



## MARKET PULSE

### HAS THE MARKET LOST IT'S PRESIDENTIAL PUSH?

#### Did You Know? Funny Signs Of Aging

There's nothing left to learn the hard way.

It takes twice as long to look half as good.

The pharmacist has become your new best friend.

You finally got your head together, now your body is falling apart.

You have more patience; but actually, it's just that you don't care any more.

You look for your glasses for a half an hour, and then find that they were on your head all the time.

You wonder how you could be over the hill when you don't even remember being on top of it.

It takes longer to rest than it did to get tired.

Your idea of a night out is sitting on the patio.

Your joints are more accurate than the National Weather Service.

Your secrets are safe with friends because they can't remember them.

You want clothes for Christmas.

Your neighbors borrow your tools.

You are proud of your lawn mower.

Source: DailyCognition.com

**A** summer slowdown appears to be underway. For the month of May, the Dow gained a paltry 0.3% while the S&P 500 came in a little better at 1.2%. After a very strong start to the year, equity markets seem to be losing momentum. In fact, since March 2nd, the S&P 500 is up only 0.67% and the Dow was negative for the same time period.

Indeed, the euphoria that has gripped the market since the November presidential election has faded as the Trump administration struggles to enact many of his promised policies. Right now, there is little indication that the US economy will reach its 3% growth this year, as health care and tax reform, along with deregulation and infrastructure spending haven't come to fruition.

One would think that these factors combined with a confluence of other fires impacting the White House that markets would be on edge, or at least more volatile. However, market volatility is at rock-bottom. The U.S. stock market's main gauge of investor anxiety (VIX) is currently below 10 and trading well below its historic average of 20.

This is despite ongoing concerns with the Brexit, North Korea, Russia, and soft economic data including pending

home sales which unexpectedly dropped by 1.3% recently.

It's making for a strange market conditions as sectors that don't usually move in sync are doing just that. Utilities, which are slower moving and considered defensive, are up more than 10% for the year. Technology, which tends to be faster moving and growth oriented is also on the rise, gaining almost 20% as well. As a result, we will be watching for a change in this trend to signal that the market may be getting ready to move in a different direction.

While many people feel the bull market remains intact, US Treasury's are suggesting a much different environment than stocks. The 10-Year Treasury bond has fallen sharply since the start of 2017. At month end, the benchmark 10-year yield hovered near 2.20%. A far cry from the 2.5% it began the year at.

Overall, we feel the market may be at a tipping point where a recent trend of soft data and lack of progress from the Trump administration may suggest the need to get a little more defensive. Therefore, we'll be watching for changes in volatility and interest rates, while looking for additional opportunities in telecoms and so-called, recession proof investments.

*Robert Laura & Drummond Osborn*

#### Test Your Knowledge



- 1) What Elton John hit was a tribute to Billie Jean King?
- 2) Where would you find the Gibson and Simpson Deserts??
- 3) Who has appeared on the most *People Magazine* covers?
- 4) What mammals are a whales' closet living relatives on land?



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**Retirement Quotes To Inspire**

Quotes can inspire us, help us ignore the naysayers, and provide hope during a difficult situation. We often put them on posters, t-shirts, and bumper stickers to remind, encourage, and propel ourselves forward.

For those approaching, or already in retirement, here are a few quotes to help you wake up motivated, overcome obstacles, and sleep well at night.

**1) Don't confuse what you do, with who you really are.**

Too often people confuse who they are with what they do, or unknowingly fall in love with their job or aspect of work that can't love them back. Thus can cause them to struggle in the early phases of retirement.

Therefore, it's crucial for people to "Retire to" something otherwise they can lose their sense of purpose and stability.

**2) A successful retirement isn't one without problems, but one in which you learn to overcome them.**

Entering retirement does not eliminate stress, remove relationship issues, or motivate you to live healthier.

New and existing retirees need to understand that true independence and freedom come from managing life's trials, not just one's investments.

**3) Running out of money pales in comparison to running out of family, friends, good health, and time.**

We have created a society that worships the dollar amount it takes to create the perfect retirement, but it's essential to look beyond the numbers and consider what people may be trading off to acquire them.

At the end of the day – and our lives -- very few people ask to be surrounded by their stuff as they breathe their last breath. They don't want to see their advisor, hold the deed to their house and have their accolades plastered on the hospital wall. They want to be surrounded by those they love and mean the most to them. Plan accordingly.

**4) Retirement is a mirror that reflects the things you bring to it.**

Some people don't understand the idea that retirement magnifies what they already are, not necessarily what they want to be. Many people assume that more time and fewer distractions will automatically translate into extra motivation to workout, eat healthy, spend more time with family, and check off all those honey-dos.

But it can be quite the opposite. If a pre-retiree is unhealthy, has bad habits, or prefers to keep to themselves, retirement will foster more of that unless those patterns are interrupted.

**5) Treat retirement like a camera! Focus on what's important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out, take another shot!**

A positive attitude is contagious and can help build stronger relationships and a greater sense of purpose, as well as help you stay relevant and capable.

**Trivia Answers**

- 1) Philadelphia Freedom
- 2) Australia
- 3) Princess Diana
- 4) Hippos

Source: the60sofficialsite.com

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