



# The Purple Heart

**The Purple Heart is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those wounded or killed while serving, or who have died after being wounded. In use since 5 April 1917, the Purple Heart is the oldest military award still given to U.S. military members – the only earlier award being the obsolete Fidelity Medallion. The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is located in New Windsor, New York.**

*The criteria for awarding the Purple Heart is as follows:*

- (1) In any action against an enemy of the United States.
  - (2) In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States are or have been engaged.
  - (3) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.
  - (4) As a result of an act of any such enemy of opposing armed forces.
  - (5) As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force.
  - (6) After 28 March 1973, as a result of an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of the Army, or jointly by the Secretaries of the separate armed Services concerned if persons from more than one service are wounded in the attack.
  - (7) After 28 March 1973, as a result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the United States as part of a peace keeping force.
- b. While clearly an individual decoration, the Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria.

It is interesting to note that many situations do not warrant the award.



Wikipedia([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purple\\_Heart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purple_Heart)) claims that during World War II, 1,506,000 Purple Heart medals were manufactured in anticipation of the estimated casualties resulting from the planned Allied invasion of Japan and by the end of the war even accounting for those lost, stolen or wasted, nearly 500,000 remained. To the present date, total combined American military casualties of the seventy years following the end of World War II—including the Korean and Vietnam Wars—have not exceeded that number. In 2003, there remained 120,000 Purple Heart medals in stock. The existing surplus allowed combat units in Iraq and Afghanistan to keep Purple Hearts on-hand for immediate award to soldiers wounded in the field.

Trying to track down the number of Purple Hearts awarded can be challenging and most records are mere estimates. Often times, the medal is awarded on the spot and documentation may or may not be properly submitted. Below are the most recent estimates that I was able to locate.

- **World War I: 320,518**
- **World War II: 1,076,245**
- **Korean War: 118,650**
- **Vietnam War: 351,794**
- **Persian Gulf War: 607**
- **Afghanistan War: 7,027 (as of June 5, 2010)**
- **Iraq War: 35,321 (as of June 5, 2010)**

It is interesting to note that in its history, one man received 9 Purple Hearts for his service in both WWII and Korea, one man received nine and a total of five have received 8 Purple Hearts. Also, 60 Tuskegee Airmen were awarded the Purple Heart for their service in WWII.

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/tuskegee-airmen-awarded-purple-hearts/collection\\_dc15e46e-831a-11df-98c4-00127992bc8b.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/tuskegee-airmen-awarded-purple-hearts/collection_dc15e46e-831a-11df-98c4-00127992bc8b.html)

**As we look at the history and purpose of the Purple Heart, let us keep in mind the men and women who have each sacrificed so much for our freedom and when you see that Purple Heart license plate on the highway, try to understand what someone in that car endured for each one of us.**

*Submitted by Staff Writer Rob Tate*

*See local story on page 2A*

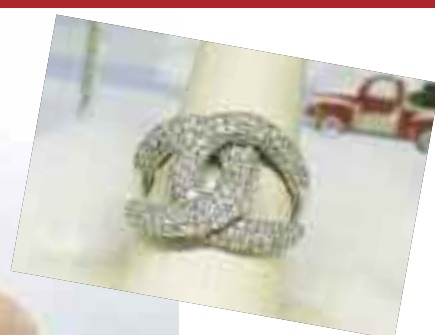


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# AND THEN THERE WERE 3....

Yes, 3 World War II Patriots left in the JR Thomas Memorial MOPH Chapter 2205! Members of the 'Greatest Generation', these Veterans are to be thanked for our speaking English after World War II.

The majority of the membership of Chapter 2205 is made up of Viet Nam veterans, with a few Korean War, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, and Afghanistan combat wounded. The Military Order of the Purple Heart is an exclusive Organization for those men and women who were wounded in combat while protecting Our Freedom! The local Chapter meets the first Saturday each month at 10 AM in the State American Legion Building in the Accessible basement with parking behind the building and easy access (120 N. Jackson St).

Being a Purple Heart recipient is most honorable and we are looking for more of these men and women to join us, not only to

further our Mission of Veterans helping Veterans, but to 'be there' for each other. Fellowship is a great part of being members of the MOPH and our meetings encourage each other.

**Kenneth Rymal, Harold Howell and Lamar Smith** are our World War II members.

**For more information  
contact:  
Adjutant, Everett Cole  
288-8624  
or  
Finance Officer,  
Charles Stults  
235-5640**

*l-r; Robert R. Green, Commander, Enterprise Chapter 2216. Military Order of The Purple Heart, Rep. Barry Moore, District 91, Coffee County, Vann Daughtry, Department of Alabama Military Order of Purple Heart Commander*



## Lamar Smith's Story...

I grew up on a farm in Geneva County, Alabama, third in line of 4 children. My mother was widowed when I was 11 years old, and I immediately had to assume many responsibilities at that time for our family's survival. I was just becoming the right age to help with the war effort when the United States got involved in what would turn out to be WWII. My older brother was already



involved, and at 19 years old, I, too, enlisted in the army. Everyone – both men and women - was called on to do what they could to help win the war.

After thirteen weeks of basic training I was sent to North Africa to join the 36th Infantry Division, a National Guard unit based in Texas, which was already in combat with the Germans. A few weeks later, my division invaded south-

several pieces of shrapnel into my body. From there, I was sent to a field hospital in Tunis, north Africa for a couple of months, then transported by ship to the US. I was admitted to Northington General Hospital in Tuscaloosa, AL, and received the Purple Heart Medal. I was discharged from the army on April 13, 1945, and returned to my home near Hartford, Alabama.

After I had been home a few months, a neighbor introduced me to Rebecca Spann of Hartford, who was in her senior year in high school. We immediately began dating and were married on October 18, 1946. Our first child, a daughter, was born in 1948, and our sons in 1954 and 1958. We have 4 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



After celebrating 71 years of marriage, we feel blessed to still be together and enjoying good health, living independently in our home on 10 acres in Pike Road.



*Lamar Smith  
with his medals*



*Lamar and Rebecca Smith with their family.  
A belated Happy Birthday on Jan. 31 to Harold Howell,  
who at age 95 is still an active lawyer in Prattville!*

ern Italy near the town of Salerno. From there we pushed the enemy northward over Mount Sammucro (4,000 foot "Hill 1205"). Canned food was carried up the mountain to us – cartons of C-food and K-rations. It was difficult to get the wounded down the mountain on the backs of mules, because of continuous enemy gunfire.

Our division then went through the valley north of Naples, Italy to the Rapido River. As we arrived at the river, the Germans were waiting with small arms, machine guns, mortars, and artillery. There, we found the enemy had us out-numbered. On January 25, 1944, an artillery shell landed near me, exploded, and sent

**TROTMAN, John McNeill, "Bubba" age 90, a longtime resident of Montgomery, Alabama, died peacefully at home Saturday, February 3, 2018, following a brief illness.**



Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church, Montgomery, Tuesday, February 6, 2018. Chuck Ashley and Reverend Robert Wisnewski, Jr. officiated. Burial followed in Greenwood Cemetery.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ellen Rogers Trotman, two sons, Frank Randolph

Trotman (Lorrie) and John McNeill Trotman, Jr. (Teri) and his grandson, John McNeill Trotman III. Survivors include his sons, Charles Rogers Trotman (Whitney) and Robert Tyler "Woody" Trotman. He is also survived by his nephews, John Trotman Carroll and Sam Jones Carroll III, and his niece, Lottie Carroll Brauer. Also surviving him were his grandsons and granddaughters. Surviving him also are his many great-grandchildren.

Trotman had a deep affection for agriculture which began when he was a child growing up in Troy, Alabama. He studied agriculture at Auburn University where he played football and was the Vice President of the Auburn A-Club. He served in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Army before beginning Trotman Cattle Company in Montgomery in 1954.

Trotman achieved a great deal during his lifetime. Some of his accomplishments include being elected as the Chairman of the Board of the Montgomery Production Credit Association in 1966. He was the President of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association in 1966 as well and became nationally known as the President of the National Cattlemen's Association in 1972. In 1981 he was inducted into the Alabama Livestock Hall of Fame and was elected President of the Southeastern Livestock Exposition in 1983.

President Ronald Reagan appointed Trotman to head the Alabama Agricultural Stabilization

and Conservation Service (ASCS) in 1985. For 25 years he enjoyed hosting the annual Kentucky Derby party for his fraternity, Phi Delta Theta. He served as the President of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce as well as the Montgomery Rotary Club and was on the Board of Advisors of the University of Alabama Law Center. A past member of the vestry at St. John's Episcopal Church, he was a member of the Poundstone Sunday School class at First Baptist Church.

Trotman was very involved in a myriad of community and charity organizations focusing on everything from the arts to cancer prevention for which he received innumerable awards and honors. He was well known for his energy, charm, diplomacy and love of people. His passion was his family, friends and acquaintances. His "southern gentleman" style made people feel welcome and at home. He had a keen interest in everyone he met and never met a stranger.

*Pallbearers were Sam Carroll, Trot Carroll, Will Gunter, Bruce Downey, Tommy Lawson, Dr. Bob Haas and William Haynes. Honorary Pallbearers will be Dr. Jay Lee Alley, Harold Barber, Dr. H.B. "Woody" Bartlett, Dudley Griffin, Freddie Henderson, Dick Hodges, Nall Hollis, Horace Horn, Sam Johnson, George Jordan, Dean Parkman, Waylon Price, Spears Rhodes, Ed Woodson, The Past Presidents of the Alabama and National Cattlemen's Association, The Half Snapper Club, The Leon Loard Lunch Bunch and The Merle's Round Table.*



# ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

## WHO KNEW?

I have to admit that I kind of pride myself on being a fairly up-to-date guy on World War II history when it comes to

the air war in Europe. For those of you who may have been reading my column for several years, I think you probably know that already. Well about eight years ago when I was doing some research on my book about Luftwaffe pilot Hans-Joachim Marseille, I came across an interesting photograph. It was a photograph of a black man sitting under the wing of a P-40 in North Africa circa 1941-42. He was wearing an British RAF (Royal Air Force) uniform and reading a magazine. Hmm. At the time, although I found it to be unique, I simply filed it away in the ole' wet computer in my head to be looked at another day.

I was doing some reading when I came across yet another interesting photograph about three years ago. It was a photograph of a black man and a white man, both in RAF uniforms, standing in front of a Mosquito Fighter/Bomber aircraft. The caption stated the black man was the pilot and the white man was his navigator. Again, bells and whistles did not yet go off in my head like they should have. Then about a month ago, I saw a photograph of a British bomber crew in front of their bomber and the caption mentions all of the crewmembers and points out that the pilot was the black guy on the far left. Okay, now there were enough clues and signs to get me thinking. So I went to go to Google and typed in something like, "Black pilots, RAF, WWII, Photographs." Boom!! A whole new world of aviation history opened up before me.

Here in Alabama, it is safe to say that almost everybody in the state has heard of the Tuskegee Airmen. Because of this, I will not go into a lot of detail here except to say that during the war, some 500 black pilots were sent overseas and these men fought in the entirely segregated 332nd Fighter Group consisting of the 99th, 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons. When I started looking at the black fliers in the RAF I came across a book titled, *Caribbean Volunteers At War: The Forgotten Story of the RAF's 'Tuskegee Airmen'*. Who knew??

In the early days of WWII, many men and women from the Caribbean, West Indies and West Africa signed up to fight for the British Commonwealth. As for the RAF, initially they had a restriction citing that only those of "pure European descent" could either fly or become officers but after many crushing losses to the Germans and the need for flyers was fully recognized, many men from these areas were allowed to fly and fight. These men hailed from Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cuba, Dominica, British Guyana, Jamaica, Leeward and Windward, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad. In all, approximately 495 men of color, out of 6,000 who joined the RAF, flew for almost the entire duration of the war. Of these, 148 were killed in action. 100 of these men eventually got commissioned as officers which was actually a big thing considering pre-war RAF policies. Let's not also forget that there was an even larger contingent of men who fought on the ground, again fully integrated with the British Army, and some 15,000 who served as merchant seamen.

What I found most interesting was that unlike the

Tuskegee Airmen who only flew fighters in combat, in the RAF, these men flew fighters, bombers, attack, transport, Coastal Command aircraft, and flew as pilots, navigators, flight engineers, gunners, wireless operators and bombardiers. What more is that they flew entirely integrated within the RAF squadrons they were assigned. Black and white airmen lived, flew and died together. That is something you never saw in the USAAF, US Navy or US Marines during the war. I found that to be very intriguing.

One of the many anecdotes I found interesting is something I read in this book and others as well and has to do with how the RAF bomber crews were assigned to one another. In the USAAF for example,



the crews were assigned by senior staff. In the RAF, all new crewmembers from each crew position were brought to their base and dropped off in a large hangar and told to "pick your crew." So normally the aircraft commander would walk around, chat someone up and say, "Hey, wanna fly with me?" Then they would go off to the next guy. It was interesting that none of the black guys mentioned ever being left behind as the only ones not picked. Apparently, there was little racial animosity at the crew level. These guys knew they had bigger fish to fry than letting skin color dictate how they would operate as a crew. If you could complete training, you knew what you were doing.

Perhaps the most intriguing guy, to me at least, was a man named E.R. Braithwaite. He was from British Guyana and although his name may be unknown to most of you, it was to me, he is the man who wrote the book, *To Sir, With Love* in 1959. It was made into a movie starring Sidney Poitier in 1967 and is actually an autobiographical story of his later life. Although he flew fighters in the RAF during the war, worked as an engineer before the war and eventually got his PhD in Physics from Cambridge, he could not get a job in postwar England because of his skin color. That is why he ended up teaching school as portrayed in the movie. Among his many accomplishments, he eventually penned five novels, worked as a social worker, became Guyana's Ambassador to Venezuela and died in 2016 at the age of 104 leaving behind 5 children.

In all, I found this part of forgotten history to be fascinating and worthy of further investigation by myself. Perhaps some of you may want to investigate a bit further as well.

### 12 STRONG

People will disagree with anything. Anything!! Even when I think there should be 100% consensus, there are those who will disagree. "Nice day." "No it's not." "Wow, that is a pretty painting." "No, it's ugly." We call them contrarians. No matter what you say, they are going to disagree. Case in point. The wife and I went to see the new movie *12 Strong* the other day. All I am going to say is that we both liked it a lot. Although sitting there watching Chris Hemsworth for two hours I was left asking God "Did you even try with me?" When I did my Dunkirk review last year, I mentioned that when I see a movie about an actual historical event, I like to see photos of what the real people looked like and some closing facts about the event. This movie did not let me down and at the end, they showed a photograph of the actual 12-man team. Here goes my beef. Although there was no black guy in the photo, thus no black guy on the team, in the movie one of the team members was black. Why? I posted this question on a War Movie group on Facebook and what I thought was a no brainer turned out to be anything but. Although most agreed with me some strangely did not. One hapless fellow, right out of the chute with guns blazing actually said, "So you focus on the black guy and aren't concerned with blah, blah, blah?"

Yeah, he actually went there. I asked him if in his world it would be okay if Jay-Z was seen flying a German Messerschmitt 109 over Dunkirk? Look, when it comes to movies, control what can be controlled. No blacks? So, what. No whites? So, what. No women? So, what. Why make it up? Sort of like the idiots who screamed foul that the movie *Dunkirk* did not have enough women and people of color in the major roles. Look, when doing a historical movie, keep what is known true. Simple. Now I am not talking about German soldiers carrying Enfield rifles because a studio may not have a ton of Mauser K-98s floating around. Or like in the movie *Top Gun* having black F-5s with red stars on the tail. News flash, there are not many MiGs lying about. But the day I will say it is okay to have Leonardo DiCaprio playing MLK or Dave Chappelle playing Adolf Hitler, in a drama, is never going to come around. Control what can be controlled.

About two weeks ago, radio personality and friend of mine, Kevin Elkins posted a simple question on his Facebook page. What was (is) the definition of racism? Simple. Easy. To the point. Just a question. Although I posted what I know to be the definition, you should have seen the dozens of comments that had nothing to do with Kevin's original question. Talk about chasing rabbits down rabbit holes. Trump this, Trump that. Obama this, Obama that. It seems sad to me that in today's world, everyone is so set on a certain agenda and will vehemently try to express it no matter what. I remember when I was a guest on Kevin's show after my book on Marseille had come out. I was on the show to talk about my book but within ten minutes the callers had shifted the conversation to Black vs. White, marching on the Edmund Pettis Bridge and other totally unrelated race issues. I am there to talk about a German fighter pilot and the callers only want to talk about their opinions on race. During the break, I looked at Kevin and asked him what the heck was going on. All he said was, "Welcome to my world, Tater." It is frustrating to say the least.

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# Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

*Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.  
His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers.  
He served 16 years in the state legislature.*  
***www.steveflowers.us***



A few weeks back my column illuminated the career and influence attained by our senior U.S. Senator Richard Shelby. In the column and in my book, “Six Decades of Alabama Political Stories,” I reference the fact that our current senior senator will be regarded as one of Alabama’s greatest U.S. Senators. I consider Lister Hill, John Sparkman, and Richard Shelby in that triumvirate. However, history more than likely will reveal that Shelby is eclipsing Hill and Sparkman in the annals of senatorial lore.

Shelby is chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. In his illustrious 31-year tenure in the Senate he has chaired the Senate Intelligence Committee and the Senate Banking Committee, which in itself parallels the achievements of Hill and Sparkman. However, Richard Shelby is next in line to take over the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

Therefore, it is almost comical that a few right-wing fringe members of the state Republican Party along with some kook from Texas are promising some resolution to censure Senator Shelby for not voting for Roy Moore in last year’s election. If these folks had even walking around political sense they would be promoting a ticker tape parade for Shelby.

I would suggest that Richard Shelby could care less what some members of the Alabama Republican Party say about his vote in the recent election. Members of political party organizations have an inflated opinion of their influence in politics and public policy. Being a member of a state political party has no more effect on politics than being president of the local Civitan Club. Their primary function is to set the Primary dates.

Therefore, when these political party operatives get together to debate this benign resolution on February 24, they may imagine that it matters what they do. However, you can be assured that nobody cares, much less Shelby. Resolutions passed in political party gatherings have no effect or relevance.

It is very doubtful that this proposed resolution will see the light of day. Most people who are political party operatives are logical folks and would not want to offend or insult Senator Shelby. He is the Republican Party of Alabama in

the eyes of the nation. If it were to pass, he would graciously ignore it and hold no grudges.

When Kay Ivey became governor last year, the first thing she did was to reverse the decision of Governor Robert Bentley on the date of the election for Jeff Sessions’ senate seat. Bentley had set it for this year when everything runs anyway. Ivey decided that it should be held forthwith and that a Special Election would be in 2017. However, this Special Election costs the beleaguered State General Fund \$11 million. If it were held this year it would have cost the state zero – we were voting anyway.

This \$11 million is nothing to sneeze at when it comes to state revenue. This aspect caught the eye of House Ways and Means chairman, Steve Clouse, R-Ozark. Clouse, who is a wise steward of the state’s coffers, and is tasked with balancing the budget, has set out to rectify and clarify when any future election for a Senate Seat shall be held. He has offered a bill to set the dates and clarify “forthwith.” Clouse’s Bill says that the election will be held at the next General election. His legislation has already passed the House and is awaiting action in the State Senate.

Steve Clouse is a popular Wiregrass legislator who epitomizes integrity and espouses fiscal conservatism. While speaking of popularity in the Wiregrass, Governor Kay Ivey did a good day’s work when she picked Dothan Circuit Judge, Brad Mendheim, to fill the vacancy on the State Supreme Court. It is appropriate that she appointed Mendheim, a Wiregrass judge, to fill the seat of Justice Glen Murdock, another Wiregrass native.

I have never seen or heard of anybody more respected in their hometown than 51-year-old Brad Mendheim is in Dothan. He was born and raised in Houston County and has been a Circuit Judge for 10 years. He is a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Dothan. He graduated in a stellar graduating class, which included highly respected Dr. Russ Holman who heads the largest radiology group in the state in Birmingham.

**February 7, 2018**



***Ronald A.  
Holtsford***

recent suggestions by Democrats have more to do with removal via the 25th Amendment of the Constitution rather than an impeachment.

Truly it has become sad in the manner that the two parties treat each other and it seems it has gotten much worse that the way that President Obama was treated. There were the “birthers” that wanted to prove that Obama was not born as an American and that his Hawaiian birth certificate was a forgery. There was never undisputable proof made via the claims of the birthers.

Ever since President Trump was Candidate Trump he has appeared to me to be something of a loose cannon. Though it seems many of his statements are ill considered I think he calculates the impact long before he makes the statements. It’s just his personality and it makes me a bit crazy at times. But I see the results and I must say his goals for America are things that are good for America. The socialistic ideals that have infiltrated the minds of so many Americans are failing its tests as instituted in so many other countries and even here. Eight years of President Obama caused me significant financial issues because of his dallying in health insurance. While I preferred President Obama leave office ASAP, I never would have considered the absurd techniques used by President Trump’s opponents.

This is where the second method of removing a President comes in and it is for the most part more difficult than an impeachment. There are times when Presidents have removed themselves from power for short periods of time since the 25th Amendment, which includes President Clinton during a medical procedure. I recall President Lyndon Johnson (not Andrew Johnson, I’m not that old) having gallbladder surgery. I know that he was incapable of making decisions for a period of time. His surgery was in 1965, before the 1967, 25th Amendment ratification. A review of his papers show that he and Vice President Hubert Humphrey had discussed and put into place a means of decision making while Johnson was incapable. Johnson went on to say that President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon as well as President Kennedy and then Vice President Johnson had done similar things to provide for continuity in “Presidential” decision-making. The much earlier drawn out death of President Garfield after being shot and the stroke of President Wilson left the Executive branch in a quandary for a period of time with no Constitutional directive.

**The 25th Amendment says:**

**Section 1** In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

**Section 2** Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

**Section 3** Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

**Section 4** Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the

## With Recent Individuals Suggesting That President Trump Is Unfit To Serve, What Would Be Required To Remove His Powers?



There are two instances in which a President can be removed from power by Congress and/or high ranking Executive branch officials. The first is impeachment which requires a simple majority in the House of Representatives and a 2/3 vote by the Senate. You will recall if you are old enough that President Bill Clinton was impeached by the House of Representatives but not removed because 2/3 of the Senate did not also vote to impeach him. The

Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

My research includes one oft-repeated truth of psychiatry; not to diagnose someone that they have not personally examined. A few have crossed that line suggesting President Trump to be mentally incapable of leading. Some Democrats and even a handful of Republicans believe President Trump should be removed through the 25th Amendment. This country has not been used to having a President that is a strong leader and less of a diplomat. I would liken President Trump’s style to more like that of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (and vice versa). Netanyahu must be a strong leader because most of the countries surrounding Israel want to wipe Israel from the face of the earth. Many of those same countries would love to do the same to the United States. Fortunately oceans and distance divide us.

If President Trump is to be removed under the 25th Amendment, it will take the Vice-President, a majority of the Cabinet and maybe 2/3 of Congress to do so. And it will take a real physical or mental disability to convince them to follow the procedure of that Amendment. Instead of dividing our country, let’s pray for it!

*This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney- client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist.*

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*The views of submitted editorials  
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The Alabama Gazette.*

John Sophocleus

THINK

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The immigration debate is heated up once again. In true “reality showmanship” Pres. Trump has made for some great sound bites and TV coverage but little of substance. When asked as a candidate how he would accomplish his ends of securing the border and getting Mexico to pay for it Mr. Trump simply asserted “MANAGEMENT.” Well management is NOT an answer, but nonetheless revealing. One who uses eminent domain takings, federal bankruptcy laws, etc. to redistribute wealth in their favor certainly must possess some effective management skills in responding to and using a corrupt system to amass such wealth. Hard **not** to recognize Mr. Trump’s acumen as one of our most accomplished modern corporate welfare queens in the elite establishment who knows how to be well rewarded for being a loser instead of having to compete where market forces may discipline or fire him. This modern ‘reality TV’ era of our sham (ballot access restricted, hyper-gerrymandered, etc.) duopoly elections plays well in the polls, but doesn’t seem to add much substance to the debate.

If extremists’ posturing fades perhaps civil discussion may emerge to jettison the growing policies our nation ratcheted-up to even bigger, more intrusive government these past several score ‘progressing’ US into the broken system we observe today. Many say it is impossible for DC to come to something workable before the next ‘shutdown showdown’ between the two parties. I propose we move forward toward the rational, common sense vision put forth in our Constitution. Immigration and naturalization **are** included as one of the few things the federal government **is** authorized to address. Many would be amazed at how much the ‘GENERAL welfare’ would improve if the federal government only did those few things (the seventeen Judge Napolitano so often stresses) enumerated really well. Instead, the federal government is being strangled by all the unauthorized programs and policies we now observe, designed to benefit the SPECIFIC welfare of special interests.

From what I’ve witnessed of most currently elected to Congress, they seem to know very little of the letter much less the Spirit of the logic offered in the Constitution they’ve taken an oath to uphold. If they do know, it matters little since they do not act upon the knowledge and wisdom contained in the document, nor do I observe much courage to shepherd legislation toward such an end when it is so much easier to join the DC extremists. If we didn’t have **federal** minimum wage laws, social security, mandated insurances, OSHA regulations, non-uniform tariffs, income taxes, etc. the inducement and incentive for illegal immigration would decrease. Many angered by illegal immigration refuse to admit they’re vexed by a symptom because they do not have the courage to stand up to these extremist policies exacerbating the problem. In the DC duopoly culture it is ‘in vogue’ among Republocrats and easier to simply cry, “The Party made me do it!” but this may not be met with much favour by the Power who is in control in the end...

My definition of an extremist politician remains clear and simple. Either bureaucrats, executives, judges, lawmakers, et al adhere to what they’re authorized to address and hold to their oath, OR they exceed their authority and are extremists. To understand the more generic concern/complaint about immigration, one must make the connection to the labour issue... distortions of competitive forces in labour markets are nothing new. Some engaged in the task of writing and adopting the Constitution wanted to immediately abolish the importation of slave labour - but it was clear northern shipping interests would not secede from the Articles of Confederation to join ‘the more perfect union’ with a provision of this sort.

After some debate, **1808** was the agreed upon date (Art. 1, Sect. 9) where such abolition of imported labour could be permitted - *i.e.*, giving shipping interests a couple decades to adjust and respond. For those who may not know, **1808** was in fact the year importation of slaves into the US was abolished... why that bicentennial was NOT celebrated a decade ago speaks for itself to those cognizant of the efforts to advance ignorance of our economic history. The framers understood competition would further address this labour issue - *e.g.*, individuals emancipating themselves, State emancipation laws, individuals emancipating their slaves, etc. would be more effective than force. In Maryland **49%** of blacks were free in the 1860 census, even though they’d **not** yet abolished slavery like Pennsylvania just north of the Mason-Dixon line.

If we DID have/elect Congresspeople wanting to move forward toward a more Constitutional immigration policy; where’s a sound starting point? Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 states, “all imposts, duties and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States,” and it is universally accepted that “imposts, duties and excises” are antiquated words for what are more commonly called tariffs today - *i.e.*, taxes on imports. If you’re as ignorant to this economic history as our current executive has shown himself to be, feel free to use ‘border tax’ nomen-

clature. Remember, **before** the Republican Party gave us the first **federal** income tax to finance a war for centralized, hegemonic government and corporate welfare there were enough members of Congress who held to their oath of office impeding such a deleterious tax upon their nation. Not only do higher income taxes increase incentives for **illegal** immigration and ‘underground’ labour markets - the income tax gets imbedded in prices of our exports to other nations. Furthermore, with so many items coming in ‘tariff free’ (remember all imports which come into the nation ABOVE and BELOW the average tariff rate are **un**constitutional) the cost of trade is not incorporated into the price of imports, further distorting the balance of trade and labour markets.

This design leads to understanding why there was **NOT** a two year appropriations limit put on the Navy, as is placed upon the Army - also not followed today. Those who wrote and ratified the Constitution wisely feared long standing **federal** armies, but understood a Navy would be an integral part of defining, defending and enforcing property rights on the high seas to facilitate regular commerce. That’s why so much ink is spilled on maritime issues, piracy, etc. in the enumerated powers. Navy and Marines would operate under the same administration (reduce duplication and yes that means abolishing the FBI to increase the investigatory division of the US Marshals, shutting down the CIA, NSA, et al agencies for ONI to again be effective) for **immediate** deployment requirements and Congress could decide to decrease or increase arsenals, bases, dock yards, forts, equipment, magazines, soldiers, sailors and ships when forecasting how great a defense force would be required to address those few issues the people of the States ceded to federal authority.

With this logical and reasonable system of uniform tariffs put in place - those who **benefit** from the exchange are the ones who **pay** the tax - *i.e.*, those purchasing and selling imports. Most positive economists champion the merit and efficiency of ‘*user fees*’ collected via **voluntary** exchange, *a.k.a.* ‘indirect taxes’ by some nomenclators. Tariff revenue was to be used to finance the Navy (to impede piracy) customs officials/forts, construct and maintaining ports, canals, COIN money to have stable currency for international exchange, etc... So the cost of facilitating regular trade is incorporated in import prices to reduce distortions which arise if the costs of making this trade available to buyers and sellers are **not** included. I’m one of those annoying economists who often remind folks, “There’s no such thing as a **free** lunch, nor a **Free Market**.” There are many costs associated with making markets work - *i.e.*, keeping commerce/markets regular.

How does this translate into a more Constitutional immigration policy? Let’s use **10%** as the uniform tariff rate regardless of what is being imported - *i.e.*, the tax code will **not** be used to pick winners and losers with various rates. For a numerical illustration, consider an individual wanting to enter the US on a **one** year work visa, where US individual median income is \$25,000/year. The tariff would be \$2,500 paid to **Customs**, subject to a rudimentary physical exam and international criminal check - no INS bureaucrats and immigration attorneys. Of course, this \$2,500 could be paid by sponsors, employers, charitable organizations, etc... furthermore, when job markets are tight, fewer immigrants will want to take on the expense of paying the tariff with a decreased likelihood of actually working.

Using the simple immigration policy above, the next step is to address a uniform naturalization policy to define the path to citizenship, given the design and Spirit of our Constitution. It is tied to one of those few (and more thought provoking in my opinion) powers enumerated to Congress in determining the limited time which authors, inventors, etc. have exclusive rights (monopoly power) to their writings and discoveries/inventions to promote the **useful** arts and sciences. The obvious dilemma: without property rights of this sort - incentives to create, improve and innovate are **decreased**; make the duration this monopoly power is conferred *too long* - the transfer to specific individuals/groups (usu. corporate interests) will be deleterious to the general welfare of the economy.

So let’s work through another numerical illustration, this time for an immigrant (again regardless of gender, origin, race, etc.) seeking citizenship. I’ll pick 17 years as the limited time established by Congress for exclusivity. To give domestic labour some semblance of uniformity, the immigrant seeking citizenship would pay a \$42,500 (*i.e.*, 17 times \$2,500) tariff to customs (which may be paid by anyone - private charitable groups, donors, employers, sponsors) and must pass a rudimentary exam on the US Constitution in a uniform language... how about **English** for kicks? Of course, the physical exam and criminal check would still apply and any **prior** year(s) paid in tariffs for work visas could be subtracted from \$42,500 total tariff - an amount which would be subject to revision at uniform intervals tied to median income. **Anyone** who paid 17

## Toward a more rational, Constitutional immigration policy...



years of work visas - regardless of dollar changes over the years -- would be eligible to take the citizenship exam if they so desire.

To those wanting to dismiss this simple proposal over what the Schumer, Trump, et al extremists now have in place - please offer another which is more consistent with the design of the Constitution. Sorry “*Dreamers*,” or “**MANAGEMENT**,” *A Wall*, etc isn’t an answer -- **specifics** to address the problem within the constraints of the Constitution our DC oligarchs took an oath to uphold is what many **non**-reality show voters are looking for. More Reagan type amnesties are not the answer. I expect there will be no shortage of complaints on how high these tariffs would be for immigrants yet great silence on how much domestic labour currently pays in direct (payroll) taxes and all the indirect taxes associated with domestic employment. Just because an increasing number of US citizens do not see nor understand how crushing this burden is in fact on our productive workers, doesn’t mean the burden is NOT there and greatly distorts outcomes in our labour markets. If you look at the cost associated with shuttling illegal immigrants back and forth, unpaid medical bills, so-called ‘anchor babies,’ dumping children, etc. an amount determined in this manner starts to quickly add up.

I find those who complain the loudest about immigration are those most quiet to offer alternatives. Sound proposals must have some understanding of how our federal government was designed to operate (not shown by the Bush, Clinton, Trump, Sanders, et al typical bloviators) and be advanced by those who have the courage to put forth simple, rational, constitutionally correct policy instead of more politically correct, command and control redistributive outcomes designed to further empower the federal government. I’m sure some will be aghast at the notion of letting anyone, from any country of origin be eligible for a work visa and/or citizenship. It is time for biases and discrimination of this sort to end, allowing those with the drive, merit, work ethic and who are truly willing to put their effort toward making a place in the world secure for the blessings of liberty possible for themselves and their posterity. Some champion bringing in hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees. I have no problem with any **private** individual or group who wants to pay to have them (and their ‘chain’) come for a year or more and see if they may become a productive member our nation of States; it is not something for the federal government to subsidize and indulge their preferences under our currently unrepresentative political result.

In closing, the most rational compromise (which will still **not** address the problem) thus far was proffered by Sen. Rand Paul who wants DACA amnesty numbers included in the current million allowed each year. I will not respond to any nastygrams from so-called ‘Contards’ and ‘Libtards’ or worst of all ‘Bipartards’ who refuse to acknowledge the absurdity of the current visa lottery system instead of one driven by competition, economic efficiency, merit and how much most immigrants (trying to achieve **legal** status) waste in effort, money, time on immigration attorneys. These attorneys are among the special interest groups who have the most to lose from moving forward toward a more Constitutional immigration and naturalization policy.

**Postscript:** Rev. George Bandy passed away January 16 in this 2018th year of our Lord after a third of a century in God’s service at St. James Missionary Baptist Church. Rep. Bandy was elected to House District 83 in 1994 as part of the Lee County Delegation serving in many capacities and on many committees including **Chair** of the Lee County Legislation Committee. George ‘Tootie’ Bandy’s legacy continues at Bandy Park which now bears his name in Opelika conveying his long, well established history of service starting as a student working for **Opelika Parks and Recreation** under the prior “Jeter Street” park nomenclature.

Mr. Bandy was Chairman of the *Alabama Democratic Conference*, President of the Lee County Alliance and *Lee County Concerned Citizens* and member of the NAACP as well as the *Lee County Voters League*. *League* President John Andrew Harris began elected public service the same year with the Honorable George Bandy as the first two African Americans elected to the Opelika City Council and submitted a Proclamation to the Lee County Commission in keeping with the Spirit conveyed by House Speaker Mac McCutcheon who led a moment of silence in Rep. Bandy’s memory at the end of chamber proceedings on the day of his passing who said, "***The institutional knowledge that he gathered during his long service often provided needed insight and guidance to his colleagues,***" and, "***We will miss his presence in the hallways, committee rooms and chambers of the Alabama State House.***" Rev. Bandy will be missed in the Spirit of **2 Timothy 4:7**, this servant of God indeed fought the good fight, finished the course and kept the faith who earned the words conveyed in **Matthew 25:21**, well done good and faithful servant: enter into the joy of thy Lord.





# The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

## Architecture of the Constitution

by

Louis Wilson Ingram

*This is from a speech given by Louis Ingram.*

Last month we examined the paradigm of our Constitution: fear of government power, and some of the reasons for that fear. We saw that government is a zero sum game pitting power against freedom. We also saw how the awesome Washington atmosphere generates a feeling of self-importance, and how power is useless if it goes unused. Finally, we saw that We The People fire only a fraction of our so-called representatives every two years, despite the fact that our ability to vote them out is our real limiting force.

Now we are going to look at how the Framers responded to that fear.

First and foremost, they denied any inherent powers to the government they were creating in the name of The People. All governments which arise de facto from the existence of a sovereign society have all powers necessary to function. Those that arise de jure from an act of their citizenry may have only the powers assigned to them in the constituting instrument.

The Framers made it clear that the national government they were constituting, had no powers other than those specifically enumerated. That narrow viewpoint has important implications.

It necessarily follows that the words or phrases which may admit to more than one interpretation, must be given that meaning, which is the more or most exclusive of additional powers. A more inclusive interpretation would undermine the fundamental purpose in enumeration of powers. That in turn, would undermine the fundamental purpose of The Constitution, which is to limit the powers of government.

We will examine in the next installment, the enumeration of powers, but here, let us look at the architecture of the document itself.

The organization of The Constitution mirrors that of any well written contract. It is delivered into articles which are subdivided into sections, paragraphs, and clauses. The primary articles focus on distinct topics:

**Article I the Legislative,**

**Article II the Executive,**

**Article III the Judiciary.**

**Article IV** focuses on State Relationships with each other and with the federal government.

**Article V** focuses on the amendment process.

Each of these five articles defines a discrete subject.

**Article VI** collects miscellaneous items which don't fit into any of the foregoing articles, but do not require, because of brevity, separate Articles. That miscellany includes the assumption of debts (from the confederation), the supremacy clause, and the Oath of Office.

Finally,

**Article VII** provides for adoption or ratification of the document.

Although the Bill of Rights consists of the first ten amendments, it is generally considered to be part and parcel with the original document. This partly because of its proximity in time, and partly because it was the price of ratification charged by several states.

Whereas The Constitution limits the powers of government by omission (only those powers enumerated may be used), the Bill of Rights explicitly denies the use of certain enumerated powers. For example, The Constitution authorizes the raising of an army and the corollary power to arm it, while the Second Amendment says the government cannot use that, or any other power, to disarm the populace.

There are three different types of restrictions within the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment differs from all the rest in that it speaks to a variety of subjects that are nowhere to be found in the enumerated powers. It forbids Congress from legislating in these areas, despite the fact, that there was no enumeration of powers to do so. "Congress shall make no law....."

The next seven amendments each limit Congressional action within a larger subject that has been authorized by enumeration. Surely the power to maintain an army includes the power to billet [direct] the troops. The third amendment provides that Congress cannot house troops in private homes during peacetime. That had been a bad habit of King George III.

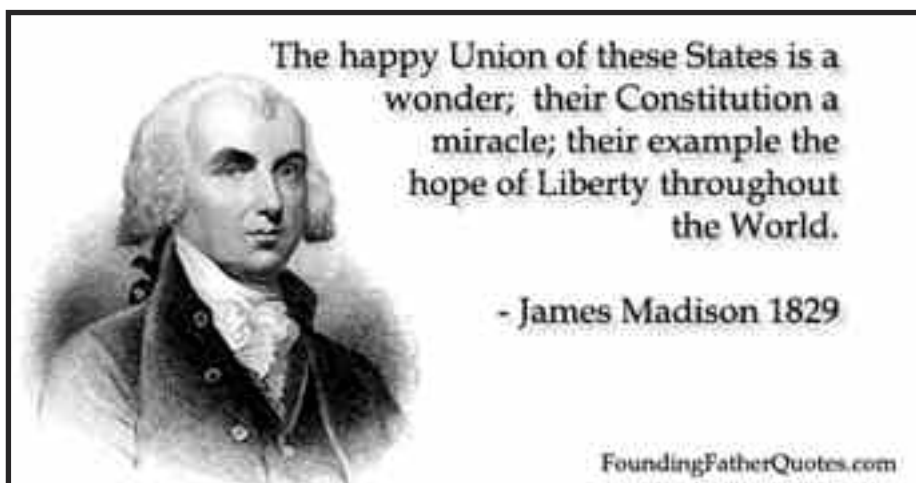
The third type of restriction among the Bill of Rights is found in the Ninth and Tenth Amendments. The Ninth simply makes certain that the natural rights that we enjoy are not limited to those Rights specifically mentioned. Of course, it does not spell out what other Rights there may be.

The Tenth Amendment reserves to the States and to The People all the powers of government that have not been enumerated for use by the federal government. The principal utility of this Amendment is that it makes clear the restrictive purpose of enumeration just in case it should be missed. In fact, the purpose is so clear that one must have gone to law school in order to obfuscate [obscure] it.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are approximately 4,700 words in length. That is about seven op-ed pieces; not very daunting reading. Among those few words are 15 phrases which require some elaboration. Two of those phrases, as we shall see, are fundamental to the expansion of the Constitution by a juridical restatement of "all powers necessary to govern." That is the basis for destroying the document left to us by the Framers.

Two of the 16 phases are the roots of the juridical kudzu vine that has virtually strangled the very purpose of the document.

Remember that the purpose of The Constitution is to limit the powers of congress in the first place and the powers of government in the second.



That is achieved through the enumeration of specific powers granted (which we will examine in the fifth installment). For now, we will look at two of the terms of art which happen to be used in the enumeration of powers.

One is the so-called "elastic clause" which, as its nick-name implies, is the basis for an argument that Congress has powers limited only by what is "necessary and proper." It is the 18th and last power granted to Congress in Section 8 of Article I. "Congress shall have the power to make all laws necessary and proper...

"Those who resent the restrictive nature of The Constitution and would delimit the power of government put a "period" immediately after "proper." Were that the case, they would be unassailably correct. However, the grant of power does not end with the word "proper."

Clause 18 actually says "Congress shall have the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers" and a few other powers granted in other parts of The Constitution. The additional words "for carrying into execution the foregoing powers," actually convert the proffered elasticity into quite the opposite, because any and all laws executed under the enumerated powers must also be necessary and proper. Whatever that is!

There's only one place in The Constitution that sheds any light on what that might be. **The Preamble states with simplicity and elegance the six reasons for proposing the new Constitution. Those reasons are to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.**

If a law falls within any of those purposes, and no others, it can be said to be "necessary and proper." So much for the elastic clause.

The other Constitutional power, which has been judicially defined to undermine the restrictive purpose of The Constitution, is the "taxing clause" of Article I, Section 8, clause i. "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States... ."

When this was debated in the Convention, there were delegates who feared that it would be construed to confer legislative power for any measure that was arguably for the "general Welfare." James Madison successfully argued against such a broad interpretation, and later said "With respect to the two words 'general welfare,' I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of (subsequently enumerated) powers connected with them. To take (general Welfare) in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of The Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators."

The practical and dispositive test is to recall that The Framers labored during the most oppressively hot months, behind locked doors, in a building without the modern convenience of air conditioning, to formulate the limitation of specific powers to be granted to the new government. To believe that they would eviscerate their work product in a single phrase is to suggest that they were demented. But, of course they were not. In fact even Alexander Hamilton, chief apologist for powerful central government, correctly described the intention of the Convention to limit Federal powers in The Federalist Papers.

Having determined what general Welfare does not mean, it is important to conclude what it does in fact mean. Its obvious meaning is, of course, its true meaning. What it obviously means is the federal legislation must benefit the nation as a whole rather than special interest.

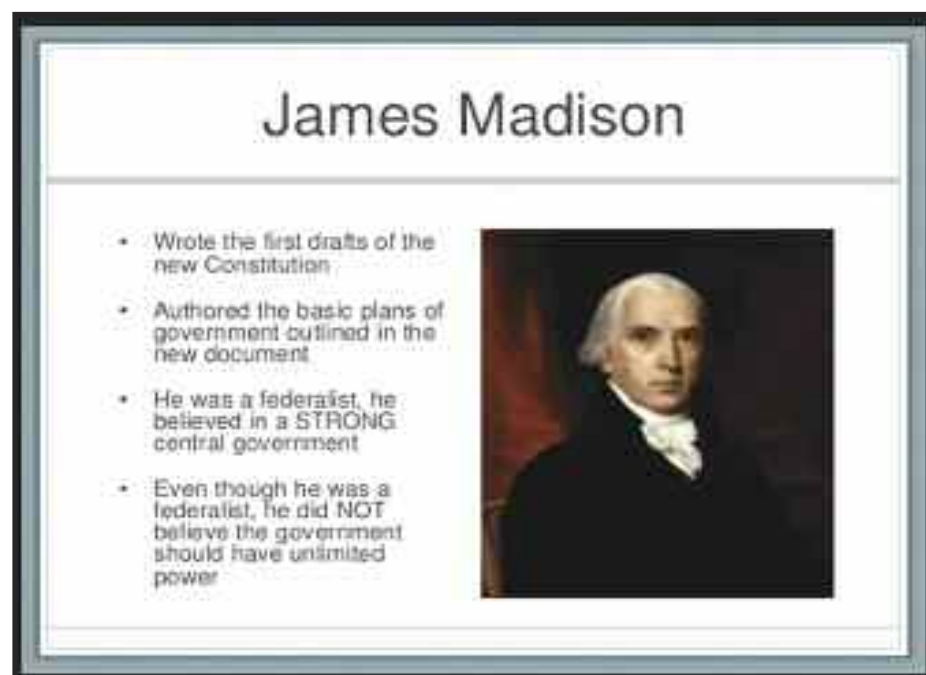
Reprinted by permission of the late, Louis Wilson Ingram, beloved friend of our ministry.

We are grateful for the permission to use Louis Ingram's articles on the Constitution. In closing the article for February, I would like to quote John Adams, our 2nd President:

***"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."***

My prayer is for a revival in America of our Judeo-Christian Faith, and the commitment to a Moral culture within the Rule of Law.

Bobbie Ames



Bobbie Ames writes from The Hoffman Education Center for the Family, where the ministry promotes Christian Education that is foundational to the Historic Biblical Principle Approach. Consulting services are available through the Hoffman Research Library. She can be reached at P. O. Box 241405, Montgomery, AL 36124, or at [bobbiehames@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiehames@gmail.com).





Ed Jones  
Staff Sports Editor

# TOUGH AND TENDER

## Coach Raymond Boykin - A coach for all seasons

During the course of a lifetime, one will encounter someone who has character, conviction, determination and a sense of purpose that influences your life more than most. Such a man is admired, respected, loved and imitated in word and deed. Such a man was Coach Raymond Boykin. He was the same as a player, as a coach and as an educator. His personality was always the same. He made time for others. He was interested in your successes, your failures and your pain when life was difficult. He was always the same. What you saw is what you got. Even though football was his first love, he truly was a coach for all seasons. His life and his death, just before Christmas at the age of 96, will be in the fore-front of my mind for a long time.

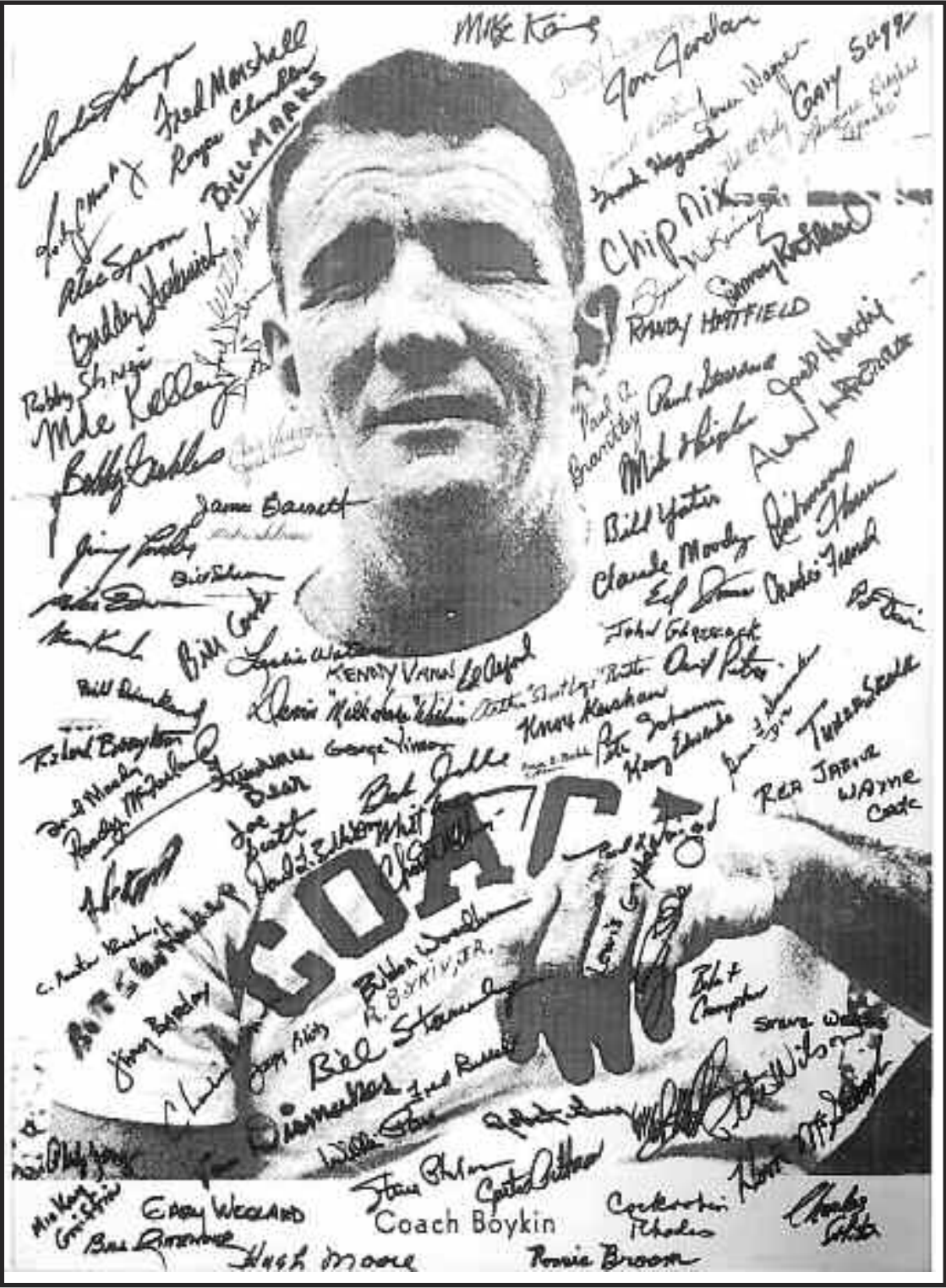


No. 38, Raymond Boykin, captain and fullback of the 1941 Lanier team

One of the traits of Raymond Boykin was a humility that became even more evident to me while researching for this story. In the fifty years that we have been friends and co-workers, he never mentioned that he was captain of the 1941 Sidney Lanier football team. Nor did he mention that he was on scholarship as a fullback on the Auburn football team after the war. Nor did he mention

that his Marine Corps unit was responsible for the liberation of Wake Island in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Wake Island was one of the first American outposts to be overrun by the Japanese Imperial Forces. All Americans on Wake Island were slaughtered. There were no survivors. He never mentioned that he also participated in taking other islands in General Douglas MacArthur's "Island Hopping" strategy in the Pacific, which was designed to bring the American forces close enough for an attack on the Japanese mainland. As was the case with most veterans of World War II, he just did not want to talk about it. As a history buff, my interest are strong enough to ask Raymond about his experiences in the Pacific. All he ever told me was that there was a lot of unnecessary killing on both sides. His far away look told me that the subject was just too painful.

After the war, Raymond went to Auburn on a football scholarship where



Over 200 former players came out in a driving rain storm to honor "Coach" Boykin at a surprise dinner in 2005

Coach Boykin was coaching at Lanier. He was monitoring one of the large "study halls" near the library. It was customary to give students a pass to the library. When I was a student at Lanier my english teacher, Mrs. Andrews, later became the librarian. She was extremely tough and demanding.

Two rowdy boys came back from the library one day and told Coach Boykin that Mrs. Andrews kicked them out of the library for chewing gum. Coach told them that they just didn't understand Mrs. Andrews. He said, "She is just testing you. You know you have the right to chew gum in the library and she knows it too. She will respect you if you will go back to the library and tell her that you know that you have this right." They came back to study hall with a note barring them from the library for the rest of the year.

Everyone knew Coach Boykin as a football coach. What many did not know was that he was an excellent teacher with a strong background in education. The only thing that could get him off the football field would be the opportunity to be one of the founders of Trinity School. He was selected to be the first headmaster in 1970 overseeing the grade school curriculum and that of the junior high school. Raymond later served as Elder Emeritus at Trinity Presbyterian Church. It was no surprise that Trinity prospered and grew to be one of the finest schools in Alabama. The school expanded to all grades and relocated from Trinity Church to a new location off Carmichael Road. My wife Betty and I were so impressed that we placed



Raymond Boykin reflects on his service as a Marine in the Pacific during WWII

he played fullback. In the late forties he transferred to Huntingdon College and got his BS Degree there in 1950. During that time, Father Pat Delahunty talked him and Dave Poundstone into coaching his St. Mary's of Loretta football team. Loretta had been trying to field a football team to compete with Starke University School for the Montgomery City Championship. For two years this was Coach Boykin's first coaching job. Loretta was renamed Catholic High School in 1956. Boykin and Delahunty laid a solid foundation in athletics for the small Catholic school that still has an excellent athletic program.

In 1949, Coach Bill Moseley was hired as athletic director and head football coach at Sidney Lanier. Moseley was a fullback at Lanier before the war and later at the University of Kentucky under Paul "Bear" Bryant. He was well aware of Raymond Boykin's dedication to the game and to the young men that played for him. Upon graduation from Huntingdon, Raymond was hired by Coach Moseley in 1950. There he had the privilege of coaching people like Nick Germanos and Bart Starr, who both brought much pride to the Poets and to the University of Alabama. When Coach Moseley retired in 1954, Raymond decided to spend more time at his farm where he also raised cattle. In 1957 when Bobby Wilson was named head coach at Lanier, Raymond came back on the staff. During this period, Lanier won two state championships voted on by the Alabama Sportswriters Association. They also won three straight titles in the play-off era in '66, '67 and '68.

Coach Boykin was a hard-nose blocking and tackling coach. He also was a fitness "expert". His Lanier physical fitness team placed high in the country more than once. When you played for Raymond Boykin, you were in shape and fundamentally sound. The players didn't like it at the time, but they appreciated it later.

In all my years of playing, coaching and studying football, I have never met a person that was more fun to be around. He was a practical joker par excellence. His victims were numerous. My favorite story occurred when

all three of our children in the first grade under his guidance. We never regreted that move. They received a strong educational foundation at Trinity that proved to be invaluable later in life.

If Raymond Boykin could talk to us today, he would tell us that he was more proud of his involvement in the development of Trinity School than all the honors he received as a player and coach prior to this undertaking. He was the headmaster, the coach, the math teacher and the force behind the building of a first class athletic facility. It is very fitting that today, the football teams at Trinity play on "Boykin Field".

**In Greek, the word Boykin means Trinity!**



On his boat at Orange Beach, Raymond enjoys a life well lived





Marcia Chambliss

this time in Kentucky. Two more innocent teenagers killed, 16 others shot, and 7 more injured as they fled for their lives.

I remember thinking, “Not again, Father God...please, not again.”

Yes, and yet again, while the families and loved ones grieve the loss of these children, another senseless tragedy becomes politicized as soon as the first microphone is thrust in an elected official’s face. My prayer should have included a plea for us as a nation to acknowledge the root of the problem, not fight about more legislation of the weapon used to kill these teenagers. Whether the tool of violence is a gun, a knife, or a bomb, more laws won’t eliminate the source of our chaos.

**We are a nation out of order.**

As his state mourned and struggled to find answers, Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin offered the best statement regarding what is happening to our nation:

**"We can't celebrate death in video games, celebrate death in TV shows, celebrate death in movies, celebrate death in musical lyrics and remove any sense of morality and sense of higher authority and then expect that things like this are not going to happen."**

Gov. Bevin is absolutely correct, and he is calling on Americans to “wake up” to the fact that we have a cultural problem and our culture is crumbling from within, enabled by an unscrupulous entertainment industry that has profited mightily from the glamorization of violence with our financial addiction to their product. The sobering truth is that we are a society that has become anesthetized to the loss of life. The news reports become numbing, names quickly become only statistics, and I’m not sure that many of us give more than a fleeting thought to the devastation of the families left behind.

But why are we so shocked when these acts of violence continue to occur? Since 1973, we’ve accepted the moral relativism (no absolute set of moral principles) that abortion is a choice instead of the death of an unborn child, a child created in the image of our Creator. And when even those who consider themselves religious or affiliated with a mainline denomination still believe it should remain legal, why would mass shootings in any venue be so shocking?

We’ve conveniently turned our heads when violent crime daily takes the lives of those in our inner cities, ignoring it until it creeps into our own outlying

# The Chambliss Commentary



## A Nation Out of Order

communities, and too often explaining and accepting it as “thugs taking out thugs” without remembering that each of those individuals, regardless of the label we assign, also has enormous value in the eyes of our God.

The end result of being out of order is our society’s diminished value of life itself, but it begins in our homes. Until we understand that we’re in a battle for the heart and soul of our families and our nation, little will change to correct our direction. We first allowed our culture to redefine marriage; now, we’re redefining gender, with the full support of an education system that for years has been stealthily undermining the role and authority of parents. Modern-day feminism has weakened the role of the father, and the advertising industry has often aided and abetted that cause by portraying fathers as little more than cartoon characters. Far too many families continue to exist in generational poverty as we replace fathers with government checks instead of recognizing God’s perfect order of our family and teaching how it is designed to thrive. Christian beliefs and worldviews are openly mocked on university campuses, and a recent study by Barna Group indicates that among teenagers, Generation Z, born from 1995-2015, atheism is increasing, and is doubling that of the general population.

Changing our culture won’t be easy. As I said, we’re in a battle, and the starting point of that battle is a spiritual one in which we give God His proper authority in our homes, our state, and our nation.

What we value in our families, the way we now educate our children, the priorities of our lives, and what we accept as entertainment reflects the order of our nation – and until we return to God’s order, we sadly need not be shocked by what we reap.

<sup>1</sup> “Americans’ views on abortion, by religious group.” Pew Research, 19 Jan. 2018, [http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/01/22/american-religious-groups-vary-widely-in-their-views-of-abortion/ft\\_18-01-19\\_abortionreligious-groups/](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/01/22/american-religious-groups-vary-widely-in-their-views-of-abortion/ft_18-01-19_abortionreligious-groups/)

<sup>2</sup> “Atheism Doubles Among Generation Z.” Barna Group, 24 Jan. 2018, [https://www.barna.com/research/atheism-doubles-among-generation-z/?utm\\_source=Barna+Update+List&utm\\_campaign=fb6ed9e928-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_12\\_28&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_8560a0e52e-fb6ed9e928-172101617&mc\\_cid=fb6ed9e928&mc\\_eid=feaf2776f4](https://www.barna.com/research/atheism-doubles-among-generation-z/?utm_source=Barna+Update+List&utm_campaign=fb6ed9e928-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_12_28&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8560a0e52e-fb6ed9e928-172101617&mc_cid=fb6ed9e928&mc_eid=feaf2776f4)

Marcia Chambliss has been involved in grassroots conservative politics since 2009 and has contributed opinion articles pertaining to politics and cultural issues to *The Alabama Gazette* since 2010.



## Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris “Chip” Beeker, Jr.

### We The People

At 12:01a.m. on January 20, 2018, a dually elected group of Senators with the mandate of representing their United States constituents in their states failed to remember who elected them and what their purpose is. Instead, they used an important opportunity reflecting fiscal responsibility to its citizens by creating an unfair and un-American tactic meant to obtain benefits and opportunity for people who never elected them to their position in the first place. The very people who used their vote to undermine the fiscal responsibility of our United States government did so at the cost of the American public. Instead, they think it was worthwhile to prove a point that was absolutely pointless; therefore, showing their true un-American colors. The American citizens need to take a hard look at these individuals who seem to be in a crisis of identity when they don’t even know whom they are supposed to be representing. These same Senators need to bear the full responsibly of the choice that they made for all of us.

If you are not aware, when the government goes into a shutdown, it does

major damage to our military members, specifically those who are in harms way. Those active military members get a memorandum from the Secretary of Defense that states they are to continue doing their job, ultimately without pay until the shutdown is over. The military members that are in harms way, are now burdened with the extra worry of the thought of their spouses and children going without food, and the ability to pay their bills is no longer there. Their minds become flooded with concern and worry in a time when their focus should be on the enemies in front of them. The men and women in uniform, protecting our families and country, should have the luxury of not worrying when their next paycheck will be drafted because of bull-headed Senators in Washington who are too concerned with the illegals to worry about keeping our brave ones’ safe. If you ask me, it should be a mandate that the ones in Congress be the first ones to get their checks held until they reach an agreement, not the ones who are on the forefront willing to sacrifice their lives. That is one backwards mindset.

This latest action by a democratically elected group of officials is a real indicator of what has obviously been a hidden agenda that has been going on for years. Their purpose should be to plan for our future, safe guard the present, not repeat the mistakes of the past, and make America the strongest nation on the face of the planet. In doing this, it would provide a future that not only prospers our citizens but also serves as a watch guard for other citizens in other nations.

We the people will NEVER FORGET January 20, 2018, the day the Senate democrats chose to shut down the American government, deprive American children of health care, and hold our military hostage to protect illegal immigrants.

*The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.*



Buddy Hicks

stroke or who has suffered an accident that has left them in a position to have to receive 24 hour care? If so, do you know how they paid for it? In a lot of cases, these individuals or their family members had to pay for that care out of pocket. And because those resources are often very limited, they end up having to move in with other family members like their children or siblings and those family members become the care givers by helping with everything from feeding and dressing to bathing and toileting. Now I don’t know about you, but I’d rather not put my spouse or child in a position to have to care for me in that way. The cost for this care can be as high as \$200 day. That’s around \$6000 a month and over \$70,000 a year. WOW! Even as I type this, those numbers hit pretty hard. There are not too many people I know that can foot that bill for even one year much less long term. So, without having those resources, how do you know that you will be properly cared for? You might feel like you are ok because you have your retirement account that has been building up for years or you have long term disability with the company you work for. Just remember that your retirement account is there to replace your income when you retire and your

disability is there to replace a portion of your income should you not be able to work. But long term care is an additional cost on top of your other living expenses. A viable option to look at is to transfer that risk.

If your house burned down today, how would you replace it? If you wrecked your car, how would you pay to repair or replace it? Most likely, you have transferred that risk to an insurance company that would pay to replace your house or car. The same holds true for long term care. You can acquire insurance to cover the cost of your long term care. Now, just like auto insurance or homeowners insurance, you may never have the need arise. You may never have an auto accident and so you never file a claim or you may live in your house for 30 years and never file a claim. You may die without ever needing any long term care. But, are you willing to take that risk with your care?

If you feel like there is even just a 1% chance that you will require long term care at some point in your life, then it begs the question, **how do you want to be cared for?** Do you want to rely on family members to pay for or provide that care or do you want to plan so that you can get the care you need without being a burden on your family?

Make time today to talk with a professional who can help you determine the proper amount of coverage you would need that works with your budget.

## The Financial Corner

### HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE CARED FOR?

Do you have anyone in your family who has been affected by Alzheimer’s, Dementia, a

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You may feel like it would cost too much to get all of the coverage you would need, but even if you get what you can afford now and add to it later, you are in better shape than without any at all.

*Buddy Hicks is a Financial Advisor with Wealth Management Group LLC an affiliate firm of Securian Financial Services and has over 18 years of experience in the financial services business. He is Life and Health Insurance licensed and FINRA registered with his Series 7 and Series 66 which allows him to be an Investment Advisor and Registered Representative of and offer securities and investment advisory services through Securian Financial Services Inc, member FINRA / SIPC. He is an Alumnus of Troy University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business/Finance. He takes a process approach with all of his clients to help determine their goals and then works with them to put a strategy in place to help reach those goals. An area of importance of Buddy’s is his ability to intuitively listen to his clients so that he can fully understand their current situation and what their future needs are.*

Life insurance products contain fees, such as mortality and expense charges (which may increase over time), and may contain restrictions, such as surrender periods.

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# Gazette Seniors...

*Dr. John Bitter, Editor  
Senior Section*

*You may be over  
the hill if... you remember that  
who, what, when, where, why,  
and how were guiding principles  
of news reporting*

## Where are we going?

Not since the “War of Northern Aggression” has the United States of America been less united than it is today.

Watching the Democrats vigorous pouting during President Donald Trump's State of the Union message last month, the situation would have been funny had it not been more serious. It was almost as if Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton had returned to life to sit in the Capitol, frowning and posturing as President Trump gave his “State of the Union” speech.

As the public viewed the Democratic portion of our Congress, sitting on their hands with sullen looks on their faces as President Trump presented the Nation with his message. One could hardly keep from laughing as the Democrats glared into the cameras as Pres. Trump gave an uplifting report to America.

The Democrats put on a silent show of belligerence as President Trump gave an uplifting and positive message to America. It would have been comical were the situation not so serious. We're skating close to another world war if America doesn't get



If our Congress doesn't acquire a positive sense of direction soon; falling may be our fate.

serious about the many threats it is facing.

Another World War is imminent if the United States doesn't give up its silly pouting and start sharpening its swords.

Weren't we shortsighted in 1945, when we thought we had won a “war to end all wars.” We should have taken a clue when North Korea invaded the South and plunged us back into a war stance. And did not the Vietnam War cause us to appreciate the direction in which our country was headed? Obviously not. Now we're marching, once again, down the path to another world war; unless we get our act together and take the world situation more seriously.

Perhaps our country would be better off with a unicameral congress. Preferably one that has a more accurate sense of direction. We seem to be as confused as we were a century and a half ago; or even four centuries past, when Aesop opined that “United we stand; divided we fall.”



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## Rosie The Riveter: Working Woman's Icon

“**Rosie the Riveter**” is an American icon representing women working in factories during World War II.

These women learned new jobs and filled in for the men who were away at war. They produced much of the armaments and ammunition to supply the war effort.

They also paid FICA on their wages, contributing to the Social Security program. These “Rosies” embodied the “can-do” spirit immortalized in a poster by J. Howard Miller. Both the image and the spirit live on today.

If you asked Rosie about Social Security, she would use her rivet gun to drive home the value of Social Security for women. More Rosies work today, and nearly 60 percent of people receiving benefits are women. Women tend to live longer than men, so Social Security's inflation-adjusted benefits help protect women. You can outlive your savings and investments, but Social Security is for life. Women provide their own basic level of protection when they work and pay taxes into the Social Security system. Women who have been married and had low earnings or who didn't work may be covered through their spouses' work.

Today's Rosie will turn her “can-do” spirit to learning more about Social Security and what role it will play in her financial plan for the future. She focuses on our pamphlet called What Every Woman Should Know available at [www.social-security.gov/pubs/10127.html](http://www.social-security.gov/pubs/10127.html) for a game plan.

She rolls up her sleeves and sets up her my Social Security account ([www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount)) to review her earnings and estimates. If she finds



an incorrect posting, she'll locate her W-2 form and quickly contact Social Security to correct it because she understands these are the earnings used to figure her benefits.

She dives into understanding benefits at our planner pages at [www.social-security.gov/planners](http://www.social-security.gov/planners). She examines how marriage, divorce, death of a spouse, work, and other issues might affect her benefits. She studies our fact sheet When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits at [www.social-security.gov/pubs/](http://www.social-security.gov/pubs/) to help her decide when it's time to lay down the rivet gun. And when the time is right, she will file for retirement benefits online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/retire](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/retire).

Whether it was keeping the war effort production lines humming or discovering what is available to her from Social Security, Rosie symbolizes the motto: “We Can Do It.” Rosie and millions like her rely on the financial protection provided by Social Security in assembling their own financial futures.

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Steve Long

# Woods & Waters

## with Steve



### IT’S THE SEASON FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE!

Well, we finally made it to the month of February and we only have 6 days left in deer Season. But in February in Alabama another subject comes to my mind and that is the subject of Prescribe Burning. The following article is from one of the premier land managers in our state, Mr. Ted DeVos Of Bach and DeVos Forestry and Wildlife Services.

Images and thoughts of woodland fire are typically that it is bad! However, this is probably because most people are not familiar with the benefits of burning and have not taken the time to study prescribed burning and the ecology of their natural resources. Fire is as natural as rain and sunshine. It was always a part of the natural ecology of our landscape.

The difference in wildfires and prescribed fires is that wildfires often burn huge acreages, typically in dry times of year and can be uncontrolled, destroying trees, houses, crossing roads, etc. Prescribed fires, on the other hand, remove the same fuels that wildfires need but are done in a controlled manner with firelanes to contain the fire and in conditions that keep the fire low to the ground only burning the grasses and debris on the ground.

Prescribed fire is one of the most useful yet misunderstood and under-utilized tools in the land manager toolbox. While there has been some increase in the use of fire in woodlands in the last decade (over 1 million acres in Alabama in 2009), there are many more millions of acres that need burning and are not getting it.

In the deep southeast, fire has been an integral part of the evolution of our woodlands. Most of this area was forested in Longleaf pine and, historically, a burn interval of 2-5 years was the norm. Lightning or native American set fires burned vast acreages and the habitat it created was described by early explorers as "a vast forest of the most stately pine trees that can be imagined" and "passing through a level, open, airy pine forest, the stately trees scatteringly planted by nature, arising straight and erect from the green carpet, embellished with various grasses and flowering plants". Many people think old-growth hardwood forests of oak, beech and chestnut were the natural pre-settlement condition of the southeast, but regularly burned pines were covering most of Alabama. These early Alabama explorers also described abundant wildlife populations of deer, turkeys, bear, panthers, bison, elk, pigeons, etc. all dependant on the fire-maintained woodlands of the southeast. Needless to say, fire was and is an important driving force in our woodlands.

Today, we burn mostly to maintain wildlife habitat, manage timberland and try to prevent wildfires. The benefits of regular woodland burning include reducing hazardous fuel buildup that leads to wildfires, increasing aesthetic values and promote wildflower production, encourage a more sunny understory that grows more grasses and weeds providing food for all wildlife species, and help control some insects and diseases. Most species of wildlife in Alabama are benefitted significantly from regular burning.

While wildfires in the western states are usually seen on the evening news, southeastern wildfires can also be large and destroy many homes and businesses. Wildfires in Georgia and Florida are common, especially in dry years and can burn vast amounts of acres. The fires in Gatlinburg in the fall of 2016 are an excellent example of the lack of prescribed burning allowing massive fuel buildup to spark one of the worst natural disasters to hit Tennessee. This fire burned 16,000 acres and killed 14 people plus destroyed around 2,000 structures in and around Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.



Ted DeVos

*Bach and DeVos Forestry and Wildlife Services*

The traditional time for woodland burning in the southeast is from February – April. This is a time of drier fuels and lower humidity that are conducive to good burning. Some burning is also done from late spring through summer. If you do your own burning, smoke management is a major concern on all burns and knowing what your smoke is expected to do and where it will go is also important in planning the burn. Knowing where any housing developments, urban areas, airports, schools, hospitals, roads or other smoke-sensitive areas requires planning for wind directions and smoke dispersion levels for your burn area. For instance, if you have a road bordering your burn unit on the west and north side, you will need a north and west wind to move smoke away from this hazard. Typically, prescribed burners in Alabama are trained as Prescribed Burn Managers through the Alabama Forestry Commission. Most have been burning the woods a long time and have the experience it takes to keep fires contained and minimize disturbance to surrounding landowners. All fires less than ¼ acre in Alabama are required to have a burn permit issued by the Forestry Commission.

A variety of resources are available for those interested in prescribed burning. Websites like the Alabama Prescribed Fire Council (<http://alpfc.org/>), the Alabama Forestry Commission (<http://www.forestry.state.al.us/>), and the Southern Fire Exchange (<http://southernfireexchange.org/>) discuss the benefits of burning and techniques to conduct burn. At sites like these, you can get fire weather forecasts, drought conditions, smoke planning tools, Prescribed Burn Manager training and burn permits among other information.

So, if you see a smoke plume off in the distance, smell smoke in your neighborhood or see a burn near a road you are travelling, remember that these prescribed fires are good for the environment and may actually prevent a wildfire from happening near you!

## Kritter Korner

### Ringtailed cat/Miner’s cat

Ringtail cats are not related to the cat family but are members of the raccoon family, Procyonidae which also includes Kinkajous, and Coatimundis. Ringtails



are cat sized animals that resemble a mix between a fox and a raccoon. The face is fox-like, with a pointed snout, and the body is raccoon-like and elongated. The top side of the animal is yellow to dark brown or black, and the underside is a whitish buff. The ears and eyes are large and the eyes are ringed by white fur. The tail is very bushy and can be longer than

the head and body in many cases. It is also marked by 14-16 alternating black and white bands for which the animal is named. The average ringtail is 24-32 inches long and weighs between 2 to 5 lbs.

The name “ringtail” comes from the black ring markings that are found on the animal’s tail. Ringtails are also referred to by many other names, like miner’s

cat because they were used to help control rodents in mines, civet cat because of the foul odor it secretes when confronted; this name is also an allusion to an African species named Civettictis civetta, which produces a substance called civet that is used in perfumes.

Ringtails usually inhabit deserts, rock plateaus, and canyons in the Southwest states such as Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and Texas. They also live in forests in California and Oregon. Ringtails are great climbers and because of their tactile movements and agility, these animals make their homes in mountainous terrain, rock crevices, tree hollows, or under cliffs.

Ringtails are primarily carnivorous but also do eat other food like plants, fruit, and insects. Their diets generally consist of small mammals (rodents, rabbits, squirrels), small birds, insects (spiders, grasshoppers, crickets, centipedes, scorpions), and fruits (persimmon, mistletoe, hackberries). As well, the diet varies throughout the year. In the fall, it consists of mostly plants and insects; in winter, mammals and birds; and in summer, insects. Ringtails are solitary animals, except during mating season, and are nocturnal. They are also quite vocal, especially the young. They will make squeaks, chitters, grunts, growls, and hissing. Ringtails are also exceptionally good climbers, which is why they make their homes in rock crevices, cracks, and cliffs. They are very nimble and can quickly reverse the direction they are moving in by performing a cartwheel using their tail. Another interesting feature is their ability to rotate their hind feet 180°. Ringtails are also able to move up narrow passages by pressing their feet on one side of the wall and pressing their back against the other side or pressing both right feet on one side of the wall, and both left feet on the other side.

Ringtails have no special status but are the official state mammal of Arizona. The main predators of ringtails are bobcats, raccoons, foxes, large owls and humans. Although humans are one of their top predators, ringtails are usually killed because they are pests to farmers, damaging poultry and orchards.

Ringtails can be kept as pets.



Ron VanHerwyn

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Community Lifestyles



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TECH TALK

Try this: Hum your favorite song  
for the next 20 seconds.



Darnell Hughley

to slow down and dry out, creating sinus blockage and opening the door for pathogens. How do you stop them? You could also try humming, since it greatly increases your nasal nitric oxide, which has strong antimicrobial effects. Not only that - but there is hope for sinus sufferers too. Keeping the sinuses healthy and infection-free requires ventilation — keeping air flowing smoothly between the sinus and nasal cavities. And what better way to keep air moving through the sinuses and naval cavity than by humming a tune? Studies show that humming helps increase airflow between the sinus and nasal cavities, which could potentially help protect against sinus infections.

So there you have it, totally disregard your co-workers’ complaints, and hum your heart out. Just hum until your heart's content!

With that being said, and learning the benefits of a good hum, it must be noted that while humming is proving itself to be quite healthy for us as humans, it is a sure sign of poor health for your computer. Yes, that incessant hum you hear whizzing away in the background of your computer is NOT a sign of good infection-free ventilation. In fact, this is almost certainly a fan - either one that's come loose, or one that's having to work harder than it should to keep your PC cool. But you shouldn't completely discount the possibility of something far more serious: a hard drive problem. A dying hard drive is more likely to make a clicking noise than a whirring one, but it's best to play safe. Make an extra image backup of your hard drive, just in case.

This leads us to talk about four common practices that every computer user should be made aware of and practice routinely. No matter how tech savvy you are, there are certain things every one of us has to deal with when using a computer—and we don’t always deal with them in the most efficient ways. Here are four things that everyone can (and should) learn to keep their computer fast, safe, and easy to use.

How to avoid viruses, or even keep your data backed up. Even if you’ve mastered all of these tricks (and there’s a good chance you haven’t), you may want to send this along to some of your less computer-savvy friends. After all, the more they know how to do, the less they’ll call you for help.

1. Set Up a Simple Backup System

We all know we should back up our computers, but it’s always one of those things that you’ll set up “one day”. Setting up a backup only takes minutes, though, so you can do it right now and forget about it until you need it—and when you do need it, you’ll be glad you set it up. If you’re just backing up to an external drive, you can just use the simple tools built in to your computer, like Windows Backup or Apple’s Time Machine. However, that’ll only keep you safe if your computer fails. If you lose your home in a fire, get all your gear stolen, or experience any other kind of disaster (God forbid), you’ll have lost all those important documents, family photos, and other files forever. So, we recommend using a service like CrashPlan®, or Carbonite® to back up your computer online. Also, if you are a Microsoft 365 user, chances are that you already have 1TB (one terrabyte) of “cloud storage” space included with your One Drive. There are also other cloud storage solutions such as DropBox® and Google Drive® that can be used as safe havens for your data. That way, it can back up no matter where you are, and that data will be safe no matter what happens to your hardware.

2. Protect Yourself From Viruses

Windows users have long known the pain of viruses and other malware, but the good news is it’s pretty easy to avoid. First, we recommend learning the difference between viruses, trojans, and other kinds of attacks, as well as the myths surrounding them. Then, if you are a Windows 10® user, you can rest knowing that the built in Windows Defender™ is more than sufficient anti-virus protection included with your system. It's just as good at finding bad stuff as the leading commercial products, and it integrates well into your Windows system without adding a whole metric ton of toolbars, badged buttons, and other cruft. And if you follow some other basic security advice, you’ll get by just fine, and never see a “reminder” that it's time to pony up for your protection fee. However, there are others that you can subscribe to if you have a particular brand loyalty and prefer paying each year for your protection (noting that when you install another antivirus program, your included Windows Defender Anti Virus program will turn itself off). A good malware/spyware program is also recommended to run along with your Antivirus program. You may wish to try something such as Malwarebytes® that’s proving to be a viable solution. In the end, the best way to avoid viruses is to use common sense: don’t open links that look suspicious, don’t install programs from untrusted sources, and if a window pops up saying your computer’s infected, make sure it’s actually your antivirus software saying that and not a fake web page.

3. Keep Your Computer in Tip-Top Shape with Regular Maintenance

Computer maintenance has gotten really confusing over the years. Between defragging (which is becoming less necessary with the newer type of storage devices in newer systems), cleaning up temporary files, and other tasks, it’s almost like trying to maintain a car. Luckily, it’s gotten a lot easier in recent years: you only really need to do one or two things to keep your computer running fast and smooth. There are a lot of myths surrounding good computer

maintenance in the way of what to do’s and what NOT to do. Things like, should I let my computer sleep or shut it off after every use can have opinions from the tech professionals and your “I Know A guy” guru friend. Simple tips such as physically cleaning your computer and peripherals can become invaluable. Dust, noisy fans, keyboard crud, and other symptoms of a well-used computer may not actually prevent you from doing work, but they do make using it much more annoying, and possibly less productive. Make your stuff look nicer, work better, and likely run more efficiently by giving it a spring cleaning.

4. Keep Your Personal Information Safe and Secure

Unfortunately, the internet isn’t always a safe place, which means everyone needs to make sure they’re keeping their personal information safe. Make sure you use strong passwords, remove personal information from photos and other files, and never use open public Wi-Fi networks without protection. Keeping your personal information safe is easier than it sounds, and if you aren’t sure what to do, check out our checklist for staying safe online. You’d be surprised how unsafe you were being before.

- Pick strong passwords: Regardless of what your password is for, it's always good to pick a strong, random password. Don't use your child's name, or a birthday.
- Use unique passwords for every site: Don't ever reuse the same email and password combo on multiple services. It might seem like it doesn't matter, but if a hacker gets your account information on one site, that means they can use that login information on every other site you're registered at. Keep all your passwords different.
- Understand the basics of online fraud: Phishing scams, malware, and other nasty things are all easy to detect if you keep a cautious eye on what your browser is doing at all times. Be skeptical of odd emails, brush up on the FTC's guide to identity theft, and don't trust your personal information to any website that doesn't use HTTPS (security encryption).

Lastly (for this article), but certainly not least, Avoid finding and installing a lot of “free” software from “Free-Infectious-Software-Are-Us” sites. Ask yourself while you’re trying to save a few bucks, would you rather spend 10 minutes finding a free, open-source alternative to what you're looking for, or an entire afternoon trying to recover files and restore your system?

*Darnell Hughley is the Owner, Certified Technician and Consultant for HY-Tech Solutions, LLC - having more than 23 years of total experience in the PC Repair and IT Consulting field. Email him at: [dhughley@hytech.solutions](mailto:dhughley@hytech.solutions). Follow him on Twitter @HyTech\_Solution*



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# Southern Cuisine

*Is there something wrong with this winter's weather? We had two snow-falls of over three inches each, and days when the temperature never got above freezing, and a few days later three inches of rain in a couple of hours. One can look at what happened as a blessing. The freeze and snow will kill the mosquitoes, and the rain will raise the water table so the ground will be just right for planting this spring.*

We need to start now to be ready for the beautiful spring weather that will come sooner than later. My wife and I started canning to get back into the swing of things in the kitchen. Alternative motive for canning is; it is still cold

outside and canning heats the kitchen.

We started with pepper jelly and pickled jalapenos. We used the peppers that I froze last year, because there were so many peppers we ran out of jars to can them. Another way to keep the kitchen warm is to make soups. We like making a large pot of soup, dividing it up into pint Mason jars, and then freezing them. A frozen ham hock leftover from Thanksgiving, a dollar bag of white beans, some stock, and you are on your way to a pot of Senate Bean soup. Our freezer is always loaded with jars of soups.

February is still winter but there are vegetables such as Brussels sprouts, \broccoli, cauliflower, and fennel that are in season. Potatoes, parsnips, radishes, and turnips should also be available. We do not can too many vegetables, except we have canned okra, green beans, and pickled cauliflower. Most of the time, we buy vegetables such as corn on the cob and broccoli, prep it, and freeze it in smaller amounts. We vacuum seal it to retard freezer burn from long stays in the freezer. Radishes are in season and they are perfect to add to a salad for a little extra zing. The radishes right now are big, crisp, and full of flavor. In addition, to curb the chance of scurvy (I am kidding); it is a good idea to stock up on tangelos and tangerines.

Watching cooking shows has its drawbacks. I am loaded with many short, unrelated tidbits of information, such as the craze right now in the food world are super-foods. Whole Foods even has a section of an aisle labeled Superfoods. Turmeric, sprouted foods, and dairy-free milk top the list. I have been eating sprouted bread for some time now. It is expensive and I have only found the bread in the frozen bread section of upscale grocery stores. The only one I know of is Ezekiel 4:9 bread and I do like it. For dairy-free milk, the only one I like to drink is unsweetened almond milk. I can find it on sale for less than cow's milk and I like it on my cereal.

Another craze right now is picking certain days or months to abstain from eating or drinking something. My least favorite is Meatless Mondays. To me, Meatless Monday brings Tuesday Tasteless Leftover day.

## STOCKED PANTRY

Of course, there is a new list of items to have in your pantry. I am a big fan of a stocked pantry and if you saw my pantry, you would think I was preparing for an apocalypse. However, I can go into my pantry and make Soupe `a l'Oignon Gratinee` (French Onion Soup) and Hachis Parmentier (French Shepherd's pie) and not have to go to the store.

So check your pantry and count how many of these items you have in stock.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Whole skin on almonds | 8. Parmesan cheese with a rind               |
| 2. 2 % Greek yogurt      | 9. Apple cider vinegar                       |
| 3. Eggs                  | 10. Hot sauce                                |
| 4. Baby greens           | 11. Crushed red pepper flakes                |
| 5. Canned beans          | 12. Olive oil, but not just extra virgin oil |
| 6. Dried mushrooms       |  |
| 7. Lemons                |  |

## BEANS...BEANS...BEANS

Canned beans are a pantry favorite because of the varied types of beans available and low sodium options. Beans are also good for you. They can be a substitution in recipes to lower the fat content. A good example is in hummus and pesto. In pesto, the beans lower the fat and cost.

### NAVY BEAN PESTO

*From the FOODNETWORK*

This is not so much a recipe but a guide and an alternative to buying expensive pine nuts.

Empty a can of drained navy beans, with olive oil, parmesan, sautéed garlic and fresh basil (or spinach) in a food processor; adjust the consistency with a little water add more of some ingredients to adjust taste. Add some lemon zest for zip and use as a sandwich spread or put a dollop on a fish fillet. Add a spoonful to a vegetable soup.

I am making a conscious effort to marinate or brine all the meat that I cook to impart more flavors into sometimes-bland pieces of meat, I have been looking for some quick and easy marinades and found a new theory on the length of time that meats should marinate. The common belief was that the longer the meat marinated the better. Now, a shorter marinade is best. A marinade usually contains an acid such as lemon juice or vinegar, which breaks down proteins and acts as a tenderizer. If the meat is in the marinade too long, the meat will

## Basic Brine

### Ingredients

*1-cup kosher salt*

*1-cup light brown sugar  
2 quarts cold water  
2 cups cold strong coffee (substitute  
two bay leaves for fish brine)*

### Directions

- Step 1** Combine all ingredients in a large stockpot over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring constantly, about 3 minutes or until salt and sugar dissolve. Cool completely.
- Step 2.** Submerge meat in brine, weighing down with a plate to keep it covered, if necessary. Thin fish, such as flounder, should sit in brine only 10 minutes to 1 hour; thick fish, such as salmon, 1 hour; chicken pieces, 2 hours; and pork, 4 hours. Large meats, such as whole turkey, should brine 12 to 24 hours.
- Step 3.** Rinse meat to remove any surface salt, if necessary. Then cook as recipe directs.

become mushy. Freezing the meat after marinating will only make the texture worse. The acid content of the marinade should be proportional to the toughness of the meat.



Brining will increase the moisture in the meat. Muscle fibers absorb liquid during the brining period. Some of this liquid gets lost during cooking, but since the meat is juicier at the start of cooking, it ends up juicy after cooking. This is a brine recipe to use for a wide variety of meats.

I have included three marinades that will tenderize meat and will leave a tasty coating on the meat, especially after grilling the meat over an open flame or charcoal. Recipes for marinades are all over the internet; these were adapted from Allrecipes and Delish.

**The first marinade is for beef. This recipe calls for the meat to marinate overnight.**

## Orange & Pale Ale Marinade

### Ingredients

*For 2 pounds of beef, best for not the most tender steaks*

- 1. ½ cup medium-bodied beer, such as pale ale*
- 2. Zest and juice of one large orange*
- 3. 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil*
- 4. 1 tablespoon soy sauce*
- 5. 1 large garlic clove- minced*



- 6. ½ medium onion, peeled and coarsely shredded on a box grater*
- 7. 1 teaspoon kosher salt*

### Directions

- Whisk all ingredients together.
- Put beef in a nonreactive baking dish and pour marinade over, turning to coat.
- Marinate for one day, covered and chilled.
- Remove meat and discard marinade. Pan cook or grill as desired until done.

**The next marinade is for chicken thighs and has a shorter marinade time, one to two hours.**

## Honey-Lime Chicken

### Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided  
Juice of two limes  
1-tablespoon honey  
Two cloves garlic minced  
½-teaspoon ground Turmeric  
¼-teaspoon ground ginger*



*Four bone-in skin-on chicken thighs*

### Directions

- Make marinade: whisk together 2 tablespoons olive oil, lime juice, honey, garlic, Turmeric, and ginger
- Add chicken and toss to evenly coat with the marinade. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour and up to 2 hours.
- Preheat oven to 425F. To a large ovenproof skillet, add remaining oil, enough to coat the bottom of pan. Heat pan over medium high heat. Remove from marinade and season meat on both sides with salt and pepper. With the skin side down, place chicken in pan. Sear until the skin becomes golden and crispy, about 6 minutes. Flip the thighs and cook two more minutes. Turn off the heat and transfer the pan to the oven; bake until the chicken has cooked through, about 10 to 12 minutes more.
- Good served with rice.

**The next marinade is for fish. The low acid level will not cook the fish before its ready for the oven.**

## White Wine-Dijon Fish Marinade

### Ingredients

- Two cups dry white wine  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
2 tablespoons Dijon mustard  
2 teaspoons salt  
2 teaspoons ground pepper  
½-teaspoon cayenne pepper  
One-pound tilapia, halibut, or salmon  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
Fresh lemon slices*



### Directions

- In a large bowl, whisk together white wine, lemon juice, Dijon mustard, salt, pepper and cayenne pepper.
- Add fish and cover bowl with plastic wrap. Marinate in refrigerator at least 8 hours or overnight (preferably 12 hours).
- Preheat oven to 425°F. Lightly spray a baking dish with cooking spray.
- Remove fish from marinade and place in prepared baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, and then top with fresh lemon slices.
- Bake 20-25 minutes or until opaque and lightly brown on edges. Remove from oven; serve immediately.

*Continued on page 3C*



## Valentine Day Special

Wednesday February 14, 2018

Dinner for Two \$35.00

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& 2 Sides of your choice

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# Southern Cuisine

Continued from page 2C

## BACON

Now for some not so serious thoughts. Can you name ten different ways you can cook bacon? Your plate of bacon and eggs can use a sprucing up. Your kids will love it.

- Waffle Iron:** There are different patterns to place the bacon strips; woven, side-by-side, or checkerboard. The pattern will determine if you use it as a garnish, a side or as part of a sandwich.
- Deep Fried:** Fry to whatever crispness you want. This is a way to make a not too healthy piece of pork even less so.
- Oven:** When cooking for breakfast banquets, we could have 20 full size sheet pans full of bacon ready to cook at 400 degrees for about 12-15 minutes. Having the bacon on racks, the bacon fat would drip to the pan and we would pour it into hotel pans and save it in the cooler, for use in recipes for corn bread, greens, and many other southern recipes.
- Microwave:** My least favorite way to cook bacon. Cover the bacon with a paper towel to keep the inside of your microwave free of splattered bacon fat. The paper towel catches all of the good fat and you throw it away, what a waste. In addition, the bacon does not cook evenly, tough at one end and limp at the other end. The exception is with pre-cooked bacon. A very short cooking time produces desired results, though at a higher cost.
- Grilled:** To me, this is more trouble than it is worth. The bacon will shrink up and fall through the grill and the drippings catch fire and burn everything. Having the bacon coming right off the grill and onto your hamburger patty is nirvana.
- Skillet:** Good, but you need a large skillet to cook more than a few slices of bacon. If the bacon fat that accumulates is not poured off frequently, it becomes deep fried bacon.
- Smoked:** Yummy. Smoke either a slice or a slab. If you have a good smoker, 30 minutes will be long enough.



- Broiled:** I think this is the worse way to cook bacon. I have a gas broiler, and all I can think of is all that fat splattering around inside my oven, waiting to smoke me out of the kitchen. My pecan pie baked a couple of days later, will taste like bacon. Hmm, maybe not that bad.
- Dehydrated:** 200 degrees for 8 to 12 hours, good for snacks and camping with its jerky like texture, but bacon is not jerky. Buy some good jerky or make real jerky yourself.

- Electric griddle:** My favorite. Easy to control the temperature and the bacon fat collects in a tray underneath. If I am going to cook bacon for any reason, I cook a whole package and I buy packaged bacon by the pound. Therefore, I bought a griddle that I can cook a whole pound of bacon as crispy as I want without prep, waste or potential for fires or smoke alarms going off.

We have our lists of recipes, a few tips to save money and a method to eat healthier; however, what is our focus when we go in the kitchen to prepare a meal? Are you cooking for yourself or a family? Are there children for whom you want to set an example? Are you cooking just to fill a stomach or to impress, either yourself or others? Do we aspire to be the next Iron Chef?

Some of my most enjoyable meals came from what I would call a well-rounded cook.

I do not mean a cook that is a jack-of-all-trades, and master of none. To be well-rounded, one must be knowledgeable, skilled, and a master of the basics, but not opposed to learning new things. In addition, share what you have learned and love what you are doing. Remember that properly prepared and properly cooked foods taste better and eating healthy requires attention to detail.



**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

## Southern Gardening Potpourri for February by Peggy Givhan

We all celebrate this month as the month of cupids fluttering around dispensing love and kisses to everyone. With our lives bustling around us, we may do well to be quiet and think of all the things in our lives which give us joy and love. Gardens can do just that--giving us peace, well being, and a profound sense of creativity. As I have said before, I feel closest to God when I am outside

working in and admiring my garden. In winter, I may only be viewing a Kiss me at the Gate shrub blooming fragrantly, or a full pot of yellow pansies cheerfully thriving in pots, or the Christmas 2011 narcissus peeking up showing off their full white blooms.

### February Tasks

- Clean up dead twigs, sticks or limbs in the yard which may harbor disease as they rot.
- Before dormancy has broken, spray with Volk Oil and Lime Sulfur to eliminate insect eggs and mildew or mold spores.
- If you have seeded some areas of the garden, do not mulch or disturb. Otherwise, clean out the beds and add mulch where you will be planting later to cut down on winter annual weeds.
- Purchase at garden centers or nurseries any bulbs, corms, seed, biennials or perennials for planting now or after freezing temperatures.
- Check equipment such as lawn mowers, blowers, hoes, hoses, timers to have them ready when needed.
- DO NOT cut back what appears to be dead stalks on hydrangeas.
- Do cut back any dead areas on azaleas, but DO NOT prune azaleas or flowering shrubs as you will be destroying the buds which are waiting patiently to bloom in spring.
- When going over your garden plan for the year, assess the success and failures of the plants. You may wish to add a new player onto the stage of your flower garden.
- Pick up some seed and flower catalogs to make a wish list of new flowers, better varieties of the same plants. Many will describe a new variety as having placed first or second in field trials.
- Go to nurseries and talk to the plants men about problems or pests you

have experienced. We all need to stay on top of the latest products on the market in order to make our gardening time productive and fun.

- This is also a great time to thin our perennials that have taken up too much space in the garden. Share these plants with friends and family.

Just recently I have experienced in my garden what judges and lawyers would term a case of first impression. This is the first time in 40 years of gardening from Mobile, to Montgomery, and to the farm, that anything of this

magnitude had happened. After planting 8 trays of blooming pink and white dianthus in my front beds, I observed that they were blooming profusely with lush thick green foliage. Then around the 1st of January I noticed that the plants looked as if they were shrinking. Could my garden have suffered a small sink hole just where the di-



**The Perennial Dianthus Flower**

anthus was planted? It appeared that someone had taken a weed eater and mowed them to the ground. I had been watching a squirrel hopping amongst the dianthus during that time frame, and never saw the danger. I planted another tray of healthy dianthus as bait. Lo and behold, the pesky squirrel was back the next morning grazing on the plants. I dug up all the dianthus, and planted them at the farm. Bottom line is that the squirrel has been thwarted, the transplanted dianthus has put on new growth and is thriving once again. Now if I wax on about what a work horse dianthus is for the winter and spring gardens, I must add the caveat, except if a rogue squirrel dwells within. Oh, where is my squirrel killing cat, Georgette who died several years ago.

**GOOD GARDENING.**





**Sheriff Derrick Cunningham**



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**Chief Deputy  
Kevin J. Murphy**

### Citizens Academy

It is time to register for our first Citizens Academy of 2018, which begins on February 26th. This is a free course and it meets every Monday from 6:00-7:00pm for six weeks. Instructors from each department within the Sheriff's Office will teach the course. While our goal is to make you aware of what is going on in your community, how to report suspicious activities/crimes as well as how things are handled from a law enforcement perspective, Sheriff Cunningham would like to ensure you that fun will be had by all who are in attendance.

If you'd like to register for the course, you may do so by one of the following



means:

- Contact Lisa or Christie at 832.1339
- Request via email [lisacrenshaw@mc-ala.org](mailto:lisacrenshaw@mc-ala.org) or [christievazquez@mc-ala.org](mailto:christievazquez@mc-ala.org)
- Request via fax 832.7113
- Pick up in person at 100 South Lawrence Street

### Firearms Familiarization Course

You can register for any of our 2018 course dates (listed below):

**February 10**

**March 10**

**May 12**

**June 9**

**July 14**

**August 11**

**October 13**

**December 8**

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#### Course Requirements:

- Montgomery County Citizen
- Obtain a Montgomery County Pistol Permit (prior to the course date)
- Complete an Application for the Course



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Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?

[Lisa.Crenshaw@mc-ala.org](mailto:Lisa.Crenshaw@mc-ala.org)

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Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you do not bring children to this class.

### Sheriff's Office APP



## Montgomery County AL Sheriff's Office

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's

app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the following steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County Sheriff" OR
- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

You should be all set to receive the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office push notifications!



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## AUTAUGA COUNTY



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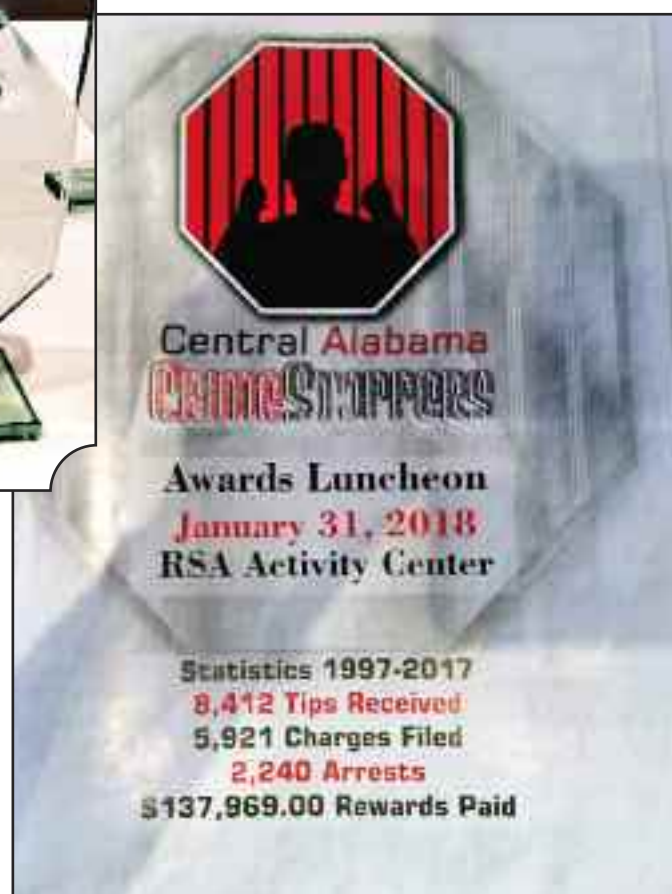
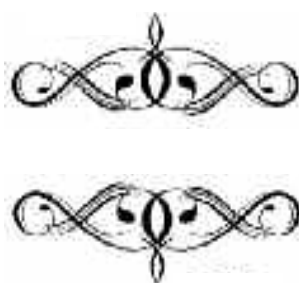


Sheriff Joe Sedinger

## Autauga County Sheriff's Office 2017 CrimeStopper of the Year



Congratulations to Investigator **Steven Geon** for being named Autauga County Sheriff's Office **Crime Stopper of the Year for 2017**. Investigator Geon received the award for the following reason. In April 2017 Investigator Geon took a report of a 9 year old girl who has been sexually abused by her biological father. Investigator Geon during his investigation obtained a confession from the offender. Geon charged the offender with 2 counts of Rape 1st degree and Sodomy 1st degree, and the offender was sentenced to Life. Congratulations again to Investigator Steven Geon for saving a child from further abuse. Award well deserved!



## Smoke detectors for Senior Citizens



The Autauga County Sheriff's Office has teamed up with the Alabama State Fire Marshall's Office to install smoke detectors in homes of Senior Citizens. Each house will get up to 5 smoke detectors. The seniors selected are attendees of one of the Autauga County Senior Centers. Pictured installing a smoke detector on County Road 21N are Chuck Gorey with the Fire Marshall's Office, Sheriff Joe Sedinger and Deputy James Fuller.









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**Survival for the Misfittest**

*The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.*

**By John Martin**

Just about everybody now understands the law of natural selection. It is very simple and obvious—the strong survive and reproduce; the weak perish and die out—what we call “Survival of the fittest.” But in the beginning, when Charles Darwin first introduced it, many people became very angry and claimed that it was blasphemy and against the Word of God.

In the early 20th century, people in America were taking interest in eugenics—selectively breeding people to promote the propagation of the strongest and most intelligent while discouraging the proliferation of the less desirable. It was getting strong public support until Adolf Hitler came along and gave the idea a distasteful reputation. Today, in spite of the huge potential benefit of eliminating hereditary defects, most people still reject the concept of improving humankind in this manner.

Instead, we now suffer from political policies that turn natural selection onto its head—in other words, upside down. How? Our welfare and public assistance programs reward the people who are lazy, un-

productive, and even criminal, and penalize (tax) the productive sectors of society. These programs are often so generous, that some productive people who are tired of the taxes and regulations decide to quit and join the welfare crowd. And the one detail that makes these policies really dangerous is that the more children they bear, the greater the rewards.

We have ample statistics to prove that poverty, crime, and single parent households are on the upswing and that married, responsible, two-parent families are declining.

Recently, Dennis Pratt on [www.Quora.com](http://www.Quora.com) made some points on this topic and admitted that it was his most controversial political opinion—controversial because many people, perhaps a majority, are too misinformed to comprehend the ramifications of our current public assistance policies.

Pratt said, “Taxpayers should not be forced to incent nonproductive people to multiply... the use of government violence (through laws) to force productive people to pay for nonproductive people to have children is, not only unethical, but society-destroying.”

The ethical and productive people limit the sizes of their families to fit within their budgets and available time and to provide an optimum development environment for their children. The welfare programs entice people to do just the opposite—to abandon working for their livings, and instead, recklessly multiply with the incentive of greater and greater benefits and paychecks. With each new gen-

eration, they become a larger percentage of the population. The declining producers are forced to pay increasing taxes to support this rapidly growing mushroom cloud. In as little as two or three generations, the support will become impossible.

There are two other items to consider:

IQ is largely genetic. By encouraging the propagation of low IQ components, the IQ of the whole is diminished with each successive generation. People become less capable of taking care of themselves.

Environmental factors of IQ also diminish. The abilities of the lower IQ parents to provide also dwindle with each generation. At some point, the parents are unable to provide at all.

Each new generation becomes less capable of finishing school, getting jobs, staying married, and practicing responsible family planning.

To quote Dennis Pratt:

“Government welfare-for-children programs have caused some of the most horrendous problems in our society, including multi-generational welfare families, the growth of teen pregnancies, the obliteration of the black family, a welfare cliff disincentive to becoming productive, and a victimized, ‘can’t-do’ mentality.

“This is akin to a government-sponsored reverse eugenics program—a dysgenic program, if you will. It progressively reduces a society’s ability to produce wealth, impoverishing a nation through a government selective-breeding program.”

In other words—survival for the misfittest—provided by government intervention at the expense of the fittest—that is, until there is nothing left but the misfittest, and then there is nobody left to support them.





*Dr. Lester Spencer*  
*Lead Pastor*  
*St. James United Methodist Church*  
*9045 Vaughn Road*  
*Montgomery, Al*

# Soul Searching

## Is Your Church A Cruise Ship or A Battleship?

This article could be a catalyst for some **IMPORTANT** discussions about the spiritual direction and mission of your church! Please read, and I would love to hear your feedback. My email is listed below.

How do you view your church?  
Do you view your church primarily as a Cruise Ship or as a Battleship?  
It makes all the difference in how you view the spiritual direction and mission of your church!

Here are some questions to ponder which may help you determine which way you truly see your church.

If you view your church more as a Cruise Ship,  
you may find yourself usually asking:

- Do I like the music in the ballroom?
- Do I like the captain and his crew?
- Is the service good?
- Are my needs met?
- Is my cruise pleasant?
- Is it comfortable?
- Do I want to sail with them again?

If you view your church more as a Battleship,  
you may find yourself usually asking:

- Is this ship on a clear and noble mission?
- Does the captain and crew submit to a higher authority?
- Are the crew members equipped to succeed?
- Are we able to contribute in significant ways?
- Are we prepared for the battles of life?
- Do we know the battle plan?
- Are we armed and ready?
- Are we committed to defend, help and rescue others?
- Are we willing to fight for the freedom of others?
- Are people honored for their service?

Perhaps, most of us Christians really prefer the Cruise Ship metaphor. Billy Graham believes that 97% of Christ followers are what he calls "carnal Christians." They are saved and going to heaven, but they live their lives just like the rest of the folks in our culture. There is no discernible difference. In other words, they are totally focused on themselves and their personal needs, wants and desires. Most of them would never say it, but what they really want the church to be is their Cruise Ship. It is all about ME ... and MY needs, My wants and My desires! Let's admit it. One hour on Sunday is plenty for me. All of us, to some degree, secretly desire most everything to be about us and what we want. Right?

So, what's wrong with having a cruise ship mentality at your church?  
A lot actually!

In my opinion, based on the way I read the teachings of Jesus and the early church, the better metaphor for the church ... including your church... is a battleship.

In their book, **"Start This, Stop That"**, my friends Jim and Jennifer Cowart, Pastors at Harvest UMC near Macon ,GA., explore these metaphors for church. They say that there is actually a lot of things wrong with us having a cruise ship mentality about our church.

Number one is this. It's not really your church or my church!  
In their book they say, "It (the Church) belongs to Jesus Christ, and he designed it for something else entirely: a rescue mission. So, here is a more

biblical metaphor. Your church should be a battleship. That's right: an all-hands-on-deck, batten-down-the-hatches, full-speed-ahead, lean, mean, fighting machine. This ship, the church, was built for a specific mission. It's called the Great Commission: " Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." - Jesus, **Matthew 28:19-20**. These are our orders. They come straight from the Commander in Chief, Jesus."

Jim and Jennifer ask, " What kind of church is your church? Are you cruising or rescuing? Has the crew been assigned a (battle) station or given a lounge chair with an umbrella? If your church has turned into a cruise ship, then your church has an identity crisis. You are using what God intended to be a battle-ship for a pleasure ride."

When any church has an identity crisis, people are apt to do and say all kinds of crazy things in search of who they/we are. People tend to make decisions about whether they like the spiritual direction or the mission of the church based on their view of the purpose of the church.

I believe that most every church has a bit of an identity crisis going on! Your church and my church are no exception! I'm sure there are some folks in our churches that think we are a cruise ship and others who think we are a battle-ship. I have grown to believe that every church should be a battleship with a noble and clear mission based on the Great Commission given to us by Christ himself.

We draw people into the church by reaching out to rescue the hurting and the lost as we offer love, hospitality, hope and healing in the name of Christ. But we don't stop there...

Everything we are doing should have to do with carrying out the Great Com-mission---- making disciples, empowering disciples, and sending disciples out to serve.

What's your view of your church? Do you see it more as a cruise ship or more as a battleship? If you were to be completely honest, which one would you want your church to be? Which one do you think God wants it to be? Which one should we seek to be in the future?

Love to hear your thoughts! Let's get some conversation going on this. Discuss it with your Pastor, Life Group, Sunday School Class, Bible study, or with your friends and fellow church members!

The direction of your church is directly impacted by the metaphor you choose!



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**9:00 AM**

**Worship:**  
**10:15 AM**

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**Patricia Killough**

**Happy  
Valentine's Day**

*Please send me your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to  
**alabamagazette@gmail.com***

*The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.*

## Congratulations

**Mallory Lynn Anderson  
and Jonathon Kohn**

*on their marriage January 20, 2018  
First United Methodist Church,  
Montgomery, Alabama*



*Parents of the bride are Rex and Jeanne Anderson and the parents of the groom are Irene Kohn and the late David Kohn. Grandparents in attendance were grandmother of the bride, Barbara Mainor and grandfather of the groom John Bechard.*

*The wedding was officiated by the Reverend Jack Allen.*

*Maid of Honor was Kathryn McCain, Matrons of Honor were Jade Bertovic and Katie Carter. Bridesmaids were Amy Anderson, Arrington Collie, LeLe Fraser, Holly Nichols, Kathryn Rockwell, Jordan Soyars and Sarah Jane Thorn.*

*Best Man was Josh Moates, Groomsmen were Jonathan Andrade, Caleb Hawk, John Tiedt, and Desmond Wingard.*

*Flower Girl was Molly Grace Anderson and Ring Bearer was Bradley Anderson.*

*A reception was held at the S. H. Kress Building in downtown Montgomery catered by Jennie Weller Catering. Flowers were by Evan & Co. Photography was by Jackie+Luke.*

## Congratulations

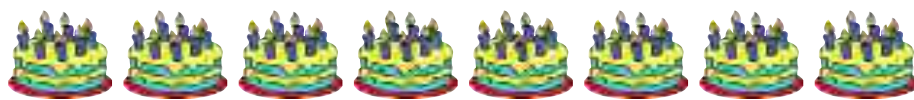
**Christina Vehos and David Walker**



David Walker and Christina Vehos were married on January 7, 2018, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. David is the grandson of Edna Eagerton of Hope Hull, AL, and the son of Kenny and Cathy Eagerton Walker of Jackson, Alabama. Cathy is formerly from Montgomery and the Pinedale Community. The couple married at "The Venue" in Hattiesburg where they have worshipped together for several years. They both were students at the University of Southern Mississippi when they met. Many parties were held for the couple both in Montgomery and Jackson. Christina is the daughter of Steven and Lynn Vehos of Hurley, MS. The Walkers will reside in Hattiesburg.

# Home Town Community News

## February Birthdays



- |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Sara Margaret Auerbach      | Clark Jones                   |
| George Evans                  | Randy Smith                   |
| Mary Johnson                  | 17 Brian Betz                 |
| 2 Thelma Alexander            | William L. Carl (82nd)        |
| Brewer Box                    | Chuck Glasscock (55th)        |
| Shelby Smith                  | Kathi Farley                  |
| Alvin Turner                  | Willa Faye Munson             |
| 3 Del Atkinson                | Anastasia Meadow Takacs (2nd) |
| Pam Pouncey                   | Gavin Noah Takacs (2nd)       |
| Sybil Foshee                  | Alice Tyson                   |
| Helen Lankford                | Jean Warren                   |
| Genye Messick                 | 18 Chip Norris                |
| Wayne Robinson                | Kermit Paramore               |
| 4 Paige Box                   | 19 Anita Jones                |
| Anna Haigler Johnson          | Barbara Pugh                  |
| Helen Rahn Millican           | Chuck Lear                    |
| 5 Peggy Agent                 | Dawn Johnson                  |
| Jean Fuller                   | 20 Ann Moore                  |
| Beth Norris                   | Hayden Ward                   |
| Lila Webster                  | Todd Windham                  |
| 6 Amanda Edwards              | 21 Victoria L. Carl (18th)    |
| Morgan Lee Madison (7th)      | Alyssa Lear                   |
| Donna Spradley                | Jessica Burgess               |
| 7 Rhonda Black                | Jerrell Campbell              |
| Mary Helen Fleming            | Jane Russell                  |
| Shelvie Freeman               | Shirley Yarbrough             |
| Rick Marshall                 | 22 Ellen Adcock               |
| Rodney Powell                 | Douglas Evans (68th)          |
| 8 John Barnes                 | Jean Finlayson                |
| Claudine Nobles               | Hettie H. Harrington          |
| Sharon Owens                  | Tim Meadows                   |
| Janet Phillips                | Willie Stephens               |
| Abigail Roux                  | 23 Dorothy Bennett            |
| 9 Lori Meadows                | Virgil Culpepper              |
| Lucille Wilson                | Nathan Horsley                |
| 10 Jim Soule                  | Ann Spheres                   |
| Mittie B. Stockman (91st)     | 24 Katherine Andrews          |
| Jeanne Villar                 | Cheryl Jarrell                |
| 11 Glen Hataway               | 25 Bettye Garlington          |
| Steve Law                     | John Higgins                  |
| Earline Wood                  | Lewis Mulleck                 |
| 12 Jean Cantey (89th)         | Shanny Sansom                 |
| Chas Hammock (9th)            | Willie Pearl Shepherd         |
| 13 Susan Gambrell             | 26 Erma Dillard               |
| Dot Hill                      | Cassidy Gwin                  |
| 14 Nancy Andrews              | Dean Moore                    |
| Carolyn Bowden                | Carolyn Watson                |
| Michael Coker                 | 27 Portia Goss                |
| Lyda Crowe                    | Evans Hartzog                 |
| Drew Martin                   | Jamie Hall                    |
| Hamil Martin                  | Mary Horton                   |
| Dorothy Sparrow               | Carol Spencer                 |
| Zac Swearingen                | 28 Joy Carlisle               |
| 15 Mildred Durden             | Mary Daniels                  |
| Mike Green                    | Debi Nowakowski               |
| Nancy Rabren                  | Weldon Payne                  |
| Susan Terrell                 | Charlene Schofield            |
| 16 James Ellis Fleming (12th) | Freddie Oswalt                |
| Joan Kirk                     | 29 Mandy Azar                 |

**Happy belated birthday to Harold Howell who turned 95 on January 31, 2018  
Mr. Howell is still an active lawyer in Prattville, Alabama.**

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 14 Gordon & Vicki Davis         | 21 Tom & Bettye Garlington       |
| Clark & Anita Jones             | Gilbert & Ethel Sellers (62nd)   |
| Josh & Jamie McCandless         | 22 Jerry & Debra Morrison (33rd) |
| 16 Gordon & Becky Burton (39th) | 28 Pat & Butch Moseley (59th)    |
| 20 Chuck & Susan Gambrell       |                                  |
| Hayden & Dee Ward               |                                  |

## Sympathy to the families of...

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hall, Dr. Earl Mortimer (96)         | Died January 8, 2018  |
| Cornwell, Lettie "Craig" Green (90)  | Died January 10, 2018 |
| Higgins Sr., Thomas Simms "Tom" (88) | Died January 10, 2018 |
| Boyd, Annette (85)                   | Died January 18, 2018 |
| Parrish, Margret Louise Tisdale (99) | Died January 20, 2018 |
| Combs, James C. "Jimmy" (80)         | Died January 31, 2018 |





# TODAY'S WOMAN

*The Value of a Woman...Be very careful if you make a woman cry – because God counts her tears.*



## *Years and Laughter:*

### Stay well or stay home Alabama

*By Amanda Walker*

There are two types of people in Alabama this week – those who have the flu, and the handful of running scared fearful ones who don't.

Bless their hearts.

I was one of them until a few short days ago. I had gone out of my way to try and not catch it. I had upped the Vitamin C, was getting plenty of rest, cleaning with Clorox, washing my hands like I had a compulsive disorder, and avoiding people in general.

I had all but taken to wearing a surgical mask and carrying a can of Lysol around with me, but all that effort got me was the flu.

Since most everybody has it at this point, I feel we can be open about it. It is not what anyone would describe as fun. I'm pretty sure my head weighs more than the rest of me right now. It doesn't fuel a whole lot of creative energy.

I was worrying about what I could write about this week. How was I going to be able to communicate something in a way that people could relate to while feeling in a fog the way I do. But since the flu is now being referred to as an epidemic – schools are closing and hospitals are at full capacity...I think we can all relate.

I'm not going to go on and on about it, because who wants to hear it, but if you are visibly ill, please stay home. That is how it spreads, and grocery stores are already running low on chicken noodle soup. The local liquor store is out of pint size Jack Daniel's finely crafted Tennessee Honey.

And, not to start complaining, but whoever it was that decided to put on the side of the box that daytime cold

and flu formula medicine does not cause drowsiness, is wrong. They should try some of the stuff because if you take it you can practically go to sleep standing up. You might still feel like hell, but you will be so sleepy you won't be as aware of it.

I happen to know where my flu came from. Sometimes you don't get to know and other times you do. Mine came from Florida. Yep. I went down to cash in a scratcher from when I had bought power ball tickets the week before. I won \$100 and got the flu on a \$20 Monopoly ticket. I am so lucky.

There was a woman in the ticket shop who I could tell was running a fever just by looking at her and I am a registered housewife. She was nice, but she was visibly sick.

It was freezing outside, and she was sweating. Plus she was harking and hacking and I will admit that I was getting a little bit paranoid. I did feel like she might have been targeting me. Twice. The first time not so much maybe, but when she came back the second time asking something about the \$3 Scrabble ticket, I was convinced.

When my throat started getting sore before sundown, I thought about her and about the Lysol can again and how on the side of it says it kills like 99% of the bad things including the flu virus.

Is that true? Because, back to cold and flu formula medicine that claims not to cause drowsiness...that just doesn't seem accurate.

Stay well or stay home Alabama. This too shall pass.



Trisston Wright Burrows  
Ms.Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

## *Trisston's Tidbits...*

*By: Trisston Wright Burrows*

[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

### “Love is in the Air”

Well my friends, it's that time of year again...hearts, roses, balloons, stuffed animals that sing songs of love. Store shelves overflow with symbols of love. They began the day after New Year's to get ready for Valentine's Day. Do you know that more roses are sold on that day than any other day in

the year? All over the world, it is the day that people show their love for someone special.

It is a great occasion to express love and appreciation for any of your loved ones, but it is just as important to show little acts of kindness the other 364 days of the year. God tells us in His Word how much He loves us. He promises never to leave or forsake us, to answer us when we call, day or night. He never slumbers nor sleeps. We need to tell Him how much we love Him 365 days a year as well. Flowers will die. Candy gets eaten. Balloons will pop. Stuffed animals may stop singing. However, the love that is shared with one another, and God's love for us, will never pass away.

*“Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.” Isaiah 54:10*

Perhaps 1 Corinthians 13 says it best. *“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child; I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”*

May you find little ways to show some acts of kindness to those you love all year long. Let Love be in the air at all times!

**Happy Valentine's Day & Many Blessings!**



*People come and people go,*

*In and out of your life and so,*

*When one shines bright among the rest,*

*And is there when needed, you're truly blessed.*

*That is how I see you, friend of mine,*

*And why I'm sending this Valentine.*

By Karl Fuchs

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*“Every cell in your body functions like a car; it has its own engine. You can put the best gasoline (food) in, and the best oil (vitamins/minerals); but if you throw sand (chemical toxins & heavy metals) into the motor, the first two don't matter. At MEDAC, PC, we focus on helping to get the sand out of your motor. We also help with the food and the oil so that your motor can hum and run in the optimal way it was designed.*



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Tickets: \$20

Sponsorships: \$250-\$5,000

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[www.hopewetumpka.org](http://www.hopewetumpka.org) or  
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334-567-1955.

A fundraising event for Elmore County Pregnancy Center



## Humane Society of Elmore County

Website: [www.elmorehumane.org](http://www.elmorehumane.org)

### Pet of the Week – Benelli

Benelli is a handsome 1 1/2 year old female Lab, turned in as she and her brother just got into too much trouble together. She is a bit shy at first but sweet and loves to play with ropes. She is good with children and dogs but will chase cats. About 60 lbs.

Our adoption fees are \$100 for dogs & \$50 for cats under one-year-old; cats over one-year-old can be adopted by approved adopters for a fee of their choosing. This adoption fee completely covers the mandatory spay or neuter, basic immunizations, de-worming, microchip, heartworm check for dogs, rabies vaccination if old enough, free health exam

with your participating veterinarian.

To meet all the great pets at our shelter come to 255 Central Plank Road, Wetumpka, AL, 36092, go to our website at [www.elmorehumane.org](http://www.elmorehumane.org) for more information, email us at [hseco@bellsouth.net](mailto:hseco@bellsouth.net) or give us a call at 334-567-3377.

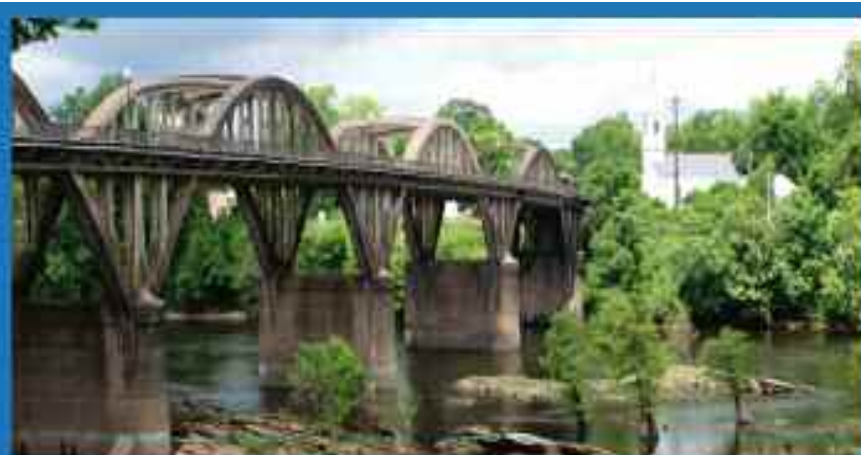
We are open for adoptions Mon–Fri 10-5 & Sat 9-3.



## Greater Tuna February 1-17

Twenty-Two Characters  
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Greater Tuna is a hilarious comedy about Texas' third smallest town, where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies. The eclectic band of citizens that make up this town are portrayed by only two performers, making this satire on life in rural America even more delightful as they depict all the inhabitants of Tuna- men, women, children and animals!



## Keep growing.

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