



TAKE
ONE!

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The Fate of our Land in the hands of a few! Where is the Voice of Reason & Law?

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America is still the greatest country in the World! Have a blessed 4th of July!

A flying Dolphin Z-9 helicopter from China's Navy missile frigate in the South China Sea, in this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency.

Photo: Then Chih Wey/Xinhua via Associated Press

KAISER Xi's NAVY



China's new military strategy is to push the U. S. out of East Asia

AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, Germany, historically a great land power, decided to challenge Britain to a naval arms race. It didn't end well. Now another traditional land power, China, is eager to make its own naval challenge, this time against the U.S. The question is whether Washington can deter China's ambitions before they develop a deadly strategic momentum.

We write this after reading China's new military strategy, an English translation of which was published this week on the eve of the annual Shangri-La Defense conference in Singapore. "The traditional mentality that land outweighs sea must be abandoned," states the new strategy, "and great importance has to be attached to managing the seas and oceans and protecting maritime rights and interests."

Toward that goal, China promises "to seize the strategic initiative in military struggle, proactively plan for military struggle in all directions and domains, concentrate superior forces, and make integrated use of all operational means and methods."

The new doctrine comes as Beijing is claiming sovereignty over nearly all of the South China Sea while building artificial islands 600 miles from the Chinese mainland. On Friday came

the reality the Obama Administration was supposed to have recognized by its first-term "pivot" to Asia, which called for the Navy to deploy more than 50% of its ships to the Pacific while enhancing military partnerships with the likes of Australia and Singapore.

So far, however, the pivot has mainly been a feint. This year the Navy will deploy an average of 58 ships to the Western Pacific, according to Navy documents. The number is expected to increase to a mere 64 by 2020. The total size of the U.S. fleet—around 289 ships—is half of what it was at the end of the Cold War, and well below the Navy's operational requirement of 306 ships to meet its current strategic mission.

As for the Chinese, their new strategy calls for the navy to shift focus from "offshore waters defense" to "open seas protection"—that is, a blue-water navy. The Pentagon's Office of Naval Intelligence reports that China launched more ships in 2013-14 "than any other country." China's official military budget will grow by some 10% this year, to \$144 billion, with much of the money going to a comprehensive naval modernization.

By 2020, ONI predicts, China will deploy as many as 78 submarines and more than 170 major surface combatants, most of modern design. Assuming most of these will be deployed in the Western Pacific, that means the U.S. will have 64 surface combatants and subs in the region compared to 248 for China.

For now, the U.S. Navy retains a decisive

news that U.S. surveillance had spotted Chinese artillery on one of the artificial islands, within firing range of islands claimed by Vietnam.

None of this has gone unnoticed by China's neighbors, or Washington. This is

technological advantage. Navy officers also say they've been unimpressed by the seamanship of their Chinese counterparts in joint military exercises—one good reason the exercises are worth conducting, despite some Congressional skepticism.

Yet Beijing has also invested heavily in "asymmetric" military capabilities, such as ballistic missiles that could take out a U.S. carrier, which they can field in large numbers at low cost. And Beijing doesn't need to win the next Battle of Jutland to tilt naval power in East Asia in its favor. As a recent Congressional Research Service report notes, China wants "a force that can deter U.S. intervention in a conflict in China's near-seas region over Taiwan or some other issue, or failing that, delay the arrival or reduce the effectiveness of intervening U.S. forces."

THE U. S. ISN'T YET LOSING THE NAVAL RACE with China, but it has allowed its naval power to decline enough that Beijing plausibly believes it can compete. In one of its more truculent sections, Beijing's military strategy accuses "external countries" of "meddling in South China Sea affairs," as if the U.S. and its regional partners are the aggressors. The inversion of moral causality is another tool in China's military playbook.

The Obama Administration showed the right instincts last week when it flew a Navy surveillance plane over China's new artificial islands. In a speech this week in Hawaii, Defense Secretary Ash Carter demanded "an immediate and lasting halt" to Beijing's island building, and he's looking at other ways to underline the illegitimacy of Beijing's claims. Sailing destroyers within the 12-mile radius of some of these islands would send the right message.

But the only way China is going to reconsider its long-term strategy is for the U.S. to convince Beijing that a naval race is unwinnable and not worth running. Republican presidential hopefuls in search of a serious deterrent to Chinese ambitions should start with a naval strategy. A substantially larger Navy should be a national priority and a plank of the GOP platform.

Gazette Staff Writer

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SHOW-N-TELL SUMMER CAMP AT CAMP CHANDLER AUGUST 3RD—7TH MONTGOMERY COUNTY YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 9-11



Summer time is upon us and that means it's time again for Show-N-Tell Summer Camp! The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will be hosting our annual Show-N-Tell Summer Camp at Camp Chandler for Montgomery County youth between the ages of 9-11. This week-long

camp will be held August 3rd—7th and is totally free and promotes positive interaction and life-rewarding skills. Children are bused from Montgomery to the camp site on August 3rd, stay overnight the entire week and are bused back to Montgomery on



August 7th. Activities include canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, outdoor survival skills and of course, a BIG DANCE on the Thursday before they depart from camp. There will be deputies and correction

officers on site the entire week to supervise the kids and make sure everyone benefits from the camp!

Slots are filling up fast so don't delay turning in your application! Last day to apply is July 1st (Copy of the child's birth certificate required to apply). Contact Lisa Crenshaw at: lisacrenshaw@mc-ala.org or 334.832.1339 for camp applications.

Think your teen may be "experimenting" with drugs, alcohol or tobacco? It's best to solve problems before they occur or get much worse. Unfortunately, "friends" often try harder to make kids who say "no" to drugs, alcohol and tobacco feel like outcasts. Home testing kits have emerged that protect privacy and provide kids with a socially acceptable excuse, "My parents test me." For years, police have been the first to know when local kids used drugs while their parents were often the last to know. Now there is a way to REVERSE that trend!

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office recently announced a new alliance with *TestMyTeen.com*, an organization that has donated free home drug test kit vouchers to be shared anonymously with parents who need them.

Go to our website www.MontgomerySheriff.com and click "Public Interest", then click "TEST MY TEEN" and follow the instructions...it's that simple!

Attention Montgomery County Citizens and Neighborhood Watch Associations: If you are interested in having our agency come out and do a crime prevention home survey as well as give helpful information to help you ensure your home and personal property are secure, please email my Administrative Assistant, Christie Vázquez, at ChristieVazquez@mc-ala.org or contact my office at 832.1646. Your safety and well-being is just as important to us and it is to you and your family! Don't hesitate...call or email today!

Thank you to all the Montgomery County citizens that have sent in



appreciation letters regarding our Firearms Familiarization Course! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. For this reason, we are continuing our monthly **Firearms Familiarization Course** with the following scheduled dates:

- Saturday, July 11, 2015
- Saturday, August 8, 2015
- Saturday, September 26, 2015
- Saturday, October 10, 2015
- Saturday, November 14, 2015

The class is always held on a Saturday at our Firing Range and lasts all day and is FREE to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class. All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

Course Requirements:

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

Pistol Permit Questions?
334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337

Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?
LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org
334.832.1339

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

A DATE TO REMEMBER:

Senior Fishing Rodeo
Tuesday, September 8, 2015
6:00 AM 12:00 NOON
NO CHILDREN ~ ONLY SENIORS,
PLEASE
More details to come!

Special Note We are in the process of constructing a new website www.MontgomerySheriff.com and hope that you all will check this website periodically for helpful information and events taking place in the community and as always thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!!

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

ROBSERVATIONS... by Robert Tate

TRIBUTE TO MY DAD



MY FATHER HAD BEEN SICK FOR A WHILE. He had recently lost both of his legs due to injuries he sustained while serving in the Army during and after the Korean War. The injuries never fully healed and as he got older, poor circulation took its toll on his legs. I used to call my dad every day, sometimes three or more times, just to check on him and talk. I loved hearing his voice and discussing life in general. I always asked him how he was feeling and his usually annoying answer was, "The same as yesterday, today and tomorrow." He never complained about how he felt although I knew in many ways he was hurting.

On Friday morning, 22 May, I called "da" to check on him. Since a very minor stroke event over Christmas, he had been much less responsive on the phone. Our 1- hour plus phone conversations now usually lasted but one to two minutes. The previous day, he began vomiting blood but the hospice nurses didn't seem too concerned. That continued through the day and into Friday. When I called and asked how he felt, he just said, "Not too good this morning, honey." My sister, who lived with and took care of him, took the phone and told me he was doing very poorly.

I had flown up to New Jersey in March to say my "good-bye" to him. I knew he wouldn't last long and that visit would likely be my last. Around One O'clock that afternoon, my sister called crying and simply said, "I think today is the day." He was on the floor and people were trying to help but in vain. That was the end of my father.

Although we often know when the end of a loved one is near, when the eventual happens, we are still caught off-guard and left in pain and wracked with emotion. The greatest saving grace is that I know he was saved and is in Heaven with other family members. My father, **Eddie Glenn Tate Jr.** was a great father. Like all of us, he had his faults. But he loved his family. My sister **Jacqui**, my brother **Eddie**, my sister **Brittney** and I were the joys of his life. Each of us had differing roles and differing places in his heart. But there was never any doubt of the love he had for us.

I place so much of my success upon my father's shoulders. His love and encouragement were never in doubt. One of the earliest, cogent childhood memories I have is when I was five years-old and my dad took my brother and me to see the WWI movie, *The Blue Max*. It starred George Peppard and Ursula Andress and is the story of a ruthless German fighter pilot. Parents often have no idea what may influence their child but this movie, I am convinced set me on my path toward flying military aircraft and my fascination with the German Air Forces in both World Wars. I remember as a kid, when my dad took us to a toy store, I ALWAYS went for the German airplanes. (Yeah, I still do) On the ceiling in my room as a teenager, the constant air battles between scale models always seemed to have smoke and fire trailing from the American airplanes while they were being swarmed by the German. Weird? Tell me about it. Earth to readers, Black guy here. Sheesh! But I am sure my dad innocently taking me to that movie did something to me by sparking a lifelong obsession I cannot explain.

Likewise, my father and I shared a lifelong love of the movie *Twelve O'clock High*. He would often talk of this movie and the airwar in Europe and working with Vets in Lions Hospital in New Jersey. That was back in the days before DVDs and Netflix and we only had about 5 T.V. channels. So when that movie came on, it was a really big deal. Sandwiches, popcorn, sodas and the world stopped as we immersed ourselves in the movie. A week or two before he died, I called to tell him it was coming on and he watched it. I cannot say for sure if it was the last movie he ever watched but it was certainly one of them. I would like to think it was. Between the two of us, I am sure we have watched that movie over 100 times. The same with *The Blue Max*.

But my dad's support for us never wavered. In the 8th grade, I remember taking a standardized test that all New Jersey kids had to take. Back then, I was an incredibly shy kid who froze up anytime I had to take a big test. Well, when the results came back, I was basically an idiot. I was the kid who people wondered how I could leave home in the morning and find my way back home at night. I cannot remember my actual score but it was something like in the lower 30% in the state. I was a moron. When the high school counselors came to talk to each student and their parents, **Mrs. Davidson** told my parents that it was clear that I was not cut out for normal high school and that they should send me to East Brunswick Vocational School and learn to be a mechanic

or something. My dad was pissed. I remember him telling Mrs. Davidson that I wanted to be an Air Force pilot and she basically laughed at him. "Sir, do you realize your son is an idiot? I am surprised he's not drooling and picking his nose right now." But my mom and dad both held firm. No! I would be going to **Manalapan High School** in the fall. When school started, out of 430 some kids in my class, I was ranked around number 250. What Mrs. Davidson ignored was that in a lot of my classes, I was keeping up with most of the kids who did well on that test.

On Memorial Day 1976, something magical happened in my life. Feeling I needed some sort of boost, my mom and dad took me to an airshow at **McGuire AFB**. There I saw, for the first time the Air Force Thunderbirds. I remember arriving at the show as a flight of 4 F-105 Thunderchiefs flew overhead and broke into the visual traffic pattern. Men in flight suits, the smell of jet fuel and yes, a Black Thunderbird pilot name **Lloyd "Fig" Newton**. A whole new world, with a clearer perspective opened up to me. No longer did my desired world exist only in plastic airplanes on my ceiling and books about German aces, but I saw, touched and smelled something tangible; something real; something I could actually accomplish.

The next week I went to class and talked to my science teacher, **Mr. Shelhamer**, and told him what I wanted to do. He said okay and quickly filled out my curriculum for the next 3 years. Chemistry, Biology, Physics, all the math I could stand. The hardest courses available is where I had to live. By the end of high school, I had an ROTC scholarship to the **University of Tennessee** and was ranked around 30 in my class. My dad, never forgiving Mrs. Davidson, until the time she died, constantly sent her letters with newspaper clippings showing her what "this" moron did. ROTC cadet Colonel and Group Commander, graduate of AF pilot training, every rank achieved, every school completed. I know she hated it but my dad did not care. That is the kind of father he was. Many parents would have simply said, "Sorry kiddo, you just don't have what it takes. After all, my dad was an auto mechanic. You can make good money doing that." With **Eddie Glenn Tate Jr.**, that answer was a resounding, "Hell to the no."

WHEN I LEFT NEW JERSEY IN 1979 to go to college, except for summer vacations and brief visits, my life with da and New Jersey ended. I had planes to fly and places to see. His life, however, did not. At his service in New Jersey, it became apparent that his life meant so much to so many people. Black, White, Hispanic, Christian, Jew, young and old; it did not matter.



My dad and I shared a love of the movie *12 O'clock High*. I bought him this Toby Mug for Christmas about 15 years ago. This is one of the few items I brought back with me to Alabama. It means that much to me.

So many people came out to say what he meant as the neighborhood's grand old man. One young girl, now a flight attendant with American Airlines, drove like a woman possessed from JFK airport in order to make his service. We kept the funeral home open an extra 30 minutes so she could make it. She arrived in uniform, tears streaming down her face and approached my father and stroked his face. That's love. She said how he was there at her high school prom when her real father was nowhere to be found. At his funeral in Tennessee, many people showed up including a lady he met on his first day of school when they were just five years-old. Life long friends of 82 years. Can you imagine? Yes, my father was loved because he loved. He loved all people regardless and refused to allow any prejudice or bigotry to enter our house. That is why he spent his entire adult life as a social worker for the state of New Jersey. Great people love greatly. My dad loved greatly.

I loved my dad greatly. Still do. How could I not? I am who I am in large part because of him. I have already felt the sting of his death in that every time I drove to Atlanta to go flying, I would call and chat. More than once I have reached for the phone and told myself I was going to give "da" a ring. For those of you who still have your parents, tell them you love them. You will not have that chance forever.

And for those of you with kids, don't let other people choose their destiny for them. Back them up, support them and you will never know exactly which act of love you show them will bestow upon them a lifelong ambition and calling.

Mr. Eddie Tate, I love you and will see you on the other side.

Robert Tate

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The Education Station...

By Bobbie Ames

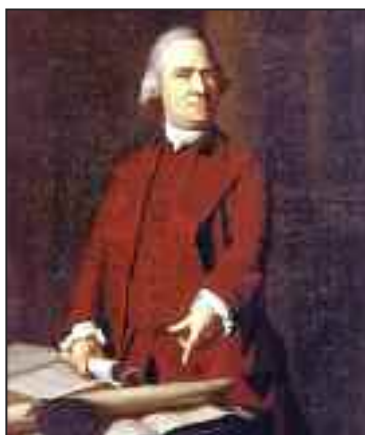
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THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAGNA CHARTA



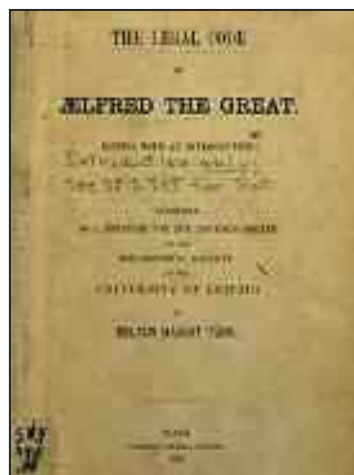
The signing of the Magna Charta on the 15th of June, 1215, was an attempt to begin to restore the ancient Christian liberties of the British Isles. The 1775 Seal of Massachusetts during the American Revolution (left) illustrates the significance of this document to our own independence. A colonist stands with a sword in one hand and the Magna Charta in the other. This individual, representing the colonists, is willing to defend his God-given liberties based on the ancient written Charter of English liberty called Magna Charta.

During what is known as the Constitutional Debate period between the colonies and Great Britain (1765-1775), Sam Adams, writing in the Boston Gazette in 1769, said "our writer... tells us that formerly the right of taxation was in the King only. I should have been glad if he had pointed us to that time. We know that kings – even English kings – have lost their crowns and their heads for assuming such a right. 'Tis true this strange claim has occasioned much contention, and it always will as long as the people understand the great charter of nature upon which Magna Charta itself is founded, - No man can take another's property from him without his consent. This is the law of nature; and a violation of it is the same thing, whether it be done by one man who is called a king, or by five hundred of another denomination."



We learn several things from this quote. First, Magna Charta was an attempt at restoring ancient liberty, not taking rights from the King. In other words, pre-dating the Magna Charta was a period in English history when Kings had no such "prerogative" as claimed by George III. Second, it rested on a higher law, the "great charter of nature", which in the words of William Blackstone (in 1755) is "the will of his Maker." Finally, the idea that "no man can take another's property from him without his consent" arises from this law of nature resting on the Bible itself. As Blackstone put it, "upon these two foundations, the law of nature and the law of revelation (the Bible), depend all human laws; that is to say, no human laws should be suffered to contradict these."

What time was Sam Adams referring to when Kings did not claim such life, liberty and property rights in the Crown? It was prior to the Norman (French) invasion of England in 1066. In 890 King Alfred had written his Doom Book (book of the law) which was a compilation of the Ten Commandments and their application to society, along with the Beatitudes of Jesus. This was the apex of English liberty for the individual and the protection of his life and property. At that time, the King was elected. Alfred copied the government of Israel prior to its choice of a King – the Hebrew Republic. This comprised the "ancient liberties" and was the foundation for what is known as the English Common Law.



Magna Charta represents the "fountain" of English liberty being restored from its underground well preserved in custody of the Saxons by the providential Hand of God. The layered English society, with the liberty-loving Saxons underground, the Nobility of the French in power, and the persecuted Jews who held much of the gold provides the back-drop for the amazing miracle of 1215. The story of Stephen Langton, dividing the Bible into chapters for easier study, as well as researching the forgotten history of his own nation of England in the University of Paris, and then providentially becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 1213, is truly remarkable. Langton, as the author of Magna Charta, was also the negotiator of interposition between the Barons and the King prior to the June event at Runnymede.

Magna Charta was a giant stop sign to the King. Unlike the Charter of Henry I in 1100 which attempted to stop the King from his arbitrary acts without diminishing his power, this document limited the King directly and that is why it is considered the "first step" toward a restoration of self-government under God. King John was forced to sign it but never intended to keep it, going into a fit of rage only hours after the signing on the 15th of June, 1215. Even Pope Innocent III, who had asserted his power to get Langton to Canterbury, now repudiated the document! Magna Charta is not a constitution of due process, it is a listing of grievances and a demand that the King abide by the law – a tradi-

tion that Kings were not used to following. Tyrants in church and state don't give up power easily!

MAGNA CHARTA WAS QUOTED AND REFERENCED IN COLONIAL AMERICA as well as in the State papers written during our Revolution. From the Charter of 1606 asserting the rights of Englishmen to the various colonial documents that established self-government, Magna Charta was either directly or indirectly referenced. However, now free from the control of English Kings who ignored the law, those coming to colonial America also looked to the root of their liberty asserted by King Alfred – the law of God. By the time of the Revolution, the pastors now looked to God as the source of their rights. The Framers, instructed by these pastors, went further than Magna Charta. They appreciated its step in limiting the King but had no intention of ever having kings again. Our rights came from God, not government. We weren't simply limiting civil government, we were placing it in the hands of the people who would consent to give express permission for government to act! The degree to which the people followed God would be seen in the nature and structure of their civil government.



Our Bill of Rights ratified in 1791 contains phrases that can be traced to clauses of Magna Charta. They now rest on a more sure footing, however.



Magna Charta was a first step in overcoming tyranny and returning to Government under God, but it was the end-all in that process. Magna Charta does not delineate the source of our rights, but was a step in restraining tyrants who claim to have all power. American liberty is the child of English liberty. But when American liberty came of age, the English colonists were more English than the mother country! The child went further than the parent.

In America, we no longer viewed Kings as getting their power from God and then distributing it to "subjects." With the Bible in our hand, we understood that the *people* are the "kings" and the source of civil authority just as they are also the source of ecclesiastical authority ("priests" - see *Revelation 1:5*). Let us begin our resistance to tyranny today on our knees, recognizing that God is our source, and Christ our redeemer is our pathway to justice for all. Let us pray that for the sake of our children and grandchildren, we can restore our ancient liberties as "one nation under God" before it is too late.

We appreciate permission to reprint these newsletters from Dr. Paul Jehle, President of the Plymouth Rock Foundation. Wonderful materials on Pilgrim and Puritan history are available from the foundation websites: www.plymrock.org as well as www.usathanksgiving.com.

The annual November conference is a great event and we urge our readers to consider attending it.

Dr. John Eidsmoe of Montgomery is a member of the Board of Trustees.

Continued on page 5A

EMERALD MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION FOR 2015- 2016

Emerald Mountain Christian School is a non-denominational, college preparatory Christian school, located on Rifle Range Road close to the Emerald Mountain Community. Families from Montgomery, Elmore, and Autauga Counties are invited to call for information and to make an appointment to visit the campus. Shuttle service to and from East Montgomery is offered daily during the school year.

The school, long celebrated for its faithful teaching of a Biblical World and Life View taught through all subjects, will celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2015. Loyal to the Protestant Reformed Faith and its Creeds, still embraced by conservative Presbyterians and Baptists, the school continues to educate the whole child. Widely known for academic excellence spanning the last five decades, the percentage of graduates receiving scholarships and successes in careers, has been consistent for this institution.

- The school's tuition is very affordable, as we are a ministry first for Christian families in the area.
- Scholarship opportunities are offered to full-time Law Enforcement officers and Military families.
- Discounts are offered to families with more than one student, thus further defraying the cost of our whole family enrollment policy.

We now offer football, basketball, and cheerleading. Along with our new football field we are also working on completing a new softball field as well. The Registrar, Jeanne Riley, can be reached for more information on the registration process or setting up an appointment to visit our campus @ 334-567-0555. Also, interested parents should check out the website at www.emcspatriots.org.



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WELCOME!!

THE DECLARATION AND MAGNA CHARTA



JULY 4, 1776 WAS THE CULMINATION OF A PROCESS of time that brought ancient ideas of liberty to the highest expression in history. The story of liberty in the Western world began centuries earlier, however. The ideas in the Declaration were not new as Thomas Jefferson told us. He had heard these ideas from the pulpit and they had been

articulated decades before that. Many of these same ideas of liberty were recovered in 1215 in the document known as Magna Charta. Their origin began in the gospel of Christ, were embraced by the Celts, then by the Saxons, and articulated as the Common Law of England from the law book of King Alfred by 890. The Declaration does have quite a legacy!

The 800th Anniversary of Magna Charta – 1215 to 2015 – has had little recognition across America. Scarcely anyone has taken notice, and as parades are conducted and then fireworks are launched on the evening of July 4, those who truly understand the ideas of liberty being celebrated will be few and far between. Those who should appreciate the roots of the Declaration ought to be those who claim Christianity as their professed faith. The shallow nature of today's Christian faith in America attests to its lack of true influence in our society. Certainly any document that turns 800, and has influenced the development of liberty in Western Civilization, ought to be recognized for its depth of meaning.

So how are the two documents – Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence, similar? First, **both are a list of grievances against lawless kings.** King John at the time of Magna Charta lacked even the basic aspects of self-control. An undisciplined individual who acted like a child when he did not get his way, he flew into a rage after signing the document. He violated the "common law," unwritten but inherited from Saxon England, by exercising arbitrary power, interfering with inheritance laws, rights of widows, debtors, lenders, businessmen and military service. He also violated the due process of law. As an example, chapter 39 states "no free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions...except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land." The Declaration also lists grievances – nearly two thirds of the document, against King George III. He was a man with little self-control and many thought him insane (power corrupts). He violated individual rights and the written law, including due process. As the Declaration states, King George III has deprived "us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury."

Second, both are documents of interposition. In other words, they lawfully resist tyranny by asserting the biblical lower magistrate principle of having those in a lower office hold those in a higher office to the rule of law. In the case of Magna Charta, the Barons, who already held power, resisted lawfully the tyranny of King John. In the case of the Declaration, the Continental Congress is the body that asserted that King George III was acting like a tyrant. This is not lawless revolution, but lawful interposition.

Third, both are written as lawful justifications for civil war. The Barons (nobleman in charge of defending the king) had taken up arms against the King. They were armed to insure obedience to the law. The Declaration was written after King George III severed the relationship of the Crown to the Colonies. The Colonies had no option left but self-defense. The Continental



Congress armed the militias. They did not arm themselves on their own authority for the American Revolution was conducted as lawful resistance.

Fourth, they both articulate a defense of liberty under God. The Magna Charta begins "Know that before God, for the health of our soul and those of our ancestors, to the honor of God." The Declaration ends "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence."

The parallels are amazing in one sense, separated by 550 years, but united in their resistance to the lawless Kings of their times and asserting the rights of the people through the lower magistrate. However, there are key distinctions between the two as well, affirming the fact that the Congress that met in Philadelphia had the advantage of both 550 years as well as the freedom to base America's government more squarely on the original foundation of English Liberty – the Ten Commandments.

First, **Magna Charta was a stop sign to the King's tyranny.** The Declaration went further, and was the charter of a new nation built on the ancient foundation of King Alfred's England. Second, Magna Charta limited the power of the King, but the Declaration did away with kings. Third, Magna Charta listed the rights of life, liberty and property as being violated, but the Declaration listed them as unalienable, given by God, and thus made them rest on a more solid foundation. Fourth, Magna Charta gave rise to Parliamentary supremacy where the legislature was supreme over the King. The Declaration gave rise to Constitutional supremacy, where the law ruled over the executive, legislative and judicial branches. Finally, Magna Charta was the seed of restoring the rule of law but the Declaration was the fruit of asserting the rule of law (self-government under God).

MAGNA CHARTA ASSERTED "no scutage (tax) or aid may be levied in our kingdom without its general consent" which was the foundation for the phrase "no taxation without representation" during the time of the American Revolution. Magna Charta was a stop sign for lawless kings, but it rested on the mentality that rights were given from the Crown. The Declaration, on the other hand, stated "that all men are created



equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights... that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed."

So what can we learn from these similarities and distinctions? God has given us a line of liberty from the days of the Bible to the birth of our nation. It rests on the Ten Commandments which liberated the ancient Israelites from Egypt's tyranny and extends to the grace of God and the Gospel. May we tell the story to our children and grandchildren - liberty costs something and to preserve it, as the Declaration declares, we must pledge "our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor!"



SOLDIERS SACRIFICE TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

GAINING ESSENTIAL COPING SKILLS TO DEAL WITH ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CAN BE A VERY DIFFICULT TASK TO COMPLETE



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MILITARY LIFE CAN BE VERY STRESSFUL FOR SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. Soldiers are constantly being bombarded with training, deployment, re-acclimation to the home front, and then repeating the cycle many times over.

As the military is gaining more knowledge and researching the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), there are concerns that many soldiers are resorting to alcohol and substance abuse to alleviate the pressure of various transitions as has

been the case from previous wars. Unfortunately, addiction does not only affect the Soldiers, it also affects the families of the Soldiers. A Soldier's spouse may feel that a way to deal with loneliness or stress of a deployed member may be by drinking alcohol.

Alcohol-related incidents continue to be the most referred to Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP).

Whether Soldiers are in the beginning stages of boot camp, seasoned veterans, reservist, or retirees, ASAP plays a vital role in helping them and their families deal with addiction of alcohol and/or drugs. ASAP provides various services in-house that meet many of the Soldier's and their Families' needs such as education, prevention, rehabilitation and treatment for alcohol and drug addiction. Because in many cases these services are provided in-house, Soldiers are allowed to simultaneously do their job and receive treatment -- a win-win situation for all.

Soldiers are usually referred for substance-abuse counseling in the Army by their command after an incident, such as, being cited by local authorities for drunken driving. While others have self referred and determined that they can no longer deal with the effects of alcohol or drugs, such as relational problems, financial struggles, suicide attempts, psychological and physical problems, still others are just sick and tired of being sick and tired. In the screening process the counselors or social workers determine that the Soldiers have an alcohol dependency, then they may be hospitalized in an Army inpatient facility such as Fort Gordon, Georgia, followed by weekly individual sessions. For alcohol-abuse problems, Soldiers may be required to go through a two-day educational course,

Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Training (ADAPT), as well as individual counseling.

Just as the military has taken great strides in recent years to give access and meet the mental health needs of troops, the Army recognizes that there will still be individuals who might believe that they have an alcohol or substance problem but are hesitant to reach out for help. As a result, the Army has created an online training and assessment tool, **myPRIME** <http://acsap.army.mil/sso/pages/public/resources/myprime.jsp> which is an online prevention intervention training tool that provides deployed Soldiers or Soldiers in remote locations with the ability to self-assess their own high risk behaviors and influence changes in attitude, belief, and behavior; however, myPRIME is not intended to substitute medical professional care.

Visit your local Army Substance Abuse Program or go to: <http://acsap.army.mil/sso/pages/index.jsp> to find and learn about the many programs and services available to you.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

During this month, we celebrate our independence! Let us not forget those who have sacrificed their lives for our country and who have served in past, are currently serving, and to all those who will serve in future generations. If you have a loved one serving in the Military, remember that he or she may or may not return emotionally the same after deployment. If one comes home troubled, be patient and ask for patience in return. Seek professional assistance if the problem persists for more than 6 months. As someone who has worked in multiple military settings, I truly appreciate and thank the Service Members and their Military



John Sophocleus

THINK



WHEN IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS... 2015

AS OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE CAREFULLY and specifically enumerated well-reasoned grievances for seceding from the British Empire, the cycle of tyranny which results from any command economy is once again upon us. One of the most active political operatives in Alabama working to reverse our corrupt path to tyranny recently reminded me of the power a well organized 'militia' can muster.

Showing significant numbers at the right time can make a great difference in our long-run course of human events. He imagined if a mere one million (about half a percent) marched upon the SCotUS to protest in 1973, how much less the estimated 60 million lost to abortion would be. A million is well below the *Genesis 18:26* (about five percent) threshold to spare the corrupt city of Sodom from her fate, but perhaps such a small group showing great conviction for liberty could've changed our course in a more modern era.

Roe v. Wade is one of DC's more tangible assaults on State sovereignty. As many readers know, I'm a pragmatist on the issue. If the people of a State want to allow murder in Massachusetts and not in Mississippi, it is **NOT** a federal offense. The definition and enforcement of murder isn't authorized to the federal government. I'm not foolish enough to think banning murder will end all the killing (even less so the immediate and tangible murder of a defenseless child inside or just outside a womb) we've observed, but I want the freedom to live a State which doesn't subsidize the murder of one's own child. If you wish to kill your own child, do it on your own purse. It is not a lot to ask on the 4th of July to be free from coercion to take my treasure to subsidize what I find reprehensible in the Spirit of securing the blessings of liberty for myself and my posterity. So the biggest grievance I'd like to declare this 4th of July is to stop forcing that blood on my hands - it is even sadder commentary upon our churches who've allowed governments to be their moral compass instead of taking the lead on issues of this sort. Perhaps belief in 'global warming' is indeed more important to most others...

Another grievance worthy of addressing this 4th of July is **to end the assault on my 2nd Amendment civil right.** I understand I must coexist with gun haters in society but do not impose this hatred on others - esp. those law abiding concealed carriers who generate great positive externality in our State. Thank God we had significant numbers (militia) willing to stand up against the British Empire when they came to confiscate arms; this courage to say **"ENOUGH!"** against the greatest military power of their era is what pulled the trigger on this 'Shot Heard Round the World.' The Americans from 1775 to 1815 who fought to win and hold onto their independence against insurmountable odds are indeed our nation's greatest generation.

I pray this 4th of July enough of that Spirit may still be found in large enough numbers to reverse the tyranny we observe. All federal gun laws are unconstitutional. If Connecticut wants to have the death penalty for possession of any armament they see fit, OK - but they can not impede the regular flow of arms from manufacturers in their State nor block the regular flow of commerce in arms through their State -- even if possession/use is completely prohibited within the sovereign State. Don't know why this sounds odd to so many - didn't Jack Daniels manufacture and deliver sour mash whiskey for decades from a place where consumption/possession was strictly prohibited in a 'dry county?'

Readers of my column on 'car carry' (SB 14) legislation may recall I applaud efforts at the State level to mitigate the harm from DC operating so far outside Constitutional limits. I'm delighted to report SB 14 passed the Alabama Senate. In a show to reaffirm his political 'brute force,' the Speaker of the House REFUSED to assign SB 14 to committee for ELEVEN days effectively killing this bill upon expiration of session. Isaac Whorton (one of a group of ten and hopefully growing in the House who are not giving in to rampant corruption on Goat Hill) made great effort and showed courage trying to move SB 14 forward. Watch this fine young gentleman - he's got the 'right stuff' for those who embrace and want to advance the 'Spirit of '76.'

My next grievance is restrictive ballot access and use of special elections to get desired corrupt results which fail if allowed on general election ballots. Sen. Whatley has proposed legislation to curb special election abuse - we'll see who has the courage to support it. We have some of the most restrictive ballot access laws in the nation aiding and abetting the anti-competitive results we observe. Little wonder we observe so many legislators of poor intelligence and integrity getting reelected. Sen. Dial is the 'poster child' in this regard, front-running big govt. legislation impeding our State economy for decades as a modern AEA Democrat and now as a traditional BCA Republican. Capitol Hotline just reported Dial one of the biggest recipients of BCA money; the current political junkie joke is "the BCA is the new AEA." The time is now to get more Constitution, Libertarian, T.E.A., et al Party type competition in our political arena if folks seriously want change our course of events instead of "Dialing" between these two corrupt parties protecting their duopoly.

The 2016 Election cycle is beginning to unfold; three Alabama Supreme Court Seats in play appear to be attracting the most attention. Associate Justices Tom Parker, Mike Bolin and Kelley Wise are in the 'Election or Go Home' decision calculus. Scuttlebutt has Associate Justice Mike Bolin as the only possible 'Go Home' of the three, but I've found no announcement of Bolin's intention to not run again. The Alabama Civil Justice Reform Committee (ACJRC) has supported both Wise and Bolin in previous elections. Justice Parker is a known political ally of Chief Justice Roy Moore and 'conservatives' of this sort. Pay for an Associate Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court is \$160,000 - it will be interesting to see how high the "campaign spending to pay ratio" will get on some of these races... No seats are up for election in 2016 on the five member Court of Criminal Appeals, nor the five member Court of Civil Appeals. The Alabama Chief Justice cycle is set for election in 2018 along with four Associate Justices and six Appeals Court Justices. Mandatory 'Age Out' of elections for judges in Alabama is 70. Moore will not be eligible for reelection in 2018 because of this discriminatory 'Age Out' provision finishing his current term January 2019. It was righteous to see voters reverse the Myron Thompson, et al wrongful removal of this Chief Justice - I pray we can come up with better candidates who will indeed protect our civil rights and not be easy tools for jurists like Thompson to use toward further empowering our corrupt federal government.

The last grievance I'll address this July 4th will be of little surprise to readers who know the research I'm most noted for - **the deleterious impact of wealth transfer activity on our economy.** Sadly, Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) passed 219-211 with Alabama support. Apryl Marie Fogel's June 12 report from DC claimed the 'big buzz' that week centered around the TPA vote setting parameters for negotiating future trade agreements. TPA once again redefines how trade agreements will proceed instead of following Constitutional constraints, allowing members to read the text of the deals 60 days before the executive signs it and allowing Congressional approval of trade bills on a straight up-or-down vote. Ms. Fogel further noted the bill made for some 'odd

bedfellows' where a few staunch 'conservatives' sided with President Obama - the biggest opponents of the bill included unions and strong Tea Party type conservatives - though some broke ranks and supported TPA including Ted Cruz.

Obama lobbied hard for the bill, making an unscheduled stop at the Annual Congressional Baseball Game the evening before the vote where his final push seems to have paid off in the final hours according to Fogel. Obama persuaded a few undecided Democrats like Terri Sewell to support his position on the bill as she reported the Alabama Delegation voting as follows with some statements from their office:

- Rep. **Bradley Byrne** (R - 01): Voted for TPA
- Rep. **Martha Roby** (R - 02): Voted for TPA
- Rep. **Mike Rogers** (R - 03): Voted for TPA
- Rep. **Robert B. Aderholt** (R - 04): Voted against TPA
- Rep. **Mo Brooks** (R - 05): Voted against TPA
- Rep. **Gary Palmer** (R - 06): Voted against TPA
- Rep. **Terri A. Sewell** (D - 07): Voted for TPA

Byrne said, **"TPA is about boosting the American economy, promoting a strong foreign policy, and restricting an out-of-control president. Every president already has the authority to negotiate trade agreements, but this legislation puts Congress in the driver's seat and ensures transparency for the American people."**

Roby said, **"Trade with other countries is good as long as it's fair. We want Alabama products to be sold in growing international markets and ensure America builds its economic advantage globally. With China's economic emergence, that's as important as ever. But, I don't want President Obama having unilateral trade authority. I want strict checks and balances from Congress, as well as a multilayered mechanism to shut down bad trade deals. That's why enacting the Trade Promotion Authority is important. TPA empowers Congress to hold this president accountable for presenting the strongest trade agreements possible, and if he doesn't, we can strike them altogether."**

Rogers said, **"Long term, TPA gives Congress oversight and authority in any future deal, and the power to ensure those deals are fair for Alabama's diverse economy. It will help the United States compete more fairly against China's ever growing economic influence, and gives Congress final say in whether a trade deal moves forward or not. I disagree with the president often, and this bill keeps President Obama in check."**

Sewell said, **"I cast my vote today in support of President Obama and American workers. I believe that this president should be given the same authorities that every other president has been given to negotiate trade agreements that benefit American workers, businesses, and our economy. While I share many of the concerns of my friends in labor regarding trade, I am convinced that President Obama is committed to safeguarding our shared values and protecting American jobs. Ultimately, I believe that President Obama will protect the best interests of the American people, and the folks I represent in Alabama's 7th Congressional District. The bottom line is that President Obama has our back, and we should have his too."**

No surprise Mo Brooks stuck to his principles, not fooled by this next mutation into decay from Constitutionally correct results, but pleasantly surprised by Messrs. Aderholt and Palmer. Rep. Byrne as a BCA shill was easy to predict - he has a long history of empowering government to promote more corporate welfare destroying our State and nation. I won't recall ALL the history from past columns, but violating the uniformity clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8) and excessive protection has triggered much despair (Nullification Crisis, War Between States, Great Depression) for the US economy.

The first mutation of this sort of 'fast tracking' was Most Favored Nation (MFN) trading status to enable more picking of winners and losers. After Hoover and the Republicans (typical big govt. champions expanding the corporate welfare playbook to agriculture & raw materials - i.e., our comparative advantage, so destined to fail BIG) didn't back off the Smoot-Hawley tariff it paved the way for FDR. Elected by those who thought FDR a traditional Democrat who would clean up the usual mess Republican corporate welfare programs generate; once in office FDR's lauded first hundred days provided NO tariff relief from Hoover's protectionism, but successfully used it as an opportunity (as a modern Democrat) to advance even more federal command and control economy programs along with further funding and expanding the ones of Mr. Hoover.

The spike down in unemployment anticipating Roosevelt reversing Hoover's policies quickly ended and immediately returned to (actually a little higher) the Hoover result without tariff relief. Finally MFN (allowing the executive to reduce specific tariffs as much as 50% without congress) provided some tariff relief and unemployment slowly fell back to pre Smoot-Hawley levels over the following years until the "Fair Labour Standards Act" in 1938 established the first (also unconstitutional) federal minimum wage. Unemployment spiked up yet again, not to fall for an extended duration till Europe goes to war again (WWII) and demand for US exports exploded as has been the case since the Napoleonic Wars. Instead of more 'entangling alliances' President Washington provided sound caveats against and thousands of pages in trade agreements (think NAFTA, GATT, etc.) filled with preferential treatment which fail in the long run, consider returning to a low uniform tariff which incorporates the cost of keeping commerce regular in imports prices. Abolish the federal income tax (along with other unconstitutional policies & programs) which imbed in prices of US exports distorting the balance of trade we currently observe if one sincerely cares about US workers. The uniform tariff (as a revenue bill) must originate in the HoR (Art. 1, Sec. 7 drawing from the wisdom of the Magna Carta celebrating an 800 year anniversary) then also pass the upper House (Senate) where the executive can either sign or veto. Very simple, very effective - esp. if the coalition of States wants to advance competition over protectionism.

No one could rationally expect someone of Rep. Rogers' courage, integrity and intelligence to understand (much less advance) this sort of improvement toward the Constitutional result he took an oath to uphold - he's shown himself to stand for little of substance these past decades in Congress. Always, quaint to hear Mr. Rogers talk of "fairness" without any definition or understanding of how real world economies function. Rep. Roby's rhetoric is most disappointing. Not only because she also evokes the "f-word" (fair) without definition, but years ago she genuinely seemed honest and educable. Increasingly less likely to be taken seriously as a gubernatorial candidate; perhaps she can reverse course and stop listening to those in the federal courts who think themselves godlike in their decisions and learn it is the legislature's role to make laws within the constraints of their oath of office, not judicial fiat.

Last but not least Rep. Sewell was interesting in remaining 'undecided'

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA ROBY**
ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



HOUSE PASSES TRADE FRAMEWORK BILL

Roby, pro-growth Republicans support bill to promote free and fair trade

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. House of Representatives recently voted to advance a bill setting strict parameters for how international trade negotiations are reviewed and ratified, sending a standalone Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) bill to the Senate.

The House passed the same measure, but it was linked to a separate Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) bill that failed to pass when U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) and a majority of Republicans voted against it. Thursday, the House voted on TPA as a standalone bill, which can now be considered by the Senate.

The bill, H.R. 2146, sets a legal framework for how the United States goes about reviewing and ratifying trade agreements. Under the plan, Congress retains its fundamental, final authority to approve any trade agreement, but also gains additional involvement in the process of formulating multi-lateral agreements.

Rep. Roby voted with a strong majority of Republicans to approve this stand-alone TPA, saying the framework will lead to better trade agreements that promote economic growth.

“There’s no question that trade supports jobs in Alabama, and it’s our responsibility to make sure trade agreements we enter into benefit American workers and serve our nation’s strategic global interests,” Rep. Roby said.

“That’s why this Trade Promotion bill is important. It puts Congress in a much better position to ratify good multi-lateral trade agreements and to stop bad ones.”

While most opposition came from anti-trade Democrats, a handful of Republicans also did not support the TPA. However, overall the plan has received

broad support among pro-growth conservative lawmakers, organizations and opinion leaders, including Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), Governor Scott Walker (R-WI), Financial Services Committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), the American Conservative Union, the Cato Institute, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and *The Washington Post* columnist Charles Krauthammer.

The president has long been responsible for negotiating trade agreements with foreign countries. However, Congress has seen fit over the years to enact parameters for how potential agreements are reviewed and ratified. First passed in 1974, the last of these TPAs expired in 2007 under President George W. Bush.

Currently, the United States is seeking a major trade partnership with Pacific nations, the importance of which has been increased by the emergence of China and Russia. While reauthorizing a TPA would facilitate the ongoing negotiations, Congressional Republicans believe any new trade procedures must allow for greater accountability and transparency.

Under this new TPA, Congress sets the U.S. trade objectives, must be consulted throughout the process, can read negotiating texts and has the final say on trade agreements. Both the House and Senate are afforded multiple mechanisms by which they can shut down trade agreements they deem unsuitable. Also, any proposed trade agreement must be made available to the public prior to its consideration in Congress.

H.R. 2146 was passed by a vote of 218-208. The original bill text can be read on our website.

For more information contact Communications Director Todd Stacy at 202.225.2901 or todd.stacy@mail.house.gov.

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 may be reached at www.steveflowers.us.



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

July 1, 2015:

LAST WEEK'S VERDICT THAT VICTORYLAND BE ALLOWED TO REOPEN IS JUSTICE SERVED. The people of Macon County voted for a constitutional amendment to allow for electronic bingo. The issue of pari-mutuel style casino betting and the closing of the ultra-modern and successful luxury gaming resort in Macon County has been laid to rest.

There have been extensive studies and articles that crystallize several obvious observations. First of all, gambling or gaming is an extremely profitable venture and it is apparent that most Alabamians and Americans gamble whether it be online, through a bookie or via a lottery. By the way, 48 of the 50 states receive revenue from gambling. Alabama and Utah are the only states that do not.

The glaring question is why in the world would someone pick on VictoryLand when supposedly illicit gambling proliferates throughout the state and nation? Another perplexing question to the average Alabamian is why the Indian casinos are allowed to operate all over the state making millions and not paying any taxes yet VictoryLand, which pays taxes and provides jobs as a resort location in one of Alabama's poorest counties, is closed.

Finally, after years of legal battles, a court has made a ruling that the machines used to play electronic bingo in Alabama must be returned. Montgomery Circuit Judge, William Shashy, was picked by Chief Justice Roy Moore and the Alabama Supreme Court to hear the case. After lengthy deliberation, Judge Shashy ruled in favor of Macon County. Attorney General Luther Strange has prudently shown that he will allow the local district attorneys throughout the state to choose whether or not they want to pursue closing of other facilities that are open. It appears that VictoryLand will be able to reopen their facility and compete with the Indian casinos for tourists

IT IS A BIG WIN FOR THE PEOPLE OF MACON COUNTY. The VictoryLand Resort employed as many as 1,000 people in the county. Judge

Shashy ruled properly. In fact, his ruling is the first time a court has actually decided the issue regarding the legality of electronic bingo. Again, Attorney General Luther Strange should be applauded for his independence and honesty. He has stated that it was a “fundamental fairness issue” that the state treat Indian and non-Indian casinos the same.

Under our 1901 Alabama Constitution, counties are given very little authority. Therefore, in order to do almost anything they have to go through a cumbersome process to raise revenue or even perform functions of government. Many times they have to go to the legislature to pass legislation granting them authority and then they further have to have an election and vote on an amendment to the state constitution.

Even though this labyrinth is long and arduous, it does carry the weight of being a part of the Constitution. The people of Macon County, through legislative action and subsequent referendum, overwhelmingly approved their county's right to have gaming via electronic bingo.

Macon County's constitutional amendment is different from other counties. They were ahead of the curve and knew exactly what they wanted. Their Representative was Johnny Ford and their Senator was Myron Penn. These men were clearly up front about the kind of bingo machines they intended to use.

As a member of the House of Representatives at the time, I recall Johnny Ford telling me that he had traveled to other parts of the country to see firsthand how electronic bingo worked. They crafted their amendment to have this type of game. Furthermore, in the referendum the proponents made sure Macon County voters knew that their measure focused on electronic bingo. Their intent was made crystal clear in ads, flyers, meetings and media responses in which they informed Macon County residents of their intent. The people overwhelmingly voted in favor of the constitutional amendment, but their constitutional rights have been trampled for more than three years.

VICTORYLAND IS MACON COUNTY'S MERCEDES, AIRBUS, AND UAB. HOPEFULLY, THEY CAN NOW MOVE ON WITH THEIR LIVES.

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for so long, perhaps it was to get even more attention or political gain of some sort. Always entertaining to read what powers she ‘believes’ a president ‘should’ have instead of those actually enumerated in the Constitution, not that she’s been much of a champion of our rule of law to secure the life, liberty and property of those in our State in her years of ‘public service.’ I have little doubt her 4th of July contemplations are directed more toward empowering the govt. She ‘believes’ in over the rights endowed by our Creator to advance the blessings of liberty over tyranny.

POSTSCRIPT: As a resident of Lee County I’d be remiss not typing a few words on the recent passing of Jule Collins Smith; from conception of the enormous endeavor she wholeheartedly threw herself into every aspect of the Museum project. When asked for remembrances, founding member Prof. Robert Ekelund fondly & recalled her speech outside the construction trailer on the day the Museum was dedicated many years ago. She expressed genuine thanks for the great honor husband Albert bestowed upon her then far exceeded the initial vision of what this Museum would mean to Auburn University, students, the community and most of all our less fortunate children in the area. She clearly intended to be an active, integral part of the process; not simply an ‘honorific’ participant. Her dream and work helped immensely to create the reality we now observe and enjoy. She was the epitome of a great benefactor - one very honored, yet also ready to roll up her own sleeves to push, pull and elevate to get things accomplished. A wonderful template to follow toward accomplishing important, impactful ends of this sort; she was proud of her museum and would consider its continued excellence a “coin worth having.” Most notable was her love for us all and how many felt and returned it with dividends! I pray this lovely lady rests well in peace - she’s earned it as a blessed example in our State -- well noted for giving.



Have a Safe and Blessed 4th of July!



Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



CHOOT EM, BAMA STYLE

Summer's rolling along, and the weather's been plenty hot! True to Alabama, we can count on plenty of heat and humidity in the coming days, as it's always been. But this year, **one thing that will be different is gator hunting.**

Now, the alligator hunting permit registration permit began June 2nd, and will run all the way through July 14th. Now, you get to put in for the lottery for permits for each zone at <http://outdooralabama.com/registration-instructions>, just like always. However, instead of allowing as many entries as you like for \$6 each entry, this year you can enter only once per zone for \$22 each entry.

Gator hunt permits are only available to residents of Alabama with a valid hunting license. Non-residents are eligible to be alligator hunting assistants, though. There are four zones for hunting gators: Southwest Alabama, Southeast Alabama, West Central Alabama, and Lake Eufaula. Do note that the Southeast Alabama zone does not cover the waters of Lake Eufaula or its navigable tributaries. The Southwest zone will get 150 permits, the Southeast zone will get 40 permits, the West Central zone 50, and Lake Eufaula zone will get 20. Now, the bag limit is one alligator per person, and in the Lake Eufaula zone, that gator has to be at least 8 feet in length.

Now, that's not too many permits to pick from, with only 260 permits being offered, in total. However, if you don't get lucky this year, try again next year, as the system for choosing who gets a permit involves a preference point system. Meaning, for every consecutive year you apply for a permit, the more likely you are to get a permit.

Hunting times for the zones are 8 PM till 6 AM from August 13th to August 16th, then August 20th to the 23rd in both Southwest and West Central zones. The Southeast zone is 8 PM to 6 AM August 15th until September 7th. Lake Eufaula runs all the way from sunrise on August 14th until sunrise on October 5th, with no restrictions on day or night hunting outside of initial start and final end times.

Now, if you're lucky enough to get that permit, you're gonna have to take a mandatory training course. More info on that can be found at Outdoor Alabama, such as times and locations for the courses given.

CAPTURING ALLIGATORS IS A BIT OF TRICKY BUSINESS. You can use hand-held snares, snatch hooks on a rod and reel, harpoons with attached line, and bowfishing equipment. No bait is allowed. After you've gotten the gator, you've gotta bring them along the side of the boat, and restrain them with a noose or snare. Once restrained, the gator must be immediately dispatched with a shotgun or bangstick, with appropriate ammo. As always be sure to check out the regulations and requirements on Outdoor Alabama's website.

So, you've landed and dispatched a gator. Next step is the check-in station. Once you've attached your Temporary Alligator Possession Tag, you can move the gator and get it back to your vehicle. Head on over to the pre-



designated check station for your zone, and make sure to get there within the proper hours. Once there, the folks will get your permanent tag on the gator. As always, more information is available on the Alabama Outdoors website.

That's the basic gist of gator hunting, and it's an interesting hunting season that's popped up in the Alabama summer. We've made great strides in getting the alligator population back to non-endangered levels, but gators are gators. **They're becoming a nuisance to folks on and near the water, so it's time to properly manage the population.** With the full support of the outdoors community, we can maintain the balance between proper game populations and our tradition of hunting, and this is just one example of how that balance can be successful on both fronts. So get your applications in, get your boats ready, and go get 'em!

Muskrat

"The Kritter Korner"

The muskrat is a large rodent that is about a foot to two feet long. It has a stocky body, a rounded head and a long, scaly black tail that is 7 to 12 inches long. Its tail is laterally flattened, that means it is flattened vertically! Its tail works like a rudder and helps the muskrat maneuver in the water! It has thick, soft, glossy, reddish-brown to dark brown fur on its upper sides and paler fur on its undersides. It has a thick coat of fur under its guard fur that is waterproof. It may also have a white patch of fur under its chin and a darker patch of fur on its nose. The muskrat has small eyes and tiny ears. It has short legs and small front feet. Its rear feet are larger and slightly webbed. It gets its name from the two musk glands on its rear under its tail.

The muskrat can close its mouth around its protruding teeth and chew underwater! The muskrat eats aquatic vegetation like cattails, sedges, rushes, water lilies and pond weeds. In some areas they also eat clams, mussels, snails, crayfish, small fish and frogs. The muskrat doesn't eat their food where they

find it; they usually drags their food out to a feeding platform in the water or a feeding station near one of its travel paths. These feeding platforms are made of mud and vegetation. It can then eat its food without worrying about predators! The muskrat is crepuscular, that means it is most active at dawn, dusk and at night.

The muskrat is found in swamps, marshes, rivers, ponds, lakes, drainage ditches and canals. It prefers an environment with four to six feet of still or slow-moving water and plants like cattails, pondweeds, bulrushes and sedges. It needs open travel channels in the water so it can move around easily. In marsh environments, the muskrat builds a dome-shaped lodge of plants. The lodge can be five feet across and four feet high and has an inner chamber with more than one underwater entry hole. In some cases, the muskrat may build separate lodges for feeding and nesting! In other habitats like rivers, creeks, drainage ditches and canals, the muskrat creates a bank burrow for shelter.

The burrow consists of a tunnel and a nesting chamber. There is usually an underwater entrance to the burrow. The muskrat can close its mouth around its protruding teeth and chew underwater!



In the southern part of its range the muskrat may breed year-round. In the northern parts of its range mating season runs from March through August. The female muskrat may have up to five litters a year. Male muskrats compete for females. The female gives birth to two to nine young. The young are covered with fur at birth and their eyes are closed.

They can swim when they are about ten days old and begin to eat vegetation when they are about 20 days old. They are fully weaned when they are about a month old. They leave their mother after weaning and establish their own territory. They mate when they are about a year old. The average lifespan of a muskrat in the wild is three or four years. The muskrat is found from northern North America south to the Mexican border. It is not found in parts of California, Florida and Texas. The muskrat is a very good swimmer and can stay underwater for as long as 15 minutes. It uses its tail and webbed feet to propel itself through the water and can swim both forwards and backwards!



Ron VanHerwyn

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MEMORIES...

“Pressed Between The Pages Of My Mind”

“There’s a time to be living...a time for to die.”

Montgomery and Troy lost a favorite son on the last day of April this year. **Coach Pat Garner** lost a somewhat short battle with lung cancer and bone cancer. He was 77.

Coach Garner certainly knew how to live. He also knew how to die. His life was so full of activities that he never got bored with daily living. His faith in God was strong enough to carry him through the death of his first wife **Jane Marie Helms Garner**, (the mother of his five children), a serious heart attack ten years ago, much sickness in his last years, and the last battle of his life, while his wife **Sandy** provided comfort and care throughout that terrible process.

One night he was working late at his retirement business, Professional Packers, International. He suddenly felt weak and experienced severe chest pains. He was rushed to **Jackson Hospital** where they discovered that he was having a serious heart attack. In fact, Garner was just a few minutes from death. Without the attention of the staff at Jackson, Pat Garner would have been gone way too soon. “Coach”, as most people called him was always resilient. God was always in charge as far as he was concerned, so the heart attack didn’t slow him down at all. In fact he took on another job in addition to managing the shipping company. He became a driver for Enterprise Holdings, Inc. for 10 years. He went to the office to get his assignment from Enterprise every day early in the morning. Maybe he had to take a van with three people and drive to Mobile to pick up four sedans. Maybe he had to take a Chrysler sedan to Selma and bring back a van. Coach Garner loved driving for Enterprise. It takes a flexible individual to go to the office each day in good spirits, be sent

God knows where, return to Montgomery late in the afternoon with a different vehicle, and be happy when he got home. I know first hand. He got me a job with Enterprise when I retired from the military. I only lasted just two weeks. I guess I just didn’t want a job. That was very much like Pat Garner. He really was concerned about me having something meaningful to do when I retired.

You see, Pat Garner was my oldest friend in Montgomery. When we moved to Montgomery from Camden, Alabama in 1945, World War II was still going on in the Pacific. I was just a shy little country boy who was really afraid to go to this fancy city school, Capitol Heights Elementary. I would be entering the second grade. We lived on Vonora Avenue, only two blocks from Cramton Bowl. Pat and his brother **Earl** lived much closer to the school on St. Charles Street. That was a grade above Vonora.

On the first day of the second grade I reluctantly met **Pat Garner, Joe McDade, John Hixon, Johnny Andrews, Wendell Connor and Bill Shepard**. All but Andrews and Garner are still alive today. We were to become good friends, but Pat Garner had a way of making me feel good in addition to being a funny guy. We had spend the night parties in those days. There was very little to do in Montgomery in those years except go to Cramton Bowl to watch a football game. It didn’t matter if it was Lanier, Loretta, Starke or the “biggie” the Blue/Gray Game. Since my house on Vonora was only a block from Cramton Bowl, Pat and the gang would meet at my house and we would jump over the fence in what was center field, then drop and run for cover. Getting in free was just as much fun as watching the ball game. So, Pat Garner became one of my best buddies when we were seven years old. That friendship lasted seventy years. Every year we got even closer. After reading the next paragraph you will see that Pat was always involved in something.

Pat and I were on the first Robert E. Lee football team in 1955. We graduated together in Lee’s first graduating class in 1956. He attended Troy State College where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1960 and earned his varsity letter in track and golf. In 1973, he earned a Masters Degree in education, also from Troy State College. Coach Garner began his professional career in Montgomery as a teacher and coach at his alma mater, Lee High School as assistant basketball coach to the legendary Leon Ford. His golf teams won the state championship three years in a row. In 1964, he transferred to Floyd Junior High School where he served as Community Center Director; coach of football, basketball, track, golf, tennis, and swimming teams. His Falcons football team won a city championship in 1965 and the basketball team won both city and state championships in 1967. He organized tennis and golf competition for the Montgomery Parks and Recreation for all the Montgomery junior high schools. He was instrumental in developing the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Montgomery. He was nominated for the YMCA “Man or the Year” and for Physical Education Teacher of the Year. Pat was inducted into the Robert E. Lee Hall of Fame in 2006.

Following his retirement from the field of education, Pat formed Professional Packing and Shipping, which is successfully operating today. For the past 10 years, he was a ‘professional driver’ in the Relocation Division for Enterprise Holdings, Inc.

The years slipped by while we went our separate ways, me to Auburn



*Coach Pat Garner
1938 - 2015*

and Pat to Troy. Without planning it, we both wound up in coaching. The coaching business was good to me and Pat. He was probably a better coach than me. I know he was a better basketball coach. In fact he should have been hired as Coach Leon Ford’s replacement at Robert E. Lee in 1965 when Ford was hired at Chattanooga. The Montgomery Board of Education has been known for bone-



Pat Garner, on the left, was inducted into the Robert E. Lee Hall of Fame in 2006. In 2010 when Ed Jones, far right, was inducted, Pat and his wife Sandy hosted a reception for Ed at their home which was attended by many of their teammates. Eely Jackson, center, from Big Canoe, Georgia celebrated Ed’s induction ceremony with Pat. Jackson also played on Lee’s first team.

head coaching decisions. None other shall be discussed here. You may call me at The Alabama Gazette for more information.

When things are going wrong and I feel sorry for myself, there will be no phone call saying, “Edward H. Jones, this is Howard P. Garner.” This I will miss. Our yearly “adventure” with our wives to strange places will not be the same. Eely Jackson will be there. Walter Cooper will be there. But, the life of the party will be missing. So many things will remind me of Pat.

Thanks Pat...for the memories that are pressed between the pages of my mind.



**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

Ed Jones, top left, and Pat Garner, bottom right, in their 3rd grade class picture.

Others pictured are Robert Loftin and Peggy Mullins



Ed Jones, top left, and Pat Garner, bottom right, in their 3rd grade class picture. Others pictured are Robert Loftin and Peggy Mullins



FORMER LANIER PLAYERS WHO MADE UP THE NUCLEUS OF THE FIRST LEE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM IN 1955
 10- Ed Jones QB/HB, 44- Jackie Spencer HB, 40- Ed Spencer HB, 32- Mickey Newman FB, 13- Cliff Little QB,
 20- Earl Mills HB, 75- Billy McNair T, 80- Charles Tatum E, 66- James Johnson G, 64- Judson Huett G,
 61- Charles Brophy G, 50- Durden Lee C, 82- Pat Garner E. Not pictured: Raymond Parker G and Rex Akin T.

Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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INDIVIDUALISM IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

INDIVIDUALISM IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION, like other walks of life, thrives on legends and myths. The profession cherishes certain images. One of these images is the image of the rugged individual.

Rugged Individualism is an important part of the American tradition. Pioneers were rugged individuals. The legal profession, an adversaria profession, fits right into this picture. Up until the Civil War the primary method of legal education was apprenticeship. Would-be lawyers "read" the law in the office of practitioners. There were no large firms. Individuals were the practitioners. Practitioners such as Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln, and Henry Clay certainly fit the definition of rugged individuals. They were powerful orators. Their trials attracted audiences.

The Civil War, and its aftermath, brought many changes to the legal profession. Regardless of many other cultural causes, the Civil War, in a large sense, was about whether there would be an industrial revolution in the United States. It pitted the Northern industrial economy against the Southern agrarian economy. Slavery was an adjunct feature of the agrarian economy and became a popular cause. The underlying roots however, were strongly embedded in industrial progress. The question was whether politics would be controlled by an industrial economy or an agrarian economy.

The railroad and manufacturing were important elements of the industrial revolution. Shortly after the Civil War ended, in 1871, Harvard Law School launched the case method of study for law

schools. Under the leadership of Dean Christopher Columbus Langdell, the case method put a double twist on the idea of precedent in the law. Not only was the previous case a source of law and basis for a decision, the study of earlier cases became the primary method for the study of law. This seemed to show that courts "make" law. Civil War veteran Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. was one of the Harvard Law School professors. He would become an important legal philosopher and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He made statements like "Law is what a court does."

This furthered the idea that courts actually make law rather than finding it in the beliefs and practices of the culture. (It is one thing for courts to "make" law in struggling to properly decide a case; it is quite another for courts to use the case as an excuse to preempt the work reserved to the legislative branch.) Law School came to be the accepted means of legal education.

Corporations controlled industry. Large law firms like the Cravath Firm in New York quickly became the advisors to the developing corporate America. Ownership of property quickly transitioned from individual ownership to corporate ownership with individuals being stockholders who did not manage the wealth. As law firms developed, the "A" students were hired by the leading law firms, who worked as teams of specialists, and became the advisors of business. **Rugged individuals were not in charge.**

Even in the changed environment, the mythology of individualism in the practice of law continued. After the turn of the 20th Century, there

was the famous Scopes Monkey Trial in Tennessee pitting Clarence Darrow against William Jennings Bryan. The famous names helped to perpetuate the myth of the importance of individualism in the practice of law. However, the main business of advising the railroads and burgeoning corporate America rested with the proliferating large law firms.

The actual practice of law as it affected the development of America was not in the hands of individual lawyers. Nevertheless, the imagery is still a highly romantic notion that affects the self-perception of the members of the legal profession. The State of Alabama, during the first half of the Twentieth Century was gradually emerging from the agrarian economy and moving toward the industrial economy. That provided the perfect setting for *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. In the pleasant glow of that romantic notion of lawyering, the Alabama legal profession in recent years formed the "Atticus Finch" Society. While the bedrock virtues of total honesty, and loyalty to the client, the legal system and the truth remains absolutely necessary for the successful operation of any legal system, reality today does not sustain the Atticus Finch role model in the actual operation of the legal system any more than doctors making house calls provides an adequate image for today's medical care.

The reality of law today is dominated by and exists in a complex corporate environment. The image of individualism is no longer a valid working model for attorneys. We need to find new images that retain all of the necessary virtues.



Marcia Chambliss



HAVE WE LOST WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AMERICAN?

ANOTHER INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IS UPON US, yet I have to wonder if the meaning of the day hasn't been lost to the America we've become.

Holidays that once celebrated the history of our nation have seemingly become little more than retail sales events or long weekend relaxation trips rather than reflection on the significance of the day in history. But given the trend in certain segments of our culture to trivialize and/or demonize America and its accomplishments, the change in how many now approach these holidays is hardly a surprise.

As a case in point, when the College Board, the extremely powerful non-profit organization that is responsible for the Advanced Placement (AP) testing as well as the Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT), published its new AP U.S. History Framework (APUSH) last year, another education controversy was launched and it will hopefully gain as much pushback as what is currently being seen with Common Core.

Much has been written in education circles since the APUSH framework was published, but the most concise explanation of what has been imposed can be found in an open letter of opposition to the framework released by fifty-five American scholars on June 2, 2015. Many of these scholars are sitting professors at prominent universities across our nation, and their concerns should be taken seriously if we want to educate our citizenry in what it truly means to be an American.

While AP U.S. History is an elective course for those seeking college credits, does anyone really believe that what starts as a framework for advanced placement will be limited to that level?

These scholars have examined the framework and believe that it sets the stage for a **"misleading account of American history" that "deemphasizes content, and promotes a particular interpretation of American history," one which "downplays American citizenship and American world leadership in favor of a more global and transnational perspective."**

Some will argue that these scholars only wish to whitewash our nation's history, but, as noted in the letter, they instead prefer a "warts and all" accounting of our history – one that not only details where we have missed the mark in our past, but one that also teaches how we've learned from those ugly segments of our history, still determined to improve, and "remain one nation with common ideals and a shared story."

But rather than a "shared story," the scholars indicate that the 134-page framework shifts views regarding American exceptionalism and singular identity into multiple identities, with more emphasis on conflicts between social groups than those incredible periods when we have unified as a nation. In my mind, it would appear that the hyphenation of America might very well escalate to the lamentable point where "American" may one day be dropped altogether.

Recently, talk radio host Mark Levin shared the contents of the letter with his audience and within the hour received an unsolicited call from one of the signatories of the letter, Professor Daniel Robinson, Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Oxford, and the conversation that followed was particularly significant.

Robinson shared his opinion that much of

what has happened in our recent history is "seamlessly connected" and can be categorized as **"The Lost Sense of What it Means to be an American."** He continued by relating that the official date of the fall of the Roman Empire does not reflect a specific date in 476 A.D., but rather a conclusion of events in which the average Roman failed to understand just what it meant to be a Roman citizen.

In similar fashion, Robinson believes that our civic sense of being an American has been eroded for decades and we now have a citizenship lacking of understanding or feeling at the civic level, living instead in a personal bubble – a bubble that is filled by government giving us what pleases and exhilarates us, as it "helps" with everything. None of this is by accident and leads us to a failure in comprehending what it means to be an American citizen.

As you celebrate this Independence Day, I hope you will reclaim the ideals of what it means to be an American. Keep in mind that tyranny is not an antiquated term associated only with our original independence from British rule – it comes in many forms, and we are still in desperate need of brave patriots who are ready and able to defeat it.

*Letter Opposing the 2014 APUSH Framework, June 2, 2015. Posted for public access at http://www.nas.org/articles/open_letter_american_historians

Marcia Chambliss serves on the leadership team of Smart Girl Politics, www.smartgirlpolitics.com, an online community for conservative women. She can be reached at: Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics.

WETUMPKA TEA PARTY "ALABAMA STATE LEGISLATORS TO 'DE-BRIEF' 2015 ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE SESSION"

July 20, 2015 • 6:30 PM

Elmore Community Hospital cafeteria, 500 Hospital Dr., Wetumpka, AL

Representatives from the Alabama House of Representatives will 'de-brief' the 2015 Legislative Session for the Wetumpka Tea Party at its July meeting.

Representatives Mike Holmes (District 31) and Reed Ingram (District 75) will provide information on the most recent Legislative Session and be available for questions from the audience. Both Holmes and Ingram began their service in the State Legislature in 2014.

For more information about the Wetumpka Tea Party, up-coming events, etc., go to www.wetumpkateaparty.com/

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The New Nationwide Crime Wave

The consequences of the ‘Ferguson effect’ are already appearing. The main victims of growing violence will be the inner-city poor.

By Heather Mac Donald

THE NATION’S TWO-DECADES-LONG CRIME DECLINE may be over. Gun violence in particular is spiraling upward in cities across America. In Baltimore, the most pressing question every morning is how many people were shot the previous night. Gun violence is up more than 60% compared with this time last year, according to Baltimore police, with 32 shootings over Memorial Day weekend. May has been the most violent month the city has seen in 15 years.

In Milwaukee, homicides were up 180% by May 17 over the same period the previous year. Through April, shootings in St. Louis were up 39%, robberies 43%, and homicides 25%. “Crime is the worst I’ve ever seen it,” said St. Louis Alderman Joe Vacarro at a May 7 City Hall hearing.

Murders in Atlanta were up 32% as of mid-May. Shootings in Chicago had increased 24% and homicides 17%. Shootings and other violent felonies in Los Angeles had spiked by 25%; in New York, murder was up nearly 13%, and gun violence 7%.

Those citywide statistics from law-enforcement officials mask even more startling neighborhood-level increases. Shooting incidents are up 500% in an East Harlem precinct compared with last year; in a South Central Los Angeles police division, shooting victims are up 100%.

By contrast, the first six months of 2014 continued a 20-year pattern of growing public safety. Violent crime in the first half of last year dropped 4.6% nationally and property crime was down 7.5%. Though comparable national figures for the first half of 2015 won’t be available for another year, the January through June 2014 crime decline is unlikely to be repeated.

The most plausible explanation of the current surge in lawlessness is the intense agitation against American police departments over the past nine months.

Since last summer, the airwaves have been dominated by suggestions that the police are the biggest threat facing young black males today. A handful of highly publicized deaths of unarmed black men, often following a resisted arrest—including Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y., in July 2014, Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., in August 2014 and Freddie Gray in Baltimore last month—have led to riots, violent protests and attacks on the police. Murders of officers jumped 89% in 2014, to 51 from 27.

President Obama and **Attorney General Eric Holder**, before he stepped down last month, embraced the conceit that law enforcement in black communities is infected by bias. The news media pump out a seemingly constant stream of stories about alleged police mistreatment of blacks, with the reports often buttressed by cellphone videos that rarely capture the behavior that caused an officer to use force.

Almost any police shooting of a black person, no matter how threatening the behavior that provoked the shooting, now provokes angry protests, like those that followed the death of Vonderrit Myers in St. Louis last October. The 18-year-old Myers, awaiting trial on gun and resisting-arrest charges, had fired three shots at an officer at close range. Arrests in black communities are even more fraught than usual, with hostile, jeering crowds pressing in on officers and spreading lies about the encounter.

Acquittals of police officers for the use of deadly force against black suspects are now automatically presented as a miscarriage of justice. Proposals aimed at producing more cop convictions abound, but New York state seems especially enthusiastic about the idea.

The state’s attorney general, **Eric Schneiderman**, wants to create a special state prosecutor dedicated solely to prosecuting cops who use lethal force. **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** would appoint an independent monitor whenever a grand jury fails to indict an officer for homicide and there are “doubts” about the fairness of the proceeding (read: in every instance of a non-indictment); the governor could then turn over the case to a special prosecutor for a second grand jury proceeding.

This incessant drumbeat against the police has resulted in what St. Louis police chief Sam Dotson last November called the “Ferguson effect.” Cops are disengaging from discretionary enforcement activity and the “criminal element is feeling empowered,” Mr. Dotson reported. Arrests in St. Louis city and county by that point had dropped a third since the shooting of Michael Brown in August. Not surprisingly, homicides in the city surged 47% by early November and robberies in the county were up 82%.

Similar “Ferguson effects” are happening across the country as officers scale back on proactive policing under the onslaught of anti-cop rhetoric. Arrests in Baltimore were down 56% in May compared with 2014.

“Any cop who uses his gun now has to worry about being indicted and losing his job and family,” a New York City officer tells me. “Everything has the potential to be recorded. A lot of cops feel that the climate for the next couple of years is going to be nonstop protests.”

Police officers now second-guess themselves about the use of force. “Officers are trying to invent techniques on the spot for taking down resistant suspects that don’t look as bad as the techniques taught in the academy,” says Jim Dudley, who recently retired as deputy police chief in San Francisco. Officers complain that civilians don’t understand how hard it is to control someone resisting arrest.

A New York City cop tells me that he was amazed to hear people scoffing that Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson, who killed Michael Brown,



Photo: Karl Merton Ferron/Baltimore Sun/TNS via Getty Images

A police investigation under way in Baltimore, May 20, 2015

only looked a “little red” after Brown assaulted him and tried to grab his weapon: “Does an officer need to be unconscious before he can use force? If someone is willing to fight you, he’s also willing to take your gun and shoot you. You can’t lose a fight with a guy who has already put his hands on you because if you do, you will likely end up dead.”

Milwaukee Police Chief Edward A. Flynn, discussing hostility toward the police, told me in an interview on Friday: “I’ve never seen anything like it. I’m guessing it will take five years to recover.”

Even if officer morale were to miraculously rebound, policies are being put into place that will make it harder to keep crime down in the future. Those initiatives reflect the belief that any criminal-justice action that has a disparate impact on blacks is racially motivated.

In New York, pedestrian stops—when the police question and sometimes frisk individuals engaged in suspicious behavior—have dropped nearly 95% from their 2011 high, thanks to litigation charging that the NYPD’s stop, question and frisk practices were racially biased. A judge agreed, and **New York Mayor Bill de Blasio**, upon taking office last year, did too, embracing the resulting judicial monitoring of the police department. It is no surprise that shootings are up in the city.

Politicians and activists in New York and other cities have now taken aim at “broken windows” policing. This police strategy has shown remarkable success over the past two decades by targeting low-level public-order offenses, reducing the air of lawlessness in rough neighborhoods and getting criminals off the streets before they commit bigger crimes. Opponents of broken-windows policing somehow fail to notice that law-abiding residents of poor communities are among the strongest advocates for enforcing laws against public drinking, trespassing, drug sales and drug use, among other public-order laws.

As attorney general, Eric Holder pressed the cause of ending “mass incarceration” on racial grounds; elected officials across the political spectrum have jumped on board. A 2014 California voter initiative has retroactively downgraded a range of property and drug felonies to misdemeanors, including forcible theft of guns, purses and laptops. More than 3,000 felons have already been released from California prisons, according to the Association of Deputy District Attorneys in Los Angeles County. Burglary, larceny and car theft have surged in the county, the association reports.

“There are no real consequences for committing property crimes anymore,” Los Angeles Police Lt. Armando Munoz told Downtown News earlier this month, “and the criminals know this.” The Milwaukee district attorney, John Chisholm, is diverting many property and drug criminals to rehabilitation programs to reduce the number of blacks in Wisconsin prisons; critics see the rise in Milwaukee crime as one result.

IF THESE DECRIMINALIZATION AND DEINCARCERATION POLICIES BACKFIRE, the people most harmed will be their supposed beneficiaries: blacks, since they are disproportionately victimized by crime. The black death-by-homicide rate is six times higher than that of whites and Hispanics combined. The killers of those black homicide victims are overwhelmingly other black civilians, not the police. The police could end all use of lethal force tomorrow and it would have at most a negligible impact on the black death rate. In any case, the strongest predictor of whether a police officer uses force is whether a suspect resists arrest, not the suspect’s race.

Contrary to the claims of the “black lives matter” movement, no government policy in the past quarter century has done more for urban reclamation than proactive policing. Data-driven enforcement, in conjunction with stricter penalties for criminals and “broken windows” policing, has saved thousands of black lives, brought lawful commerce and jobs to once drug-infested neighborhoods and allowed millions to go about their daily lives without fear.

To be sure, police officers need to treat everyone they encounter with courtesy and respect. Any fatal police shooting of an innocent person is a horrifying tragedy that police training must work incessantly to prevent. But unless the demonization of law enforcement ends, the liberating gains in urban safety over the past 20 years will be lost.

Ms. Mac Donald is the Thomas W. Smith fellow at the Manhattan Institute and the author of “Are Cops Racist?” (Ivan R. Dee, 2002).

At the entrance to the New York Public Library is a great quote from Plato that should guide all lives:

“BUT ABOVE ALL THINGS TRUTH BEARETH AWAY THE VICTORY”!

Letter to the Editor

FREE MARKET EDUCATION, PART 2

By John Martin

What is free market education? Just one thing—education that is free from the tentacles of government—a separation of school and state.

Imagine what our grocery stores would be like if they were run like our public schools. Remember the Soviet Union’s stores—constant shortages, empty shelves, limited selections, and high prices—exactly what our government-run schools are offering.

Now imagine what our schools could be like if they were run like our own grocery stores—ample supplies, well-stocked shelves, almost limitless selections, and very reasonable prices.

What’s the difference? Simple! It’s government-run versus free enterprise. Why can’t our schools be like that? Who is going to have enough backbone to make it happen?

Why are government schools so expensive? They are top-heavy with bureaucrats, administrators,

and other useless non-teaching personnel. They consume above normal salaries as well as supplies and considerable floor space in the infrastructure. The teachers’ unions lobby for salaries and benefits that usurp the law of supply and demand. Textbooks are often monopolized and overpriced. The children are taught to expect the state to provide their wants and needs. The state’s politicians and bureaucrats impose unreasonable qualifications and restrictions on those wishing to teach. Infrastructure is often over budgeted and haphazardly designed.

Free market schools would cost far less. Forced attendance would be repealed. Useless personnel would be absent. Salaries, benefits, qualifications, and infrastructure would be competitive in the free market.

Parents would have a wide range of choices. Private schools would compete for the masses dropping out of the public ones. The variety would be almost limitless—from Christian schools to evolution theory—from ample extracurricular activities to low-budget basics. The absence of mandates and regulations would maximize competition. Government meddling would be strictly hands off. The free market alone would sort

the good schools from the failures.

Parents would also retain another option—home schooling. It can be used alone or in conjunction with part-time private schooling.

Also, we now have what may be the greatest education tool that man has ever conceived—the internet. Today it is already being used to educate thousands of students for a tiny fraction of the cost of traditional schooling. Textbooks, tests, videos, and many other items can be electronic—just download them for pennies, or even nothing. Learning rates can be geared to meet the individual needs of all students, from the savants down to the slow learners.

Internet schools cost a tiny fraction of what brick and mortar ones cost. Some are actually free. One, KhanAcademy.com, is a free internet school that was featured on the 60 Minutes TV program.

And finally, there are two more huge benefits of free market education. The first is that government will not be able to indoctrinate or dumb down anybody’s children. The second would be the repeal of two-thirds of our state and local tax burdens—enough to educate every child to the max several times over.

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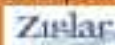
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- My mother and I both received bands as gifts, and I have to say at first we were skeptical but now wear our New You Miracle Bands every day. We both noticed immediate reduction in aches and pains. I would highly recommend the band. For only \$49.99 it's worth every penny.  —*Laurie Meyers*, Executive Assistant to **Zig Ziglar**, Plano, TX

- I was hit by a pickup truck while cycling. Afterward, the pain in my leg was so severe that I was barely able to walk. After using the Miracle Band for two days, the results were unbelievable! After five years, it's still working! —*Jeff Murray*, Montgomery, AL

- Within hours of using the band, I noticed the pain in my shoulder was so much less. Pain usually distracted me from staying on task and caused me to not do things that I wanted. I highly recommend the Miracle Band! —*Dr. Carl Schmitt*, Owner of Herb Shop Montgomery, AL

- For the past 3 years, my knees hurt so bad I could barely walk. Jeff had told me about his results, and I too had tried everything for my pains. After wearing the band for one night, the next morning I jumped out of bed! I've now purchased 15 bands for friends and family. —*Paul Neal*, Waxahachie, TX



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Ronald A. Holtsford

I am considering selling my business; what do I need to consider from a legal standpoint?



There are several things to consider and much of that is based on the type of entity that your business may fall under.

For starters is it a sole proprietorship, a partnership, a Limited Liability Company (LLC) or Limited Liability Partnership (LLP), a Corporation or a couple other forms that no longer exist? Have you talked to your accountant to consider tax implications? How are you valuing the price of the business? Are you selling the whole business or only a part of it? Are you selling the assets of the business or selling shares in the business? Do you have a partner or partners? Are you a professional organization (i.e lawyer, accountant, real estate firm, physician)?

There are alot of questions and I will try to touch on these to see if this can give you some direction. However, don't use this article as legal counsel but talk to an attorney and your accountant. An error in what you are doing could leave you with unwanted debt and/ or liability and significant tax liability.

If it is a sole proprietorship or an old general partnership have you considered the value of the business and if so, how? There are professionals that will value your business but sometimes with a small business the Seller and Buyer can come up with an equitable price. Did you consider the goodwill that your business has? Consider how well your business is known throughout the community. If it is well known and you and your partners (if any) have built a name such that there is value. It is intangible, but it has value. What causes customer "A" to go across town past competitors to your business? That is value. Above all talk to an accountant before selling because you will most likely have tax issues such as with capital gains and items that have been depreciated. Do you have business owned real property? Such entities have pass through taxation so the taxes are all yours.

Now if you are a member of an LLC or LLP in addition to the above you will need to review your Articles of Organization and any Operating Agreement. You will need to see what is said about the sale of your organization and how it can be done. You must follow that directive. Officers will need to resign if they are Members and it will be required to file at least an Amendment with your County Probate Judge and the Alabama Secretary of State.

The Amendment has several requirements in the Code of Alabama and possibly you will need to follow the Code of Alabama directives if you are dissolving the LLC. Again, talk to your accountant about tax issues and your attorney about legal and liability issues. An LLC and an LLP both have pass through taxation as well so you will need to know what the tax liability will be and again you will need to review with your attorney the Operating Agreement since there may be debt or tax issues that will impact you. If you are an LLC or LLP that is a professional organization you cannot sell for instance your law

practice to a businessman. While there has been some recent (in the last few years) changes where accountants and lawyers as an example may own a practice together, that is not typical and has to be approached in a certain manner beyond the scope of this article.

If your business is a corporation you must consider all of the above under your Article of Organization and Agreement. The Corporation can only be sold based on that document and must be followed strictly. Much of what has been mentioned under the sole proprietorship/ general partnership, LLC/ LLP is applicable for a corporation with the exception that the corporation is taxed separately as an entity and you and your partners (if any) may also have tax liability. Again, talk to your accountant about that. While an LLC/ LLP may also be for IRS purposes and "S" Corporation, a "C" Corporation may also file as an "S" Corporation so that may play a part in your tax considerations. Again there may be officer resignations, assumption of debt and there will be at least one required Amendment to your Articles of Incorporation to be filed with the County Probate Judge and the Alabama Secretary of State. If you are selling Shares then new Share Certificates will need to be issued to the buyer and the old certificates retired.

For the sale you will need to open your books and make them transparent to the seller(s). You should offer a good orientation of the business, after all success by the buyer assures a better sale. If you are under sixty or so years you should consider what you may be doing vocationally the rest of your life and whether there should be a non-compete Agreement for a certain time and a certain distance. Generally professionals are not held to a non compete because of a public need for such.

There are many questions to consider and I hope that you will talk to your attorney and your accountant as soon as possible.

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.

"No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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Dr. David Nichols

AVOID THE SUMMER SLIDE FOR YOUR CHILDREN

What has become called the "summer slide" takes its toll on our school-aged children. We all recall those sunny warm carefree days of summer when we were released from the confinement of school walls, classrooms, class schedule bells and the restraints of being restricted to that uncomfortable desk. No more rules, books, computers, homework, reading,

exhausting examinations and getting up at the crack of dawn to be at school on time! It means freedom to play most all day, to go on family vacations, to go swimming and to do pretty much nothing of value. For many students of all ages summer means no learning which prepares them to become literate, knowledgeable and prepared for college or career.

While it is important that students be engaged in learning during the summer months, perhaps reading is the most important skill to stay on grade level and/or to excel so as to be prepared for the next higher grade level. Some students actually enjoy reading and willingly participate in a school or library sponsored summer reading program. Unfortunately, many if not most students avoid any supplemental reading in the summer. Often these students are already struggling students and need continuous reading in order to make some progress during the summer. The failure to participate in appropriate, high interest books and on the computer results in falling farther behind and, consequently achievement levels in all subjects continuously drop. Parents must accept the responsibility to insure their children have access to some reading program.

Though not all communities are richly blessed with free programs a large majority do offer free reading programs to include books, computer reading programs and relatively available high interest e-games with reading as the primary purpose. We know that not all parents grasp the importance of the impacts of the summer slide. However, most schools and local libraries send information to parents informing them of available opportunities relatively near them. It should be emphasized that all students can learn. Students with involved parents typically read on higher levels than parents who fail their children with little to no encouragement to apply themselves and take advantage of reading and math camps, programs and literature. The infamous "learning gap" is often attributed to poverty, social injustice and discrimination. However, upon a close examination, parental irresponsibility of insuring their children are enrolled in a summer learning program is a major factor in underachieving students in at-risk schools.

The American Library Association (ALA) offers some helpful information for summer reading initiatives. A document published by the ALA states: "An evaluation of summer reading programs in Los Angeles found that participating children [in reading programs] spent more time looking a and reading books than before they joined the program. During the summer, the percent of children reading 10 - 14 hours a week increased by nine percent and the proportions of children reading 15 or more hours a week rose by 11 percentage points." Of those who participated in the reading programs 55% had a high enthusiasm for reading compared to less than 40% of non-participants.

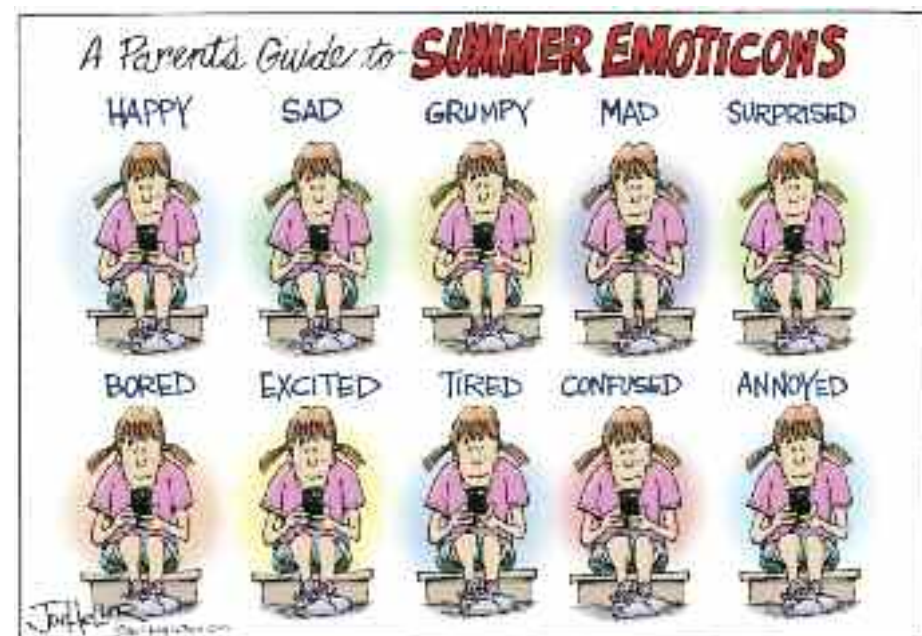
The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) recognizes that those months away from school can result in loss of knowledge and reading ability. The ALSDE has a program called the "Summer Learning Challenge". This program raises awareness of the school slide and shares the importance of personalized reading activities and provides access to a variety of free resources to support targeted reading and math summer learning."

The President of a Canadian reading program called "ABC Life Literacy Canada," Margaret Eaton says, "It's important for parents to encourage children to read over the summer to keep their minds sharp. All it takes is 15 minutes a day of reading or engaging in fun literacy activity to keep the mind active." Below are tips to encourage literacy and learning over the summer:

1. Be a reading role model. Children learn from their parents, so let them catch you reading.
2. Have your children create a map for your summer road trip and have them navigate signs and billboards.
3. Hunt for words. Use road signs and advertisement when traveling to have children learn new words.
4. Don't forget to write. Have them write relatives brief letters along with pictures they draw. Also, have them write brief and simple answers to describes key words in the text they just read.
5. Turn subtitles on during a family movie or age appropriate children's movie. Have them read the subtitles aloud to you at times during the movie.
6. Zoo outings and visits to museums and galleries can be fun and educational. Have your children read the names of the animals and countries of origin. Be creative and keep it interesting.
7. Head to summer vacation with a book. Nowadays e-pads and e-games contain stories of interest which require reading and often challenges for the children to the next level.
8. Make a delicious meal or dessert together and allow children to participate. Allow them to read the ingredients and directions.
9. Use board games to play as a family or with friends.
10. On a rainy day have your child surf the internet (supervised) for information on their hobbies and topics of interest.

Though we're already into July it is not too late to seek and find a reading program or some reading material for your child. Not to do so is to contribute to the summer slide and the difficult effort of your child to catch up to their previous achievement level. Start with a call to your local library, to your child's school and/or get online a find the free available resources. Then don't accept "no" to your directive for your child to participate in a reading program. It has been said that one way to learn to become better reader is to read. No more summer slide.

David Nichols, ED. D., is a retired educator who continues to research and publish on vital issues facing our public schools. He served on two local school boards in Alabama. He served as a teacher, leader and consultant at every level from k - 12 through universities. His publications include four books, several school safety response manuals, dozens of journal articles and opinion pieces in newspapers in Alabama. He is also a law veteran law enforcement administrator, criminal justice instructor, and consultant to municipal and higher education law enforcement/security organizations.





*By Kyle' D. McKinney
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Social Security Administration
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100
Montgomery, Alabama 36116*



SOCIAL SECURITY TURNS 80

Eighty years ago, on August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law. The new law guaranteed a basic income for retirees and, at the time, the unemployed.

Over the years, Social Security has expanded its safety net to provide benefits for retirees, people with disabilities and the chronically ill, and spouses and children of deceased workers. The agency has evolved to serve the needs of a changing America. Now, we're celebrating this historic anniversary by looking at both our successful past, and the path to an even brighter future.

Social Security is there for you during all stages of life. Right from the beginning, we issue a unique Social Security number to most newborns when an application is taken at the hospital. This allows us to track your income over your working career and accurately calculate your retirement benefit. We provide disability benefits to injured and chronically

ill workers and their families. We provide survivors benefits to widows, widowers, and the minors of deceased workers. We also provide Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to those with low income and resources, and Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs for people who qualify.

In our decades of experience, Social Security has evolved to meet the fast-paced demands of the digital world. Creating an online my Social Security account, for instance, let's you view your Social Security Statement, verify the accuracy of your earnings record, and get estimates of future monthly benefits. Once you begin receiving Social Security benefits, you can use your online account to manage your record, including changing your address and phone number, checking your benefit information, changing your electronic payment method, and obtaining an instant benefit verification letter or replacement SSA-1099/1042S. If you haven't

already, you can easily sign up for a my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Our safe and secure online services allow you to apply for retirement, spouse's, Medicare, and disability benefits from the comfort of your home. You can quickly complete an online retirement application at: www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline.

Looking to the future, we recently released our Vision 2025, a strategic plan to help us shape the future of Social Security service delivery and maintain clear communication with you. For more information about our vision for the next ten years, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/vision2025.

We look to the next 80 years with a renewed commitment to proudly serving Social Security customers throughout their lifetime, when and where they need us. See how Social Security has evolved over the years at: www.socialsecurity.gov/history.

Letter from a Dad...

THE CIVIL WAR STATISTICS

Dear Kids:

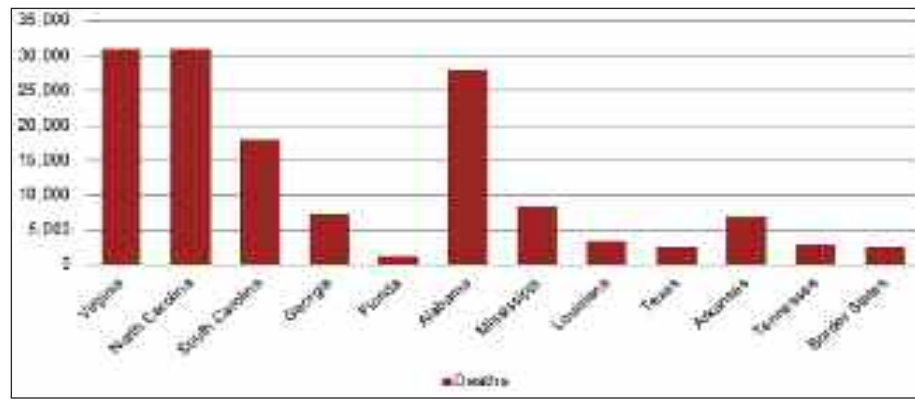
Your sister asked me the other day about the decisive nature of the Confederate Battle Flag. If you are intellectually honest, the American flag itself, born of a revolution, is wrapped around the US Constitution which endorsed slavery (Article 1 counting blacks as 3/5 of a person for purposes of calculating population for taxation and representation purposes). The founding fathers kicked the issue of slavery down the road for other generations to address. Had they not conceded this point there would have been no Union, no United States. Please remember it was Northern and European industrialists and business interests that owned most of the ships that bought and brought around 10 million blacks from Africa to work in the Southern fields to ship the raw products to the North and Europe to make finished products sold everywhere.

I have never flown or used a Confederate flag because I wanted to follow Biblical advice (Romans 12:18) which says, paraphrasing, as best as you are able, be at peace with all people. I was not embarrassed by the flag, but I saw how it had been adopted by some people in a way that might hurt others, either verbally or physically. Most of our ancestors were hard working, mainly poor to middle class, and held leadership positions in church or local politics. A few of our relatives were slave owners, the overwhelming number were not. Part of our Southern heritage is God fearing, hard working, self reliant people who did not want to be controlled by a remote power, far away from the day to day of life found in our beautiful country (similar to those in 1776). We lost members of our family in the Civil War, on both sides. None were slave owners. So why did they fight?

Here are some numbers to show why the Civil War has made such a lasting impact on the South.

At the beginning of the war the Northern states had a combined population of 22 million people. The Southern states had a combined population of about 9 million. This disparity was reflected in the size of the armies in the field. The Union forces outnumbered the Confederates roughly two to one.

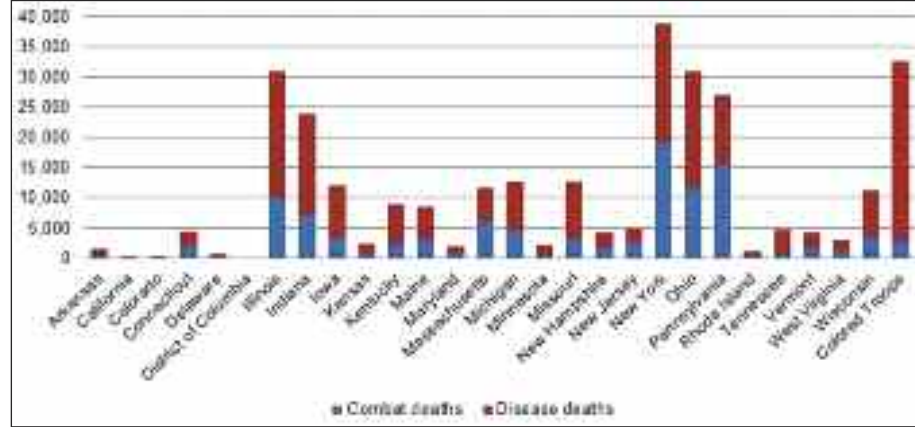
CONFEDERATE MILITARY DEATHS BY STATE



As a percentage of population, Alabama lost more soldiers in the Civil War than any other State on either side of the War.

STATE	TOTAL POPULATION	TOTAL NO. OF SLAVES	NO. OF FAMILIES	TOTAL FREE POPULATION	TOTAL NO. OF SLAVEHOLDERS	PERCENT OF FAMILIES OWNING SLAVES	SLAVES AS PERCENT OF POPULATION
ALABAMA	964,201	475,000	96,003	529,121	31,730	35%	45
NORTH CAROLINA	902,622	331,059	125,090	661,563	34,658	38%	33%
VIRGINIA	1,596,318	490,805	201,523	1,105,453	52,120	26%	31%

UNION MILITARY DEATHS BY STATE



With the issuance of the **Emancipation Proclamation** in September 1862, African-Americans - both free and runaway slaves - came forward to volunteer for the Union cause in substantial numbers. Beginning in October, approximately 180,000 African-Americans, comprising 163 units, served in the U.S. Army, and 18,000 in the Navy. That month, the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteers repulsed a Confederate attack at Island Mound, Missouri. Men of the **U.S.C.T.** (United States Colored Troops) units went on to distinguish themselves on battlefields east and west - at **Port Hudson**, Louisiana; **Honey Springs**, Oklahoma; **Fort Wagner**, South Carolina; **New Market Heights**, Virginia. African Americans constituted 10% of the entire Union Army by the end of the war, and nearly 40,000 died over the course of the war.

In 1860 only a small minority of whites owned slaves. According to the U.S. census report for that last year before the Civil War, there were nearly 27 million whites in the country. Some eight million of them lived in the slaveholding states. The census also determined that there were fewer than 385,000 individuals who owned slaves (1). Even if all slaveholders had been white, that would amount to only 1.4 percent of whites in the country (or 4.8 percent of southern whites owning one or more slaves). I returned to the question above. Why if only 5% of the Southern population owned slaves, did so many Southern men fight and die?

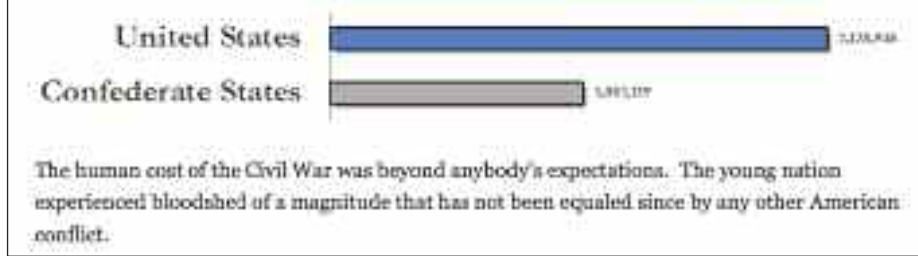
Hopefully you learned some of this information in history books. If not, you need to study and be able to articulate the truth. You children need to lead by example. Be kind and hard working.

The politicians have turned the tragedy in Charleston into just another political grandstand. That young man is your age. He did drugs, he became introverted, he watched media and social media way too much and was a horribly lost soul. The people of Charleston, both black and white have shown how Christians should and did respond to persecution and racism.

We love you kids so much. Mom and I are so joyful that God blessed us with you being a part of our family.

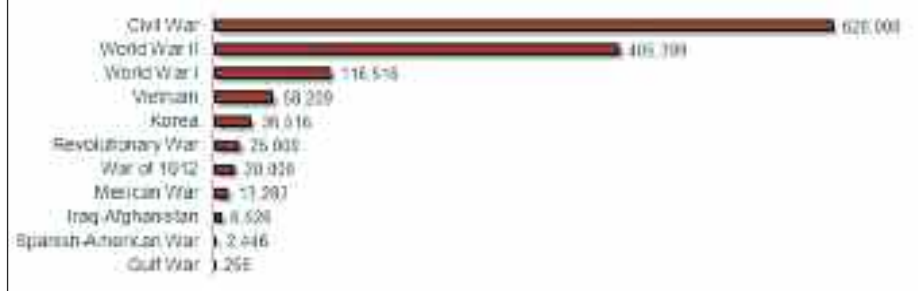
Be wise and strong. Lead others by example and with humility giving all credit to Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Dad



The human cost of the Civil War was beyond anybody's expectations. The young nation experienced bloodshed of a magnitude that has not been equaled since by any other American conflict.

MILITARY DEATHS IN AMERICAN WARS



Here is the breakdown in several categories:

CIVIL WAR SERVICE BY POPULATION



Even with close to total conscription, the South could not match the North's numerical strength. Southerners also stood a significantly greater chance of being killed, wounded, or captured.

Gazette Seniors...

WHAT GOLDEN YEARS?

YOU MAY BE OVER THE HILL
 "... if you remember that \$15.00 wasn't what you wanted for an hour's work; it was the amount you paid for your first car."

THEY LANDED AT NORMANDY, were shot at by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor, endured the Inchon landing, sweated it out in the jungles of Vietnam, lived day after day in the expectation of a

Russian invasion of Western Germany, or fought in Afghanistan and other Middle Eastern theaters--in defense of their country.

Most of them endured the Great Depression, where the minimum wage for those who were lucky enough to have jobs was 25 cents an hour; only to see their country morph into a wartime environment of full employment, but of often heart-breaking sacrifice.

These were the Americans Tom Brokaw described in his 1996 book, "The Greatest Generation." And great they were; but look at what has happened to them now.

Now they're trying to live out their remaining

years in some degree of comfort and contentment in a variety of senior citizen environments, only to discover that their host is often their enemy.

AT INDEPENDENT LIVING AND ASSISTED LIVING ENVIRONMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY those who spent a major portion of their life defending their country, or were the spouses or widows of those who did, now find that the life that is so glowingly portrayed in slick, full-color promotional literature, or lavishly described by fast-talking marketers, is something short of what they had anticipated.

And this is a national disgrace. It borders on elder abuse, that our senior citizens who have given so much for their country, must endure the life of deprivation at the hands of people who had promised them so much.

As they stare woefully at a meager dinner offering of overcooked, tepid food, or gape in amazement as the housekeeper makes her weekly whirlwind tour of their small apartments, they may wonder:

"What happened to the country I spent a major part of my life protecting and defending? Am I not due some degree of respect and comfort?"

At the end of the year they view with dismay the news that their retirement incomes are diminishing, yet their rent will go up dramatically. After all, in the year to come the investors in the corporation that owns their living facilities will expect a healthy return on their investment, and spending money on quality food, or wasting it on workers' salaries, is not the way to make money.

One begins to wonder after time and sad experience, why are those who are revered and respected in most cultures taken advantage of and abused by the country that once proudly proclaimed itself to be "The mightiest nation on earth?"

Hyperbole, you may ask? Perhaps. But reality; definitely. Just ask any senior living in your average independent living or assisted living facility. Some will answer honestly; but most live in the fear of losing those few scraps that are thrown their way.

If this is not elder abuse, what is?

JULY IS A BUSY MONTH

You never know what you can learn on the Internet about July. For example, the month was named in honor of the Roman general Julius Caesar; it being his birth month. There were also a number of other significant events that occur during this month over the history of our nation, and the world.

For example, two centuries ago, on July 3, 1775, George Washington assumed command on the Continental Army as the U.S. of A. was aborning. Two days later the arrogant British King George III turned up his nose at the Olive Branch Petition the Continental Congress submitted to him in an attempt to reconcile the Patriots' unrest with British domination of the Colonies. A month earlier Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced a resolution before the Continental Congress in Virginia stating that "these United Colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent States and that they should be absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown... and the trouble began.

On the 4th of July, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, and we all know the rest. Or, we should.

Other nations that celebrate their independence during July are: Algeria, Venezuela, Argentina, South Sudan, the Bahamas, Colombia, Belgium, the Maldives, Peru, Venezuela, and the Republic of Vanuatu, a South Pacific republic founded

in 1980.

For two centuries now the United States of America has grown and prospered—off and on. But even despite occasional dips our country has done quite well for itself—until now.

Two hundred years after the dust up with the Crown began, the often miraculous growth and stature of the United States of America has been a beacon and an inspiration to nations around the world.

July has been a significant month for Americans. Our Constitution was ratified on July 2, 1788, and throughout the years that followed, the month of July produced some significant dates.

On the second of July, 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot at the door to the train station in Washington, DC, and died on Sep. 19th of the same year.

On the Fourth of July, 1872, Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the U.S. was born, and on the 6th of July 1747, John Paul Jones, of "I have not yet begun to fight" fame was born. Also on the 6th of July, 1885, Louis Pasteur gave the first anti rabies shot to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog.

On July 7, 1898, President William McKinley signed the annexation resolution that brought the Hawaiian Islands into the family. In 1959, the islands became the 50th State.

The 6th President, John Quincy Adams, was born on July 9, 1767, and on the 13th, in 1787, Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance, which further allowed for U.S. expansion on the continent.

On the 14th the Bastille fell in France, which launched the French Revolution, involving our former allies in the American Revolution. Two years later the Birmingham Riots occurred in England.

On July 19, 1848, in Seneca Falls, NY, the woman's rights movement was born in the U.S.

On July 20, 1969, Apollo Astronaut Neil Armstrong brought the U.S. presence to the moon, by making: "One small step for man, one giant step for mankind."

In 1932, World War I veterans, fed up with their government's failure to live up to bonus promises made following World War I demonstrated in Washington, DC. Gen. Douglas Mac Arthur, Maj. Dwight Eisenhower, and Maj. George S. Patton, were instrumental in quelling the riots that ensued.

And on the last day of the month in 1790, the U.S. Patent Office began issuing patents, the first of which went to a Vermont man, Samuel Hopkins, who came up with a new method of making potash. The patent was signed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

July's birthstone is the ruby; its birth flowers are the Larkspur and the Water Lily.



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA ROBY**
 ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT

HOUSE VOTES TO PROTECT SENIORS

Bipartisan bill repeals panel that could cut Medicare payments

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. House of Representatives recently voted to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), a panel created under the Affordable Care Act to cut Medicare spending with little input from the American people.

Under current law, IPAB, a board of 15 individuals would be appointed by the president, and authorized to make unilateral, one-size-fits-all changes to Medicare services. H.R. 1190, the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act, would repeal that portion of the law known as Obamacare and dismantle IPAB.

U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL), who co-sponsored the bill with 235 of her colleagues, said the bill protects seniors from an ill-advised portion of Obamacare.

"We cannot allow senior patients to suffer because of this poorly-constructed Obamacare provision," Rep. Roby said. "The IPAB panel would have far-reaching power to determine where and how Medicare should be cut, with little to no input from Congress."

"This board of bureaucrats should not be left to make critical health care decisions on behalf of America's seniors, and I am proud to work alongside my colleagues to block this harmful provision."

During her time in Congress, Rep. Roby has repeatedly voted to repeal all or parts of Obamacare and remains committed to replacing it with more sensible health care policies. She pointed to the many "broken promises" of Obamacare that have been laid bare.

"The upcoming Supreme Court ruling in the pivotal King v. Burwell case could expose yet another instance of the broken promises of Obamacare and cause thousands to lose subsidies they were promised. My colleagues and I are carefully following the case and discussing legislation that could be needed in the wake of this ruling."

"I will continue to work toward patient-centered reforms that can actually lower costs without the government taking over the health care system."

H.R. 1190 passed by a vote of 244-154.

READ CAREFULLY

One of the inconveniences of seniority is diminished vision acuity. For many old timers reading the daily newspaper is somewhat of a challenge; the crossword puzzle increases in difficulty as it becomes harder and harder to read the clues. And on and on it goes.

What's particularly irksome for older folk is trying to read instructions on medicine bottles, and on a variety of products seniors purchase as a part of living out their daily lives.

Seniors buy products designed to enhance daily living, only to find a booklet of instructions printed in the smallest type size available, and often times in what the foreign writer assumes is stan-

dard English, but which is, in fact, almost as hard to discern as the overall product.

So, here's your average senior citizen with a potion or a product he desperately needs, only to find that the product carries a warning "Read these instructions carefully!" And then to find not only are the instructions or warnings printed in the smallest type-size available, but they're often written by some foreigner for whom English is a second or third language.

So, this is the plight of many of our senior citizens: They acquire a product they want or need as a part of safely carrying out their daily lives; only to find its impossible for them to "Read the instructions carefully!"

This is one of the many paradoxes that accompany seniority.



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DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills
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THE CHRISTIAN PATRIOT

WHAT IS PATRIOTISM TO A CHRISTIAN? It is more than singing patriotic songs, waving the flag, and feeling emotionally stirred over our nation's heritage. As we come to celebrate this Independence Day, let's consider some things distinctive to Christian patriots.

Christian patriotism isn't hostility but firm convictions. It's very easy to demonize those who take opposing stands with regard to political issues. The conflict between our two political parties isn't as simple as a struggle between good and evil. We can hold strong convictions regarding political matters, but we need to be civil toward opposing views. "We have become a culture that thrives on argumentative conflict." We should maintain strong convictions, but it's important that we're civil to one another when we disagree.

On the other hand, Christians cannot put their head in the sand with regard to concepts of humanism and the rise of unbelief. The problem of humanism becoming the philosophical position taken by many leaders in education and other areas of leadership is that it opposes the values and teachings of Christianity upon which our country was founded. Do we want to become a society in which the will of man, not God, would be supreme? Look at the places in the world where the will of man has been supreme, places where atheism is the basis of government and society. Would any of us want to make those places our home?

Christian patriotism isn't a license to sin but an appreciation of the real meaning of liberty. "Americans make a big deal about freedom. Unfortunately for many, freedom is touted as the right to do anything without regard to harm or uncivilized behavior. Taken to an extreme, this definition of freedom leads to anarchy and lawlessness. Society needs some rules in order to maintain order." Imagine driving if there were no lanes for traffic or other driving regulations. "People claim you can't legislate morality, yet if you think about it, most laws have a basis in what we believe is moral behavior and fairness." The First Amendment to the Constitution was never intended to offer people the license to do anything they wanted. True patriotism recognizes that we answer to a higher authority, that it matters how we live as citizens in a world God created.

When John Quincy Adams was President of the United States, he stood before Congress and held up two bushel baskets, one from New York and one from South Carolina. He said, "The problem is, one of these baskets holds sixty-eight cubic inches more than the other." Then he held up two one-pound weights, one from Maine and one from Massachusetts. He said, "The problem is, one weighs one ounce more than the other." He said, "Gentlemen, we need a standard." As a result, the House Weights and Measurement Committee came into existence. While I have not seen them, I am told that even to this day, there is a set of scales so delicate that you aren't allowed within ten feet of it because body temperature will affect its effectiveness.

President Adams was convinced that the United States needed permanent standards that could be relied upon. The same is true in our spiritual lives

as Christians. Neither can a society survive without standards of conduct.

Christian patriotism is "one nation under God," not multiculturalism. We should remember how our country began, and what makes America great, lest we lose it! We remember in fact, our country's population is almost entirely comprised of descendants of immigrants. Those who came in the past wanted a new life as Americans, not just a new residence and the benefits a government provided. If someone comes to our country today, I want them to want to become an American.

"This idea of America being a multi-cultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity." We are not simply a better pasture in the world for people to come and live as they choose while holding onto their past. As Americans, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language, and our own lifestyle. This culture, called the "American Way" has been developed over centuries of struggles, trials, and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom. So many fought, bled, and died at places like Bunker Hill, San Juan, Iwo Jima, Normandy, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq among other places. We should never allow the laws of any other country, religion or group of countries to supersede or interfere with our laws. We speak English, not Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or any other language. If someone wants to be an American and be a part of our society, learn our language.

Likewise, "In God We Trust" is our national motto. This is not some off-the-wall, right wing, political slogan – it is our national motto. It is engraved in stone in the House of Representatives in our Capitol and it is printed on our currency. We adopted this motto because Christian men and women, on Christian principles, founded this nation. This is clearly documented throughout our history except by some who would like to revise it.

Why is this so important to Christians? It is because Christians believe there is a purpose in nations. We also believe, as Scripture teaches, that "Righteousness exalts a nation" (**Proverbs 14:34**). But today there is a multicultural emphasis in our world which proclaims that there are no such things as "righteousness" or "evil." Instead, every culture should be revered regardless of how pagan or barbaric it might be.

The prophet Hosea said, "My people are destroyed because of a lack of knowledge" (**Hosea 4:6**). It is essential that we understand the breakdown of our national pride and moral fortitude is directly proportional to the sense of our history being lost. Much of this deficit lies at the feet of liberal and left wing educators who have no pride in our past. For that reason many of our young people are told that America has been a "bad guy" exploiting the rest of the world which is the opposite of the truth. It is sad that no one in the highest places of our land calls out such ludicrous and insulting remarks and refutes them with the truth.

The rest of the verse mentioned above in Hosea says, "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I will also ignore your

children." The prophet goes on to say in the next verse, "Because of their sin, I will turn their glory into shame." America needs to pay attention to these warnings.

Christian patriotism isn't "my country, right or wrong," but rather first obeying my Lord. Christians love their country, but don't worship their country. Hopefully you remember in the movie Chariots of Fire, Scottish runner Eric Liddel is faced with an ethical dilemma. Does he run his Olympic event on the Lord's Day, against his convictions, or does he refuse and disobey his king? Liddel decided his priority was God over king. He respectfully declined the race and was allowed to participate in a different event on a weekday and won the gold medal. This is a true story. Liddel went on to serve as a missionary to China.

PATRIOTISM ISN'T BLIND OR UNINFORMED. It's certainly appropriate to be proud to be an American, but there are times when our love for our country demands that we stand up and voice our concern when our nation is headed in the wrong direction.

Finally, my prayer is that all who read this article love America and feel themselves as Patriots. I have written these words not in judgment of anyone, but out of concern for our country. Patriots are people who care about this country and what it stands for. Patriots are people who recognize the benefits of the Constitution, people who hope to preserve our nation's values. A patriot is one who votes, earns an honest living, studies our nation's history and knows what is going on today.

"If and when we disagree with policy, we don't leave the country, as some people in the news have threatened. Patriotism involves taking a stand, writing letters to those in authority, and supporting candidates whose ideology concurs with our convictions. Patriotism is not equal to the number of flags we fly but by living the courage of our convictions, which may mean having to take a stand, and certainly the offering of prayers for justice and national repentance."

Here again the Word of the Lord. "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom, or the strong boast of their strength, or the rich boast of their riches, but let all who boast, boast about this: that they understand and know Me, that I am the Lord, Who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight", declares the Lord" (**Jeremiah 9:23-4**).

"Regardless of what it says on our passports, as Christians, we hold dual citizenship. We're loyal to our native home, but we recognize that we're also part of the Kingdom of God. If we at times feel uncomfortable, it's because we're not really home yet. The Bible tells us to submit to, respect, and pray for those in governmental authority, but it also lets us know Who our Sovereign is. We are citizens of Heaven and subjects of the King of kings."

Please join me in the most sincere prayer you have ever prayed as a Christian patriot, "God bless America!"



Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

ON HYPOCRISY

I may be the only guy on the block who's never seen the Duggar family on TV. Until last week, that is. I saw a portion of their FNC interview in which they talked about their son's sexual incident some 10 years ago. I think the family is courageous to talk about this on national television and to expose themselves to the media spotlight.

Of course this is a very serious issue. And it's an issue we never dreamed our churches would face. According to church legal expert Richard Hammar, the most common litigation involving churches five

years ago was slips and falls; today it's sexual abuse allegations. Our denominational insurance agency suggests a number of ways to protect our children, including background checks for all who work with children and youth.

Some critics have taken aim at the Duggar family's values and Christian commitment. The FNC interviewer pointedly asked them whether they were hypocrites.

I'm not a lawyer, nor the son of a lawyer, so I'm not qualified to speak on the legal ramifications of this case. But as a hypocrite who's worked with other hypocrites, I can speak to the charge of hypocrisy!

The Duggar incident made me think how often the charge of hypocrisy is leveled against Christians who stumble. In all my years of Christian ministry I've met only one man who insisted he lived "above" sin. The rest of us know we're sinners and that the only perfect thing about the church is her founder.

I've often said every church should have a sign over the front door that says, "Sinners Only." Everyone who comes to worship is a sinner and they worship with the rest of us who are sinners. In fact, recognition of personal sin is a prerequisite for church membership. The only difference in Christian sinners is that we've

admitted our wrong to God and man and found forgiveness through Christ.

What about Christian ministers? I remember wise counsel spoken many years ago that a Christian minister is responsible for proclaiming the truth, even though it may be truth he's not yet attained. This isn't hypocrisy, but the basic realization that none of us is yet what we ought to be. Or to put it simply, the minister should say "we," not "you"!

Most of the time our wrong is not deliberate, or as the Old Testament says, sin with a "high hand." Normally we fail when we're overconfident or make unwise decisions. But if we appropriately confess our wrong to God and to others we've harmed, we shouldn't be labeled hypocrites.

Away with this flimsy charge of hypocrisy every time a person of faith makes a mistake. We all do.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column by Michael Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. and adjunct instructor of speech at Jefferson State Community College, Hoover. Permission is given to use this material with attribution.

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Southern Cuisine

Community cookbooks have a head start on the community based web sites such as **PINTEREST** and **Food52** and the gazillion sites that inhabit the blog universe. For as far back as I can remember these spiral-bound gems were the go to source for everything from recipes, stain and spot removal and advertisements for local businesses and the history of the organization that published the book or for a local charity. NPR in an article on their web site says most began as a way to raise funds for a common goal. In America, the first of these charity cookbooks was *A Poetical Cookbook* by Maria J. Moss, which was published and sold in 1864 to subsidize medical costs for Union soldiers injured in the Civil War. "She compiled the recipes on her own, then she thought, 'Let's see if we can use it to make some money to help the wounded soldiers,'" Andrew Smith, professor of Food Studies at The New School in New York City.



fifteen food "magazines" online. Online food news can bring you the latest trends (farm to table) and the newest health warnings (there are other listeria discoveries in ice cream besides Blue Bell).

Fast food is always hitting you in the face (on TV) and hitting you in the pocket book and the waist line. There is group called "Slow Food" that advocates ideas that are at the very core of Southern cuisine: Support Local Farmers, Eating well should taste good and be a pleasure, support agriculture, seeds (not to eat but to protect local cuisines and farmers), and get together (sharing food and talking about food to help protect the future of regional cuisines.)

To do your part to protect regional cuisines and Southern cuisine, go out to eat at restaurants that serve Southern cuisine. My latest contribution was a restaurant named **SISSY'S** in Dallas. I even eat Southern on vacation! Purple Hulled Pea Cakes was my appetizer, Batter Fries Soft Shell Crab with Creole sweet potato hash was my entree, and pecan pie was my dessert. Of course, I had the two people with me order fried green tomatoes, shrimp and grits and roasted redfish with corn maque choux. That way I could try other items on the menu. The drinks were samplings of Kentucky's finest water.

So the recipe today is for Purple Hulled Pea Cakes. **To me this could have been the first veggie burger.** I could not get the recipe from Sissy's, but I found one online at **BigOven.com**. I find good recipes here and this one works well. Adding the jalapeno and Serrano peppers makes it savory.

PURPLE HULLED PEA CAKES

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups purple hull peas; fresh or frozen will work
- 1 red onion; diced
- 1/2 red bell pepper; cut to 1/2" dice
- 1 jalapeño; seeds removed and finely diced
- 1 Serrano chili; seeds removed and finely diced
- 6 oz goat cheese
- 2 Eggs
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 4 garlic cloves; minced
- 1 tsp fresh oregano; chopped
- 1 tsp fresh thyme; leaves removed from stems



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- 1/4 cup fresh parsley; chopped
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 2 1/2 cups fresh bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup canola oil

Makes 3 servings

DIRECTIONS

1. Rinse the peas in copious amounts of water, rubbing to remove the skins. Rinse to isolate the cleaned peas.
2. Place the peas in a large saucepan. Add enough water to cover by 2"; bring to a boil and simmer for 40-60 minutes so peas are soft but not mushy.
3. Drain peas and divide in half. In a large bowl, mix half the peas with the onion, red bell pepper, chilies, goat cheese, eggs, flour, garlic, herbs, salt, pepper and 1 cup of the bread crumbs. Mash ingredients together with a potato masher until well combined and paste-like.
4. Gently fold in the remaining half of the peas, mixing until well incorporated. Form the mixture into cakes, using ~1/3 cup per cake. After forming, dip each cake in remaining bread crumbs to coat both sides.
5. Gently transfer the cakes to a large skillet with half the oil heated to sizzling. Cook cakes uncovered until golden brown, then turn. Do not turn more than once as the cakes are fragile. Transfer to a paper towel to drain.
6. Add additional oil to the skillet as needed for cooking remaining cakes as above. Serve with sour cream.

I am making up a list of foods that every Southerner should know how to cook. My problem is that the list keeps getting longer and longer. So far I have 22 different items. I need your help with suggestions and eventually make up a list of about 15 thing you think that every **Southerner Should Know How to Cook**. I'm going to start and add buttermilk biscuits and pecan pie. **What do you think should be on the list?**

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I pulled out two from my collection that I have used before and they represent an age that is passing us by. The first is The Opp Cookbook. It is "**A Collection of Recipes of the Opp Historical Society**" They note that their recipes "try to preserve the old and the new by passing on recipes that are traditional and contemporary." I could not find a date in the cookbook, but I like the recipes and the organization of the book, it's easy to use. And it is from Alabama. The shift from traditional to contemporary recipes show in the names at the end of the recipes. It will have **Mrs. Robert Lockley** and then in italics **Paula**. My older cookbooks all have Mrs. and the husband's name.

My oldest book, which was handed down from my grandmother to my mother and then to me, is the **Uvalde County Home Demonstration Council** book, "**What's Cookin' in Uvalde**"

Published in 1948, it has Beauty Hints, Household Hints (Box crackers will keep fresher and crisper if stored in the pots and pans drawer of your stove), Cooking Tips (to eliminate cabbage odor from cooking cabbage drop a whole walnut into the boiling water). A sometime confusing part of these older cookbooks is the measuring of ingredients. A recipe for CHOW CHOW calls for 1 zinc bucket tomatoes.

My grandfather had a half page ad in the cookbook and his phone number was 24. Another interesting note is every recipe that calls for milk, calls for Leona Valley Creamery Grade "A" Pasteurized milk. Bet you know why?

I think it is still a matter of pride on the number of recipes that your grandmother or you yourself have in a cookbook. And of course there are the remarks about **Mrs. Melvin Robertson's** recipe for Baked Rhubarb with Lattice Top. "It's O.K. but there is too much lemon juice!" My collection has books with added notes like, "Any cake recipe by **Mrs. Clarence Birdwell** is delicious." The pages of your favorite recipes have smear marks of the ingredients.

A reprint I have of "**The Housekeeper's Friend**" published in 1896, has recipes that seem to have lost favor with the timid eaters of today. Recipes like Pickled Chicken. A recipe for Tongue and Prunes is fairly simple and if you like tongue as I do, this might be worth a try.

Get a fresh tongue, parboil and skin it, add a pound of prunes, a cupful of brown sugar, and spices to taste; let it stew until well done; when nearly done add one lemon. **Mr. I. R. Godwin**.

My favorite tip from this cookbook is "**What to do When One is Struck by Lightning**". Throw water over a person struck by lightning. Duh

My grandmother has a recipe in the **Uvalde Cookbook** that I am sure is not in the repertoire of pie makers today. It is Raisin Pie:

RAISIN PIE -

by Mrs. A.B. Robey

- 2 3/4 cups water
- 1 box Sun Maid Raisins
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1/2 cup molasses
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp ground cloves



Simmer this for 15 minutes. Combine 6 tablespoons sugar and 2 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch and add to mixture and cook until thick.

Pour into unbaked pie shell and put strips on top. Bake.

Oma (my grandmother) assumes you know what size pie shell, what temperature and for how long.

Skip ahead sixty odd years, and we hear people talk about **PINTEREST**, **Epicurious**, **Food Network**, **Food.com**, **Gojee**, **Yummly**, and **Taste of Home** to name but a very few food web sites. Not to mention all the food blogs you can follow. Then, you can follow chefs and their websites or blogs. There are online news magazines that you can customize. I follow about



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- 2 large yellow onions chopped fine
- 8 cups preferred stock
- 4 scallions thinly sliced
- 6 garlic gloves minced
- Sea Salt & cracked black pepper to taste

1) Combine all ingredients except Jalapeno Sausage. Bring to a boil, add Jalapeno Sausage and simmer 2 hours...

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Southern Gardening Potpourri for July *by Peggy Givhan*



Judge Peggy Givhan

I hope everyone has kept their patriotic spirit up since Memorial Day the end of May because the 4th is upon us. Happy Birthday America. We know that the new settlers from Europe came to the shores of



CATHARTICA

PLANT OF THE MONTH-- ALLAMANDA

There are basically 2 varieties of Allamanda, one is a vine and the other a bush. I have experience with both and can attest they are extremely satisfactory. Please note that all parts of these plants are **POISONOUS** if ingested. As I say beauty has its limitations. Having forewarned the public, these are handsome tropical and very much sought after. They do well in pots or in the garden. Just give the vines something to climb on such as a trellis. Allamanda do well in greenhouses in the winter unless you live in the tropical south such as New Orleans or Florida. They are perennial, but need protection in winter. They require full sun, and normal watering.

1. A. cathartica, or common allamanda is the vine. They have gorgeous yellow trumpet shaped blooms with glossy leather-like leaves. Hendersonii have yellow-orange blooms. If ones pinches back the tendrils, it can be shaped into a bush.
2. A. schottii is known as bush allamanda and the flowers are tinted orange or reddish.

this country with deep roots in gardening. Be it herb gardens, vegetable gardens and flowers thrown in the mix, they looked to gardens for healing and sustenance. I have been to Williamsburg several times and loved seeing these historical gardens laid out from authentic plans, with historically correct plantings. These settlers are much like us, they loved order and beauty. Just marvel at the gardens at Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello outside Charlottesville, Va. where you can read the gardening details from his diaries. Also at Annapolis, Maryland there is a historic garden, the William Paca House which was resurrected from under some warehouse asphalt parking lots. And there are many, many other historic gardens just waiting to be explored and appreciated. It may be a good idea to visit some of these historic sites this summer.

As usual the dreaded heat has set in and some of my flowers look like cooked turnip greens if they are not watered daily. Woody stemmed plants fair so much better in the summer heat and some can be drought tolerant. I am speaking of tropical plants either in pots or in the beds. Plumbago can tolerate light shade and be perfectly beautiful en masse with the pale blues and the darker blues mixed. You would need about 6-8 plants to make a grand showing. There is also a white plumbago, although it does not bloom as profusely.

Sometimes garden centers have over stocked with new inventory piling in. Since trays and large pots of flowers take up so much space, these centers many times will put their older inventory on sale. These are great buys, especially the perennials. Just the other day, verbena was on sale for \$.50 a pot instead of \$4.98. These are hardy plants and if a few stems have died back, just pinch it off, clean off any dead leaves, and plant. I have had great luck in restoring these plants to a vibrant and happy life with money in my pocket.

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A Few Energy Saving Tips:

A Smart Investment with Big Returns: In the average home, heating and cooling are the energy hogs. So that's the place to start looking for savings. Make sure you AC is serviced for maximum efficiency. Install an automatic thermostat: This is an easy one. With an automatic thermostat, you can program your cooling to adjust automatically based on when you go to bed, when you rise in the morning, when you leave for work, and when you come home. You'll stay more comfortable and save money—up to 15% on your electric bills.

Consider your insulation. A poorly insulated home means your furnace and air conditioner have to work harder to keep you comfortable. If they're working harder, you're paying more. If you don't know the rating or type of insulation your home uses, have it checked to see if you need to upgrade. Installing good insulation can trim up to 14 percent from your monthly energy bills. It could be a smart investment.

Further cut heating and cooling costs with these other tricks:

- Replace drafty windows with better-insulated ones.
- Use weather stripping around windows.
- Hang curtains on all your windows.
- Put draft blankets along the base of your doors.
- Check around your home's foundation and around any equipment installed in your walls, like air conditioners. You may find areas that need to be sealed.
- Sealing air leaks can yield a whopping 20 percent savings on your heating and cooling costs. Just improving your insulation and sealing air leaks could cut your energy bills by 34%!
- Make smart choices for appliances: Large appliances are another big energy user. When it comes time to replace any of the appliances in your home such as your washer and dryer, your refrigerator, your stove, or your dishwasher, plan to buy an energy-efficient version.
- To get the most savings, weight the purchase price and the long-term energy costs.

Also consider rebates. Many manufacturers offer special discounts to people purchasing energy-efficient appliances—those rebates could save you even more money. Installing energy efficiency appliances can save you hundreds of dollars a year, every year — up to 30% a year on your electricity bills.

Be smart...stay safe for the summer!

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BUY LOCAL...BUY ALABAMA



EVANS PRODUCE

Oliver and Betty Evans have owned the market for 20 years. It has become and Eclectic institution. The market is open from May through October and they get produce from local venders and farm market dealers they have dealt with for years and know that they provide excellent produce. He also grows some of the produce himself.

Betty and daughter Karen have home-made jelly, jams, preserves and pickles of many varieties. Chilton County peaches is a staple at his market.

The market provides peas and butter beans already shelled and in the bag for freezing by the bushel or singles. He has a pea sheller for his customers who bring their own produce in.

**Located
Corner of Main & Ann
Eclectic, Alabama**



MCMILLAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SOUTHERN AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries John McMillan was elected President of the Southern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (SASDA) this week at the conclusion of their annual meeting held in Atlanta, Georgia. "I am honored to have been selected by my fellow commissioners, secretaries and directors of state agriculture departments to serve as SASDA's President," said McMillan. "I will work to ensure that all of the voices of southern agriculture are heard in our efforts to grow agriculture and industry in the southern region of the United States."

SASDA is made up of 15 southern states and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Tennessee Commissioner Julius Johnson will serve as Vice President, Mississippi Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith is Secretary, and Texas Commissioner Sid Miller is Treasurer. During the conference, members discussed issues relating to topics such as Avian Influenza (AI), Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) and other important agriculture industry related topics.

The Annual SASDA Conference will be hosted by Alabama in June 2016 in Point Clear, Alabama.

DURHAM PRODUCE

Joyce Durham has been doing farmer's markets for 20 years with 9 of those in Tallassee. She provides local produce, Chilton County peaches, homemade jelly, jams and pickles and local honey.

Peas, butter beans - shelled and ready for use (by the bushel upon request).

Concrete art that can be customized for your lawn, several varieties of flowers

including but not limited to Knockout Roses and Day lilies.

She also carries Amish Cheese.

The market is open Monday - Saturday from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Located at 1310 Gilmer Avenue, Tallassee, Alabama



Patricia Killough



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

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

Home Town Community News



July Birthdays



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Alan Moore
Butch (Mary) Moseley
Linda Foxworth | 14 Missy Boyd (53rd)
Annie Burchard
Miriam Head (85th)
Sheriff (Ret.) D. T. Marshall
Lansdon O'Mailia |
| 2 Ralph Davis
Lexie Turnipseed
George Pugh
Voncille Talley | 15 Joan Collier
Farley Pugh
Summer Rice
Paige Stringer |
| 4 Audrey Grant
Peggy Hubbard
David Johnson
Lynn McKinley
Cindy Smith | 16 Charlie Lamar
Elden McKemy (99th)
Sherry Tucker |
| 5 Ann Emory Harris
Kathy Ingram
Joyce Todd | 18 Linda Carleton
Ann Marie Dean
Laurie Smilie Sanders (88th)
Sharon K. Walker |
| 6 Pres. George Bush (69th)
Vicki Davis
Skip Mainor
Glenn Stringer
Amber Wooten | 19 Geneva Henderson
Mary Lamar
Emma Ruthe Walker |
| 7 Knox Crowe
Carolyn Grant
Willie B. Jackson
Taylor Mills
Brian Mosley
Greg Mosley
Cindy Young
Betty Vann | 20 Frances Bush (89th)
Tony Mitchell |
| 8 Mickie Ann Boyd
Helen Dibole
Fred Setzer | 22 Freddie Strength (66th)
Vangie Walmsley |
| 9 Joe Douglas
Katherine Kirk
Kathryn Ann Sikes (2nd)
Doris Wallace (86th) | 23 Helen Broadway
Zachery Dibole
Matthew Grant
Rusty Moseley
Jim Scott |
| 10 Nelda Harrod
Jeffery Horton
Pam Stewart
Al Webb | 24 Barbara Garrett
25 Sara Boyd (86th)
Ashley Corbin
Rod Nowakowski
Becky Windham |
| 11 Abby Boyd
Luke Frady
Ann Green Tucker
James Tucker
Trenton Windham | 26 Jason Adams
Judy Mann
Stacy Dickinson |
| 12 Cary Dean
Felix Norman (70th)
Bonnie Williams | 27 Jimmy Norman (57th)
28 Arnold Fuller
Melanie Higgins |
| 13 Jeremy Dickinson | 29 Hilda Glover
Jim Stagers (Prattville) (103 years)
30 Shawn O'Mailia
Emory Tucker
Ronnie Wallace |
| | 31 Brenda Davis
Meloney Gwin
Caroline Vocino
Marie Hudson (62nd) |

GREYSON JAMES LOONEY!



Angel was born....

Tyler (TJ) & Brittany Looney welcomed a healthy baby boy into the world on Monday, June 15th at 12:30 pm. **Greyson James Looney** weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. He's the 1st grandson of Jim (Jimbo) & Carolyn Looney of Honoraville and Tony & Brigette Mitchell of Ramer. He's the Great-Grandson of Brenda McGill of Slapout, Steve & Brenda Young of Montgomery, David & Pat Conner of Prattville and Norman & Barbara Mitchell of Snowdown. He was welcomed at Baptist East Hospital by many family members, friends & and great health staff!

**WELCOME BABY BOY,
GREYSON JAMES LOONEY!**



Coming Home

Ruby Law of Roswell, New Mexico recently visited her family in Snowdown, Alabama.

Standing R-L: Saye Law, Ruby Law, Alice Cole and seated is Everett Cole.

**Happy Belated Birthday to Norman L Vowell
who turned 91 in June
and still working as a locksmith!
And also to Jeffery Horton on June 10.**

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Bob & Liz Morris | 19 Don & Nance Rabren |
| 3 Everett & Alice Cole (44th) | 20 Spears & Carrie Rhodes |
| Dennis & Karen Weber | 21 Justin & Bethany Mims |
| 7 April & Hugh Smith, III (8th) | Shannon & Cindy K. Miles |
| 8 Bill & Charlotte Gaston | 25 Linda & Wayne Roy |
| 9 Carl & Miriam Head (66th) | 26 Blake & Amanda Wise |
| 10 Fred & Jeanette Waldo (56th) | 28 Archie & Charlotte Mote (60th) |
| 13 Don & Beverly Dawkins | 31 Zachery & Jennifer Gibbs |
| 16 Laird & Sarah Bone | |

60th Anniversary Celebration

Beverly & Charles Ming



A reception for Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ming's 60th wedding anniversary was held on June 14, 2015 at the Hope Hull Women's Club. The reception was given by their children and attended by many family and friends.

Congratulations!

Sympathy to the families of...

WALTER MCKENZIE



MCKENZIE, Walter L., 80, a loving husband, father, & grandfather, passed away June 6, 2015. His Funeral Service was on Tuesday, June 9th, at 12:00 PM at Southern Memorial. Visitation was one hour prior to the service.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Ruby Olean McKenzie; children, Kathy McKenzie & Scott McKenzie; grandchildren, Ryan & Kelly Barregarye and Megan & Madison McKenzie; great-grandchildren, Russel & Zackery Castleberry and Caleb & Carson Barrygarye, and sister, Diane Hall.

In lieu of flowers, contributions were made to the Snowden Baptist Church Building Fund.

- Strickland, Emmie Jeane Waller (90).....died June 13, 2015
- Lanier, Mrs. Carrie Nell (97).....died June 16, 2015
- Noll, Inez Huggins (96).....died June 16, 2015
- Shellman, George Bernard, Jr. (94).....died June 16, 2015
- Hall, Leland (89).....died June 17, 2015
- Smith, Mary Frances Copeland (93).....died June 17, 2015
- Spears, Bobby Joe.....died June 18, 2015
- Morrow, Dixie Smith (73).died June 23, 2015



Dear God,
I bow my head and ask if it be thy will, please save this land from those who seek to destroy it. Amen

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

TODAY'S WOMAN

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: *Trisston Wright Burrows*
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Celebrate Freedom"

July fourth is Independence Day. All across U.S.A. people will celebrate the tremendous freedom we enjoy. Truly we are blessed! We who know Jesus Christ as our Savior have another kind of freedom to celebrate. We are free from the bondage of our sin and death.

I Corinthians 15:3-4 gives a concise picture of the freedoms we have in Christ.

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures . . ."

Christ died for one reason: to pay the penalty necessary for our sins. He took our place. Because of His death, we are made free from the death penalty of sin and stand righteous before God. This is our justification.

Romans 6 tells us that through faith we died with Him and were buried with Him and are now dead to the power of sin over us. Sin no longer has dominion over us, so we can choose to live righteous, holy lives. We are free from sin's control over us! This is our sanctification.

His death alone could not save us; it was the resurrection that showed God's acceptance of Christ's sacrifice, and that gives power unto salvation. In **Colossians 3:1**, we read that we are risen with Christ. His resurrection guarantees a future in Heaven for us where we will be free from the presence of sin. This is our glorification.

From that very moment when we truly believed, we are free from the penalty of sin . . . Free from the present power of sin over me . . . And guaranteed to one day be free from the presence of sin. Now that's cause for celebration—every day!

Many Blessings!



Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms. Wheelchair America/ Alabama 2005

Shawn Parker to Open Dance Generation Studio in Tallassee.

Dance Generation began in 1937 with the two Atkin's sisters, Loree and Julia. They taught dance and performed for many shows as the Famous "Atkins Sisters". For many years and during the war Loree rode the bus to Montgomery and taught dance. After Loree married she moved to Montgomery and opened a studio there. It still continues today. The studio was passed onto her daughter Janice Ransom. After college, Janice was joined by her daughter Shawn who teaches with her today. For 3 generations dance has been passed on from mother to daughter. Shawn and Janice will continue to teach in Montgomery. Shawn, who has always wanted to teach in Tallassee where she has lived her whole life, is now opening a location in Tallassee.

Shawn has been dancing since age 3 and has over 20 years of teaching experience in jazz, tap, lyrical, ballet, baton, pointe and gymnastics. She was



a majorette and captain of The Tallassee High School Band and a majorette for 4 years at Auburn University serving 2 years as captain. Shawn has taught dance and twirl clinics throughout Alabama and Florida. She has performed at Disney World and for Birmingham's Canadian Football teams as well as the Sugar and All American Bowls. Her competition teams have won numerous awards in competitions in Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia. Her students have won state in different categories every year and she was instructor and choreographer for Dance USA's 2000 Regional Dance Champions.

Shawn is a life long resident of Tallassee. She is married to Brad Parker and has one son "Jack". She is a member of First Baptist Church in Tallassee. Shawn is very excited to teach dance where her grandmother started.

To register or obtain information, give her a call at 334-283-2201 and come share her love of dance. The studio is located by the Company Store in Downtown Tallassee (305 Barnett Blvd.).



We are happy to welcome four new volunteer counselors to our Sav-A-Life family!

They are as follows from left to right:

Linda Mize is married to Jimmy and the mother of 3. Linda and her husband are new to Montgomery. Linda has served as a volunteer counselor at other crisis pregnancy centers nationwide as well as serving in Earn While You Learn programs and even participating in starting a Mentor program for women.

Bonnie Phillips is a semi-retired mother of 2 with a degree in HR Management from Park University, Kansas. Bonnie moved to Montgomery last year and is active at Frazer United Methodist Church.

Taylor Brown is the mother of two year old son. Taylor has Associates degree and is a Registered Sonographer (RDMS). She is also an active member of Young Meadows Presbyterian Church. She has already been volunteering with us as a sonographer.

Lauren Entrekin is married to Jimmy and new to Montgomery. Lauren has degree in Product management and product design from Auburn University. She has also served in the mission field counseling young girls on abstinence and AIDS education.

We are so blessed to have these four amazing women! We are excited about all the divine opportunities for ministry that God is going to give them in the days, weeks, and months to follow!

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Lundquist ~ Black Wedding



Jennifer Ann Lundquist and John Francis Black, Jr.

Jenny and John were married on Saturday, the 30th of May, 2015 at Rocky Mount in Prattville, Alabama. After a wedding trip to Costa Rica the couple will be residing in Montgomery.

Pregnant?

Maybe... Maybe not... Take the first step!

Facing an unexpected pregnancy can be an emotional and life-changing event. You may be shocked and confused, unsure about your future, and feeling very alone. And you're probably very interested in exploring your options. But before you make any decisions...

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