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Happy Holidays from Milestone Project Management!



December 2009

The Milestone (on) Times Some News That's Fit to Print

In This Issue

[New Technologies for Old Endoscopy](#)

[Health Care - Elsewhere!](#)

[Milestone Gets "Serna-fied"](#)

[Toys for Afghan Tots!](#)

Quick Links

[Milestone Project Management](#)

[m-Architects](#)

[SSR Engineers](#)

[Forney Construction](#)

[More about Jeff Steiner](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Dear Caryn,

This month, we are featuring our recently completed Endoscopy project, and we have a first hand report on the French health care system from guest contributor Jeff Steiner. We are also introducing you to the newest member of our staff, Eric Serna. Of course, you may unsubscribe at any time if you do not wish to receive future mailings. Just use the "Unsubscribe" button at the bottom of the page.



New Technologies for Old Endoscopy



St. Luke's Episcopal Health System recently completed a world-class endoscopy suite at the O'Quinn Medical Towers in Houston, Texas. The project included the complete renovation of an existing procedure room and scope cleaning room into a high-tech suite for endoscopy procedures.

While the renovation had been planned for months in advance, the actual construction of the project, including City of Houston and TDSHS inspections and installation of the equipment, was **completed in only 8 days!**

The use of a GE floor-mounted [NuBoom](#) allowed for a speedy installation. A traditional ceiling-mounted boom would have required installing steel supports above the ceiling, increasing the construction time and the coordination with existing HVAC and electrical systems. St. Luke's Clinical Engineering Services worked side-by-side with the contractor and equipment installers to complete the complex cabling required for a custom video display that was a first for GE.

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Health Care - Elsewhere!



Inspired by the debate over American health care reform, Milestone tapped Jeff Steiner to give an overview of the French health care system. Jeff has lived in France for the past few years and is the creator of the [Americans in France](#) website, a resource for Americans looking to live or travel in France.

"French healthcare isn't really socialized; the French state doesn't run everything. What you have is government insurance (Assurance Maladie) on one side that covers about 70% of any given treatment. On the other side is a mix of private/public hospitals, doctors (most of whom are in private practice), nurses (many are independent and like doctors

in private practice) and private (but heavily regulated) labs and pharmacies.

The government insurance is financed through taxes. Looking at my last pay slip, about 13.5% of what I made (gross) was paid into the Assurance Maladie Fund. The accounting is to the advantage of the worker; I paid .75% of my gross income to Assurance Maladie, whereas my employer paid a 12.8% tax on my gross income.

The 70% reimbursement figure is generally the lower end of coverage; long-term illnesses, such as cancer, are covered at a rate of 100%. Many French citizens have private, top-up insurance that covers whatever the French state does not. From experience, what seems to fall below 70% are things like medication and eye glasses. But I've noticed that medication in France seems to be cheaper than in the US, even when you pay the full cost.

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Milestone Gets "Serna-fied"



Milestone recently welcomed Eric Serna to their growing staff.

Eric brings a wealth of construction knowledge and leadership to Milestone. With over 6 years of construction experience, he uses his strong background in engineering, health care, and commercial construction to manage his projects. Eric focuses on cost-effective solutions and on-budget/on-time delivery for his clients and carefully applies his technical construction knowledge and leadership to process information quickly and effectively. Welcome aboard, Eric!

Toys for Afghan Tots!



This year, Milestone elected to forgo traditional gift-giving to clients, and decided to use those funds to bring some much needed joy to America's troops instead. Operation Wildhorse is a grassroots effort to provide our troops with a meaningful and tangible contribution during the holiday season.

Late last month, Milestone filled 10 flat-rate postage boxes with items requested by soldiers, including **LOTS of toys** to give to local children, and shipped them to the Wildhorse Squadron, currently stationed in Mehtar Lam, Afghanistan.

If you are interested in seeing some of the projects that this unit has completed during their deployment, check out their blog: <http://wildhorsesquadron.blogspot.com>.

We hope you've enjoyed this issue of our newsletter. If you haven't been to our [website](#) in a while, please do check it out - we have a **whole new look!** Thanks to David Anderson for helping with this.

If you would like additional information about Milestone Project Management, or to give us feedback on this newsletter, please email us at info@mpmllc.com.

Sincerely,

MILESTONE PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Scott LaTulipe Bill Eide Caryn Mims Dana MacMoy Eric Serna

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