



# ***A Note From Rodney***

May 14, 2024

## **Typing, Appointments, and my Health**

It's been 21 months since I was diagnosed with glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), which is terminal brain cancer. I've had surgery, along with radiation, chemo, and several other treatments. The median survival is 14.8 or 20 months, depending on what research you read. Either way, I'm on the good side of the distribution. That's great, but I'm still dealing with changes, like weakness on my left side and fatigue from the medication. This aggravates me, because it makes it a bit difficult to type. I know those keys aren't jumping around on the keyboard, so the difference must be me. I'm like a 10-year-old who texts in all caps. It's annoying.

It takes me longer than before to compose and publish missives, and I'm relying more on our expert editor (my lovely wife, Brook, who happens to be a professional editor for engineering, medical, and financial publications) to make sure that I remain on point. So far, so good. There are many symptoms or seizures with which people suffering with GBM can present. While I have some of the symptoms, so far I haven't lost any of the cognitive function that feeds my annoyance with the mainstream media or for what passes as the financial press. I've got plenty to say, it's just a pain to get the information out. To that end, I'll still be writing to you on a regular basis, but my missives might be more concise. As Shakespeare wrote in the play *Hamlet*, "Brevity is the soul of wit"—so perhaps I'll get to the point a little faster.

Since Brook has been my sounding board, number one fan, and sharp critic for decades, you might see her byline with mine from time to time, as she assists in structure. The financial, economic, and demographic topics will remain the same.

I planned to finish my May newsletter over the next few days, but medical appointments popped up. In the cancer world, flexibility is everything. When the medical people call and ask if you can be there in an hour, the answer is, "Of course!" no matter what you had planned.

I anticipate getting the newsletter out by Monday, with tomorrow's Take arriving somewhere in between.

Thank you for your business, your patience, and, at this point, your friendship with HS Dent.

Rodney