10 days, and the babies are weaned in approximately three months. Female platypuses do not have teats like most mammals. Instead they have milk “patches” where milk is secreted, and the newbies lap it up. It's akin to sweating milk.

They might not look the part, but duck-billed platypuses are strict carnivores; no plants make the menu. They prefer crayfish, shrimp, and other shellfish, but insects

and worms are nice side dishes. Adult platypuses don't have teeth, just grinding plates. When they scoop up their dinner, the gravel or dirt that tags along helps them mash their food.

Male platypuses possess a venomous spur in each hind leg, which comes in handy for defense and fighting over mating privileges. One injection can kill a small mammal; the pain can be excruciating for humans.

Platypuses are most comfortable in the water. They have waterproof fur and while underwater, skin folds cover their eyes and ears, and their nose seals shut. During the approximately two minutes they can stay submerged, they rely on receptors in their bill to navigate and detect potential food.

If you want to see a platypus in the wild, pack your bags for eastern Australia or Tasmania, the only two places you will find this rebel among mammals. •

# ‘Say It Ain’t So, Joe!’



One century ago, the Chicago White Sox were overwhelming favorites to win the 1919 World Series. However, disgruntled players and opportunistic mobsters contributed to a tainted outcome, as the underdog Cincinnati Reds emerged victorious.

White Sox first baseman “Chick” Gandil is alleged to have met with gambler Joseph “Sport” Sullivan—it was the era of nicknames—to discuss the possibility of throwing the Series. Gandil recruited seven teammates to join him, the most famous being outfielder “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, who, incidentally, wore shoes when he played.

Gandil negotiated a \$100,000 deal, with \$20,000 to be paid immediately after each loss (the World Series was best-of-nine back then) and split among the players.

But the scent of a plot was in the air. There were murmurings among sportswriters, and betting odds shifted drastically.

The World Series unfolded. Some games featured head-scratching plays and performances. The mobsters shortchanged the players. Ticked-off players decided to play to win. The mobsters, being mobsters, made death threats. The White Sox eventually lost the Series.

Major League Baseball (MLB) power brokers appeared satisfied to let the controversy fade away, unexamined. However, the following season, evidence that a regular-season game had been fixed forced their hand. The spotlight returned to the 1919 World Series.

A grand jury convened. The White Sox players allegedly spilled their guts, leading to nine indictments of conspiracy. However, all the paperwork related to the grand-jury confessions mysteriously vanished, upending the case. The “Black Sox” players were found not guilty on all counts. They were, however, forever banned from professional baseball by MLB Commissioner Kenesaw Landis.

Ever since, baseball has been on high alert for gambler influence on the sport. Pete Rose can tell you all about it. ●

## October 2019 Notable Dates

**October 2** – National Produce Misting Day

**October 4** – National Taco Day

**October 7** – National Child Health Day

**October 10** – National Cake Decorating Day

**October 15** – National I Love Lucy Day

**October 17** – National Black Poetry Day

**October 24** – National Bologna Day

**October 27** – National Black Cat Day







The Bahamas  
Need Our Help!  
pg 1

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## Military Personnel and 3M Earplugs

In 2016, Moldex-Metric Inc. filed a whistleblower lawsuit on behalf of the U.S. government against 3M (formerly Aearo Technologies, Inc.), manufacturer of the Dual-Ended Combat Arms Earplugs Version 2 (CAEv2) that were used by the military. The suit alleged that 3M failed to disclose defects in the design of their earplugs for over a decade. As such, the government did not seek other protective options, and military personnel suffered resultant hearing damage.

CAEv2 earplugs were designed with a dual purpose: One end would restrict all sound; the other end could be used to restrict high-decibel sound but allow low-level sound to reach the ear to enable continued verbal communication. However, the earplugs were too short to be inserted correctly. They frequently loosened imperceptibly, allowing high-decibel noise to damage the ears.

Military personnel have experienced hearing loss, total hearing loss, and tinnitus. Tinnitus is a condition in which phantom sounds such as ringing, humming, buzzing, etc., interfere with hearing external sounds. These injuries also take an emotional, mental, and financial toll.

3M settled the whistleblower case for \$9.1 million in July 2018 but admitted no liability. 3M was penalized for false advertising and reimbursed the U.S. government for the cost of purchasing their product.

The settlement had no bearing on individuals harmed by CAEv2. Anyone who served in the military between 2003 and 2015, wore these earplugs, and suffered hearing damage might be entitled to compensation. Tens of thousands of military veterans may have been affected. If you are among them, contact a product liability attorney to protect your rights. Don't delay... claim-filing deadlines differ from state to state. •

