

# Appreciating veterans

**Dear Annie:** In the past year, the Department of Veterans Affairs has tackled many issues for our veterans, and we are proud to participate in the largest transformation of VA in recent history.

Our volunteers and community partners form a large part of this effort, allowing us to bring programs and services to our veterans that otherwise would be unavailable. At VA, every day is Veterans Day, but we take special notice in February to celebrate the National Salute to Veteran Patients. This year's salute is Feb. 12-16, and we encourage communities across the country to take part in this effort to honor our hospitalized veterans and to seek out opportunities to volunteer at their local VA facility.

VA appreciates your strong support of this important program, and I encourage your thoughtful readers to take time once again this February to honor our veterans.

I have a very special favor to

ask. If your readers know a veteran in crisis, please be sure to direct them to the Veterans Crisis Line immediately. The veteran can call 800-273-8255 and press 1. Finally, if anyone would like to join us in our mission to honor the sacrifice and service of America's veterans during the National Salute to Veteran Patients or at any time throughout the year, please visit your nearest VA facility or contact us online at <https://www.volunteer.va.gov>. — *David J. Shulkin, Secretary of Veterans Affairs*

**Dear Dr. Shulkin:** I appreciate your letter and your dedication to our veterans. We all owe veterans our deepest thanks, and the National Salute to Veteran Patients is a wonderful opportunity for expressing that gratitude. I encourage readers to participate.

**Dear Annie:** I just read the letter from "Sick of Them," who is tired of mistreatment from her sister and mom. Her life sounds just like how mine used to be.

## DEAR ANNIE

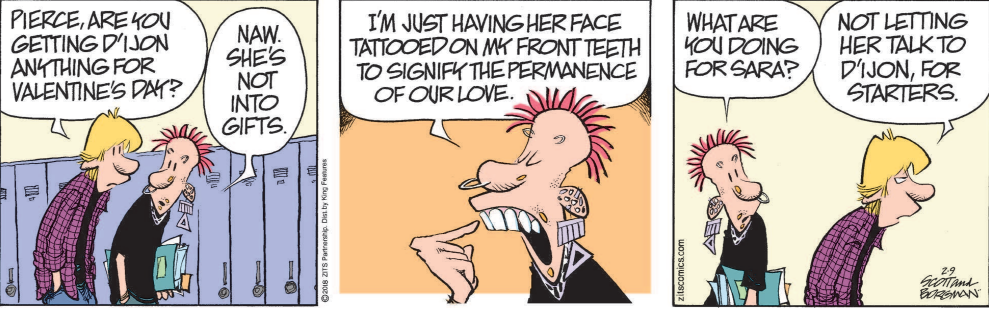
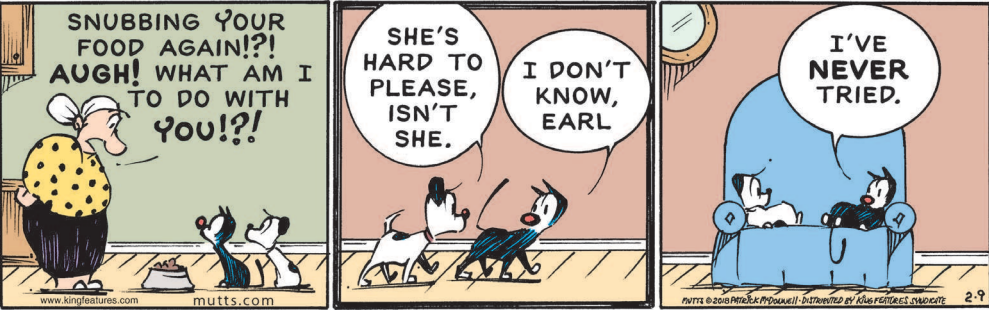
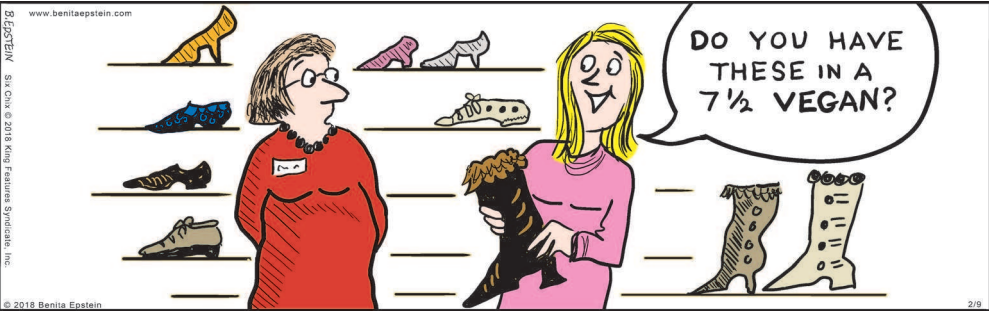
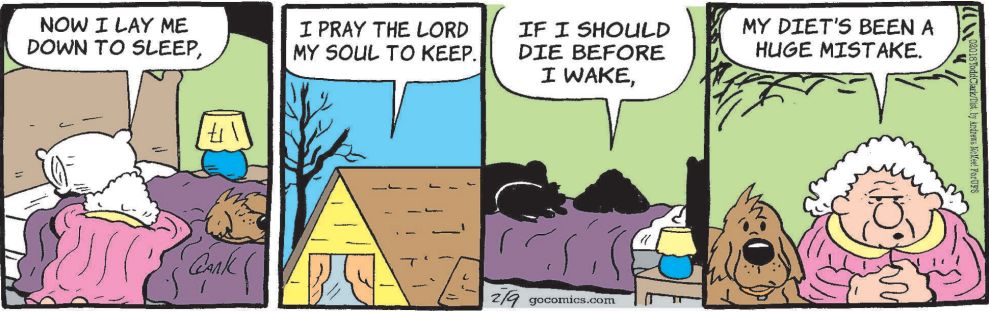


Annie Lane  
Creators  
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## FRANK AND ERNEST



## THATABABY



By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You choose something to want and learn the steps you need to take; then you execute it fast. Your lack of vacillation or procrastination will put you in a league of winners.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Maybe people won't call when they say they will. You're luckier when you don't care so much. For best results, get even busier with your big beautiful life and let them catch up with you when they do.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** In case you needed another reason to do whatever you want: If you fill your time with pleasurable activities, you get more attractive with every fun thing you do.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** You are warming up in a group, getting more established and becoming familiar with the dynamics at play. Remember when you were a person on the outside trying to get in? This is cool!

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You have major mojo to play with now, and you'll be attracting more attention on your projects and your general being. And don't worry about when you're going to be able to return all this attention. Just soak it up.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The older you get, the less you trust people who obviously want something from you. The principle of reciprocity will be a prevalent theme. The balance of give and take is something you can feel on a visceral level.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** A fleeting but acute pang of jealousy has something to teach you. Perhaps this is not a green-eyed monster lurking in the depths of your soul, but an angel of your higher mind letting you know what you really, really want.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Why not prioritize your own comfort just a little higher on the list? In today's case, an intimidating person may be part of this, and there's no need to appease. Take a step back. There are many ways to solve a problem.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Maybe we're beings who are perfect in spirit but flawed in our human expression of it, and that's the fun of life on this plane. So don't waste a minute feeling bad about your imperfections. Work with them.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You learn a little more each day about the people around you, what they're good at, what they're likely to agree to and how to handle the parts you're not so fond of, too.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Sure, you're self-sufficient. In fact, you're the expert when it comes to fulfilling your own needs. But when you accept the gifts and help of others, you fit into their lives better. The sense of belonging brings you tremendous joy.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Considering the futility and potential misery that comes from expecting another person to be anything other than what he or she is, it's only smart to get to know the very real side of the people around you.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 10).** You'll put deep thought and focused effort into coming across a certain way because you want people to have a very special experience in knowing you. You'll achieve the desired effect, and this will open doors, close deals and essentially bring you the world. Love is the answer in April, so say yes! Leo and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 22, 7 and 38.

## BLONDIE

