

Introduction

Far too many Americans live in poverty during their retirement years when it is **not** necessary. Do you want to end up this way? You can live in relative ease and comfort in the twilight years of life (or earlier). Yes – it is possible. We ask you to **plan ahead** by using the **principles** in this **book** and consider putting them into practice **now**.

We all have dreams and plans for later in life. Will we be able to carry them out? Does your to-do list look anything like this one?

- Spend more time with your spouse
- Travel or see the world
- Live your dreams
- Do more with your favorite hobbies
- See the kids or grandkids
- Donate time to community activities and service
- Be able to pay for medical bills and medicine
- Contribute to charities of your choice
- Live longer than your accumulated income (not vice versa)
- Be in good physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health
- Be able to forecast expenses and income at 65, 75, 85
- Do those other things you never got around to doing

What will you do to make your interests a reality? Anyone who has not answered these three questions has not completed his or her list of long-term plans: 1) What do I want out of life? 2) What will it cost me to obtain these things? 3) Am I willing to pay the price? An old saying states that it's not what you know but what you do with what you know that counts and gets things done.

This little book is about building future financial security for the working American – not the wealthy. Awaken the sleeping giant inside. Believe me – I know what it means to be financial insecure as well as financially secure. I have been broke twice during my life. Once when single and the second time with a wife and four children. The second time was no fun and was very stressful. The time to do something about your future is **now! Don't wait.**

We are not preaching materialism, just security and stability that can bring added joy and happiness to life. One day some of you will find yourselves in retirement with annual expenses of \$40,000. During 25 years of living after “giving it up” you will need at least **1 million dollars**. Do the math: \$40,000 times 25 = \$ 1,000,000. Will you be prepared? Almost anyone who starts early enough in life can accumulate this sum of money. This may be more than you need now, but in a few years this amount will be commonplace. No one really knows what the economy, your health, your employer, or the Social Security Administration will do in the future. By taking a little more control of your own life now you can avoid the common pitfalls many Americans make.

Think of all those people you see and know who did not plan for later in life. Imagine this for a moment – many cannot go to those places they dreamed of or do most of those things they missed in life. They simply don’t have the resources. Some have serious health conditions and can’t afford some of the medicine or medical treatment they need. They suffer in silence – especially widow women. Others are lonely and can’t travel to visit family and loved ones because they are broke. Shudder to think that you will have to borrow money during retirement for necessities. Do you want to ask your children for help over and over again when this can be prevented? Do you want to go on welfare or other social services because you are dead broke? Of course we all know some people who cannot fend for themselves and must ask for help – that’s very understandable. At times we all need help and that’s normal. Is it responsible of us to shift the burden of taking care of ourselves financially to someone else when we can do this ourselves by sacrificing a little now and planning ahead?

There are several reasons people fail to accumulate wealth during their lifetimes. Perhaps the three most common reasons are lack of knowledge, procrastination/lack of motivation, and loving to spend rather than save. Compared with other nations our savings rate is low. Don’t confuse wealth with income. There are many people who earn huge incomes, only to spend it all as they earn it and end up in heavy debt. Others earn far less but purchase homes, save, invest, buy into retirement plans, set aside an inheritance for their

children/heirs, and live conservatively. The average millionaire is much more conservative than you or I might think. It is true that some wealthy people inherit their fortunes without working or earning any of it or make it illegally. Most of them, however, work, save for the short-term, and invest for the long term. They are well-disciplined people who know how to make it and hang on to it. We make a disclaimer regarding the title of this work. There is no guarantee you will accumulate \$1,000,000 during your lifetime. It is **entirely up to your own decision making and skills!**

Life's problems and challenges are meant to be faced head on and overcome – not wallowed in. At times we all may go into denial over something or feel great self pity, or depression. When things get too tough have the good mind and humility to ask for help. Money should not be one of the stumbling blocks. None of us know exactly what will befall us in the future. We can be better prepared to deal with it all by planning **now** with those in your household to have a more secure future. Don't try to become rich over night. Instead strive to become financially well off over time. And remember: do not let money determine the quality and purpose of your life. It's a great tool for working our way through the journey of life and helping others along the path.

May you have a great life!

David W. Murphy – Author

This book is dedicated to my wonderful wife, Linda, and my terrific children, Nathan, Michael, Mary, and Neal. They are an inspiration to me and the main reason I set financial goals.

David W. Murphy