

TRUMP TRADE TRIFECTA

—The Strategic Play of the Century

How the U.S.-Japan, U.S.-UK, and U.S.-EU Agreements Are Rebuilding American Industry and Restoring Global Leadership

President Trump has done what the globalist class said was impossible: deliver not one, but three landmark trade agreements that prioritize American workers, rebuild our industrial base, and realign global economics on terms that favor freedom over bureaucracy.

This new economic trifecta, \$550 billion Japan investment framework, the rebalanced UK free trade agreement, and the long-overdue EU tariff realignment represents the boldest shift in trade policy since the Reagan era. These aren't hollow treaties. They are action plans. They are capital inflows. They are declarations that America is open for business and no longer open for exploitation. And for the first time in years, the numbers prove it: in June, the U.S. posted a \$5.7 billion trade surplus. Let that sink in. This is what it looks like when economic policy is made for Main Street, not the elite's World Economic Forum.

Starting with the "The Japan Investment Pact". The \$550 billion commitment from Japan-nearly 14% of its GDP-is the largest bilateral investment in U.S. history. This capital will flow into:

- Semiconductor fabs
- Shipbuilding

- Pharmaceutical production
- Energy infrastructure

Oversight remains with the U.S. President, while Japan's state-backed financial institutions handle implementation through private sector partnerships. It's not aid. It's alignment. Japan gains secure supply chains and a stronger ally. America gains jobs, investment, and the strategic industrial base we've been missing.

Alabama is uniquely positioned to emerge as a frontline winner from the U.S.-Japan investment agreement, thanks to its deep-rooted ties with Japan and its growing reputation as a manufacturing and logistics powerhouse. With more than 80 Japanese companies already operating in the state-and over 12,000 Alabamians employed by industry giants like Honda, Toyota, Daikin, and Kobe Steel-this deal sets the stage for a new era of industrial expansion.

The UK deal restores Anglo-American economic synergy in a post-Brexit world. Key highlights:

- Reciprocal tariff reductions
- Expanded agricultural trade
- New pathways for tech and energy exports

British markets will open wider to U.S. goods, from beef to biofuels, while American businesses gain long-term certainty in one of the most stable markets in the world. Together, the U.S. and UK are forming a pro-freedom, pro-enterprise economic alliance, one that bypasses EU bureaucracy and Beijing's coercion.

The EU deal is long-overdue rebalancing finally ends years of one-sided European tariffs on American exports. Highlights include:

- Structural tariff reductions
- Harmonized regulatory standards (autos, aviation, etc.)
- Recurring review mechanisms to avoid future imbalances



The EU deal represents more than trade it's a strategic realignment. The days of Washington taking orders from Brussels are over. The U.S. is now setting the terms for a Western revival built on industrial strength and common sense.

Proof that it's working is that in June, the United States posted a \$5.7 billion trade surplus, a signal that Trump's trade doctrine is doing what decades of empty diplomacy failed to deliver. Investment is pouring in. Exports are rising. Manufacturing is back. This surplus wasn't an accident. It's the result of patriotic policy-built for strength, not sentiment.

While President Trump crafted real trade agreements that restore American prosperity in six months, the Biden Administration spent 4 agonizing years prioritizing DEI over GDP. From installing equity officers at federal agencies to launching "climate justice" initiatives at the Department of Commerce, Biden's team treated economic diplomacy as an afterthought. Not one meaningful trade deal was completed. But rest assured, the Diversity Council at the U.S. Trade Representative's office had a full calendar.

What about the Democrats today? They're so infected with Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS) they can't bring themselves to say a single good word about a \$550 billion investment in America, booming exports, or a historic trade surplus. They would rather chew glass than admit Trump just pulled off the greatest three-trade sweep in modern history.

We are not playing catch up; we are leading; these three deals aren't just check-marks on a diplomatic scoreboard. They're the blueprint of the next American century. Reindustrialization is now a national priority. Trade policy is now strategic, not suicidal. American leadership is once again earned, not assumed.

As President Trump said: *"We're not letting other countries take advantage of us anymore. Those days are over."* In the spirit of former Speaker of the House and history professor Newt Gingrich: *"This is how you lead. This is how you win. This is how you make history."*

By Perry O. Hooper Jr.

Opinion columns in the Alabama Gazette are the views of the writer alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Alabama Gazette staff or publishers.



Global Conflicts in2025:

A Landscape of War and Emerging Flashpoints

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.” — Matthew 24:6 (NIV)

This was part of a broader discourse known as the Olivet Discourse, where Jesus describes events that will precede His return.

Matthew 24:6-13 NIV

6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains. 9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Current Major Wars Around the Globe:

The largest of these is the Russia–Ukraine War

This conflict began in 2014 when Russia invaded Crimea and then armed pro-Russian insurgencies in Donetsk and Lughansk. In 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine and this soon escalated to the largest war in Europe since World War II (1939-1945). Russia’s estimated military deaths are between 190,000 and 350,000. Ukrainian military deaths are between 60,000 and 140,000 civilians in occupied areas—is likely much higher. If you'd like, I can help visualize these figures or compare them to other historical conflicts.

- Overview: Russia’s invasion of Ukraine remains one of the most violent conflicts in recent history. Despite international sanctions and military aid to Ukraine, the war continues with high civilian casualties and widespread destruction.

The Israel–Palestine Conflict

This war started when Joshua invaded the land of Canaan in 1405 B.C. The modern version of this conflict began in 1948 with the Arab – Israel War. On October 7, 2023 Hamas launched a massive terror attack from Gaza (the biblical heartland of the kingdom of the Philistines), prompting a brutal invasion of Gaza by Israel. Over 1,200 Israelis were killed on October 7, 2023. Over 58,000 people have died in Gaza. Another 905 people were killed on the West Bank.

Mexican Drug War

Since 2006 the Mexican government has been fighting a criminal insurgency led by powerful drug cartels – whose efforts are funded by America’s unquenchable thirst for illicit narcotics. Over 360,000 have been murdered, killed in turf wars between the cartels, or killed by government forces. Over 6,100 died in 2024 alone

Syrian Civil War

Since 2011 more than 610,000 people have died in the fighting between the now deposed Assad regime and insurgents. Russia, the Kurds, the United States, Iran, Israel, Turkey, and Al Qaeda have all played a role at various times in this conflict. With the fall of Assad the war appears to be winding down.

Continued on page 4A



(334) 365-6552

M-F-: 9-5 Sat: 9-5 Sunday: Closed

1778 E. Main Street

Prattville, AL 36067



INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE With Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama’s leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at: <https://steveflowers.us/>



Tommy Tuberville Will Waltz to Governor in a Cakewalk

As early as last Thanksgiving, there were smoke signals coming out of Washington that our popular Senior Senator, Tommy Tuberville, was going to forgo an easy re-election jaunt to a second, six-year term in the United States Senate, to run for Governor of Alabama in 2026. The coveted Governor’s office was going to be open because Governor Kay Ivey could not run for another term. Kay will have served as Governor longer than anyone in state history, other than George Wallace, when her decade long tenure ends in January of 2027.

The rumors became more rampant around Christmas and New Years, and those closest to him would confirm that Coach was adamantly going to run for governor. Some doubted that Coach would leave the Senate when Trump became President in January, because the tide had turned in Washington and Tuberville was finally on the right team. Instead of being in the minority party in the Senate and having a Democrat in the White House, Trump won the presidency overwhelmingly, and his coattails swept the Republicans into the majority in the U.S. Senate.

Therefore, Tuberville began his fifth year in the Senate in the majority party, and with his buddy, Trump, in the White House. In addition, Tuberville is considered Trump’s closest and most loyal ally in the Senate. Tuberville is in the catbird’s seat in Washington. Instead of being on the back bench in the minority party with an incoherent, liberal Democrat as president, he is best friends with the President and the most conservative Senator in America, amid an ultra-conservative coup in Washington.

It appears apparent to everyone who knows anything about Alabama politics that Tommy Tuberville will waltz into the Governor’s office in a cakewalk. He will be the next Governor of Alabama unless some unforeseen occurrence happens. He will get token opposition, but he will beat them like a rented mule. No serious candidate wants to get that humiliating shellacking.

Just the prospect of his running ran the three most prospective, possibly halfway viable gubernatorial candidates out of the race. The presumptive heir to the throne, Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth, who has spent the last seven years running full-time for Governor, ran for the hills rather than being trounced by Tuberville. Attorney General Steve Marshall bailed out early. He knew he could not compete

with Ainsworth or Tuberville and announced early in January that he was not going to be in the Governor’s race but hinted that he might run for Tuberville’s Senate Seat if Coach pulled the trigger for Governor. Rick Pate, who has been an outstanding Agriculture Commissioner, would really like to just stay in that job, but is term limited. When folks asked him if he wanted to run for Governor, his reply was that “I might look at it, but not if Senator Tommy Tuberville runs. Nobody is going to beat him, plus I like him and think he would make a good Governor.”

Coach has as clear a path to winning the Governor’s office as I have ever seen with less than 10 months till election day. Our election day is May 19, 2026, which is the Republican Primary day next year. Winning the Republican Primary in Alabama is tantamount to election in the Heart of Dixie.

Senator Coach Tommy Tuberville is unquestionably the most conservative, prominent political figure in our state, and that is the most important ingredient in capturing the Republican election with our very conservative electorate.

Tuberville and Trump are inextricably linked together. In fact, they are so tied together personally and philosophically, that their names are synonymous. They are referred to as the Trump/Tuberville team.

Trump has coattails never before seen in Alabama or in other conservative Republican states for that matter. He is truly a unique political figure. Trump will unquestionably endorse Tuberville, especially knowing he is going to win.

Tuberville has the perfect storm to storm to victory as Governor next May. He can sit back and serve in the Senate and garner free publicity, ally with Trump, and continue to instill a conservative label on his persona. He can come home and campaign on the weekend, which he enjoys doing. He has unlimited campaign funds. He set the record for fundraising with a \$3 million take in the first three days. He will be at \$10 million by summer’s end.

If you are a betting person, I would bet on Coach Tommy Tuberville swapping his political title from Senator to Governor.

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.



President Donald J. Trump Earned the Nobel Peace Prize



Perry O. Hooper Jr.

Founder Let the People Speak
Founder Patriots First
Former Alabama State Representative
Alabama State Republican Executive Committee



The Nobel Peace Prize has a rare chance to redeem its reputation-and it must begin by honoring the only world leader who has actually earned it: President Donald J. Trump.

In an age of growing conflict and global uncertainty, Trump delivered something rare: peace through strength. Not once, but twice. Not in theory, but in the real world where lives hang in the balance and leadership matters most.

The Iran–Israel Ceasefire: A Strategic Triumph

On June 24, 2025, Iran and Israel: longtime enemies locked in a cycle of escalation, stepped back from the brink. The catalyst? President Trump.

After Israel, with U.S. support, destroyed Iranian nuclear radar and weapons infrastructure, tensions soared. But instead of spiraling into regional war, Trump applied maximum pressure on both sides. He warned of consequences, enforced boundaries, and created a window for diplomacy.

Under his direct oversight, the U.S. implemented a phased ceasefire. Both sides agreed to stand down, conditionally: *"if the other side did too."* Trump responded swiftly to early violations, holding both accountable and keeping the fragile truce intact. Iran's president explicitly stated a willingness to negotiate, something previously unthinkable. It wasn't appeasement that made this happen. It was resolve.

India–Pakistan: Another War Averted

Just six weeks earlier, President Trump pulled off another diplomatic miracle, this time between India and Pakistan, two nuclear powers teetering toward war over Kashmir.

On May 10, as border clashes escalated, the world watched with alarm. It was Trump who stepped in. Within days, he brokered a full ceasefire. No preconditions. No retreat. Just results.

The terms were clear: total cessation of hostilities on land, air, and sea. Follow-up talks began immediately. The Indus Water Treaty was temporarily suspended to reduce flashpoints. And the truce held-because President Trump made sure it did.

So significant was this achievement that on June 21, Pakistan formally nominated President Trump for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize, praising his "remarkable strategic insight and exemplary statesmanship" for preventing "disastrous repercussions for millions."



Trump Did the Work. The World Benefited. This isn't partisan. This is historical. If the Nobel Committee exists to reward the preservation of human life and peace between nations, there is only one candidate who fits the bill: Donald J. Trump.

He didn't issue vague statements or hold endless conferences. He used America's strength to deliver real outcomes-stopping two wars before they started, without sending a single U.S. combat unit into battle.

His critics won't admit it, but facts don't lie: two nuclear conflicts defused, millions spared, and America leading the way.

A Moment of Courage for Washington

Every U.S. Governor, Senator, and Member of Congress who claims to value peace should step up and endorse this nomination. Silence in the face of this achievement is not neutral. It's cowardice.

The Nobel Peace Prize should mean something again. It should reward results, not rhetoric.

- Trump Earned It
- Trump stopped two wars before they started.
- The world is safer because of him.
- The Nobel Peace Prize should honor reality.

Give it to the man who earned it: Donald J. Trump.

As Auburn Basketball Coach Bruce Pearl put it: *"This is what a peacemaker and the leader of the free world does-he steps in when both sides can't agree and he gives them an offer they can't refuse. He should be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. I pray that all sides can offer some grace and keep the peace."*

Perry O. Hooper Jr is a former state legislator, a member of the Alabama Republican Executive Committee, and Chairman of the 2016 Trump Victory Fund. He is a political commentator and columnist who is published frequently in the Alabama Gazette and other media outlets.

Opinions expressed are the views of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Alabama Gazette staff or publishers.

Governor Ivey Announces More Than \$3.7 Million in Rebuild Alabama Funding for Local Road Projects Across Alabama

Thursday, July 17, 2025 - MONTGOMERY, AL – Governor Kay Ivey today announced more than \$3.7 million in state funding is being awarded to cities and counties for 12 road projects across Alabama, highlighting her ongoing commitment to enhancing Alabama's infrastructure.

The grants are the second round of funding made available this year under the Alabama Department of Transportation's Annual Grant Program created by the Rebuild Alabama Act. The Rebuild Alabama Act, overwhelmingly passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Ivey in 2019, requires ALDOT to establish an annual program setting aside a minimum of \$10 million off the top of the state's share of gas tax revenue for local projects. Additional funding will be awarded later this year.

"Rebuild Alabama is doing exactly what we promised – fixing roads and bridges in every corner of our state," said Governor Ivey. "With every round of funding, we're seeing real improvements along our busiest highways and the local roads Alabamians rely on every day. This is a smart, long-term investment at work, and Alabama is better for it."

Of the awarded projects, cities and counties also contributed more than \$3.5 million in local matching funds. All projects are required to move forward within one year of the awarding of funds. Since the passage of the Rebuild Alabama Act, ALDOT's Annual Grant Program has awarded more than \$66 million in state transportation funding for local projects.

For more information about the Annual Grant Program, visit the program's dedicated webpage at <https://www.dot.state.al.us/programs/RAAGrantProgram.html>.

Governors Press Office



Rob Tate

Robservations...

BITS AND PIECES PART 24

“So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?”
Galatians 4:16

1. Mass Migration Sucks:

This should come as no surprise to anybody but unfortunately, it does. **Mass migration, as we have seen over the past ten years has become a complete and total failure.** That is of course unless you are one of the millions of people who have invaded foreign lands in order to escape the world in which you lived just to make these better parts as inhospitable as the world you came from.

Does anyone here remember the summer of 2015? I sure as heck do. That is the summer the entire collective world lost their ever-loving minds and decided that it was a great idea to allow millions of people to invade their homelands as a way, as it was fallaciously sold, in order to have a better life. Do you remember the Christmas of 2015 with all the gang rapes of German women by those very immigrants? I do. What of the rape gangs in England preying upon British girls? Danish and Norwegian women told not to go out alone at night because their safety cannot be guaranteed. Hook, line and sinker, millions of people bought into the leftist charade and are now paying the price. I remember writing back then that I knew it was a bad idea. You know why? I actually read my history. The majority of people coming into Europe for example, were not old men, old women and young children escaping persecution, but rather adult men; fighting age men. I remember writing about the photographs of refugees from any previous war and comparing to the photographs of this new breed of “refugee.” There was no comparison. Yet with blinders on, the stupid sheep ignored every warning sign and are now in many cases in a war for their own national and cultural survival.

“Rob, you have no idea what you are talking about.” **Oh, really?** Tell you what, go to YouTube and spend the next 10 hours watching videos of a world in chaos over different nations’ immigration policies. You can see the people in Ireland, the UK, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, Sweden and believe it or not, even in Mexico, fighting back against the unrestrained immigration. And yes, the snap-back is real. When allowing hundreds of thousands of people from different cultures into your country who have absolutely zero, zip, nil, noddad, desire to assimilate into your society but want to bring in their culture in order to topple the host nation’s society, the result is inevitable. Do you wonder why Poland has no such problems, despite all of the baseless charges of racism? Poland stuck to their guns and said, **“Nope, you and your corrupt culture is not welcome here.”** And guess what, they have no such problems like we see in Western Europe. The reality is too many people feared being hit with the label “racist.” Poland and few other countries did not care and are happy they didn’t. Here is a clue, people. It is not racist to want to see your society and culture survive.

And of course, we in America are suffering the same issues because of the Biden policies. Go back to YouTube and look at the videos of **anti-American protests** in places like NY, MN, TX and other states. Yeah, these are not just Mexicans looking for a better life. These are people from over 200 countries entering our country with who knows what is on their minds. Just a better life? Doubtful. Let’s ask the Iranians we have captured over the past two weeks. Who knows how many bad people entered under Biden’s failed policies. **People on these videos are making the usual chants of death to America and how they plan on overtaking this country.** I for one am willing to take these people at their word. But you know the trouble western Europe and America faces? The millions of people who were unfortunately allowed to enter our countries are NOT going to go away quietly. I have written on this several times in the past. They are going to fight to maintain what they foolishly think is theirs to start with. It is a clear case of the old, “give an inch, take a foot” syndrome.

The whole point is this. Unchecked, unregistered, unrestrained, uncontrolled, unvetted, undocumented, unvaccinated, and unlimited immigration has proven to be the failure it was destined to become. Again, unless you are part of the invading force. I contend that no society can survive, with its culture intact under the current conditions. The sad part, however, is that for some countries, it may already be too late. The battle may have already been lost without firing a shot.



2. Dems In Disarray:

When I was a young officer in the Air Force and flying missions for NATO during Desert Storm and over Yugoslavia, never did I think that the largest city in the US would be on the verge of electing socialist mayor. To be fair, he is a democratic socialist which in some way is supposed to lessen the reality of Zohran Mamdani. In a surprise primary, the young Mamdani won the Democratic nomination for the mayoral election this November. This just goes to show how far the Democratic party has run itself off the rails. Just the other day, there was a meeting between Mamdani and other Democratic leaders and they came out of luncheon salivating over Mamdani. He was a great guy, good looking, intelligent, personable, blah, blah, blah. But they forgot, he is just this side of a raging communist, he is likely anti-Semitic, when questioned three times by Kristen Welker about denouncing the term “global intifada,” Mamdani dodged the question each time. I personally take that as his endorsement of the term and what it means for our Jewish brothers. He recently recanted this stance by saying that he would personally discourage its use. Okay, that still tells me you believe in its premise. How can Jewish Senator Bernie Sanders openly endorse him? And how can Chuck Schumer not openly condemn Mamdani? By keeping silent, the coward’s way out, Schumer is tacitly giving approval to him.

There is not enough time right now to go into all of his policies but they would make Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin blush with glee. But one sad reality is when questioned about Mamdani’s stance on Global Intifada and other absurd stances, the chair of the DNC, Ken Martin said, “You win by bringing people into your coalition. . . We win by bringing people into that coalition and at the end of the day, for me, that’s the type of party we’re going to lead. We are a big tent party.” Okay, a tent big enough to hold rabid anti-Semites? And you are okay with that? This instead of saying, “Hell no. They have no place in our tent. Sorry, not sorry.” But this is where the Democratic party is right now. Here is a small chart that illustrates, in part, what I am talking about. Parts of the current Dem party are confusing.

CLAIM: NAZIS WERE RIGHT-WING LIKE REPUBLICANS

	Democrat Party	Nazi Party	Republican Party
High Taxes*	Yes	Yes	No
Pro Abortion*	Yes	Yes (Depending on race)	No
Gun Control*	Yes	Yes	Yes
Government Controlled Healthcare*	Yes	Yes	No
Government Controlled Education*	Yes	Yes	No
Censored Speech*	Yes	Yes	No
Pro-Military**	No	Yes	Yes
Nationalist**	No	Yes	Yes
State Controlled Religion***	No	Yes	No
Use of Violence to Control Outcomes*	Yes (AFNIFA, BLM, NFAC)	Yes (Brown-shirts, SS)	No
Anti-Semitic*	Yes-In Part	Yes	No
Pro Mass Migration**	Yes	No	No
LGBT Rights***	Yes	No	Yes
Socialist Leanings or Outright Socialist*	Yes	Yes	No
Ethnic Diversity***	Yes	No	Yes
Desire/ Need for Government Controlled Media*	Yes	Yes	No

*Where the Nazi and Democratic Platforms Align.
**Where Nazi and Republican Platforms Align
***Where Democrat and Republican Platforms Align

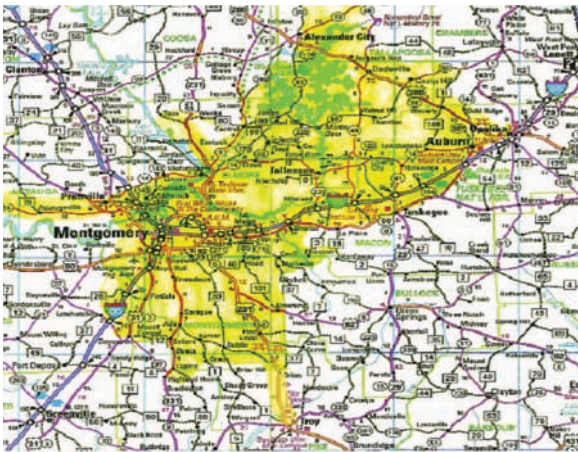
The Democratic platform, I believe needs some help. It is hard to imagine some of the ideas we see espoused by their side. This insane desire to protect and keep illegal alien CRIMINALS in this country is perhaps the greatest case in point. No, I am not talking about all those here illegally but rather the ones here with criminal records from either their home country, those who have committed crimes while here or both. How can you possibly fight the US government on keeping them here? It makes no sense but the list goes on and on.

More on all of this next time.
Robert Tate



12 E. Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

The Gazette, (now *The Alabama Gazette*) was created in the year 2000 for the people of Central Alabama with the intent of being a thought-provoking, non-partisan publication reaching over 20,000 readers monthly. Written comments, stories, advertisements, social and church events, as well as classifieds are always welcome. The publisher is not responsible for errors in text reprinted from other sources. Furthermore, this publication does not establish due diligence on authors or advertisers and cannot guarantee that their offerings or writings are correct or suitable. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. We reserve the right to print, edit or condense any and all contents submitted. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising and submissions at its own discretion. All articles, ads and photographs may be subject to copyright.



Distribution Map
We will be glad to expand to your area.



Owner
Samuel
Adams

Loretta
Grant
Founder
2000

Locally
Owned
FREE
PRESS!

Let’s Talk!
334-356-6700

www.alabamagazette.com
alabamagazette@gmail.com

A Geological Mystery



John Martin

Back in 2011, a group of researchers at the University of Bristol performed some ultra high precision analyses on some of the Earth's oldest rocks from Greenland. These were four billion years old—almost as old as the Earth itself at 4.5 billion years. Using tungsten as a benchmark, the studies concluded that tungsten along with our precious metals in the Earth's crust originated from a global bombardment of “about 20 billion billion tonnes of asteroidal material” that occurred about 200 million years after the Earth had solidified sufficiently to retain any asteroids falling upon it within the crust and upper mantle rather than sinking down into the core, where most of our iron and other heavy metals had sunk when the Earth was still molten. This idea could certainly explain the relative abundance of iron in the crust (5.63%) along with many iron-loving elements known as siderophiles. These include nickel, cobalt, tungsten, and others, along with the platinum metals—ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium, and platinum.

This theory seems very obvious. But if one does a deeper investigation, he can find a serious discrepancy.

Iron meteorites always contain substantial percentages of nickel—from a minimum of 5% up to 16% (Hoba and Chinga), 19.8% (Gebil Kamil), and up to 32% (Tishomengo). The overall average is 7%. Stony and stony-iron meteorites also contain these nickel percentages in proportion to their iron contents.

The Earth's crust contains 5.63% iron. But it only contains 0.009% nickel and only 0.003% cobalt. If we compare nickel to iron in the Earth's crust, the nickel content is only 0.143%--35 TIMES short of a meteorite's minimum nickel content of 5% and 49 times short of the 7% average. The crust's cobalt content is less extreme—0.0476% compared to an iron meteorite's average content of .5%. The discrepancy here is less extreme—10.6 times less abundant. But it is still far short.

a deficiency of 113 times. Osmium in meteorites averages 1 ppm but has a wide range from 0.01 ppm up to an extreme 65 ppm. It is the Earth's rarest stable element—only 50 parts per TRILLION (.00005 PPM) in the entire crust and .000888 ppm in the crust's iron content. The deficiency is 1126 times.

Not only are these discrepancies extreme, but the variations between them are also extreme—from a little over 10 times more scarce up to over1000 times.

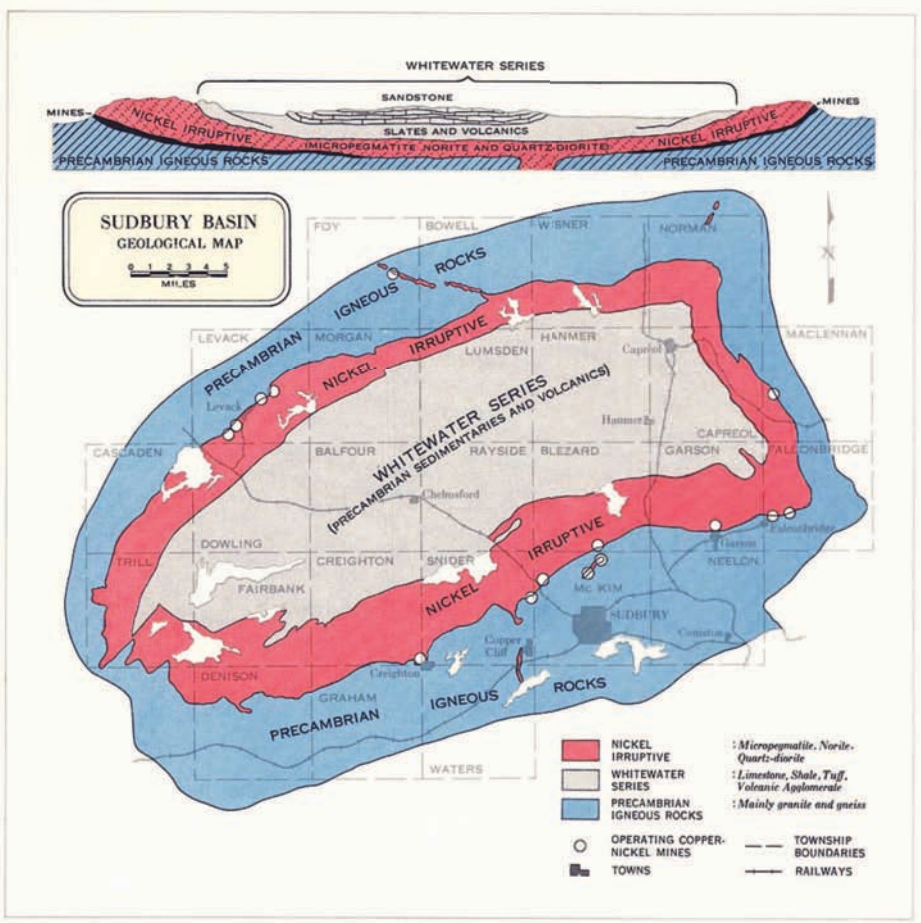
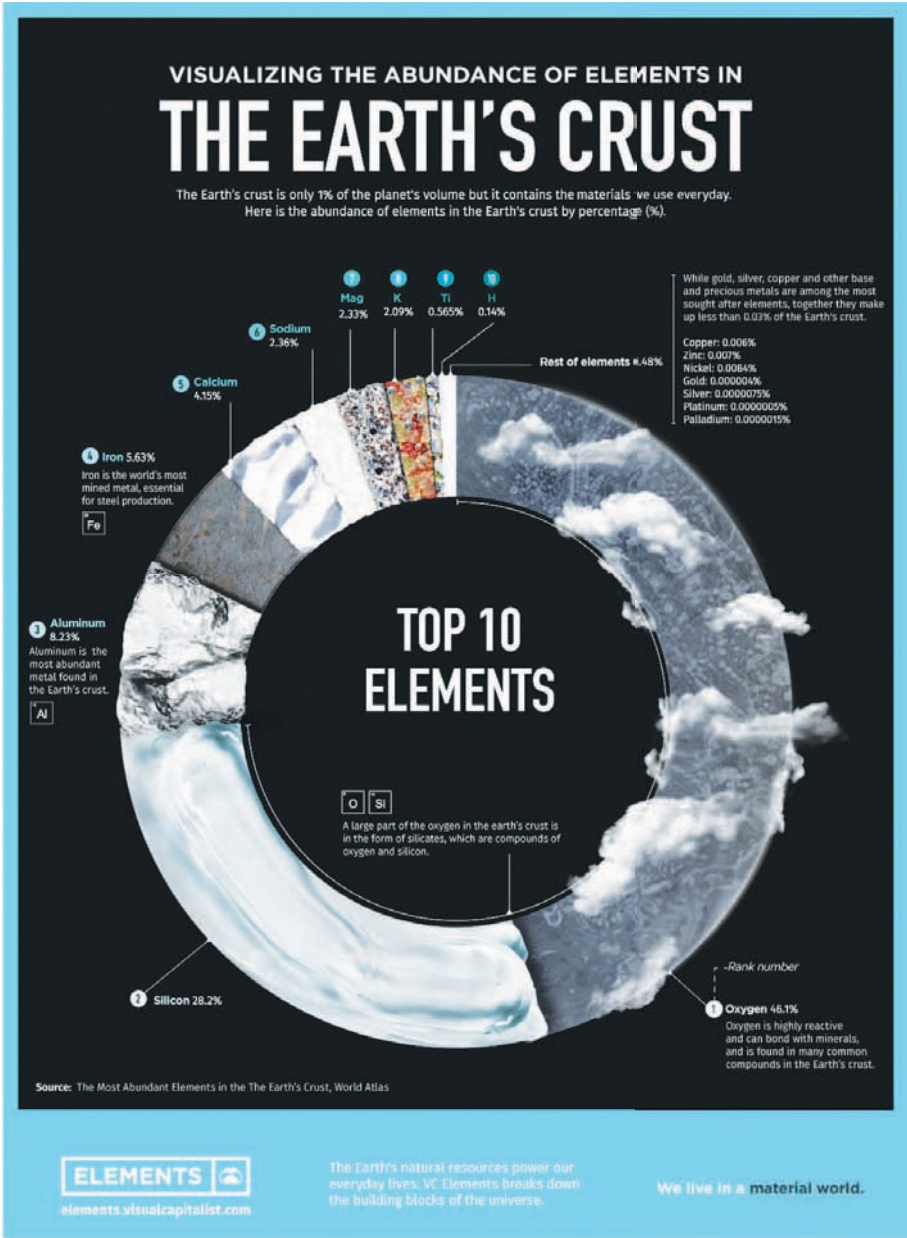
If our iron came from a meteorite bombardment, we would expect our siderophiles relative to crustal iron to be at least roughly proportional to what we find in ALL meteorites. Thousands and thousands of meteorites have been collected all over the world, and not even one has been found with iron anywhere close to the “purity” of that found in the Earth's crust.

The siderophile contents of meteorites do often vary considerably. Iridium contents can vary from .01 up to 50 parts per million. Tungsten varies from .07 up to 5 ppm. Osmium can range from .01 all the way up to 65 ppm. Variations like these can make calculating averages difficult.

Other siderophiles tend to be more consistent. Nickel and cobalt occur in quantities that are great enough to generate more accurate percentages and therefore more accurate data.

But with the irregularities included, even a cursory examination of the results can reveal a huge difference between the siderophile abundances in all iron meteorites and the iron content in the Earth's crust.

This is a sharp contrast to the Sudbury Basin, a Chixulub-sized impact structure in Ontario that does contain nickel and other siderophile quantities that are reasonably proportional to the estimated iron contained in the impactor. That includes the platinum metals and the only mine in the world sufficiently rich for the specific mining of palladium.



The conclusion is obvious. We can easily assume that our precious metals came from a global meteorite bombardment. But their quantities are far short of what we would expect.

That is the mystery. The Earth's crustal iron contains only a fraction of the more abundant siderophiles we find in ALL iron meteorites.

SOURCES

- Where Does All Earth's Gold Come From?**
<http://www.geologypage.com/2011/09/where-does-all-earths-gold-come-from.html#ixzz46BjbNjS3>
- The Earth's Crust.**
<https://elements.visualcapitalist.com/elements-in-the-earths-crust-abundance/>
- Sudbury Basin, Wikipedia.**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudbury_Basin

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.



Continued from page 1
By Staff Writer

The Myanmar (formerly Burma) Civil War

The latest civil war in Myanmar started in 2021 when a military coup plunged Myanmar into civil war. Ethnic militias and pro-democracy forces continue to resist the junta, with widespread human rights abuses reported by both the Junta and the resistance. 82,036 have died - 1,853 while in custody often due to torture or denial of medical care. Between 3.2 and 3.5 million people have been displaced with 83,000 homes and buildings having been destroyed.

Sudan Civil War

A power struggle between the once allied Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (a militia) has devastated Khartoum and Darfur,

displacing millions and killing at least 9,000. The potential for famine in this could make this a lot worse.

Ethiopian Conflict

There has been a civil war in the Amhara and Oromo regions of Ethiopia since 2018. Casualties (2024): Over 600,000 people have perished in this fighting with an estimated 7,800 having been killed in 2024 alone with many of the dead having been killed by drones and air strike.

The Nigeria and Sahel Insurgencies

Boko Haram and local affiliates of the Islamic State have been fighting terrorist insurgencies across West Africa for years. 7,096 have died in Nigeria, 6,241 have died in Burkina Faso, and 3,180 in Mali.

- Overview: Boko Haram and Islamic State affiliates operate across West Africa, destabilizing entire regions.

The Democratic Republic of Congo

The Congo is locked into ethnic and insurgent conflict. Armed groups like M23 continue to fight for control of mineral-rich regions. Rwanda has been accused of direct involvement in the unrest in the Congo. More than 6 million people died in the last two major Congo Wars (1996 to 1997) and (1998 to 2006).

Potential Flashpoints

China has built the largest Navy in the world and is openly preparing for an invasion of Potential Wars in the Next 18 Months. That would likely draw in the United States and could potentially escalate to a nuclear war.

Iran–Israel Escalation

Israel got the better end of Iran (with the help of U.S. B2 bomber strikes) but Iran has not given up its nuclear ambitions. More bombing strikes by Israel and/or the United States could happen if those governments believe that Iran comes close to joining the nuclear club.

North Korea's support for Russia and increased weapons testing could trigger a new Korean War that could destabilize East Asia and involve U.S. forces stationed in South Korea.

India–Pakistan

Pakistan wants Kashmir and India doesn't want to give it up. The Indians are facing a dangerous insurgency there that is likely supported by Pakistan. All out war between the two populous nuclear armed countries could be catastrophic for the region and have ripples felt globally.

Lebanon

The Israeli attacks on Hezbollah have weakened the pro-Iranian group and led to concerns that it could lead to the collapse of the Lebanese state triggering a civil war and regional spillover.

Haiti

The Haitian government has admitted recently to using drones to kill heavily armed criminal gang members that control the capitol city. Haiti's government has not recovered from the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. If this gang war goes badly it could trigger a collapse of the Haitian government and gang control of the country. That could lead to famine and a possible military intervention by the United States.

Chinese aggression towards the Philippines and Vietnam could potentially escalate into broader conflict involving the United States.

A Russian move against Latvia, Estonia, or Poland could trigger a war between NATO and Russia – a war that would involve the United States.

HISTORY BITS AND PIECES

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY



Justice Will Sellers

What's Old is New: Containing Russia in Supporting Ukraine

In the not-so-distant past, the United States’ relationship with the Soviet Union was best summed up by the policy of containment. The idea was very simple — communism in general and the Soviet Union in particular were menaces to the world order. Communism could be dealt with intellectually, but once the Soviet Union began to aggressively export its version of communism by forcing itself on neighboring countries, something had to be done to stop the expansion.

After World War II, the U.S. had two choices: confront the Soviet Union and possibly start another global conflict or simply limit communism to the Soviet sphere of influence, stops its spread outside that boundary, and wait for the system to collapse under its own weight.

But, another part of the containment policy included support of insurgents both within the Soviet Union and also in its client states. In fact, the U.S. actively recruited and trained indigenous people to return to their countries as nationalist commandos to lead an uprising to topple any Soviet allied country.

For almost 10 years after World War II, our Central Intelligence Agency and State Department spent untold millions implementing the policy of containment. Numerous sad stories proliferated of zealous freedom fighters who were typically pulled from refugee camps and returned to their home countries to import a western-oriented revolution only to be captured and summarily executed by the Soviets.

Even in the face of subsequent failures, the work of recruitment and training continued based on the thought that at some point the right formula of personnel, material and local sentiment would achieve revolutionary success.

Nothing of any substance ever materialized.

Notwithstanding the hours of propaganda beamed into the nations held captive by Soviet Communism, the U.S. had precious little to show for the expense and effort beyond a brief morale boost.

But even so, there were glimpses of opposition and signs of progress in any number of countries. In 1953, East German workers held a strike, but it was crushed and its leaders imprisoned. Other countries, too, would see brief flare-ups of dissent, but in a police state, where free speech is prohibited, nothing ever became of these popular uprisings. The repression from national leaders trained by Stalin made all resistance futile.

The U.S. could encourage all it wanted and send men and materiel with boosts from Radio Free Europe, but there was no overthrow or any appreciable change in government. While the aspirations of the Soviets to export their revolution were generally contained, no country moved from Soviet domination to freedom.

One bright spot for U.S. policy makers and clandestine operatives was the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. A real threat to the Soviets occurred when local leaders, who were encouraged by the death of Stalin and a relaxing of oppression, tried to separate themselves from Soviet control. Finally, the CIA and State Department sensed movement on the horizon; they had their coup!

Encouraged by Radio Free Europe, the Hungarians were marching and ready to throw off the yoke of Soviet oppression, but rather than assist the rebellion, the U.S. and its allies did nothing. Even for a short time when Politburo leaders vacillated, the U.S. ignored all pleas and failed to provide the needs to expand Hungary’s revolt. Eventually, the rebellion was crushed with Soviet troops and tanks. The leaders were summarily executed, and the Soviets tightened their grip once again.

But even so, the U.S. policy of containment was still the order of the day. Though many in leadership positions were disheartened at the failure of the Hungarian uprising, the idea of fomenting revolt within the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies was still pursued.

Most of these attempts were fruitless until Ronald Reagan faced the Soviet Union head on, caused them to compete militarily with the U.S., and prompted the total collapse of their system. When the Cold War was won, as evidenced by the demolition of the Berlin Wall and the splintering of the Soviet Union, Russia never fully re-joined the community of nations.

With little experience in democracy, freedom of expression, and individual rights, Russia continues to embrace concepts deeply rooted in authoritarianism and repression of all opposition. In many ways, World War II never ended for Russia.

Unlike Germany and Japan, Russia steadfastly rejected any system allowing its people rights and a voice in government. They refused the Marshall Plan’s invitation to rebuild their economy and join the community of nations. Rather than exporting goods and services and competing in the world economy, Russia opted to export revolution, violence, and terrorism to achieve world status.

The policy of containment can still be debated, but until Russia accepts its place in the world, the policy of opposing it will remain the chief aim of U.S. foreign policy. Unlike Russia, the U.S. has no territorial ambitions, desiring, only a stable world order where the rule of law supports a political environment of individual freedom, liberty of conscience and economic liberalism.

Until Russia decides to abandon its expansionist goals and status as world pariah, U.S. foreign policy should contain Russia in Ukraine and force it to pursue true peaceful co-existence, cease its support of terrorism and rogue states, and come to terms with the 21st Century World Order.

Will Sellers is a graduate of Hillsdale College and is an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama. He is best reached at jws@willsellers.com.

Copyright © 2025 Will Sellers, All rights reserved.

August 22 is marked as National Flag Day in Russia.



This day is considered to be the date of the revival of our historic tricolor in modern history. On August 18-21, 1991 the USSR suffered the August Coup, basically an attempt at a coup d’état. Several Communist Party members formed the so-called ‘State Committee on the State of Emergency’ (GKChP) and proclaimed themselves a new government.

One of their goals was to not allow the USSR to collapse. But the authorities of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic resisted the coup and, among them – its president Boris Yeltsin. In his address to the nation, he said that such violent methods “return us to the Cold War era and to the isolation of the Soviet Union from the global community”. Thousands of people gathered at the White House and Boris Yeltsin raised the Russian white-blue-red tricolor. August 22, 1991, is considered to be the day of the GKChP’s defeat – and this is also the date when, three years later, Yeltsin declared the ‘National Flag Day’.

ANO TV-Novosti - <https://www.gw2ru.com/>

The first decree on the state flag was signed by Boris Yeltsin in 1993; in 2000, Vladimir Putin signed the Federal Constitutional Law ‘On the State Flag of the Russian Federation’.

The law clearly stipulates what the flag should look like. “The national flag of the Russian Federation represents a rectangular panel from three equal horizontal strips: top - white, average - dark blue and bottom - red color. The attitude of width of the flag to its length is 2:3,” the law states.

The law also indicates where the image of the flag can and can’t be used. The flag is always raised over State institutions of federal importance. It’s the official symbol of the Russian Federation and the regions of the Federation are not allowed to use it as the basis for their own flags.

On days of mourning flag poles fly a black ribbon at the top. **Flag desecration entails criminal liability – up to imprisonment.**



John Taylor

Transforming the Union

Lincoln claimed the North was fighting to preserve the Union. However, *fighting to preserve a voluntary Union* is a contradiction since force is antithetical to voluntary consent. Alexander Hamilton noted: **“To coerce the States is one of the maddest projects that was ever devised...Can any reasonable man be well disposed toward a government which makes war and carnage the only means of supporting itself; a government that can exist only by the sword?”** The

New England power structure did just that. The South, with its culture of individualism and dominant Christian faith, was to be subdued.

The Northern Government/Corporate alliance that opposed maintenance of the original voluntary federal republic of sovereign States was multi-faceted and included tactics/agendas that discourage, rather than encourage unity. Examples include:

- Lincoln refused to negotiate peace. Every effort the South made for compromise before and during the war was rebuffed.
- Lincoln and Grant introduced total war on American soil through William T. Sherman, Phil Sheridan, John Basil Turchin, and others. Making total war on women, children, and other noncombatants is barbaric as is slaughtering animals and stealing and/or destroying private property. President Harry Truman, a descendant of Missouri Confederates, was told by his mother to check the White House silverware because it was probably theirs (the Trumans).
- Karl Marx, Frederich Engels and others philosophically similar supported Lincoln. The predominantly German Socialist “48ers” were thrown out of power in the 1840s. Many moved to the Midwest and became a powerful Republican voting bloc.
- Lincoln violated the constitution in multiple ways: Coercion, Violation of International Law and constitutional laws of neutrality, illegal suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, blockading ports still claimed to be in the Union, the “war measure” known as the Emancipation Proclamation, the illegal creation of the State of West Virginia, violation of the First Amendment (shutting down anti-war newspapers and arresting American citizens for exercising their free speech rights), illegal invasion of the State of Maryland, and violation of the Fugitive Slave Law.
- Lincoln’s government made medicine and medical supplies contraband of war. Thomas Bland Keys states: **“From early 1861 throughout the war, the Lincoln Administration kept all medicines and medical supplies in the list of contraband of war, and would not permit their importation into the Confederacy, if it could prevent it. Even existing supplies in the hands of private physicians were destroyed when located. Not only did wounded and sick Confederate soldiers and civilians suffer terribly as a result, but so did thousands of Union soldiers held in Southern prison camps, including such prisons as Andersonville, Libby, Belle Isle, Salisbury, Florence, and others. It is interesting to note that such action today would be an atrocity.”** (Department



of the Army Field Manual No. 27-10 (July, 1956), The Law of Land Warfare, Para. 234.)

- Although supplies were plentiful in most Union prisons, captured Confederates were abused. At Andersonville, Confederates received the same rations as the Yankee prisoners.

- The Union recruited approximately half a million foreign immigrants and/or mercenaries. A “righteous cause” would not have to recruit foreigners. According to Robert C. Wood, the numbers were: “Germans 176,800; Irish 144,200; British-Americans 53,500; English 45,500; Others 74,900. This makes a total of 494,900.” Confederate troops commonly fought “Yankees” who did not speak English. (Confederate General Richard Taylor referenced this fact.) The 494,000 foreigners plus 186,017 Blacks (680,917), equaled almost the total Southern force, which was perhaps as high as 800,000. The South was often outnumbered three to one or worse.

- No post-war redemption of currency. With Confederate money relegated to a worthless status, Southerners were further punished for the “crime” of believing in self-government and defending their homes against an invasion.

- Lincoln, a corporate lawyer and mercantilist, stated in 1832: "My politics are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance...I am in favor of a national bank... the internal improvements system, and a high protective tariff." Those were the interests he served throughout his career.

It is alleged that Great Britain pushed for the U.S. to be split into two regions to dilute power. If true, that should have been an incentive for Lincoln to compromise and

listen to Southern grievances instead of waging war. Post-war, the South received no “Marshall Plan” but was instead placed under martial law and a significant number of ex-Confederates were not allowed to vote. Taxes were raised and property devalued. Outside vultures (Carpetbaggers) and their equally sinister Southern counterparts (Scalawags) purchased depressed property and continued to pillage the South. The South’s generational hatred of the Republican Party is easy to understand.

Lincoln did not preserve the Union—he transformed it by centralizing the powers of the general government, diluting the power of the States, setting the precedent to invade and destroy any State seeking independence, and helping to create the “Imperial Presidency.”

Sources:

Confederate Hand-Book, by Robert C. Wood; *Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation*, by John M. Taylor; *Destroying the Republic: Jabez Curry and the Re-Education of the Old South*, by John Chodes; and *The Uncivil War: Union Army and Navy Excesses in the Official Records*, by Thomas Bland Keys. Note: Lincoln claimed the States did not literally leave the Union. Massachusetts Abolitionist Lysander Spooner believed the South had a right to govern itself. In *No Treason: The Constitution of No Authority*, Spooner wrote about Northern bankers and corporations teaming with government cronies to consolidate power and profit handsomely. Also, Martha Ellen Young Truman despised Yankees for all of the theft and destruction done to her family’s Missouri farm by the criminal Kansas Jayhawkers and for her family’s eventual forced removal from their home.



Ronald A. Holtsford

You wrote only a couple of months ago about birthright citizenship. I understand the part birthright citizenship is still on the table but that the second issue of lower court injunctive relief effective on a national level is more restrictive. I see a considerable amount of liberal media outlets publishing their criticism of President Trump’s policies especially relative to immigration, often quoting Justices Sotomayor, Jackson and Keegan. Much of the criticism is of Executive orders; what is the limit of Presidential power?



The use of Executive orders can somewhat circumvent the legislative powers of Congress provided that they are not held as unconstitutional. Executive orders are supposed to be more broad and directional. Executive orders are heavily historical and not specifically addressed in the Constitution. In the 1952, Youngstown case regarding President Truman’s orders to not allow steel mill labor interruption during the Korean War, Justice Hugo Black of Alabama said, “*The President’s power, if any, to issue the order must stem either from an act of Congress or from the Constitution itself.*” Justice Black further wrote, “*The President’s power to see that the laws are faithfully executed refutes the idea that he is to be a lawmaker.*” Justice Frankfurter concurred in the opinion. In writing, Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution says that the president “*shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.*” As Commander in Chief of the armed forces, he has broad powers in areas such as controlling the federal agencies, government, and foreign affairs.

Congress can codify an Executive order by placing the text within a properly passed law, but Congress can only overturn an Executive order when Congress has extended a certain power to the president that was the subject of the order. Congress can also creatively control the order by withholding funding. Because Executive orders have no expiration date they can be subject to amendment or revocation by the current administration or a subsequent one. Control is otherwise under judicial scrutiny whenever reviewable.

President Trump’s orders have not only been criticized by liberal media but outright by some justices. Justice Sotomayor quoted Justice Robert Jackson’s concurring opinion from the 1952, *Youngstown* case in saying, “*the principle that ours is a government of laws, not of men, and that we submit ourselves to rulers only if under rules.*” Though Justice Robert Jackson and Justice Black were often at odds, even publicly at times, the Sotomayor recited quote one must understand is taken from a concurrence with Black at that time on Presidential power and is not a part of a dissenting opinion as Sotomayor’s recitation of quote would have one believe.

The extent of presidential power, I am sure has not been entirely pushed to its limits. Regardless of political party, both Democratic and Republican administrations have pushed the limit at times. Sotomayor harshly wrote in the July, 2024 opinion of *Trump v United States*, regarding presidential immunity relative to the January 6th event, “*The President of the United States is the most powerful person in the country, and possibly the world. When he uses his official powers in any way, under the majority’s reasoning, he now will be insulated from*

criminal prosecution. Orders the Navy’s Seal Team 6 to assassinate a political rival? Immune. Organizes a military coup to hold onto power? Immune. Takes a bribe in exchange for a pardon? Immune. Immune, immune, immune. Let the President violate the law, let him exploit the trappings of his office for personal gain, let him use his official power for evil ends. Because if he knew that he may one day face liability for breaking the law, he might not be as bold and fearless as we would like him to be. That is the majority’s message today. Even if these nightmare scenarios never play out, and I pray they never do, the damage has been done. The relationship between the President and the people he serves has shifted irrevocably. In every use of official power, the President is now a king above the law.”

It takes a strong person to be president. Jimmy Carter was seen as weak by other countries and in 1979 American embassy employees were taken by Iranians and held for well over a year. Carter’s diplomacy was weak and the military attempt to rescue the hostages, while bold was a horrid failure with the loss of eight US service members. Though negotiations coincidentally timed to the swearing in of Ronald Reagan, as successor to Carter, I also believe Reagan was viewed as much stronger which stepped up their release. President Trump, as evidenced by reactions of world leaders is clearly a stronger President than Democratic predecessors Obama and later Biden. Take for instance the Iranian retaliatory missile attack a few weeks ago after America bombed the Iranian underground nuclear facilities. The Iranians, not to escalate a war but to save face with its people, communicated the attack prior to it happening and the American service members exited to a safe location with the exception of a few in defending missile batteries to mitigate damage. A strong leader leads from the front and to be successful in the goals of your administration one must take charge. Sometimes that limit of power is hard to see.

Leaders, dictators, presidents, kings/ queens, prime ministers and others whether good or bad or whether seen as good or evil serve as God allows. Many have protested against Trump believing he acts as a king. When their vote failed, some turned to protest both civil and violent. As long as sin reigns on earth, each leader will try to gain the power they desire. Ultimately, there is no king but Jesus!

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."



Col John Eidsmoe

WHAT WAR BEGAN 75 YEARS AGO?

If you don’t know the answer to this question, or even if you had to think about it for awhile, you’ve proven my point: The Korean War (June 1950 – July 1953) is America’s forgotten conflict.

Of all the memorials on the Washington Mall, the Korean War Memorial is my favorite. In graphic detail, larger than life, it depicts in stainless steel 19 gaunt American soldiers in full battle dress as they grimly ascend a hill to commence an attack. Instead of being bunched together, they are spaced apart in accordance with military training (Why? So an enemy grenade can’t hit more than one soldier at a time).

Near the top is the Pool of Remembrance and inscriptions listing the numbers killed, wounded, missing in action, and held as prisoners of war. A central feature is a plaque that reads:

“Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.”

And a granite wall bears the inscription, “Freedom Is Not Free.”

But what was the Korean War all about? What caused it, who were the combatants, and how did it end?

At the close of World War II, Korea was partitioned at the 38th parallel into North Korea and South Korea, North Korea under the Soviet Union and South Korea under the United States and its allies. The Communist powers were never content with this state of affairs, and on 25 June 1950 North Korea, aided by the Soviet Union and later by Communist China, launched an invasion across the parallel. Seoul, South Korea’s capital which lies near the 38th parallel, fell to the Communists within days, and the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) was driven to the southeasternmost corner of the Pusan Perimeter. At this point South Korea was close to collapse.

Led by the United States which supplied 90% of the non-Korean soldiers, United Nations forces launched a counteroffensive. In a daring move by General Douglas MacArthur, UN forces landed at Inchon (near Seoul), recaptured Seoul, invaded North Korea, and captured its capital Pyongyang. The Chinese counterattacked with a force of 200,000, recaptured Seoul in January 1951, and lost it again two months later.

[Please indulge me in a brief aside. Born in 1945, I was four years old when the Communists invaded South Korea. But I vividly remember one snatch from a radio broadcast that reported that an army of Communist guerrillas were closing in on a South Korean village. I knew nothing about guerrilla warfare, but I knew what gorillas were, and you can imagine what I was thinking!]

General MacArthur as supreme allied commander called for a full-scale invasion of North Korea, but President Harry Truman resisted. On 11 April 1951 President Harry Truman fired General MacArthur. Truman and his supporters insisted MacArthur had been insubordinate and his proposed invasion could have precipitated a world war. MacArthur and his supporters believed he had a duty to speak the truth and that, without an invasion, the war would become a stalemate and victory would be impossible. Although no peace treaty was ever signed, the parties did reach an armistice under which hostilities ceased and prisoners were exchanged.

For the past 73 years, the 38th parallel has been a place of tension between North and South Korea, with sporadic outbreaks of violence and numerous protests. On several occasions North Korea has complained that the South has lighted Christmas trees within sight of the parallel as a form of “psychological warfare”!

Korea has been part of my life. The division took place about the time I was born. While training to be a Third-Degree Black Belt with the American Taekwondo Foundation, I developed an appreciation for Korean culture, and my Air Force career gave me an appreciation for South Korean military prowess. As I made ten trips to South Korea to teach for the Handong International Law School (HILS), that appreciation grew into a great love for South Korea and its people. I will therefore make the following observations:

- Although American soldiers were not allowed to win a victory in the Korean War, they did hold back the Communist advance. Communist domination of the Korean Peninsula would have endangered Japan, Australia, and much of the Pacific. [I know some will say, That’s the domino theory again. But if you think the domino theory is false, please

explain why it is false.] Those who served, fought, and died in Korea, like those who served in other conflicts of the Cold War, deserve our respect and gratitude.

- Under Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il, and now Kim Jong Un, North Korea is one of the most repressive nations in the world. The governing philosophy of North Korea, Juche, has morphed from Marxism-Leninism to something akin to National Socialism, stressing the North Korean master race, its nation-state, and its leader to whom absolute loyalty is due. Meanwhile, the average member of the North Korean “master race” is about three inches shorter than his/her South Korean counterpart, due largely to malnutrition.

- South Korea’s republican system of government is far from perfect. Recently I took one of my South Korean law student interns to observe the Alabama Legislature in action. As the legislative debate degenerated into name-calling and meaningless rhetoric, I turned to my intern and said, “I bet this doesn’t happen in South Korea.” She answered, “In the South Korean Parliament they throw chairs at each other!” Nevertheless, for all its flaws, South Korea does have a representative government with substantial freedom of speech and religion, as well as a thriving economy based mostly on private property and free enterprise. Night-time satellite photos of the 38th parallel show bright lights and activity in the South, and almost total darkness in the North.

- When I lecture for the Handong International Law School, I tell the students and professors that the American constitutional system was founded on Biblical truth, but it is being corrupted by Darwinism and liberalism. Hold firmly to the principles, I tell them, but be careful to discern the errors.

- The most strongly Christian country in Asia, South Korea sends missionaries throughout the world. As I travel at night, it is heartwarming to drive into a South Korean village and see lighted neon crosses atop the churches across the town. But there are signs the church may be losing its zeal. When I speak for Korean churches, I often ask what is happening. The Korean Christians often reply, “The same as in America; we’re being spoiled by prosperity and success.”

- South Korea has been one of America’s strongest and best friends. The North’s invasion transformed the South Koreans into perhaps the most anti-Communist people in the world. In Vietnam, the Republic of Korea soldiers (the “ROKs”) were our fiercest and most dependable allies. But thanks to a liberal press and education system, that may be changing. The older generation looks to the North and says, “They’re Communist enemies! We must resist them!” The younger generation is more likely to think, “But they are our Korean brothers and sisters. Why can’t we be one people?” Just like Americans, Koreans forget their past. Just like Americans, they need to be reminded.

- American prisoners of war (POWs) in North Korea were subjected to cruel torture, including Communist brainwashing. Some succumbed to this brainwashing, believing Communism was good and America was bad, and a few even refused to return to the United States. The late Dr. Jack Scott, Professor of Psychology at Cedarville University, served as an Army psychologist during the Korean conflict and was involved with interviewing and debriefing ex-POWs. He made two most interesting observations: (1) The Communist brainwashing tactics consisted mostly of the kind of “hate-America” propaganda that is standard fare in American schools and colleges today; and (2) Two types of American soldiers were almost impossible to brainwash: those with strong religious convictions, and those with a solid knowledge of American history. Christian faith and American heritage -- this is precisely what the Left is trying to eradicate today! And it is precisely what we must restore if we would preserve America!

Colonel Eidsmoe serves as Professor of Constitutional Law for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy (obcl.edu), as Senior Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law (morallaw.org), and as Pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church, Notasulga, AL (woodlandpca.org). He can be contacted for speaking engagements at eidsmoeja@juno.com.

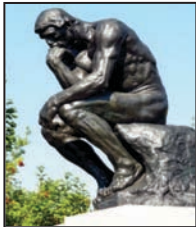
The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.



John Sophocleus

From One Big Soviet Bill: American Party’s birth

The views of submitted editorials
may not be the express views of
The Alabama Gazette.



THINK

Comrade Trump’s Big Soviet Bill further mashed the accelerator on our path to the junk heap of history. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act [OBBBA] is now law, adding hundreds more pages of unconstitutional text to the federal register. Echoing Speaker Pelosi (Trump’s past Kabuki Theatre friend when ‘donning’ his longer worn Blue Soviet jersey) shrieks “*We had to pass the bill to know what’s in it,*” our DC politburo is keeping

the trend to oblivion set by Comrades Trump (45) and Biden these past years. Prostitucians seem increasingly more confident of reinstallation since 1929 with a less representative HoR, a more easily purchased 17th Amendment Senate, duopoly party protecting anti-competitive ballot access laws, etc.

Perhaps OBBBA’s biggest joke (since Corwin’s draft to make slavery ‘permanent’ to dissuade so-called Cotton States from seceding in response to redistributive Morrill Tariff rates **prior** to the imposed 13th Amendment 12/6/1865) is *permanency* of 2017 tax brackets and other command and control, disuniform policies/programs. Moscow on the Potomac’s ‘hammer and sickle’ legislation will fare no better than the Moskva River mandates except much greater US wealth to squander and slower decay of the American Ruble after Nixon closed the gold window to enable more US soviet policies/programs. No scholar of history is surprised by Comrade Trump again cudgeling Jerome Powell to advance more cancerous growth instead of market driven comparative advantage outcomes that **Republicans In Normal Operation** loathed these past several score.

Tax Foundation’s report [7/9/25] entitled, *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act* by Daniel Bunn, Alex Muresianu and William McBride found, “...the largest area of reform is the Inflation Reduction Act’s (IRA) green energy tax credits; both the House and Senate approaches raise about \$500 billion over a decade, reducing costs of green energy credits by about half. Several IRA credits—like those for electric vehicles (EVs) and residential energy products—are repealed, while most others are restricted or phased out quicker.” OBBBA v. IRA illustrates consequences to Blue/Red political parasites (we’ll get to Musk) while the typical productive person in general observes increasing more taken from them by Biden’s ‘Inflation Production Act’ or Trump’s 2.0 ‘Big Abominable Soviet Act.’ Please don’t waste our time sending me correspondences about how good, bad or ugly the changes are specifically to you as one who won/lost from the recent politburo iteration destroying our once free Republic.

Bunn, Muresianu and McBride also wrote, “The new law spends far too much money on political gimmicks and carveouts. It introduces tax exemptions for overtime pay and tips, a deduction for auto loan interest, and an additional standard deduction available for some seniors, all of which violate basic tax principles of treating taxpayers equally. Combined, the four provisions cost more than \$350 billion over the four years they are in effect, and the cost would more than double if they are made permanent. Complicated eligibility restrictions for some new deductions reduce the cost somewhat, but it would be better to not introduce bad ideas in the first place. Lawmakers also made a costly mistake lowering effective tax rates on pass-through income relative to corporate profits, making the tax code less neutral with respect to business form. Considering the tax side alone, the law would reduce revenue by \$5.0 trillion on a conventional basis. Even after accounting for \$940 billion in dynamic revenue feedback and over \$1 trillion in spending cuts, the net deficit impact of the law ends up at \$3 trillion over the next decade.”

Of course Comrades Biden and Trump will not revisit the Hall and Rabushka Plan proposed by non-soviet economists like Dick Armeey to simplify the income tax code to a postcard sized form with more adherence to [Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1] uniformity text in the Constitution. According to Bunn, Muresianu and McBride, “Lawmakers could have reduced the law’s costs by trillions of dollars cleaning up the tax code. Options, including strengthening the limitations on itemized deductions, rolling back tax exclusions for various types of employer-sponsored benefits, and repealing tax expenditures, such as the credit union exemption and the low-income housing tax credit (which instead gets extended), would have offset more of the revenue losses from tax cuts. The law further complicates the tax code in several ways, sending taxpayers through a maze of new rules and compliance costs that in many cases likely outweigh potential tax benefits. No tax on tips, overtime, and car loans comes with various conditions and guardrails that, if enacted, will likely require hundreds of pages of IRS guidance to interpret. The changes to the IRA credits, while commendable in many ways, keep in place some of the most complicated rules, e.g., prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements, and add new ‘foreign entity of concern’ restrictions that may make many of the credits cost-prohibitive.”

The best illustration of Comrade Trump’s ‘hammer and sickle’ style soviet central planning (on par with China’s ‘one child’ distortions) are \$1,000 government wealth transfers for newborn children with various DC politburo provisions. So much for moving toward a uniform, simplified tax code, stable currency and debt

reduction to improve the quality of life and financial welfare of all in general instead of specific interests. Perhaps fatuity of this sort triggered the world-class Kabuki scene between a president deluded of ‘landslide’ victories and the world’s richest parasite shriek-fest w.r.t. Trump’s “big beautiful bill” Musk warned will increase federal deficits espousing “disgusting abomination” nomenclature.

Long time readers know I’m no fan of ‘genius’ Musk - I pray no one of Mr. Trump’s character and intellect ever calls me a genius. Furthermore, my distain for poor business people/accomplished parasites like Jeffrey Epstein, Kenneth Lay, Elon Musk, Robert Rubin, Jeffrey Skilling, DJ Trump, et al is unwavering. I thought just as poorly of Elon when sucking up to Obama and Biden as his \$288 million to re-install DJT. What more evidence is required to affirm Musk is a poor forecaster/judge of character than this? So in spite of (or because of?) Trump’s typical soviet threats of ‘consequences,’ Musk has announced birth of the American Party. Sad to witness how many politically ignorant in Alabama assert it is hard to start a third party. Starting is easy. Soviet duopoly parties’ (esp. now the more restrictive Red Party is back in power in our hegemonic State) anti-competitive ballot access laws, Pravda media (like PBS) blocking coverage/participation in debates - supported by over-degreed/under-educated incompetent federal judges like Moron Thompson, etc. is what’s hard to overcome.

The greatest living Alabamian champion of liberty and the Constitution (Judge John V. Denson) was the force which started the Libertarian Party of Alabama after Nixon lied to his face about wage and price controls, closing the gold window, etc. Again the soviet media asserts no American Party candidate will win and will simply be a ‘spoiler’ to determine which duopoly candidate is installed - as if the duopoly is owed a vote from those who refuse to waste their ballot on Democrats and Republicans to justify political thieves and prostitutes destroying their lives. Here at the epicenter of Felon Hubbard corruption, Lee County has one of the worst participation rates of eligible voters in the State. If the American Party does get some traction, be prepared to hear the tired old duopoly party defense... Reform Party Perot gave us Clinton, Green Party Nader gave us Bush, Libertarian Gov. Gary Johnson gave us Trump, etc.

This was addressed in a past **Alabama Gazette** column:
<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2016/12/01/opinion/bush-2000-versus-trump-2016/925.html>.

A Bridgewater, N.J. [6/7/2025] **AP** Report explained Trump warned Musk would face ‘consequences’ if he goes back to supporting Democratic candidates. Guess the Whitehouse won’t be a temporary Tesla dealership again anytime soon for Musk’s hyper-subsidized transportation appliances. Funny how the blue soviets weren’t attacking and burning these vehicles when Musk was sucking up to them... not that anyone seriously thinks the AOC, Sanders, et al sycophants stand on principle any more than MTG, Cotton, et al sycophants. The **AP** report made clear, “As a major government contractor, Musk’s businesses could be particularly vulnerable to retribution. Trump has already threatened to cut Musk’s contracts, calling it an easy way to save money.” Seems the richest parasite in the world can weather lame-duck Trump till the next Soviet is installed; RFK showed how getting on a few ballots can leverage political hacks like DJT who stand for nothing as they let nothing get in the way of their power and desired wealth transfers.

If Musk were better educated, he could have done some durable things to shrink government instead of being another chainsaw waiving, jumping buffoon character in Trump’s reality TV Kabuki Shows. One may take Elon a little more seriously with a heartfelt apology for all the largess he’s taken at the expense of better, more intelligent engineers and accomplished entrepreneurs who would’ve accomplished much more in producing durable, inexpensive vehicles, space exploration, etc. I was humbled and honoured to call some of them colleagues during my years at Ford Motor Company. If truly interested in the effort of advancing a non-duopoly party with a history of championing efficient government, consider the already established Constitution Party, Libertarian Party, etc. I’m leery of embracing a parasite like you Mr. Musk. On the other hand, after supporting so many soviets like Biden and Trump, perhaps you may show some sagacity and experience neutering malicious elements in these parties to be more successful than just getting Trump to not tax tips, end federal abortion subsidies, etc.

Again in closing, elections have consequences for political parasites as the increasing political theft from hosts levies the same harm regardless of who gets the wealth transfer. From Moscow on the Potomac to my Lee County Commission politburo members - the pollution from President to Probate Judge ‘progresses’ forward as any other cancerous growth metastasizes. The pollution carries on with the next cohort of soviets after lame duck DJT is gone; along with the entrenched henchmen of an aged out malicious probate judge, henchmen who will continue on... destroying lives in my county.

Grace in the Storm: Remembering the Girls of Camp Mystic

The Fourth of July weekend was meant to be a celebration of freedom and summer joy. But for dozens of families in Texas, it became a time of unimaginable loss. As torrential rains swept across the Hill Country, flash floods surged through the Guadalupe River, claiming at least 89 lives statewide — including 27 campers and counselors from Camp Mystic, an all-girls Christian summer camp nestled in Hunt, Texas.

The river rose more than 26 feet in less than two hours, turning a place of laughter and friendship into a scene of devastation. Pink blankets, stuffed animals, and waterlogged journals were found scattered among the debris — haunting reminders of the young lives that had filled the camp with energy just days before.

Among the victims were sisters Blair and Brooke Harber of Dallas, aged 13 and 11, who were not attending Camp Mystic but were in the area when the floods struck. Their deaths were confirmed by St. Rita Catholic Community, where they were beloved students. Also lost were 9-year-old Lila Bonner and 8-year-old Eloise Peck, both campers at Mystic. Their families, now grappling with grief, asked for privacy as they mourned the daughters they had sent off to make summer memories.

One of the counselors, Chloe Childress, had just graduated from The Kinkaid School and was preparing to attend the University of Texas at Austin. Known for her empathy and quiet strength, Chloe was remembered by her school’s headmaster as someone who “made space for others to feel safe, valued, and brave.” She died helping others — a final act that reflected the selflessness she lived by.

Another life lost was Jane Ragsdale, director of Heart O’ the Hills Camp for Girls, located nearby. A fixture in the summer camp community, Jane had spent decades shaping generations of young women. Her camp described her as “the heart of The Heart,” a woman whose kindness and wisdom left an indelible mark on every camper she met.

The tragedy has sparked national reflection. Senator Ted Cruz called the loss



“every parent’s nightmare,” acknowledging that in hindsight, evacuation might have saved lives. “Particularly those in the most vulnerable areas — the young children in the cabins closest to the water,” he said. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has called for an investigation into whether staffing shortages at the National Weather Service contributed to delayed warnings.

President Trump signed a major disaster declaration for Kerr County, unlocking federal aid for victims and first responders. He announced plans to visit the area later this week, stating, “We wanted to leave a little time. I would’ve done it today, but we’d just be in their way”.

As rescue teams continue searching for the missing — including 10 campers and one counselor still unaccounted for — families are left clinging to hope

and memories. The floodwaters may have receded, but the emotional toll remains high. Survivors have shared stories of counselors who acted heroically, guiding children to higher ground and shielding them from the rising waters.

Camp Mystic, long known for its ties to Texas political and social circles, now finds itself at the center of a heartbreaking reckoning. The camp’s website describes its mission as helping girls “grow in grace.” In the face of tragedy, that grace has taken on new meaning — seen in the courage of those who tried to save others, and in the resilience of families determined to honor their daughters’ lives.

The cabins may be empty now, but the spirit of the girls who once filled them lingers. In every song sung around a campfire, in every friendship bracelet exchanged, and in every prayer whispered by grieving parents, their memory endures.

As Texas braces for more rain and the threat of additional flooding, the state remembering the girls of Camp Mystic, we also remember the joy they brought, the love they shared, and the grace they embodied Texas flood girls.

Staff Writer

Huntsville Rising: The FBI's Strategic Expansion at Redstone Arsenal

Huntsville, Alabama — long celebrated for its aerospace legacy and technological prowess — is fast becoming a cornerstone of national security. At the heart of this transformation is the FBI's growing footprint at Redstone Arsenal, a move that signals a major shift in how the Bureau envisions its future operations.

Over the past decade, the FBI has steadily expanded its presence in Huntsville, but recent developments mark a new chapter.

FBI Director Kash Patel, during a June visit to the Redstone campus, announced that more than 500 full-time employees will relocate to Huntsville by the end of 2025, with plans for up to 1,600 additional personnel by 2027. This influx includes not only agents but also intelligence analysts, cyber specialists, and support staff — all part of a broader strategy to decentralize operations from Washington, D.C., and bolster mission resiliency.

"We are going to put more and more and more people here on a permanent basis," Patel said. "Redstone speaks specifically to cyber capabilities, terrorism, explosive capabilities — things we just can't replicate anywhere else in the country."

U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville(R-Alabama) has been vocal in supporting the FBI's expansion at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. Here are a few standout quotes from recent statements and letters:

In a joint letter with Senator Katie Britt to FBI Director Kash Patel, Tuberville emphasized Huntsville's strategic importance:

"We are proud to represent the great state of Alabama, home to Redstone Arsenal, which is the epicenter of the FBI's technological capabilities and advanced training."

He urged the Bureau to assign 1,000 additional employees to the campus as a first step toward filling 4,000 open slots, citing the need to address growing national security threats.

Tuberville has advocated for moving FBI headquarters to Huntsville.

"The best place for FBI headquarters is its state-of-the-art facility in Huntsville," Tuberville said recently.

He's argued that the city's infrastructure and federal investment — nearly \$3 billion — make it a natural fit for expanded operations.



The expansion is centered around the Richard Shelby Center for Innovation and Advanced Training, a sprawling campus designed to support cutting-edge forensic analysis, cyber intelligence, and tactical training. Redstone Arsenal's proximity to other federal agencies — including NASA, the Department of Defense, and the Missile Defense Agency — makes it an ideal location for interagency collaboration.

Yet, not all plans have moved forward seamlessly. A proposed pilot program to relocate the FBI's National Training Academy from Quantico, Virginia, to Huntsville was recently postponed due to infrastructure limitations. While the full relocation remains under consideration, the delay underscores the logistical challenges of scaling operations at such a rapid pace.

Despite this hiccup, the momentum remains strong. Huntsville's affordability, skilled workforce, and secure facilities continue to attract federal investment. The city's transformation into a national security hub has drawn bipartisan support from Alabama's congressional delegation, including Senators Katie Britt and Tommy Tuberville, who have advocated for accelerated hiring and infrastructure upgrades.

The FBI's presence at Redstone dates back to 1971, beginning with the Hazardous Devices School. Since then, it has evolved into a center for cyber defense, data analytics, and digital forensics, with facilities like the Tennessee Valley Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory and the National Defense Cyber Alliance playing key roles in protecting sensitive networks.

For Huntsville residents, the expansion means more than just federal jobs. It represents a long-term investment in the region's future — one that blends national security with economic growth. Local leaders are already preparing for the influx, with housing developments, transportation upgrades, and educational partnerships aimed at supporting the incoming workforce.

As the FBI continues to shape its 21st Century Workforce Strategy, Huntsville stands at the forefront. The city's evolution from Rocket City to Security City is well underway — and with each new building at Redstone Arsenal, the future of federal law enforcement becomes a little more Southern.

Support YOUR Local Law Enforcement



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

(334) 832-4980

♦ www.montgomerysheriff.com

Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy
Kevin Murphy



Firearm Familiarization Course

SEE ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY
INFORMATION ON PAGE 16!

On behalf of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, I am proud to offer the Firearms Familiarization Course to citizens of Montgomery County. This course is offered free of charge to our citizens. The Firearms Familiarization Course is a five (5) hour course. It is held one Saturday a month at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Firing Range. Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you do not bring children to this class. The first 3 1/2 hours are classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The remaining 1 1/2 hours are on the Firing Range under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master. We recommend that you bring your own firearm to this class; however, if you do not own a firearm, you can use one of our firearms during the course.

Projected 2025 Courses:

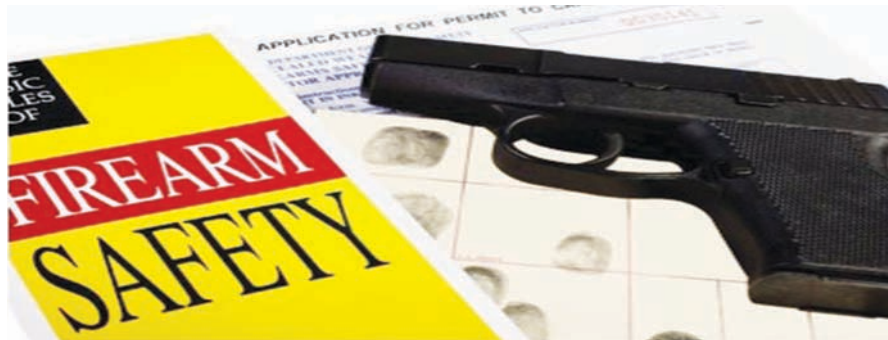
August 23rd

September 27th

October 18th

Enrollment

Complete the Firearms Familiarization Course Interest Form and submit, or print and drop off at the Sheriff's Office.



IMPORTANT

- Class participants must obtain a Montgomery County pistol permit prior to taking the class. Applications are made in our Legal Services Division at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, 100 South Lawrence Street in Montgomery on the second floor.
- Please keep in mind that pistol permit applications can be processed within minutes.

Autauga County SHERIFF'S OFFICE



(334) 361-2500

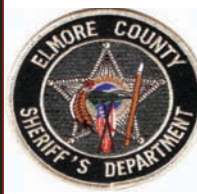
162 W 4th Street,
Prattville, AL

www.autaugasheriff.org



Sheriff
Mark Harrell

ELMORE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



(334) 567-5546

8955 US-231

Wetumpka, AL 36092

<https://www.elmoreso.com>



Sheriff
Bill Franklin

Lowndes County SHERIFF'S OFFICE



(334) 548-2222

1 S Washington St
Hayneville, AL 36040

[www.facebook.com/
LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/](http://www.facebook.com/LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/)



Sheriff
Chris West

POLICE OFFICERS PRAYER

Lord I ask for courage
Courage to face and
Conquer my own fears...
Courage to take me where
Others will not go...
I ask for strength
Strength of a body to protect
others and strength of spirit to
lead others...
I ask for dedication.

Dedication to my job to do it
well.
Dedication to my community,
to keep it safe...
Give me Lord, concern for
others who trust me and
Compassion for those who
need me...
and please Lord through it all
Be at my side.

AMEN



NOTICE!
PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE
AND VIEW THIS ISSUE AND
UPCOMING ISSUES ALONG
WITH CURRENT NEWS!
www.alabamagazette.com

Honoring Our Heroes



VETERAN NEWS

We Hope you enjoy reading the Gazette as much as our Veterans!



Robert Dinsmore



Jeremiah Bybee



Barbara Meek



Dr. Martha P. Simmons

The Alabama Gazette wants to honor Martha for the many years of service to our veterans.
She has spent countless hours interviewing, showing special attention, writing stories of the many great Veterans in our area that has served in so many of our American conflicts and wars.

Roy Drinkard Celebrates 105th Birthday “OLDEST LIVING MARINE IN U.S.”



July 11, 2025 – CULLMAN, AL – Candidates, office holders, and public figures joined the community of Cullman to celebrate the birthday of prominent community member Roy Rinkard. Drinkard is the oldest living United States Marine, having just turned 105 years old.

{Caroline and I are honored to stand beside Mr. Roy Drinkard’s family and friends today to honor a veteran who bravely served in World War II as a United States Marine,” said Congressman Robert Aderholt. “At 105 years old, Mr. Roy Drinkard continues to show what it means to live with courage, commitment, and purpose.”

Mr. Drinkard is a successful businessman and dedicated civic leader who has played a significant role in shaping Cullman, Alabama, for generations. He is also a longtime member of the Troy University Board of Trustees.

To honor his life of service and commitment, Congressman Aderholt had a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol and a tribute entered into the Congressional Record. The Cullman Postmaster also presented him with a special set of U.S. Marine Corps stamps, a tribute for a true American hero.



Sen. Tuberville and Sen. Katie Britt attended Mr. Roy Drinkard’s 105th birthday party in Cullman. Mr. Drinkard served in the Marine Corps during World War II and went on to have a successful career in business. He is the oldest known living Marine in the United States. At the birthday party, Sen. Tuberville let Mr. Drinkard know that he submitted his inspiring story to the Veterans’ History Project at the Library of Congress and presented him with a letter from President Trump congratulating him on 105 years.

World War II U.S. Navy Centenarian Veterans Celebrate Birthdays



Henry Grady McInnis
Birthday: August 3, 2025
Age 101



Cecil H. Prescott
Birthday: August 8, 2025
Age: 100

*God Bless
the USA!*

Veterans August Birthdays

Richard Giordano..... August 2nd
Gerald Hopson Thompson..... August 2nd
Henry Grady McGinnis..... August 3rd
Fenton Wesley Johnson..... August 4th
Cecil H. Prescott Jr..... August 8th
Joan E Ford..... August 9th
Carolyn McMeans..... August 18th
Neal R. Schultz..... August 20th
Lisa Renee Davis..... August 21st
Andrew Carnegie Nolin..... August 22nd
Henry Craig Jenkins..... August 25th
Donald Lee Applegarth..... August 30th
Joseph Edward Boyett..... August 31st



Col. Gilbert Brian Eddy: A Legacy of Leadership, Honor, and Service



Col. Gilbert Brian Eddy, age 55, dedicated 29 years of honorable service to the United States Air Force. His military career was defined by steadfast leadership, global assignments and an unwavering commitment to supporting the well-being of service members because so many of his assignments were joint and their families. Today, he continues that mission through his work at BondFire Ranch, a nonprofit that he founded to serve military, veterans and first responders.

Col Eddy was born on June 17, 1970, in Livonia, Michigan, and he is the son of Gilbert M. Eddy and Elizabeth M. Blom. He was reared in Farmington Hills, MI, Schaumburg, IL, and Lake Wylie, SC, where the values of service and sacrifice were instilled from a young age. His mother's experiences surviving Nazi occupation in Amsterdam during World War II, which left a profound impact on his worldview and deepened his resolve to serve. After graduating from Charlotte Country Day School in Charlotte, NC, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business from the University of South Carolina and was commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Air Force ROTC program on May 6, 1992.

As a Force Support/Services Officer, Col. Eddy led a wide range of mission-critical programs in personnel management, morale, recreation, mortuary affairs and family readiness. His decorated career reflects his exceptional leadership and dedication.

Col Eddy's major awards and decorations are:

- Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster
- Meritorious Service Medal with seven oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster
- Air Force Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters
- Joint Meritorious Unit Award
- Meritorious Unit Award
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and three oak leaf clusters
- Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two oak leaf clusters
- National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with one oak leaf cluster
- Iraq Campaign Ribbon with two bronze stars
- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Korean Defense Service Medal
- Armed Forces Humanitarian Service Medal

Col Eddy's professional education included:

- Officer School, Maxwell AFB (1997)
- Command and Staff College, Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Maxwell AFB (2006)
- Air War College, by correspondence (2008).
- Master of Science in Emergency and Disaster Management, Trident University (2010)

Col Eddy's early Career encompassed assignments at Langley AFB, VA, Plattsburgh AFB, NY, and Anderson AFB, Guam, where he supported Operation Pacific Haven. He later served at Hickam AFB, HI, Fairfield AFB, WA, and Headquarters U.S. Air Force in Washington, D.C. where he contributed to the national programs in Air Force fitness and sports as well as legislative affairs.

His service included multiple overseas deployments, including to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2001 and 2003), Qatar and Iraq (2003) and Iraq (2005)—each placing him at the forefront of contingency and combat operations in support of U.S. and coalition forces.

Col Eddy held several command positions including:

1. Commander, 20th and 436th Services Squadrons
2. Deputy Commander, 65th Mission Support Group, Lajes Field, Azores
3. Section Head, Policy and Plans, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), Belgium
4. Director of Installation Support, Joint Base San Antonio, TX.
5. Commander, 18th Force Support Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan

In the final chapter of his active duty career, Col Eddy served as Commander of Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations (AFMAO) at Dover AFB, DE, from 2019 to 2021—a role that marked his second leadership assignment at the Port Mortuary having previously led mortuary operations as Commander of the 436th Services Squadron (2007–2009). At AFMAO, he directed the Department of Defense's only port mortuary overseeing the dignified return of fallen service members. Throughout his career including assignments as a base mortuary officer, Col. Eddy honored over 2,000 fallen heroes ensuring each was returned with dignity, honor and respect while providing care, services and support to grieving families.

After retiring from active duty on October 1, 2021, Col. Eddy founded BondFire Ranch, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Clanton, Alabama, to continue his lifelong mission of service. The Ranch provides healing outdoor experiences for military personnel (active duty, Guard, Reserve, retirees), veterans, and first responders. Programs include equine-assisted learning, hiking, fishing, camping, crafting and traditional bonfires—offering a space for meaningful, tech-free connections that build resilience and restore relationships.



AFMAO Dignified Transfer Dover AFB Flight Line

“Service has always been more than a career—it was a calling rooted in family, history, and purpose,” Col. Eddy shared. “Though I retired from active duty, the mission continues. Through BondFire Ranch, I carry forward that same spirit of service, now focused on healing and strengthening those who have borne the weight of military and first responder life.”

Personal Life and Legacy

Col Eddy lives in Clanton with his wife, Chairidy, and two of their four children. He is a proud member of American Legion Post 6 and First Methodist Church of Clanton. In his free time, he enjoys outdoor life and leading programs at the Ranch. Reflecting on his legacy, he said, *“I want future generations to know that I gave my life to serve others—in uniform and beyond—and that I built something lasting to help the next generation of heroes and their families to heal and to thrive.”*

For more information about BondFire Ranch, visit www.bondfireranch.org
bondfireranch@gmail.com
302-399-4612



Captain Jerry Lynn Huffstickler: Age 79



Captain Jerry Lynn Huffstickler served 25+ years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force **Service Code included:**

- (1) 4024: Aircraft Maintenance Officer for 10 years and four months,
- (2) 43370: Maintenance Scheduling Technician for 10 years and nine months and
- (3) 42153: Aerospace Ground Equipment for four years and six months.

He received the following medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons: Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Distinguished-Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit

Award with Valor Device with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four Campaign Stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with Star, Air Force Training Ribbon, NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Device and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Captain Huffstickler was born November 11, 1945 in Crenshaw, MS, to his parents, Joel and Janie Huffstickler. His father served in WWII in the U.S. Army in North Africa and Italy. After the war, his parents bought a 70 acre cotton farm, and it provided for them for the rest of their lives. Jerry participated in football and baseball during high school, and he graduated from Sledge High School in May 1963.

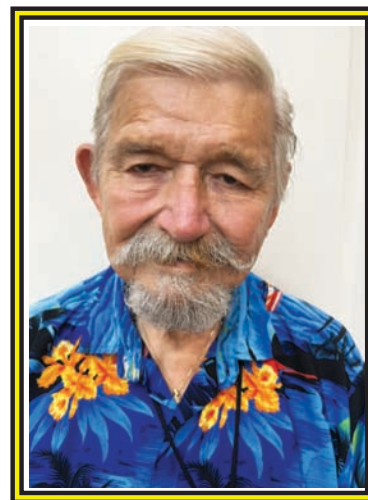
Captain Huffstickler's military service in the U.S. Air Force began in June 1963 when he volunteered and was inducted at Memphis, TN. He completed six weeks of Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX followed by six months of technical training to repair and to maintain support equipment for aircraft at Chanute AFB, IL.

His military career encompassed service at 10 locations with various assignments. His Air Force Service Code was in Aircraft Ground Equipment and Maintenance for his first four years in service. His first assignment was at McDill AFB, FL, for four years, and that included a notable TDY to Naha Air Base at Okinawa, Japan, for six months in 1964. This was the second and longest operational deployment of the Air Force's newest fighter, the F4C which was an American tandem two-seat, twin-engine, all weather long-range supersonic jet interceptor and fighter-bomber. This was followed by returning to McDill AFB, FL, until 1968. While there, he received a B.S. Degree in Business Management Economics at the University of Tampa. Next, he deployed to serve one year at Da Nang AB in north central Vietnam where he was subjected to confirmed 122

rocket attacks and a couple of mortar rounds. Then he served at Columbus AFB, MS, and while there, he prepared to finish his enlisted service. Next, he served at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, and while there, he received his Master's Degree in Human Resource Management from Pepperdine University in 1978. He then became an officer after completing Officer Training School (OTS) and became a 2nd Lieutenant at Lackland AFB, TX. He returned to working in aircraft maintenance by serving at Eglin AFB, FL. While at Eglin, he additionally served as a Detachment and Squadron Commander. Then he served for one year at Keflavik Air Base, Iceland, from 1982-1983. He then served for three years at Langley AFB, VA, at Tactical Air Command Headquarters. At that time automation in logistics consisted of using the punch-card machines supporting aircraft maintenance. He was preparing them to go from the punch card system to the Air Force logistics MMICS system, a Maintenance Management Information and Control System. He served as the leader of the small team making sure that the MIMICS system adequately supported the entire maintenance operations. His last assignment was at Maxwell Gunter-Annex AFB, AL, which has become the center of the Air Force automation and where he led 174 people in forever changing the way logistics functioned in the U.S. Air Force moving from a maintenance recording system to a pure on-line production system. Captain Huffstickler served as the Chief of Software Development for CAMS (Core Automated Maintenance System) and when he retired there January 31, 1979, CAMS was the largest Air Force Standard System. His duties also led the implementation of CAMS for our allies in Turkey and NATO making CAMS both a national system but an international system as well.

After his military retirement, Captain Huffstickler worked 20 years with Northrop Grumman, a company of advanced technology and innovation. He began as an analyst and concluded as a Vice President of Business Development level answering to the president. He is a member of the Disabled American Veterans and the VFW. He serves as an elder at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Montgomery, AL. Captain Huffstickler and his wife, Sandra, were married 33 years before she passed away, and they had six children and nine grandchildren.

Captain Huffstickler's conclusions about what his service in the U. S. Air Force means to him are: *“This first thing is pride and mission accomplishment; of being able to start with an idea and turn it into something real. I honestly believe that I led a unique career path, and no one since has been able to follow it. I loved the military, and I loved the Air Force. When the stars and stripes go by, pride still wells up in my heart. When the Star Spangled Banner is played, I flush with excitement. It doesn't go away, and I don't want it to.”* He would like people to remember him as laser focused, production oriented and the best leader that they have ever had.





SGT Theodore Irvin Jackson: Age 95



SGT Theodore Irvin Jackson served four years in the U.S. military including two years on active duty in the Army and two years in the Army AL National Guard during the time of the Korean War. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Radar Operator.

SGT Jackson was born June 15, 1930 to his parents, Asa and Velma Jackson, in Walker County, AL. He was reared in Walker, Jefferson, Montgomery and Crenshaw Counties, AL. He dropped out of high school when he was in the 10th grade and worked on his father’s farm in Crenshaw County where the family raised and sold peanuts and vegetables.

from Troy State Teachers College which is now Troy University in March 1955. While there, he worked as the lab assistant for 1.5 years. After his graduation, he began teaching chemistry, junior high school mathematics, and biology at Monroe County High School, AL. Then he received a Master of Education Degree from Alabama Polytechnic Institute which is now Auburn University in 1956.

Russia launched Sputnik, the first Earth artificial satellite on October 7, 1957. Because of this, the U.S. Government was concerned that the youth in American were not being educated well enough in mathematics and sciences. SGT Jackson was sent to the University of Montevallo during the summers of 1958 and 1959 and to the University of Georgia to retrain in teaching high school mathematics and science. He then worked in Montgomery, AL, teaching mathematics and science courses at Floyd Junior High School for one year. This was followed by his teaching at Sydney Lanier High School where he taught chemistry for three years, taught physics for two years and worked as Assistant Principal for six years. His last employment with schools was at Capitol Heights Junior High School where he served as the principal for 15 years. While he worked as principal, during the evenings, he also taught calculus and chemistry to Air Force Service personnel at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. He retired from all employment as an educator in June 1987 after working for 33.5 years. He then began working with management of rental houses that he and his wife owned, and the by time that he retired from this in February 2022, he managed 10 houses.



He and his wife, Betty, were married 72 years before she passed away, and they had two daughters, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He is a member of the Vaughn Park Church of Christ in Montgomery. In his leisure time, he enjoys playing bridge and working 3D puzzles which is a jigsaw puzzle that when assembled creates a three-dimensional object. Recently, he completed the assembly of a 700 piece 3D puzzle of the U.S. Capitol.

SGT. Jackson’s conclusions about his military service are: *“It meant that I was able to leave the farm and did not have to return to the farm to work.”* He would like to be remembered as a person who never smoked cigarettes, used alcohol or used vulgar language. Whenever he took a job, he would take care of it.

SGT Jackson volunteered for military service at Luverne, AL, and began service September 1, 1950 with the AL National Guard. His unit was activated during the same week that he enlisted. He rode a train to north Georgia to Fort Gordon. It was a significant US Army installation playing a crucial role in training and preparing soldiers for the conflict during the Korean War. The inductees were tested to determine what area of service they would be assigned. SGT Jackson scored highly and was assigned to work with radar operations. He then spent seven months at Fort Stewart, GA, training in artillery and radar operations. He was assigned to work at Detroit, MI, for 15 months where artillery involving the 711th Brigade Support Battalion’s four 90 mm guns and radar equipment were installed in case of need in defense of the Russians during the Cold War. While there, he also served in Kalamazoo, MI and in Minnesota, and the troops slept in tents. His military service commitment ended on September 1, 1954, and he was discharged at Ft. Rucker, AL.

After his military service ended, SGT Jackson used the G.I. Bill to attend college. He first began studies in pre-engineering, but he switched to education and graduated with a BS Degree in Secondary Education with emphasis in science



Sage Health Honors Veterans

Veterans in the tri-county area were honored on July 2, 2025, with a pre-4th of July celebration at Sage Health in Montgomery. Sage Health celebrates veterans not only for the sacrifices that were made during their service but also educates and offers them an alternative to the VA for primary healthcare. The event was attended by over 35 Veterans, veterans’ spouses and market partners who enjoyed barbecue with all the fixings from Jim ‘N Nicks Bar-B-Q while being entertained with patriotic, folk and gospel songs performed by Frank and Cindy Clem. The event was sponsored by Cigna Healthcare which has several Medicare Advantage Plans available to seniors and senior veterans.

Sage Health is a value-based, primary healthcare clinic focused on seniors aged 55 and older. Sage Health provides “Wiser Healthcare for Seniors”. Their value-based healthcare

model treats each of its patients proactively rather than reactively. They want to see people even when they feel great to help prevent them from getting ill.

Sage Health Providers treat their patients with compassion, spending quality time with each one of their patients. They can do this because each physician’s panel is capped at 400 patients vs 2500 to 3500 patients in a traditional Fee-For-Service model. They will coordinate all patients’ specialists’ appointments for them and arrange transportation, if needed, to and from their appointments.

Please stop in for a tour of their state-of-the-art facility with its wonderful staff and clinic at 2948 Carter Hill Road, Montgomery, AL 36106 or call (334) 694-2262 to schedule a VIP tour.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

The POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at the Alabama State Capitol South Lawn, 600 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36130.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is an annual observance in the United States dedicated to honoring and remembering the sacrifices of American service members who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those who are still missing in action (MIA). This day serves as a reminder of the nation’s commitment to accounting for every service member who has not returned home and to recognizing the courage and resilience of those who endured captivity. It is a time to reflect on the cost of war and to express gratitude for the bravery and dedication of those who have served and continue to serve the country.

COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR FOR ALABAMA



Tuberville Honors Elaine McLeod of Troy as “Veteran of the Month”

“Veterans are the very heartbeat of the Wiregrass, and they bond together to support many great causes in the region. Among those leading the way is Corporal Elaine McLeod of Troy.



The daughter of a Korean War veteran, Elaine joined the Army after graduating from high school in 1974. She served as a military police officer, doing everything from guarding Air Force One to scrubbing floors of the barracks. Elaine says the Army gave her the discipline that was missing in her early years. In 2000, Elaine returned home to Troy where she quickly began getting involved with local veteran organizations—including the Montgomery Chapter of Vietnam Veterans for America, AMVETS, and the Ozark American Legion Post where she now serves as the Commander. Elaine has worked tirelessly to address needs in the veteran community—including homelessness and food insecurity.

Alabama is grateful for Elaine’s willingness to take on challenges to improve quality of life for our heroes. It’s my honor to recognize her as the “Veteran of the Month.”

Senator Tuberville recognizes a different Alabama veteran each month for their service and contribution to their community. Constituents can nominate an Alabama veteran and submit their information to Senator Tuberville’s office for consideration by emailing: press_office@tuberville.senate.gov.

Senator Tommy Tuberville represents Alabama in the United States Senate and is a member of the Senate Armed Services, Agriculture, Veterans’ Affairs, HELP and Aging Committees

Tuberville, Moran Introduce Legislation to Give Cost-of-Living Increase to Veterans

WASHINGTON – 07/23/2025, U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) joined U.S. Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) and other colleagues on the U.S. Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee in introducing the *Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment of 2025 (COLA) Act*. The legislation would ensure the rate of disability compensation and other financial benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for veterans and military survivors keep pace with rising costs and inflation, as is for Social Security benefits.

“As Alabama’s voice on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, I want to ensure we take care of those who have protected us,” said Senator Tuberville. “Veterans’ hard-earned benefits should keep pace with inflation and rising costs of living. I’m proud to join this legislation that would require the VA to account for a cost-of-living adjustment in its annual bottom-line budget. The department exists to serve our brave veterans, and this is one commonsense way to keep that mission top of mind.”

The legislation would increase certain VA benefits including disability compensation, clothing allowances and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children to reflect the reality of increases in the everyday cost of living. It comes as one of several pieces of legislation Senator Tuberville has helped introduce this year to help our veterans, including the *Automotive Support Services to Improved Safe Transportation (ASSIST) Act*, *Veterans Home Choice Act of 2025*, *Veterans First Act of 2025*, *Veteran Fraud Reimbursement Act*, *HBOT Access Act*, and *Veterans’ Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers (ACCESS) Act of 2025*.

McFarland Heights

NEW SUBDIVISION IN TUSCALOOSA!



Great Opportunity to Build Your Dream Home!

Property Description

These brand new subdivision lots are now ready! This subdivision has 6 lots with 1+/- acres. This land is perfect for a basement home if desired. Surrounded by beautiful trees, this area allows for total privacy. Covenant to town but far enough to offer peace and quiet. This would be a great prospect for both builders and homebuyers who would like a custom-built home!



Property Features

- 1+ Acres Lots
- Single Family Lots
- Private Wooded Lots
- No Mobile Homes Allowed
- Minimum House Size
- Restricted Covenants
- Convenient Location
- Perfect for Basement Home



Billy McFarland

j.w.mcfarlandjr@gmail.com

Link To Website:
https://buffexllc.com/

Call Today!

Buffex, LLC. 205-887-0591



Brantley Bank

Strength. Trust. Commitment.

9402 N Main St. Brantley, Alabama 334-527-3206

105 Main St. Ramer, Alabama 334-562-3257

9545 Vaughn Rd. Pike Road, Alabama 334-676-8220

207 Forest Ave. Luverne, Alabama 334-304-4265



Termite Control

Professional Pest Control



SERVING THE PUBLIC FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

740 MEMORIAL DRIVE
PRATTVILLE, AL 36067

GREG BOWEN
334-365-4610

Thank you for your support over the years!

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

THEY MAKE THIS NEWSPAPER POSSIBLE. WE ARE DEDICATED TO HONORING OUR HEROS AND SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS! TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS MONTHLY BOTH IN PRINT AND ONLINE, PLEASE CALL — 334-356-6700. LEAVE A MESSAGE - SOMEONE WILL RETURN YOUR CALL. WE VALUE YOUR SUPPORT!

The Honor Flight Mission and Vision

Since 2005, the Honor Flight Network has honored 317,128 veterans from all across the U.S.A. by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation’s memorials in Washington, D.C. Its vision is to provide all of America’s veterans with receiving the honor, gratitude and community support that they deserve. The Honor Flight Network is a 501 © 3 nonprofit organization with a four out of a four-star rating by Charity Navigator.

The first flight of the Wiregrass Honor Flight occurred on June 4, 2025, and what an experience it was! It wasn’t just a trip to Washington, D.C. for eight veterans from the Wiregrass area in southeastern AL. It became a transformative journey, rekindling faith, mending hearts and military heroes with the appreciation that they so richly deserve. Travis Parker, the President and Founder of Wiregrass Honor Flight, states, “We feel blessed to be a part of something that truly changes lives. Many veterans find a renewed belief in humanity, and they leave with a brighter outlook.” For the eight veterans including two who served in Korea and six from Vietnam, this wasn’t merely a sightseeing outing. It was a day filled with solemn reflections, emotional tributes and a long-overdue public acknowledgment. Many of these men came back from their service years ago especially those from Vietnam without the welcome that they deserved.

After a whirlwind tour of our nation’s monuments at Arlington National Cemetery for the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the WWII Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Wall, the Marine Corps War Memorial, the Air Force Memorial and the U.S. Capitol, the veterans flew to Birmingham, AL, where they were greeted with a special homecoming by the Sons of the American Revolution State Color Guard and the Law Enforcement Bagpipe and Drum Band. The airport was packed with cheering, flag-waving supporters along with a rare double water cannon salute at the Birmingham Airport. During the remaining automobile ride home to the Wiregrass, the veterans were greeted in Montgomery by State Representative Redd Ingram and retired Rear Admiral Kent Davis. While traveling in Troy and in Dale County, members of the Patriot Guard Riders and the American Legion greeted the veterans, and the Dale County Sheriff’s helicopter resumed aerial coverage for the last leg of the journey home. When they arrived at the Daleville Convention Center, another enthusiastic crowd awaited them waving flags and holding welcoming signs. The day ended with a final outdoor cannon salute capping off a remarkable 18 hour day of honor that had begun before dawn.

The next Wiregrass Honor Flight is scheduled for early October 2025. Fundraisers are in full swing to support this endeavor ensuring more veterans can be honored. Veterans who served between 1941 and 1975 are eligible for a no-cost flight. Guardians are needed to accompany aging veterans who are all in their 70’s to 90’s who may require some extra assistance during a busy day. There is also room for volunteers in roles that range from fundraising to coordinating homecomings and preparing for the flight. To become involved or to find out more information, check out www.WHFal.org where forms can be filled out to support in various ways, flying as or with a veteran, helping at events or donating.



American Red Cross
Volunteering with Service to the Armed Forces
Volunteers are needed for the following
positions in the Central AL area:

1. Local Level VAVS Representative: This leadership position is responsible for assisting the local representatives in supporting coordination between the Red Cross and the VA Health Care Facilities.
2. Maxwell Health Clinic Volunteer: This person provides assistance with tasks in a clinic setting and supports staff in a variety of tasks with patient care as well as enhance the morale of patients.
3. Service to the Armed Forces-Event Volunteer: This person supports the Services to the Armed Forces Department and assists with programs such as Military Stand-downs, Yellow Ribbon events, parades and other events.

To apply, please visit: www.redcross.org/volunteer

For more information: Contact: Sandy Zuiderhoek: phone: 334-201-1620 or E-mail: sandy.juiderhoek@redcross.org



Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1
www.veteranscrisisline.net

YOU ARE NEVER
ALONE...

Always Remember the
Men and Women who have served our
great nation and the sacrifices they made.



Veterans are entitled to a
patriotic ceremony at their
funerals. Raymond Keel will
provide this service for free!
Call him at 334-233-8736
or visit
<https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org>.





Dr. Lester Spencer
President Pro Tem
Alabama Emerald Coast Conference
9001 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, Alabama, 36117
Email: Lester@aecgmc.org
Tel: (334) 245-0260 - Web: www.aecgmc.org

Soul Searching...



GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
ALABAMA EMERALD COAST CONFERENCE

Lose Your Mind and Find Your Soul (Reflections Amidst The Giant Sequoia Trees)

Recently, my wife, Janeese, and I explored the Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada's of California. John Muir, the famous Scottish born, American naturalist was one of the early explorers of the Sequoias, Yosemite and many other areas that later became National Parks. He was one of the first to see and write about these gigantic trees. In fact, he was an early advocate for the preservation of all of the American wilderness and is called the "Father of the National Parks."

While visiting the Sequoias, I saw numerous quotes from John Muir, but this one sign with a quote from him really stuck out to me, "Into the forest I go to lose my mind and find my soul." There is a spiritual truth here I have found to be a blessing for me. As I wonder into God's creation and reflect on the magnificence found in the beauty of the trees, the plants, the mountains, the wildlife, the rivers and streams, my soul is drawn closer and closer to God.



and all the other land animals and sea creatures are not simply the result of millions of years or billions of years of evolution. Remember, things do not naturally more toward being more and more complex. God created this amazing, extraordinary and complex planet earth, and all of its fascinating creatures, trees, plants, rivers, streams and oceans are his handiwork. And, of course, you can add on the two trillion galaxies that are exponentially complicated, connected and operate in a very distinct and exact order. Now. Back to the Sequoias. Hiking in the presence of these giant Sequoias feels like you are in a breathtaking wonderland that time forgot.

We have visited many of the National Parks over the years, but this was our first time to hike among the giant Sequoia trees in Sequoia National Park. I must say that it was truly inspiring and caused me to be filled with awe and wonder as well as gratitude to our creator. Standing at the foot of any one of these giant Sequoia trees and looking up at its massive trunk and huge branches is the kind of experience that causes one to reflect on your soul, your existence and your place in the world! Walking in these forests in the midst of these mammoth trees feels like you are walking in the wonderland of the prehistoric Garden of Eden!

Did you know? Sequoias are the largest trees in the world. The tallest Sequoia is 311 feet. The oldest one is 3,200 years old. They only grow in this one part of the world in the Sierra Nevas of California between 5,000 and 7,500 feet elevation.

The Sequoia trees were so awe inspiring to me they caused my soul to want to reflect in wonder and worship our Creator God! They are more beautiful than any man made cathedral ever built, and that is saying a lot since I have seen and been inspired by many of the most incredible cathedrals in Europe.

Let me give you an example of what we experienced and why it challenged and inspired our souls: The General Sherman Tree is one of the most famous Giant Sequoia trees - it largest living thing on the planet at 36.5 feet in diameter, 52,500 cubic feet, 1,385 tons, 275 feet tall and 1,000 years old. As big as it is, it's still not the tallest Sequoia or the biggest around or the oldest. But by volume, it is the largest tree in the world, because of the fact that its diameter is very wide all the way to the top.

As I stood there staring up at this giant tree, I said out loud to Janeese, "**How can anyone NOT believe in a Creator / a Divine Designer?**" The experience caused me to reflect on some of the following things. There is no logical explanation for the wonder and majesty of this incredibly beautiful tree. Some would have us believe that these Sequoias and all the beautiful trees, plants, animals, mountains, rivers and streams in the world including precious human beings evolved by mere chance from some single cell organism that formed over millions of years in a primeval swamp. I was an Animal Science Major at Auburn, and I remember something I learned in a college course about the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics that essentially states that systems tend to naturally evolve from a state of order to disorder. Take a deck of cards for example. There is only one way for them to be perfectly ordered (spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs all in order), but there are countless ways for them to be disordered. Same is true in life. Things tend to get messy, objects degrade and systems become less efficient over time. My point is this: science tells us that things do not tend to evolve naturally toward being more complex and precise. Therefore, the beautiful and intricate creation we live in could not and did not evolve from a random mixture of gas and chemicals to become a living cell that eventually led to vastly complex living organisms which are now creatures and plants of the land and sea. The plants and trees, the humans

Beautiful green ferns blanketed the ground as the giant trees rose above them and made you feel extremely small, and yet the wonder of it all filled me with a marvelous feeling as I meditated on being a part of Gods handiwork able to enjoy His inspiring creation. On these hikes in these enchanting forests amidst these towering trees, it inspired me also to reflect on the most important question in philosophy as posed by Brian Cox (philosopher/ physicist/astromer): "**What does it mean to live a finite, fragile life in an infinite and eternal universe?**" His answer (as a non-believer): "**While we are a only a speck of dust on a planet around one star among 400 billion stars in two trillion galaxies, we are the only ones and the only means by which the universe understands and explains and explores itself.**"

While this is true in one sense.....

I would add this: Because we are created in the image of God, and because we understand the universe and creation from a Biblical worldview, we worship our Creator God and give Him Glory and honor with our praises! Why? Because while we are humbled and grateful realizing that while we are but a small speck in the universe, yet we know too from God's Word that we are also created in God's image (**Genesis 1:26 "Let us make human beings in our image"**). Therefore, we are His image bearers, and we walk in His glory as men and women fully alive. The Bible indicates that we as human beings are the crown of his creation. And we are new creatures in Christ (**2 Cor. 5:17**). Jesus also said in John 10:10, that he "**came so we might live life to the fullest (abundantly)**". Irenas, the great Church Father also reminds us, "the glory of God is man fully alive."

My point is this. While we are to walk with Christ in humility, we are also called as Christ followers to walk in His glory. If Christ is in us, then the glory of God is in us too. We are as magnificent as any Sequoia Tree and even more so, because we are created in our Creators image ... we are His image bearers. May we be inspired by His creation like the beautiful giant Sequoias, but may we also be inspired by what we are created to be as His Image bearers.

Remember: Just as the giant Sequoia trees reveal his extraordinary creativity and radiate His glory. You too are a wonder of His creation, and you too can radiate His glory as you seek to walk closer and closer to Christ. Paul reminds us in **Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."**

So, I encourage you to take a walk in the woods soon (or on the beach or the lake). While you are there, try to "lose your mind" (turn off the noise of the world in your brain) and seek to "find your soul" as you ponder the fact that though you feel so very small in this big old world, you are in fact created in the image of your Creator who loves you and has a plan for your life!

"I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. Plans for good , not for evil. Plans to give you a hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

IDENTITY



Gary Miller

gary@outdoortruths.org

I was cleaning out my hunting vehicle as I do every year after the deer and turkey seasons. This time, however, I done a more thorough cleaning. I found licenses from several years back and from different states. A long time ago, I thought I would keep a license from every state I've hunted in. But I didn't. I figured they would only remind me of all the times I came home empty handed. The other reason is they are all pretty much the same. The colors or size may be different, but they all contain the same information. Name, address, SS number, height, weight, color of eyes and hair, and date of birth. Pretty boring stuff. Over the past several decades, I have only been checked by a game warden a couple of times. Each time, they take my take my license to make an identification. After that, they check my live-well, or my truck for any-

thing suspicious. Why do they do that after seeing my license? Because my license is only my identification. It's not my identity. My identification tells him or her who I am. My identity tells them what I am. You see, Identification is how others distinguish you.

Identity is how you distinguish yourself. Identification is what's on the outside; identity is who you really are on the inside. Identification is how others recognize you. Identity is how you recognize yourself. And here's the thing. If you don't know who you are, there will always be someone who will be more than happy to tell you who they think you are, or who they think you ought to be. And that can be disastrous.

How do we know what our identity is? Well, it always comes from our creator. That is, when someone creates something, they know why they created it, what they created it to do and be, and what their own relationship to it is supposed to be. So, what does that say about our identity? It says that we can either get it from an outside source, or we can get in from God – the One who created us. One

cannot be trusted. The other can. So, what does God say about us? He says our identity is not found in our successes or failures. It's not found in our past, present, or future. It's not in our awards, affiliations, or attributes. It's not in our pain, persecutions, or problems. Our identity is found in what God says about us. What is that? Let me give you a few things found in the Bible.

- I was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world
- I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins through the grace of God
- I am forever free from condemnation.
- I am an heir of God and fellow heir with Christ.
- I have received the Spirit of God into my life that I might know the things freely given to me by God
- I have been given the mind of Christ.
- I am blessed with every spiritual blessing.
- I am God's workmanship, created in Christ to do His work that He planned for me.
- I am a citizen of heaven.
- I have been made complete in Christ.
- I have been given a spirit of power, love, and discipline.
- I may come boldly before the throne of God to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need
- I have been given all of God's promises.

My identification is not my identity. Neither is yours.

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 21 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. gary@outdoortruths.org





JUDGE PEGGY GIVHAN

Southern Gardening Potpourri for August



Many times we say, "thank God it's Friday" and I say " thank God it's August" with the same meaning. I am ready for a change of seasons, for the smell of fall in the air, and the end of the dog days of summer.

In August we are nearing the end of the summer, a sort of transition month in the garden. The heat has not let up and even though we have watered religiously, some plants have reached the end of their life span. We see some dead plants and those on their last legs, so to speak. If you made a 2025 garden plan, it will be easier to see what needs to come out and what needs to be cut back. You may have already determined the replacement plants for the fall. Some of the main tasks include:

- 1. All spent perennials will need to be cut back to about 3-4 inches from ground level. When I say spent, I am referring to those that appear dead. Normally, these do not include daylilies, canna lilies, Lilies of the Nile. These will naturally die back later.
- 2. Remove annuals that have breathed their last and are just hanging on to life with a leggy bloom. These would include petunias, vinca, zinnias, impatiens, salvia spicata, marigolds. Some of these would have gone into the fall had they been pruned back in early July.
- 3. If you would like to save Caladium bulbs for next year in Zone 8, then lift them out of the ground, and set aside for about 2 weeks for the leaves to turn brown. Then remove the soil and store the bulbs in a brown paper bag with a light sprinkling of Sevin dust. Sevin, in powdered form, is available in nurseries and the big box stores. Place the bag in a garden room or somewhere that the bulbs will not freeze. I have had good luck with layering the caladium bulbs with sawdust.

4. Need I even list this one, weeding. One reason weeding is important now is that these weeds develop seed heads, which, when they germinate, will make life even harder next season.

Planning and planting for the fall beds should occur soon. First we will need to clear out the patches of spent flowers, add fresh soil, add fertilizer and plant. Now is also a great time to sow a new crop of zinnias, cleome, and cosmos, all of which will bloom until a freeze. Just pay attention to the plant's requirements, as the sun exposure may change with the seasons.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--ASTILBE

These are long lived perennials with conical flower clusters which bloom in early spring and thrive in our Zone 8. They must have moist soil, or they will suffer a sure death. They are tolerant of many different light levels, and only need fertilizing once per year. However in our region, they will need some shade from the hot afternoon sun. Astilbes have a wide range of colors and have been named the aristocrats of the garden. One caveat: they do not benefit from removing their spent flower heads.



service@easytogrowbulbs.com

Good Gardening

Today's Woman Trisston's Tidbits:

By:Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms.Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com



“Throw it on God”

Let's get rid of some unnecessary weight today. I'm sure you're familiar with the scripture in **I Peter 5** that says, *“Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God so that you can exalt you in due time. Casting all your cares on Him because He cares for you.”*

The way I look at it is that it is an aggressive form of humility because cast means to throw it...not to just hand it over or flirt with it before you give it to God. It says to throw that stuff off of you. But just don't throw it anywhere. Throw it to God.

The humility is knowing that I can't handle it, but God can. But it says to cast your cares. Cares refers to worries, difficulties, anxieties. Worries are thoughts that produce nothing but bad. So, throw it on God. How many times have you said **“I'm worried”** and it got better? Throw it on God. Difficulties are things that I can't handle on my own. So, throw it on God. When I was a child, my Granddaddy and I loved to fish. We would go and cast our line out. The goal was to pull something back in when we reel it in. Something that was better than what was on the hook when we threw it out.

You see, when we truly cast our cares on God, we don't reel back in the same thing. He gives us peace for the weary and replaces our anxiety with joy. One thing we know about fishing is we'll never catch one thing without casting it in. If our pride keeps us from casting our cares on God, we will get nothing for our pride because God extends grace to the humble.

“God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6
My friend, the stuff you're hanging on to today is worth not it. So, throw it all on God because He cares for you.

Many Blessings!



Humane Society of Elmore County News

**255 Central Plank Road (Hwy 9)
Wetumpka, Alabama 36092
PHONE: (334) 567-3377**

Huge shout out to the Walmart Supercenter Tallassee for giving our Shelter a \$1500 Community Grant! We are truly grateful that they thought of our work and the animals in our care to help us like this! This comes at our most challenging time of the year, and we can certainly put it to quick use to help even more special pets in need. So help us thank the team at the Tallassee Walmart location for being fellow animal lovers and stepping up to help our pets like this!

We also want to thank all of our incredible Volunteers at our Tail's End Thrift Store which is co-located with our Shelter at 255 Central Plank Road, Wetumpka, AL? This 100% Volunteer run operation is absolutely vital to our non-profit Shelter as all of the proceeds generated by the store's sales come to our Humane Shelter. Volunteering in our Thrift Store is a fantastic way to help our pets in a very big way.



There are numerous opportunities to volunteer at the Tail's End – helping receive donations (Thu-Sat, 9 am-noon), help shoppers, move items ready for sale to the store, check people out at the front register and just all those things that most any 'store' needs done to keep customers happy and merchandise flowing when the store is open for shopping Thu, Fri & Sat's from 9-3. But there are also volunteer opportunities Mon-Wed as received items have to be sorted, priced and tagged, clothes have to be sorted and sized (men, women, children, etc) and hung to make it easier to move them to the store and for customers to find what they are looking for. Some items need cleaning or checking out to make sure they actually work (small appliances, lamps, electronics, power tools, etc). Price researching is sometimes necessary for unique or collectible items, and items that have been sitting in the store for too long may need removed or marked down.

One other group that also deserves some very special thanks and recognition is our group of intrepid dog exercisers! While dog exercising sounds like fun (and it is) – it is also very hard, hot, funky and dirty work. While our staff is focused on taking in new animals, caring for the 350+ animals in our care, working with adopters and more, our Volunteer Dog Exercisers are seeing to the physical and mental health of our dogs by getting them out daily (Mon-Fri) for leashed walks or play-time in our exercise yard. Most dogs coming in to us have no experience walking on leashes so that creates the first challenge, and some can be quite a handful as well. Obviously a love for dogs is paramount, but being able to physically handle mostly large and exuberant dogs in this Alabama heat right now is a significant challenge. We know how hard they work and count our Volunteer Dog Exercisers as vital members of our Shelter family.

If you might be interested in volunteering with our Shelter, easiest way to get started is to go to our website at <https://www.elmorehumane.org/volunteer-information--forms.html>.

Yet another special group of volunteers are our foster families whose lifesaving work truly means the world to so many animals in need.



OPERATION IRON RUCK

Operation Iron Ruck (OIR) is an annual event hosted by the Auburn Student Veterans Association (ASVA) and the University of Alabama Student Veterans of America (SVA) to raise awareness and funds for veteran suicide prevention. As the state of Alabama has one of the nation's highest veteran suicide rates, OIR seeks to increase the public's knowledge on this issue while uniting veterans with the community, funding charities, championing veteran suicide education and supporting local veteran organizations.

Support our local
Veterans
organizations!



Patricia Killough
Community News

Home Town Community News

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is extending the enforcement deadline for the REAL ID (called STAR ID in Alabama) to May 7, 2025, in response to COVID-19. However, STAR IDs will still be available for issuance after May 7, 2025, at an ALEA Examining Office.



It's a Boy!
Congratulations to
Skylar & Molly Campbell
on the birth of their son,
Taylor Everett Campbell,

on June 27, 2025
weighing 71 lbs 14 oz
21.5 inches long.

Proud Grandmother is
Tina Cole Campbell

Great-grandmother
is Alice Law Cole
of Snowdown.



It's a Girl!
Congratulations to
Austin & Ashley Owens
on the birth of their daughter,
Annalise Ivery Owens,

on July 7, 2025,
weighing 6 lbs 4oz
19 inches long.

Proud Grandparents:
M: Chuck & Keisha Glasscock
P: Andrea & Miachell Owens
Great Grand: Loretta Grant



Students Go Back To School!

Montgomery County Schools:

Montgomery County Schools: Thursday, August 8
Pike Road City Schools: Thursday, August 8
LEAD Academy: Thursday, August 8
Alabama Christian Academy: Thursday, August 15
Macon East Academy: Wednesday, August 14
Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School: Monday, August 12
Montgomery Christian School: Thursday, August 8
Saint James School: Friday, August 9
Success Unlimited Academy: Wednesday, August 7
The Montgomery Academy: Wednesday, August 14
Trinity Presbyterian School: Friday, August 9
Valiant Cross Academy: Thursday, August 8
River Region Academy: Monday, August 12

Elmore County Schools:

Elmore County Schools: Wednesday, August 7
Tallassee City Schools: Thursday, August 8
Edgewood Academy: Friday, August 2

Autauga County

Autauga County Schools: Wednesday, August 7
Prattville Christian Academy: Monday, August 12
Autauga Academy: Friday, August 9



**AUGUST
WELCOMES
YOU
BACK
TO
SCHOOL**

Stop for school buses!
Watch out for children
crossing the road.

Our youth are the future
of our nation!



**LIFE ON
WHEELS**



We are serving women in Montgomery, Elmore, and Autauga counties five days a week!
Check our schedule tab to see our location
or call us on the mobile unit at 334-202-4994.

www.lifeonwheelsalabama.com



Healthy Living
starts here!

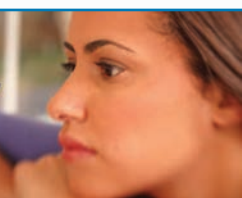


Alice Cole (334) 467-0867

<https://us.shaklee.com/site/acole/storefront>



Worried about privacy?
**CONFIDENTIALITY
IS OUR PRIORITY.**



Website: firstchoicemontgomery.com

Phone: (334) 260-8010

Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Fri. - 8:30 - Noon

380 Mendel Pkwy E Montgomery, AL 36117



**Elmore County
Pregnancy Center**

104 Company St., Wetumpka, Alabama

@elmcountypregnancycenter

Call (334) 567-1955

ADVERTISERS NEEDED

The Alabama Gazette is a FREE news publication!

We rely on our Advertisers to publish our printed paper and online website.

We reach out to over 255,000 readers on our website!

Please call 334-356-6700 or Email: alabamagazette@gmail.com

for your advertising needs.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Community Project



PROJECT LIFESAVER

Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program operated by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and public safety agencies across the country. The program targets "at-risk" individuals who are prone to wandering away from their safe environment. The program is designed to reduce potential injury of adults and children with the propensity to wander due to Alzheimer's, dementia, autism or other cognitive diseases. Research conducted by the Alzheimer's Association reveals that one in ten people in Alabama over the age of 65 and older have developed Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. The percentage increases with age: 17 percent of people age 75-84, and 32 percent of people aged 85 and older have Alzheimer's dementia.¹ In Montgomery, AL, approximately 15.1% of the population is 65 or older.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver is committed to assisting the community and keeping your loved ones safe!

Working Together

Through multi-agency collaboration of monetary and personnel resources we plan to issue bracelets to any resident suffering from a memory-impaired illness. The primary agency listed on the bracelets will be the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. The bracelet also contains a personal pin number that is registered to the client. Once contact is made with the Sheriff's Office, we will notify the caregiver of their loved ones location. There have been incidents when a person has wandered to another state.

Note: This program is not designed to obtain personal facts or information, but a program to assist caregivers in locating their loved ones with a propensity to wander from their safe environments. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to working with you to make this happen!

Technology Bracelets

Sheriff Cunningham has a Deputy assigned to the program for registration. This program was founded in April 1999 by the Chesapeake Sheriff's Office. It utilizes state-of-the-art personalized radio transmitters on identified persons who are at risk of wandering away from their safe environments.

Statistics from the National Alzheimer's Association reveal:

- 60% of people with Alzheimer's disease wander and become lost
- 75% are repeat wanderers
- 46% may die if not found within 24 hours

Hopefully with the use of these transmitter bracelets to assist victims that have a history of wandering, we can reduce the national statistics here in Montgomery County.

Applications

Please complete the form to complete the process.

- Project Life Saver Application

Additional Information

For more information, questions or comments

- Call: (334) 832-1369
- Fax: (334) 832-7112



Montgomery Sheriff Office
(334) 832-4980

♦ www.montgomerysheriff.com

CALL REASSURANCE PROGRAM

As Sheriff, I have witnessed several situations involving our senior citizens. Recognizing that they taught us what we know today, we should be there to protect them during their golden years. On several occasions, we have witnessed high temperatures in the summer which has placed several of our seniors at risk due to the massive heat, as well as the bitter cold days in the winter. To help reassure everyone concerned that our seniors are okay, the Sheriff's Office has launched this program to take away some of those worries.

Thank you for using... "Call Reassurance?@!"

Who Is Eligible?

This free service is available to any resident of Montgomery County over the age of 55 and residents who are home bound or medically disabled—either on a permanent or long term basis regardless of age. The "Call Reassurance?@" Program can be used with other programs as well.

Please check our website where you can download an application or contact the Sheriff's Office to learn more about other programs that we offer to the seniors in our community.

Interesting Facts

- The Call Reassurance?@ Program is often used as a wake up call for seniors.
- The automated message is a recorded message and can't respond to any verbal commands.
- The Call Reassurance?@ Program is not an emergency service.
- Program is free.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Did you know there are other phases to the program?

You can request an automated reminder to take your medicine or to remember a doctor's appointment. We can personally program your message for you with a day's notice.

- How does the system work?

You designate the day(s) and time you would like the service to contact you. Once you answer the phone, an automated message is played upon voice recognition.

- What if I don't answer?

The automated system will call up to 2 more times. After 3 attempts, we will contact your emergency contact or dispatch a deputy to check on you.

- What if I'm not at home?

Call Dispatch (334) 832-1328 prior to leaving and we will temporarily cancel the service.

- What if I have an answering machine?

Answering machines need to be turned off prior to the automated call. Keep in mind the automated call is initiated when a voice is heard.

- Does it matter what time you call?

No, any time is appropriate.

- What if I have a gate code?

The gate code will be notated on your information sheet. Make sure your emergency contact knows this information as well.

How To Enroll

Complete and submit the "Call Reassurance Program" form. Other Options include:

Mail it to:

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

c/o Call Reassurance Program

P.O. Box 4219

Montgomery, AL 36103

For more information, questions or comments

- Call: (334) 832-1369
- Fax: (334) 832-7112



www.alabamagazette.com

We always appreciate YOUR views.

Send comments to our email:

agpcontributors@gmail.com

alabamagazette@gmail.com

Contact us at 334-356-6700

**The Alabama Gazette Publishing
still believes in "PRINT".**

**Advertiser your business with
us online and in print!**

"Thank YOU" Gazette Advertisers!

You help us continue to publish the "Best Little Newspaper" in the Central & Tri-County area. The Gazette represents God, Family and Country, which is our Golden Standard for life.

Gazette Readers! When possible give these businesses a "thank you" just to let them know you enjoy and appreciate the great contributing writers, community news, events, etc. that the Gazette continues to share each month both in print and online.