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**MARIJUANA IS BACK BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE**

On Wednesday, April 5 the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee considered legislation to significantly increase the number of medical cannabis licenses that the state will award to businesses.

The 2021 legislation that legalized medical marijuana in the state of Alabama, strictly restricted the number of licenses that could be awarded. The most sought-after license is the integrator license, it allows a business to grow, process, transport, and dispense medical cannabis. The legislation limited that to a maximum of five licenses.

Senate Bill 276 would increase the number of licenses of integrators from five to 15. It also increases the number of dispensary and process licenses. SB276 is sponsored by Senator David Sessions (R-Grand Bay).

A number of persons spoke against the bill, arguing that increasing the number of licenses would too severely limited the profitability of the producers. Even some denied applicants who are presently suing the state over their permit denial spoke against Sessions' proposed solution.

SB276 was carried over by the Committee on Wednesday; but it could potentially return.

*Follow Brandon Moseley's important updates and news on the Alabama Gazette website!  
Read the complete edition of the Alabama Gazette on our website.*

**House Rejects Senate Gambling Bill**

On Thursday the Alabama House of Representatives passed a motion of non-concurrence on the Senate's gaming substitute sending the legislation to a conference committee.

"From the very beginning, we had three key goals with the House's comprehensive legislation," said Speaker of the House Nathaniel Ledbetter (R-Rainsville) in a statement. "Those included eliminating illegal gaming operations in the state of Alabama, developing a framework for the taxation and regulation of facilities that obtain licenses through an open-bid process and establishing a lottery that benefits education and education only."

Rep. Chris Blackshear (R-Phenix City) sponsored the legislation.

"More than 14 months went into crafting this package – the first comprehensive gaming plan to ever pass in the Alabama House of Representatives," said Blackshear. "We were thoughtful in our approach to addressing every aspect of this issue, and I truly feel that the House's final product is what the people want to vote on."

The House's rejection of the Senate's more scaled back plan means that the Conference Committee will be tasked with drafting a third gambling bill – that no one has seen before.

**DEMOCRAT AND REPUBLICAN RUNOFFS - APRIL 16TH!**  
**GO TO THE POLLS! VOTE**  
**See information on the candidates on page 2 & 7!**

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**DON'T FORGET MOTHER'S DAY**  
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# 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/>



## Few Surprises in March 5th Primary Results

There were very few surprises in our March 5 primary results. Since we are essentially a one-party Republican state when it comes to presidential, national, and statewide politics, most of the action was in the GOP Primary. The big winners were Donald Trump, Barry Moore and Sarah Stewart.

As expected, Donald Trump trounced all his GOP "would be" challengers in the Heart of Dixie. The former president received 84% of the vote in our Alabama Primary and will probably win our state by around a 63% to 37% margin in the November General Election rematch against the hapless Joe Biden, if indeed Biden makes it to the fall contest.

The biggest surprise was Congressman Barry Moore's upset victory over fellow GOP Congressman Jerry Carl in the newly drawn 1st Congressional District. These two conservative U.S. House members were thrown into the same district with the federal courts decision to redraw our congressional lines in an attempt to create a new majority minority district.

When the new 1st Congressional District was dictated, it was assumed by casual observers, pundits, and Washington insiders that Jerry Carl would easily win reelection because on paper he was the incumbent. He was the sitting congressman in the old 1st district and two-thirds of the people in that House seat were his constituents. The other one-third of the new district is comprised of the Wiregrass counties of Houston, Henry, Geneva, Coffee, Dale, and Covington.

When you corral this conservative Wiregrass region with the very conservative, populous Baldwin County, you have created one of the most conservative Republican congressional districts in the nation. The key to Moore's slim victory was his ability to penetrate some of the large Baldwin County vote and convince them that he was more conservative than Carl. However, the essential key was that Moore rode a tremendous wave of "friends and neighbors" support from his home folks in the Wiregrass.

He ran through the Wiregrass like a scalded dog. He got a whopping 74% in Covington County, 78% in Houston and Dale counties, 82% in Geneva, and racked up 84% of the vote in his home county of Coffee. Looks like the folks in the Wiregrass stood up and said, "Not so fast Mobile, we would like to have a congressman from our neighborhood if you don't mind." Moore beat Carl

52% to 48% and will go back to Washington as the Congressman from the 1st Congressional District of Alabama rather than the 2nd Congressional District.

Our other three seniority laden and thus powerful Republican Congressman are Robert Aderholt, Mike Rogers, and Gary Palmer. All coasted to landslide reelection victories. Robert Aderholt, a veteran of 28 years in the U.S. House, won with 87% of the vote in his 4th Congressional District. Mike Rogers, the current Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee who hails from Calhoun County and is closing in on 20 years in the U.S. House beat back two opponents with 81% of the vote.

Jefferson-Shelby County Congressman Gary Palmer garnered a very impressive 84% of the vote against two viable opponents in his reelection to his sixth two-year term. He is moving up in power and prestige in the U.S. House.

Justice Sarah Stewart won an impressive 61% to 39%, stomping of her opponent Bryan Taylor in her race to become Alabama's Supreme Court Chief Justice. She is imminently qualified for this very important position in Alabama government. The Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court not only renders important judicial decisions, along with the eight other members, they are also the administrator of the entire state judicial system. Sarah has served six years as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and prior to that was a Circuit Judge in Mobile for 16 years.

Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh was reelected to her fourth four-year term as President of the Alabama Public Commission with the same 61% to 39% margin of victory as Sarah Stewart. Alabama Court of Civil Appeals Judge Chad Hanson won reelection to his second term with a 56% to 44% margin of victory.

Rich Anderson defeated fellow Assistant Attorney General Thomas Govan by a similar 56% to 44% margin in a race for a place on the Court of Criminal Appeals. This was an open being vacated by popular jurist Chris McCool who is moving up to the State Supreme Court.

Next week, we will discuss the most hotly contested race this year, the contest for the new 2nd Congressional District.

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## Runoffs Set for New 2nd District Congressional Primary Races

The most interesting and paramount race on the ballot in the March 5th primaries was the one for the new open 2nd Congressional District.

This gerrymandered new district was created by the Federal Courts to implement a new Democratic/Black District in the Heart of Dixie. The Democratic nominee will be favored to win this seat in November. When the plaintiffs proposed their new district plan to the Court, they attached a chart, which illustrated that had there been a Democratic vs. Republican congressional race on the ballot the Democrat would have won in 16 of the 17 races. Washington insiders are handicapping this race as a Democratic pickup.

However, the Republican Party is not going to give this seat up without a major fight. There will be an avalanche of campaign money flowing from Washington into this race in the fall. This seat could be the deciding factor into which party has the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

With it being an open seat, both parties had a plethora of candidates. There were seven GOP aspirants and 11 Democratic hopefuls. Many of the Democrats were legislators, who lived outside the district. The ones who had no ties to the district fared rather poorly.

From the beginning, the front runner for the Republican nomination was former Montgomery State Senator Dick Brewbaker. He indeed led the ticket on March 5 with 39% of the vote. He will be joined by political newcomer Caroleene Dobson, who received 27%. She ran a perfect campaign and edged State Senator Greg Albritton out of the runoff. Albritton, who did very little campaigning got 25% of the vote, mostly from the southern part of the district.

Brewbaker got the bulk of his votes in Montgomery. He received 67% of the vote in his home county. He was a very accomplished and diligent State Representative and State Senator, and his family owned a very well known and respected car dealership for generations. He enjoys immense name identification in the Montgomery River Region.

Caroleene Dobson is a young mother and Montgomery attorney with an undergraduate degree from Harvard and law degree from Baylor. She grew up in Monroe County, the daughter of a prominent cattle family. She did well in

the rural counties of the district, probably bolstered by her being endorsed by Alfa. She defeated Brewbaker in Mobile and the southern part of the district. She has a chance to prevail in the April 16 runoff. However, with over a 12-point lead, Brewbaker will be favored to emerge as the Republican standard bearer for the fall battle royale.

Shomari Figures emerged as the new superstar in the Democratic Party with his very impressive performance in the Democratic primary on March 5. He garnered a whopping 44% of the vote Page 2 of 2 against 11 opponents, including five sitting Democratic State Legislators. The 2nd place finisher was Huntsville State Representative Anthony Daniels who finished with 23%. Representative Daniels is the State House of Representatives Minority Leader and began the race as the presumptive favorite.

Shomari Figures is the son of the very popular and prominent Mobile State Senator, Vivian Figures. His father, Michael Figures, was in this Mobile State Senate Seat prior to Vivian. He was a well-known Civil Rights Leader and State Senate Leader but died early in life. Shomari benefitted from his Mobile roots. He has also had a stellar career in Washington politics, working for the Obama Administration and more recently, Attorney General Merrick Garland. He also brought a boatload of Washington insider campaign money home with him, which helped propel him to an overwhelming and probably insurmountable lead going into the April 16 Democratic runoff.

Shomari garnered nearly 50% of the vote in his native Mobile County. However, the big story is that he received 40% of the vote in the second most populous county, Montgomery. He carried Montgomery overwhelmingly despite veteran Montgomery Democratic Kingpin Joe Reed endorsing Mobile State Representative Napoleon Bracy.

Young Mr. Figures' smashing victory in Montgomery may very well mark the political death of Joe Reed and his Alabama Democratic Conference control of Montgomery. Poetically, Shomari's father, Michael Figures, split with Joe Reed's ADC 40 years ago and formed the New South Coalition. Shomari may have settled this score for his father.

Mobile State Representative Napoleon Bracy finished third with 15% of the vote. Most of his voters came from Mobile. Most of those votes will accrue to Shomari Figures, who will be the prohibitive favorite to win the Democratic runoff on April 16.

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# DEMOCRAT AND REPUBLICAN RUNOFFS - APRIL 16TH!

GO TO THE POLLS! **VOTE**

See additional information on the candidates on page 7!



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Office (334) 356-6700



TeamTidbits@gmail.com  
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# HISTORICAL NEWS WE CAN USE!



**Justice Will Sellers**

## Espionage's Unintended Consequences

Fifty years ago, Americans were so distracted by Watergate that they failed to notice the unmasking of one of the most consequential spies during the Cold War.

Even today, few will remember the name Günter Guillaume; but most will remember a spy precipitating the fall of the West German Chancellor, Willy Brandt.

While it is hard to quantify exactly what state secrets Guillaume disclosed to his East German handlers, it is even more difficult to connect his espionage with any specific action taken or withheld which prevented or caused a foreign policy coup.

In fact, Guillaume's notoriety was not based on information he discovered but rather that he had worked his way up the West German political ladder and became Willy Brandt's personal secretary. In this capacity, Guillaume was privy to all top-secret communications Brandt received as chancellor, and 50 years ago, it was in the best interest of East Germany and its benefactor, the Soviet Union, to know exactly what West Germany and its NATO allies were thinking.

Guillaume and his wife were specifically recruited and trained to infiltrate the West German government. Before the construction of the Berlin Wall, travel between the two German nations was not restricted, so it was easy to send an East German couple across the border with the cover story of escaping communism.

Under the direction of East German's Stasi spymaster, Markus Wolf, the Guillames found work in various departments of the Social Democratic Party. They were aided in their advancement by other Germans sympathetic to the East German cause, and while Guillaume was not initially advanced on his own merit, once he obtained a position, he worked very hard, showed ambition and was promoted. In many ways he was a sleeper agent, inserted into a country without a specific mission, but encouraged to work his way into a position of trust and influence.

At this time, Germany was the focus of Cold War tensions and the flash point in global foreign policy. Debates about US and Soviet foreign policy seemed to revolve around Germany in general and Berlin in particular. In fact, the "German Question" was the sole remaining unresolved issue of World War II. Germany was divided by what were supposed to be temporary post war boundaries, but as time wore on, the temporary became more permanent, but only Russia continued as an occupying power.

The West German government would not even recognize East Germany and advocated re-unification by a popular vote. In opposition, the Russians liked having a divided Germany not only out of fear of German economic power, but also to have a satellite country in the middle of Europe. Inasmuch as other recognized countries were firmly within the Soviet sphere of influence, Berlin and Germany represented unfinished business that both superpowers used as a demonstration of their commitment to their respective world orders.

Germany became a political football, and each time the Soviets tried to isolate Berlin with blockades and other obstacles to free travel, the US and its allies would respond. This action and reaction went back and forth until a stalemate was reached after it became clear that reunification was impossible.

With the construction of the Berlin Wall, the division of the two Germanys was obvious and apparent, but neither the United States nor its NATO allies was interested in going to war—which might have meant use of nuclear weapons—to stop a wall that recognized boundaries previously negotiated.

The true impact of the Berlin Wall was to stop the mass migration of Germans to the West for opportunity and advancement, but psychologically, its construction was a statement against reunification. From a political standpoint, once reunification was removed as an organizing principle for the West German government, a new policy had to be considered.

As long as the possibility of reunification was present, West Germany could act boldly and refuse to establish diplomatic relations with any country other than Russia that treated East Germany as a separate country and dispute its post-war borders. But as time elapsed and the Wall separated the countries, a new policy emerged from the Social Democrats with the election of Willy Brandt.

Brandt would advocate warmer relations with neighboring Soviet satellites, acknowledge East Germany and seek rapprochement with Russia.

Initially, the East Germans and Russians were suspicious and wanted to know if Brandt was sincere or if these actions were a ruse. The East Germans relied on Guillaume to confirm the chancellor's motives as

well as evaluate NATO's response to his acceptance of a divided Germany and Soviet influence in Eastern Europe.

The Russians were afraid of NATO and its guarantor, the United States. Their hope was that Brandt's actions would create a split in NATO and divide allies over how to deal with him, his vision for Germany, and relations with the East. With Guillaume's placement, they were able to read all correspondence between the German chancellor and other NATO leaders.

They learned that rather than dividing NATO, Brandt's actions were actually creating a closer relationship with President Nixon, who supported the chancellor's policies as leverage against Soviet adventurism. Brandt's policies created a de-escalation of superpower hostilities, paving the way for détente.

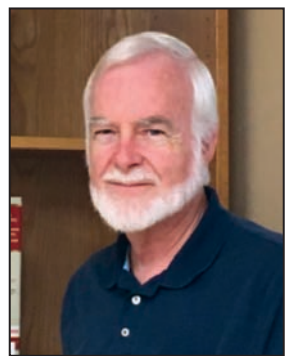
In the Cold War, achieving a peaceful co-existence was deemed progress, and while Guillaume helped the Russians understand and accept Brandt's policies as sincere and legitimate, the Soviet leaders became concerned that exposing Guillaume could damage Brandt. Thus, they prevailed on the East Germans to curtail contacts lest through mis-adventure Guillaume's true loyalties might be revealed.

It seemed in everyone's best interest to keep Brandt as chancellor, but Guillaume's wife had been careless in transactions with her East German contacts. As West German counterintelligence more carefully scrutinized relocated East Germans in government, Guillaume's role as a spy came to light.

When he was confronted by West German authorities, he admitted that he was a proud communist. His exposure shocked the nation, and within a few weeks, the unintended consequence of Guillaume's espionage was Brandt's abrupt resignation.

*Will Sellers is a graduate of Hillsdale College and an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama. He is best reached at [jws@willsellers.com](mailto:jws@willsellers.com)*

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**John Taylor**

## Lincoln's 1860 Nomination: A Machiavellian Bargain

This country has witnessed numerous political schisms since the beginning of the republic. We are presently bombarded with diverse and often intense political views--some real and some superficial. A distinct difference in political philosophy existed in the mid-1800s, mainly in the form of Jeffersonian vs. Hamiltonian principles. Reflecting his identification

with the old protectionist Whigs, Lincoln, who idolized Henry Clay, supported Alexander Hamilton's program of central banking, internal improvements, protectionism, and consolidation of federal power.

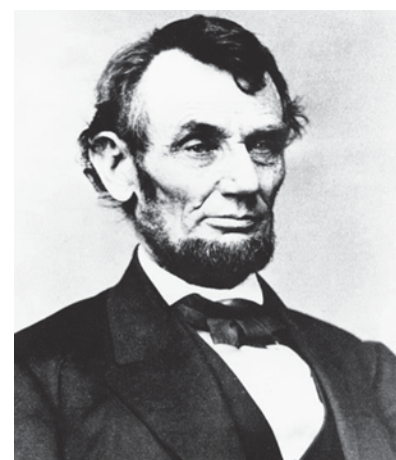
John Fremont ran as the Republican Party's first presidential candidate in the 1856 election. The party was a non-entity in the majority of the South, thus no Republicans appeared on the ballot in most Southern States in 1856 or 1860. The Republican convention was held May 16-18, 1860, in Chicago, an industrial and financial city. William Seward, a former lawyer, senator, and governor from New York, was the overwhelming favorite. Based on the practice of the day, Seward did not attend the convention, but instead sent Thurlow Weed, his political manager. Chicago bubbled with excitement in anticipation of the second Republican convention, held at the Wigwam, a new convention center built as part of the agreement to host the event.

Seward and Weed had good reason to be confident. "It required 233 votes to win, and New York alone represented almost a third of that total." Other candidates included Ohio's Salmon P. Chase, Missouri's Edward Bates, and Pennsylvania's Simon Cameron. Abraham Lincoln was considered a dark horse. His friend, Illinois Judge David Davis, was his campaign manager, and he was also allied with Norman Judd, the New York born representative from Illinois. "On May 8, just over a week before the convention, in Decatur, Lincoln was selected by his home State Republicans." Although less well known than the other candidates, Lincoln's February 27, 1860, Cooper Union Speech resonated with many Republicans, especially his opposition to slavery expansion and secession. Also, Lincoln's career had shown him to be a master of sophistry and fiscal irresponsibility. As part of the "Long Nine," Lincoln helped push Illinois to the brink of bankruptcy.

Accurately predicting Seward would not win on the first ballot, Lincoln and his team "printed hundreds of counterfeit tickets and distributed them to Lincoln supporters with instructions to show up early—in order to displace Seward's supporters." On May 16-17, while Weed entertained delegates and promised "oceans of money" for future projects, Davis and Judd "lobbied" States unfriendly to Seward, e.g., Indiana, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, etc.

On May 18th Seward's supporters, accompanied by a brass band, marched toward the Wigwam. Upon arrival they discovered Lincoln supporters with counterfeit tickets occupying their rightful seats. Despite the shady tactics of Lincoln and his supporters, Seward's backers remained confident. "Seward won the first ballot with 173 votes and Lincoln followed with 102 votes; Cameron, Chase, Bates, and the others received fifty votes or less, meaning the contest now boiled down to Seward and Lincoln. The wheeling and dealing of Lincoln's team now came into play and on the second ballot Seward received 184 votes versus 181 votes for Lincoln. As the third vote commenced, it was clear the momentum had shifted strongly toward the underdog. The third and final ballot resulted in 231 votes for Lincoln, making his stunning victory complete."

Ward Hill Lamon, Lincoln's friend and bodyguard, cast doubt on the means employed to secure Lincoln's nomination: "He was also nominated by means of a corrupt bargain entered into by Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania and Caleb Smith, of Indiana, provided Lincoln would pledge them cabinet positions. These pledges Lincoln fulfilled and thus made them a party to corrupt bargains." All involved were handsomely rewarded. For example, Chase was named Secretary of the Treasury and Bates was named Attorney General. Even runner-up Seward was named Secretary of State.



Entering the 1860 election, the Republican Party was backed by powerful factions, e.g., Northern railroad and industrialist interests. The railroads stood to benefit tremendously from federal subsidies (corporate welfare). One of Lincoln's supporters at the Chicago Convention was Grenville Dodge, the railroad expert Lincoln had consulted during his Iowa trip in 1859. Dodge, John A. Dix, Thomas C. Durant, John I. Blair, Norman B. Judd, and others saw "Lincoln vital to their plans of building a Pacific railroad from the Mississippi River..."

April is Confederate History and Heritage Month. Since the Confederacy was based on State sovereignty and voluntary, consensual government, most media will ignore it. This is the antithesis of "globalist" thinking. The next article will delve into the election of 1860 and provide a snapshot of the contenders. It will also touch on the South's concern about Republican efforts to allow, "preferred banking and corporate interests" to have undue influence within the federal government.

Sources: Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation, by John M. Taylor; "Abraham Lincoln and Iowa," Abraham Lincoln's Classroom, The Lehrman Institute at: <http://abrahamlincolnsclassroom.org/abraham-lincoln-state-by-state/abraham-lincoln-and-iowa/>; Trails, Rails and War: The Life of General G. M. Dodge, by J.R. Perkins [This book explains how crucial Lincoln's nomination was for railroad interests.]; Those Dirty Rotten Taxes: The Tax Revolts That Built America, by Charles Adams (New York, New York: The Free Press, 1998); A True Estimate of Abraham Lincoln & Vindication of the South, by Mildred Lewis Rutherford (Wiggins, Mississippi: Crown Rights Book Company, 1997); (The original book appeared in March 1923 under the title, The South Must Have Her Rightful Place in History.); Life of Salmon P. Chase; Lincoln: The Man, by Edgar Lee Masters (Columbia, South Carolina: The Foundation for American Education, 1997); "Lincoln Outfoxed Seward for the Nomination," from How Lincoln Won the 1860 Republican Nomination, Great American History, by Gordon Leidner, September 3, 2015, at: <https://www.greatamericanhistory.net/nomination.htm>; The use of "Machiavellian" is based on the definition of sly, devious, and a user of deceptive methods--all fitting descriptions of Lincoln.

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# Robservations...

By: Rob Tate



## Bits and Pieces #19: YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS STUFF UP

“Madness. Madness.” Well, it looks like we too are approaching the closing scene in our own movie. I look at many of the things going on around this country and all I can utter is, “Madness.” Let’s look at some of the things that should cause each of us to pause and think about who we elect to run this country.

**1. Senate Bill S. 3589: Look it up.** This bill introduced by Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), no surprise there, is titled “**Preventing Private Paramilitary Activity Act of 2024.**” At first glance, one might suppose this makes total sense. The idea of paramilitary groups running amok inside the country is a possible reason for concern. The long title of this bill is “**Prohibition of Unauthorized Private Paramilitary Activity.**”

This bill goes on to define things like ammunition, armed forces, dangerous weapons, firearms, large capacity ammunition feeding device and others. It then defines a private paramilitary organization as “**any group of three or more persons associating under a command structure for the purpose of functioning in public or training to function in public as a combat support, law enforcement, or security services unit.**”

**Section 2742** says, “it shall be unlawful to knowingly, in a circumstance described in subsection (b), while acting as part of or on behalf of a private paramilitary organization and armed with a firearm, explosive or incendiary device, or other dangerous weapon. There is much more to this bill to include some exceptions to the overall rules. But if you ask me what my point might be, I will tell you that when you look at this bill, there is one group of people who are placed squarely in the crosshairs of this bill - - Church security teams.

When you read the bill in its entirety, church security teams fit this broad definition of being paramilitary organizations 100%. Simple. Did Senator Markey intend for this to be the case? Who knows but he is a progressive lib so we can guess where his head is situated. If you read through the bill it gets worse. The definitions are so broad that many people, even those who simply want to train together, can now be classified as paramilitary organizations. And if you happen to train with people (i.e. go to the gun range together) and happen to violate this bill, under section (d), you can be fined, imprisoned for not more than one year or both. If damage to property occurs the fine still applies but jail time can go up to two years. Bodily injury will get you up to five years while killing another person can result in possibly life in prison.

So, here is the scenario. Like in Joel Osteen’s church last month, a shooter comes into the church and starts shooting. You step in and do the right thing, killing the bad guy/ girl. Under this bill, since you are technically a member of a paramilitary organization, you get to go to jail. What about a knife-wielding attacker who has just raped a little kid in the nursery and is holding another one at knife point. Boom. Off to hell the bad guy goes and then off to jail you go. Again, according to Markey, church security teams are a paramilitary organization, a threat to the nation and this country doesn’t need people like them.

Fortunately, there are several exceptions listed. Unfortunately, not one of them would even come close to covering a church security team acting to save the lives of its people. And to be honest, folks, there are shootings or other acts of violence committed in churches nearly every week. The only exceptions to this bill are the armed forces of the US, National Guard or militia called up by the state, a group of individuals “who associate for the purpose of historical reenactment or parade in public as a “**bona fide**” veterans organization,” “**students in an educational institution authorized by the Federal Government or a State that teaches military science**” and lastly, “**members of an organization that is authorized under federal or state law to provide paramilitary, law enforcement, or security services training or to engage in paramilitary activity, law enforcement, or security services when performing the functions authorized by law and, in the case of paramilitary activity and law enforcement functions, when under the direction and control of a governmental authority.**” As you can see, your local church security team is not covered.

Why would a progressive, liberal democrat want to hinder American’s rights and the opportunity to save innocent lives? Well, because he is a liberal, progressive democrat and it seems as though many progressives cannot help thinking outside of their own doctrinal blindness. In all fairness, both sides can be guilty of this. But like I said previously, I have no idea whether the

senator intended to include church security teams in his bill. But whether Markey intended this or not, yet here we are. And yes, this bill would likely be used against law abiding citizens. So, if you ask yourself, “**Would it ever be used in this way?**” Think red flag laws as used in some states for example and the answer becomes, “**Absolutely.**” If this bill was ever passed, my suggestion would be to “**dismantle**” your security team and simply act as an individual citizen acting in self-defense. If it just so happened that there were six of you there exercising your Second Amendment rights individually, oh well.

I am sure that if I asked the Senator about his intent, he would probably say that my perspective (and others) was not his goal. Then I would say, “**Then change the wording of this piece of garbage. If you are not smart enough to deduce second and third order effects of what you are doing, maybe you shouldn’t be doing it. If this was your intent, however, build a time machine and go back to 1930s Nazi Germany and live a happy life. You would fit right in.**” More on this to come. Madness!

**2. Chuck Schumer :** Once again, the lifelong politician has decided to speak against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. In his most recent speech, the Senator from New York said, “**I believe in his heart, his highest priority is the security of Israel. However, I also believe Prime Minister Netanyahu has lost his way by allowing his political survival to take precedence over the best interests of Israel.**” Schumer has a lot of gall talking about somebody else trying to ensure political survival. It seems clear that Senator Schumer has taken up the mantle of the most radical side of his anti-Israel party in condemning Netanyahu. Here is a hint for Schumer. Shut up and stay in your lane. Who in the heck are you to call for the removal of another nation’s leader? Especially the leader of arguably the only true ally we have in the region. It is not up to you to choose this. It is not up to you to try and force this. And for all the other anti-Israel people out there, you have no right to demand an Israeli cease fire. You have no right to demand concessions from Israel. That is for them and Hamas to figure out. If Hamas, Iran and the people that surround Israel continually call for their destruction, Israel has every right to ensure that doesn’t happen. Deal with it. Remember who started this war. I am sure if Tik Tok existed in 1945, there would be hundreds of idiots marching in the streets and calling for us to stop bombing the poor innocent Germans. As long as they kept fighting, they got everything they deserved. Likewise, if Hamas continues threatening to kill Jews and destroy Israel, they have the right to protect themselves.

This has nothing to do with anything here but as I was looking up Senator Schumer, did you know his net worth is between \$70-81 million. For a man who never had a real job outside of politics (*passed the bar but never went into law*), we can clearly see why so many people want to get in politics and why although our lawmakers found it necessary to put term limits on the presidency but still adamantly refuse to put similar limits on themselves. Madness!

**3. Whaaaat?** On 8 March, US District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman decided against a federal ban for an illegal immigrant, Heriberto Carbajal-Flores, to own a firearm. The court had noted that Flores had never been convicted of a felony, violent crime or crime involving a weapon. He said he bought it for self-defense so the judge decided, “**Yup, have at it. Although you broke the law coming here and you are breaking the law by staying here, you can keep your gun.**”

Remember the Markey bill mentioned above. At a time when lawmakers are happy to restrict law abiding American citizens from possessing weapons (*red flag and other attempts*) and as the Markey bill tries to prevent us from protecting ourselves, there are those in positions of authority who see absolutely nothing wrong with illegal aliens owning weapons. How does an illegal alien (*a criminal*) pass a criminal background check anyway? Madness!

**4. Ice Cream:** The federal government has had enough. The ice cream machines at McDonalds must be fixed at once. Yes, that is what is important to this administration. [www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/federal-government-wants-mcdonalds-broken-down-ice-cream-machines-fixed/AR-BB1jYE4s](http://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/federal-government-wants-mcdonalds-broken-down-ice-cream-machines-fixed/AR-BB1jYE4s). My friend Combat Bob said it best. “...Biden is going after McDonald’s ice cream machines... planning federal action to make them easier to repair so they won’t be broken all the time... what the &%\$@!!! ... We’re on the cusp of WWII on three fronts, the American people are being ground between the millstones of inflation and high interest rates, and we’re being invaded from the South. But by God, he’s going to do something about those ice cream machines...” Madness!

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Senator Will Barfoot

**International automakers** play a pivotal role in Alabama’s economy, contributing significantly to job creation, economic growth, and community development. These employers provide **\$72 billion** annually in federal, state, and local tax revenue that helps pay for essential public services. These companies, like Hyundai provide good-paying jobs with benefits that on average cover **90%** of health care premiums for workers without unions. The downstream effects of these quality jobs have contributed immeasurably to Central Alabama’s economic growth.

The UAW’s aggressive campaign to unionize *Alabama’s international automaking* workers poses a threat to the very essence of workplace freedom and economic prosperity that initially made Alabama such an attractive place to set up shop. Make no mistake. I support the hard-earned right of every worker to decide if joining the union is right for them. But the UAW’s campaign impinges on that right in creative and cynical ways.

One of the most alarming aspects of the UAW’s strategy is their attempt to control the narrative around unionization. The push for card checks, a process where workers publicly declare their stance on union representation, undermines the fundamental right to a secret ballot and privacy. This method exposes employees to undue pressure, coercion, and intimidation. By securing enough signatures through card checks, unions can potentially bypass a supervised secret ballot election, silencing the voices of dissenting workers. Efforts to legislatively mandate card check have faltered, but recent decisions by the *National Labor Relations Board (NLRB)* threaten to undermine the sanctity of secret ballots.

## “Safeguarding Workplace Freedom”

Furthermore, the UAW and its political allies intend to restrict and police the flow of information to workers. “*Neutrality agreements*” are being coerced upon employers, preventing them from discussing the potential drawbacks of unionization with workers, effectively silencing employers’ First Amendment rights. Neutrality agreements leave workers with only the union’s perspective, inhibiting their ability to make informed decisions and compromising their privacy. This push to control information raises serious questions about the motives behind limiting employees’ exposure to diverse viewpoints.

Together, card checks and neutrality agreements limit worker freedom and restrict workers’ rights to control their own future.

Alabama’s right-to-work law has protected worker freedom and helped Alabama attract big employers, but it faces limitations in fully protecting workers from overbearing unions. While these laws grant individual workers the choice not to join or pay union dues, unions still maintain exclusive bargaining rights, restricting direct communication between workers and management. This undermines the principle of workplace freedom, as employees find their autonomy constrained by union contracts, irrespective of their personal choices.

Safeguarding workplace freedom requires vigilance against the tactics employed by unions like the UAW. Protecting the right to a secret ballot and ensuring transparent information dissemination are crucial steps toward preserving the economic prosperity driven by international automakers. Policymakers, employers, and workers should collaborate to create an environment that fosters genuine workplace freedom and individual choice.

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Ronald A. Holltsford

## What Is The Effect Of The Recent Alabama Supreme Court Ruling On In Vitro Fertilized Embryos?

In December 2020, a patient of Mobile (AL) Infirmary managed to gain access through an unsecured entry to the cryogenic nursery at the Center for Reproductive Health (Center). The patient picked up some embryos belonging to at least three couples which had been fertilized between 2013 and 2016. Because the embryos were frozen and stored in the nursery when they were a few days old, the subzero temperature caused a burning of the patient's hands and they dropped the embryos to the floor. Though some of the fertilized eggs had been previously implanted and resulted in live births, those stored that were dropped had thawed before they were found and resulted in them no longer being viable for implantation. Many in the press writing of this occurrence called it an accident, which it was somewhat, but in doing so made the act of theft and destruction of these extrauterine lives as something almost trivial.

Two of the couples brought a joined claim against the Center with a third couple bringing a separate claim. Each claim asserted claims under the Alabama Wrongful Death of a Minor Act. In the alternative, should the Court find the embryos as property rather than as children, there were various claims of negligence or in the case of the sole couple negligence and wantonness. The claims also included compensatory damages, mental anguish, emotional distress and the solo couple also included breach of contract.

At trial the Court held that the embryos were not living children and due to other legal reasons no legal theory was actionable with the exception of the solo couple's breach of contract claim. Though not a part of the opinion, the prior Roe v Wade case had supported that a child that could not survive outside of the womb to not be a viable person. Both sides appealed.

The Alabama Supreme Court held that the deaths of the embryos do fall under the Alabama Wrongful Death of a Minor Act. The majority opinion held, *"All parties to these cases, like all members of this Court, agree that an unborn child is a genetically unique human being whose life begins at fertilization and ends at death. The parties further agree that an unborn child usually qualifies as a "human life," "human being," or "person," as those words are used in ordinary conversation and in the text of Alabama's wrongful-death statutes. That is true, as everyone acknowledges, throughout all stages of an unborn child's development, regardless of viability.*

*The question on which the parties disagree is whether there exists an un-written exception to that rule for unborn children who are not physically located "in utero" -- that is, inside a biological uterus -- at the time they are killed. The defendants argue that this Court should recognize such an exception because, they say, an unborn child ceases to qualify as a "child or "person" if that child is not contained within a biological womb. The Act defines life at the moment of conception and ends at death. It has been long held that the wrongful death of a minor occurs even from a criminal or negligent act resulting in the death of a minor."*

President Biden and the "pro-choice" contingent decry this as a result of the overturn of *Roe v Wade*. *Roe v Wade* was never built on sound Constitutional law and instead built on what the late Pastor Harry Reeder of Birmingham called a "culture of death".

In Chief Justice Tom Parker's concurring opinion with comment he quoted John Calvin, *"For the greater confirmation of the above doctrine [of capital punishment for murder], God declares, that he is not thus solicitous respecting*

*human life rashly, and for no purpose. Men are indeed unworthy of God's care, if respect be had only to themselves; but since*

*they bear the image of God engraven on them, He deems himself violated in their person. Thus, although they have nothing of their own by which they obtain the favour of God, he looks upon his own gifts in them, and is thereby excited to love and to care for them. This doctrine, however, is to be carefully observed, that no one can be injurious to his brother without wounding God himself. Were this doctrine deeply fixed in our minds, we should be much more reluctant than we are to inflict injuries. Should any one object, that this divine image has been obliterated, the solution is easy; first, there yet exists some remnant of it, so that man is possessed of no small dignity; and secondly, the Celestial Creator himself, however corrupted man may be, still keeps in view the end of his original creation; and according to his example, we ought to consider for what end he created men, and what excellence he has bestowed upon them above the rest of living beings."* Chief Justice Parker's opinion was truly one of the finest legal opinions that I have read on any subject, reaching back not only to historical case law and legal writings but also looking at basic ecumenical meaning on defining life.

The IVF community has however heightened awareness when each fertilized egg forms a human embryo. In Alabama, in the past there have been six basic uses of embryos. Not included are those eggs without successful fertilization and can never be viable. Those embryos, one or more that survive may be chosen to be implanted into a woman's uterus in hopes of a pregnancy that makes it to term or viability and produces a healthy infant. The other five choices are for those embryos not immediately implanted, that being for (1) donation to another couple having fertility issues, (2) donation to research, (3) compassionate transfer which is the implantation of the embryo into the mother's uterus at a cyclical time when implantation and growth will likely not continue to occur, (4) the removal of the embryo from the cryogenic nursery where it is allowed to die and placed in medical waste and (5) storing the embryos almost indefinitely. I think that research and placing unwanted embryos in medical waste are the equivalent of the abortionist culture of death. But in a situation where maybe dozens of eggs are removed in an attempt at fertilization and maybe half of those are successful what do you do after successfully and unsuccessfully implanting maybe 8-10 of those and still have maybe 15-20 remaining? Even donation can be a dilemma when you consider giving away your future children that may look like you and have personality traits like you. Even with compassionate transfer where you know this tiny life will likely not survive due to being implanted at a less desirable time in the mother's ovulation cycle. But there have been cases of healthy deliveries of implanted compassionate transfers in which God chose that the embryo lived.

IVF is an incredible possibility for a couple having their own child after natural conception has failed for whatever reason(s) after a period of at least a year. Even morally one wonders about a lab conceiving your child and giving the child their choice of genetics, even leaving open the possibility of future review of an embryo that may have less than desirable genetic makeup due to the medical history of the couple. The Bible tells us that man is made in God's image and one must wonder where science begins to play God.

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

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Col John Eidsmoe

## SLASH TAXES TO 1% -- REALLY?

Here's a tax reduction proposal everyone should love:

- *No tax at all on your first \$95,000 income (\$125,000 if filing jointly)*
- *1% tax on income above \$95,000 (or \$125,000 if filing jointly)*
- *An extra 1% super-tax for those making more than \$600,000 per year*
- *The super-tax increases to 6% for those making \$16 million per year.*

**Too good to be true?** Maybe it is -- today. But that's the tax we had in 1913, the year the 16th Amendment was adopted. The first IRS Form 1040 exempted all income below \$3,000 (**\$95,000 in 2024 money**). Out of a population of 97 million, only 358,000 had to file a return.

**You ask, how could the federal government function on so small a budget?** The answer is, the federal government was limited in scope, for the most part, to those powers delegated to it by the people through Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. George Washington began his administration in 1789 with only 350 federal civilian employees. That number had grown to 388,000 by 1913, but that's only a fraction of the approximately 3,000,000 federal civilian employees today -- and that's not including postal employees, active and reserve military personnel, and state and local employees.

Monsters have to be fed, and Big Government requires money to fuel it. The income tax authorized by the Sixteenth Amendment is the mechanism that produces the fuel to feed the bureaucracy. In contrast to 1913, the average person today pays about 13.3% of his net income in federal income tax. But that's only federal income tax. Add to that Social Security, Medicare, plus state and local income tax, sales tax, gas tax, property tax, and more, and government takes about 28.4% of the average person's income. That means we spend a good portion of the year working just to pay our taxes to government at all levels, and only after that has been paid is the money we earn truly our own.

Florida businessman Dallas Hostetler developed the concept of Tax Freedom Day, the day the average citizen has worked long enough to pay his taxes and may now start to earn money for himself. As government has grown, and the portion of our payroll we can keep for ourselves has shrunk, Tax Freedom Day has moved later and later on the calendar.

In 1910, before the federal income tax, government consumed 5% of our income, so Tax Freedom Day was January 19. Most of that 5% was at the state and local level. Robert Nisbet has observed that no one who lived before 1913 can really understand the nature of traditional American freedom, under which one could live almost one's entire life without contact with the federal government. April 15 was just another day on the calendar. By 1920, after the income tax came into effect and after the budget was increased to finance World War I, government consumed 12% of the average person's income, so Tax Freedom Day had to be moved to February 13.

The New Deal programs of the 1930s greatly increased the size and scope of government, and taxes were needed to pay for those programs. So our tax burden increased to 17.9% by 1940, and Tax Freedom Day became March 7. The welfare state grew after World War II and taxes consumed 30.4% of our income in 1980, so Taxpayer Freedom Day became April 21. President Reagan held the line on federal growth but did not decrease it as much as he had hoped.

## Foundation for Moral Law

One Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104.  
(334) 262-1245.

Despite saying **"The era of Big Government is over,"** Bill Clinton brought government to its peak (33%) in 2000, and Taxpayer Freedom Day became May 1. George W. Bush achieved some reductions 2001-2009, they inched back up under Barak Obama 2009-2017, back down a little under Donald Trump 2017-2021, and back up under Joe Biden. This year (2024), Taxpayer Freedom day is April 16.

**So where do we go from here?** If the radical Democrats get their way, government will continue to grow, taxes will increase, the share of our paycheck that goes to taxes will expand, and Taxpayer Freedom Day will become later and later on the calendar. You will know you've lost your freedom when Taxpayer Freedom Day coincides with New Year's Eve!

**So what can we do to move Taxpayer Freedom Day back to January where it belongs?** Get back to the Constitution! The Constitution limits the powers of the federal government to those which we the people have delegated to it through the Constitution most of which can be found in Article One Section 8. All other powers, according to the Tenth Amendment, are reserved to the States, or to the people.

Whenever we consider a new federal program, we should ask as the threshold question, is this program authorized by the Constitution? If not, end of discussion, unless and until the Constitution is amended. For example, as I write (**March 21, 2024**), President Biden is announcing a new program that will forgive student loans for 78,000 government employees, costing the taxpayers \$6 billion dollars. Ignoring for the moment the unfairness of requiring taxpayers who never had the opportunity to attend college to pay taxes for those who went to college on loans they now won't have to pay back, where does the Constitution authorize any federal involvement in education except military training? The answer is, nowhere. The student loan programs should never have been started.

All public officials, elected or appointed, take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. We need to remind them that the Tenth Amendment is part of the Constitution they have sworn to uphold, and we will not vote for them unless they promise to follow the Constitution as they perform their duties.

At least eight state legislatures -- North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, Alaska, Tennessee, Louisiana, Washington, and Oklahoma -- have adopted State Sovereignty Resolutions that nullify all federal actions outside the enumerated powers of Article I, Section 8. Alabama should join them.

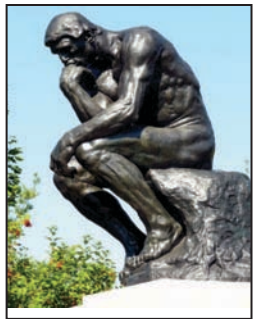
Also, don't be a dunderhead who jumps with joy when he receives a tax refund. This isn't a gift! All they're doing is giving back a portion of the money they've withheld from you and held interest-free. And it's deception, because when tax is withheld from an employee's paycheck, most employees don't even realize it's been withheld. Withholding tax ought to be abolished! **And finally, why do we pay taxes April 15, and then vote seven months later in November, when we aren't thinking about taxes? Why not move Tax Day to the day before the election?** If taxes were fresh on our minds when we vote, we might think twice about voting for legislators who call for Big Taxes and Big Government.

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John Sophocleus

## Biden off More than WE can chew... a Britt Too Much



THINK

We've endured another state of our [soviet] union address; fewer DC politburo 'stand and clap' durations which conjure youthful recollection of Brezhnev's heinous addresses. As I recall, Moscow 'clapping episodes' also attenuated for Gorbachev as the looming collapse of their [Russian] hegemonic union unfolded during the Soviet bloc's closing years.

Biden bit off more than our Republic of States can afford or we can possibly sustain for our posterity. Witnessing all the proposed spending increases (with more command and control mandates) as another debt-ceiling deadline approaches was despairingly ironic during this year's state of the union 'Kabuki theatre' performances. Biden is on par with big government modern Democrat Trump's (I know he's currently wearing the Red jersey) run up of even more federal debt.

Political thieves care if Blue or Red duopoly parasites have more power. The unrepresentative (unconstitutional) House and the easily purchased (post 17th Amendment) Senate have 'progressed' to tight margins making wealth transfer brokers more certain as the AOC/Sanders and MTG/Britt kabuki players dupe the masses. Most politburo members can't understand why others (hosts) are angry/displeased with them. If you're a productive citizen who keeps deciding which duopolist to support/vote for... YOU are the problem. More wasted votes on corrupt duopoly candidates will change nothing for you. It'll marginally benefit some parasites taking from you as voting for the perceived 'lesser of two evils' proffers more evil.

If you can't distinguish between a classical liberal and modern liberal Democrat or the difference between a small government conservative and a traditional Republican, big government conservative... start educating yourself. Republicans In Normal Operation (RINO's) put us on our soviet path. There's a reason why Marx, Lenin, et al held traditional Republicans in such high regard - taking sovereign/independent States and forcing them into a hegemonic coalition. Why is anyone surprised a traditional Republican admires Putin?

I try to watch the address each year with a former student (he was a DI at Ft. Benning) who's now a long time friend and kindred Spirit as a small government conservative/libertarian thinker. Evoking a past Econ lecture he asked how much all the Biden rhetoric will cost if enacted. I added, how much of Biden's proposals were Constitutional - i.e., in the enumerated powers. Sen. Britt's curtain call Kabuki theatrics were of little help or substance in response, but exactly what one would expect from her mentor and master of political prostitution 'public servant' Richard Shelby.

The shameless, sanitary kitchen table kabuki stage and soliloquy was a Britt too much... belching up memories of Sen. Joe Liberman's mind-numbing whining and dramatic rhetoric. Those who know something of Britt's 'public service' with big government Democrat Shelby (who also did the Reagan, Trump, et al switch to the Red jersey to dupe many sheeple) found it hard to witness Britt in the staged cozy home kitchen setting, given Shelby/Britt shunned those who lost homes they paid off, held legal title to and paying taxes on... taken by the federal government to see others living in their house, using their kitchen, etc. Sen. Tuberville's childish housewife defense was in keeping with past 'Teletubby' snippets, but it seems Tommy's handlers are improving in their efforts to make this mediocre football coach appear less of an outlier, far below the already appallingly low median intelligence and integrity of a US Senator.

Long time small government conservative champion Jimmy Blake said, "Britt histrionics will add to fear for our country's future." After watching Scarlett Johansson's SNL satire, Blake noted the effort to spoof the Republican SOTU response couldn't match the actual Katie Britt performance. Little surprise traditional Republicans expelled Dr. Blake from their Party; his truth on taxes (no discussion of our recent tax rebate until this Libertarian candidate made it an issue) common sense rebuke of our Republican super-majority response to covid, anti-competitive ballot access laws, gambling monopoly, ETF allocation, etc. clearly wasn't in line with politburo goals.

Some found Britt's response on immigration of greatest interest. I really don't care about Katie getting her irrelevant facts mixed up. One would think a 42 year old attorney would know something about the Constitution she took an oath to uphold. Sadly, she seems on par with our 'Senior Senator' who reminds me of the football coaches who poorly taught

high-school economics to freshman/sophomores I tried to 'deprogram' with the actual text of Constitution along with some rudimentary arithmetic, diagrams, logic and reason.

Furthermore, I don't expect folks to remember Trump using the covid excuse to finally address the border issue instead of the Constitution. Clearly a failed businessman (who lives off of tax subsidy distortions, eminent domain abuse, federal bankruptcy manipulation as one of our nation's biggest corporate welfare queens) no one can dispute Trump is an accomplished parasite. Sheeple will accept foolish answers like 'management' or 'I'll build a wall and get Mexico to pay for it' Trumpisms. For those who want a better understanding than the Biden, Britt, Trump, Tuberville, et al politburo members to consider moving toward a more rational, Constitutional immigration policy, consider (re)reading my <https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2018/02/01/opinion/toward-a-more-rational-constitutional-immigration-policy/1275.html> Alabama Gazette column.

Don't expect any duopoly party nominee to champion this sort of Constitutional outcome. Currently Trump seems most lost in this regard echoing his buddies/coconspirators (the Clintons) threatening 100% auto tariffs followed by 'bloodbath' rhetoric. Some may recall Bill Clinton's whining of feeling Detroit's pain after backlash from signing NAFTA with similar 'feel good' talk of a 100% tariff on Japanese luxury cars. Sad so few understand GATT, MFN, NAFTA, etc. are unconstitutional violating the [Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1] uniformity clause.

Since most don't look at the world with an economist's eye, I'll close with a more recent iteration of 'Shelby Britt' political prostitution: <https://www.eaexaminer.com/post/advancing-alabama-house-bill-protecting-independent-pharmacies-forces-showdown-in-montgomery> on HB 238 addressing one of the biggest wealth transfers currently in play. It was sincerely difficult to endure fools begging me to vote for McCain (remember the one who kept 'ObamaCare' alive) Romney, et al candidates or the world would come to an end. These soviets have done little more than accelerate our decay on the soviet path. There's no bigger recipient of the unconstitutional federal distortion into healthcare in our State than BCBS. In some instances they receive just under \$1,300/mo. federal funding per individual from their monopoly power on the ObamaCare so-called marketplace with deductibles so high most enrolled effectively have no insurance. Imagine, if there was competition with private charity efforts where individuals pay for their health care without 'trumped up' prices and reduced administrative drain. Money and resources devoted to administrators and bureaucrats could actually be used for providing healthcare. Remember Trump's Dr. Pfizer - err, eh... I mean Fauci and Gottlieb? Sub-zero freezer required? We'll simply make that another wealth transfer up for grabs!

Britt would be a perfect VP complement to a big government Democrat like Trump as Katie was for big government Democrat Shelby. To showcase an attorney who reportedly was making \$574,000/year as a BCA lobbyist is not a typical housewife - esp. one who can get their spouse a handsome paycheck. Absurd to imply Britt identifies with kitchen table issues given how much this 'public servant' has sucked out of economy and reduced quality of life for the typical productive Alabamian. Don't expect Tuberville or any other politburo member to explain Sen. Shelby was exposed in the Felon Hubbard emails. BCA pimp Canary was banned from Shelby's office for outing him as a political prostitute/co-conspirator. Little surprise Shelby found Britt the perfect replacement, now a Senator to directly collect lobbying largess and increase certainty of a vote securing political theft for AACH, ACCA, Alabama Power, BCBS, PCI, et al. 'affectionately' dubbed the Birmingham Downtowners by former legislator John Rice's nomenclature.

If one believes the state of our union is strong, I will concur on strength of hegemony and political theft. If one thinks voting for big government Democrats like Biden and Trump (doesn't matter he's laughing with delight at duping those who only see he's wearing the Red jersey) will take us off the soviet path, you're mistaken. Perhaps the saddest thing is we're witnessing enough patriots willing to make a stand against something clearly wicked and decaying our Republic, but duped into wasting their efforts to defend parasites like Biden and Trump.

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## Alabama Legislature Holds Military Appreciation Day



Senior members of the military and Alabama legislators.

On Tuesday the Alabama Legislature held a joint session in House chambers to honor America's military and salute active-duty military members, the reserves, veterans, and their families.

"It was a privilege to honor Alabama's men and women in uniform during a joint session of the Alabama Legislature," said Speaker of the House Nathaniel Ledbetter (R-Rainsville) on the social media platform X. "Those who answered the call to serve our country represent the very best of us. Without them, there is no American dream."

"The courageous men and women who serve in our military sacrifice so much to ensure our freedoms, safety, and prosperity," said Senate President Pro Tem. Greg Reed (R-Jasper) on X. "They stand ready to answer the call whenever that may be, and it was a privilege to honor them today at Military Appreciation Day in the Statehouse."

The Lieutenant Governor Chairs the Alabama Military Stability Commission. Formed in 2011 by a resolution of the Alabama Legislature and signed by the Governor. The Commission is tasked with protecting and promoting the federal military presence in Alabama, which has a significant economic impact.

"Among my most important duties as Lieutenant Governor is serving the needs of active military members and veterans," said Lt. Gov. Ainsworth on X. "The legislature had the opportunity today to show our appreciation of active military members, veterans, and their families for their sacrifice and dedication."

Among the dignitaries on hand for the event was U.S. Air Force Lt. General Air Force Heath Collins - the Director of the Missile Defense Agency, which is headquartered in Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal.

"I am humbled and honored by our mission to provide the layered missile defenses that protect our United States," said Gen. Collins. "The Von Braun complex on Redstone Arsenal is the hub of missile defense agency operations, our largest of four major MDA locations we have around the nation. It is the center of gravity for a critical mission."

Colonel Alan Richardson is the commander of Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery.

"We are in the fight for you every day and we are very proud that you are in the fight for us," said Col. Collins.

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey recently appointed Gen. Gen. David Pritchett as the head of the Alabama National Guard.

Gen. Pritchett said that in today's recruiting environment it is very difficult for the armed forces to meet its recruitment goals; but that the Alabama National Guard has met and exceeded its goal last year by 500.

The Legislature has passed a number of pieces of legislation over the past seven years recommended by the Military Stability Commission to make Alabama more friendly to active-duty military families and to strengthen the state's position in the next phase of base realignments and closures.

To connect with the author of this story, or to comment, email [brandonmreporter@gmail.com](mailto:brandonmreporter@gmail.com) or [www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com).



**Brandon Moseley**

*Brandon Moseley is the Lead Reporter and Content Manager at the Alabama Gazette. Brandon is a native of Alabama and a graduate of Auburn University. His articles on the Alabama political scene have been published in over a half dozen newspapers and online publications across Alabama.*

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### Special Primary Election in CD2 are on April 16

The Alabama Republican party runoff and the Alabama Democratic party runoff are both coming up on April 16. There are a number of races on the ballot across Alabama; but none bigger than in Alabama's Second Congressional District.

This year, the state of Alabama has a rare open congressional election with no incumbent. The new Congressional District 2 was created by the federal court to make the district much more likely that the choice of minority voters is ultimately elected to Congress. Congressman Barry Moore (R-Enterprise) who had represented CD2 was redistricted into Jerry Carl's (R-Mobile)

CD1; while most of the voters in Carl's native Mobile County were rezoned into CD2. The redistricting split Mobile County, the Wiregrass, and the River Region. Moore subsequently defeated Carl in the Republican primary on March 5. The Court ordered redistricting in September opened up CD2 for a congressional newcomer.

Approximately 20 candidates were running for the Republican and Democratic primaries – far too many for any to win without a runoff. The runoffs are both on April 16.

**Former Deputy Attorney General Shomari Figures** faces **Alabama House Minority Leader Anthony Daniels** (D-Huntsville) in the Democratic primary runoff.



Figures is a native of Mobile; but has spent the last decade serving in a number of roles, most recently in the Biden Justice Department. Figures is the son of State Senator Vivian Figures and the late Sen. Michael Figures. Figures and his wife have two children.

"Young people are not just the future of our democracy, they're what our democracy needs right now," Figures said on Facebook. "District 2 is home to over a dozen public and private colleges and universities, and in Congress I will fight for the issues that impact our schools, students, faculty and staff – including ensuring that our institutions have the resources necessary to thrive and that students are not priced out of a college degree or spend their lives paying for it."



Daniels is a native of Bullock County; but he has spent most of his adult life in Madison County, where he went to college, representing the people of Huntsville in the Alabama House of Representatives. He is the first Black minority leader in the history of the Alabama House of Representatives. He is also the youngest person to ever hold that position. Daniels and his wife have three children.

"I realized it was my time to start planting seeds for others to succeed," said Daniels. "In 2014 I was elected to the House of Representatives and chosen by my colleagues to be minority leader." "It put me in position to steer hundreds of millions of dollars to the seventh congressional district."

"I know what it takes to make a difference," Daniels said. "I've always represented you. I worked across the aisle to lower drug costs. I am leading the fight to expand Medicaid." It is time that we have one of us representing us in Congress," Daniels added.

On the Republican side, former State Senator Dick Brewbaker (R-Montgomery) faces real estate attorney Caroleene Dobson.



Brewbaker is a Montgomery native and a former automobile dealer. He has represented the greater Montgomery area in both the Alabama House and Senate. After two terms in the Alabama Senate representing District 25. He did not seek reelection because of a term limits promise that he made to the voters. Brewbaker is a father and grandfather.

"You have got to have someone with some kind of a record to get the remaining swing voters," said Brewbaker in a recent radio interview with Jeff Poor. "It is very winnable for a Republican."

"In the general election, if Republican don't win the Second District, it will be because Democrats did a better job of turning their vote out," said Brewbaker. "Regular people are concerned about the border. They are concerned about inflation. The economy is softening and they are worried about their own safety and are worried about their kids. They want representatives in Congress who will take this issues and work to solve them and not use it as a punching line."



Caroleene Dobson grew up on a cattle farm in Beatrice, Alabama. Growing up she excelled in rodeo growing up and was a national merit finalist. She practices law for a law firm in Birmingham and serves on the Alabama Forestry Commission and Southeast Livestock Exposition Board. She and her husband have two children.

"I am running to fight for Alabama families to ensure that we have more good paying jobs," said Dobson in a Facebook message. "As your Congresswoman for District 2, I will focus on cutting spending and balancing the budget. Year after year there are threats of government shutdowns because we don't balance our budget. We've got to be more responsible in our spending."

The winners of the two runoffs will represent their respective parties on the November 5 general election.

Polls will open on Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Voters must vote at their assigned polling place and must have a valid photo ID in their possession to participate in any Alabama election. If you do not have a valid photo ID, you may obtain a free voter ID from your Board of Registrars or the Alabama Secretary of State's office.

Given the historically narrow partisan divide in the U.S. House of Representatives, this congressional election in Alabama will go a long way towards deciding which party controls the House. Whether the next President is Trump or Biden, if the other party controls the House of Representatives much of the President's legislative agenda would be effectively thwarted.

To connect with the author of this story, or to comment, email [brandonmreporter@gmail.com](mailto:brandonmreporter@gmail.com)

## Vote! April 16th!



### In the Spirit of Faith and Leadership Celebrating Bruce Pearl's 10 years at Auburn

In a world filled with transient values and fleeting allegiances, the integrity and steadfastness of certain rare individuals stand as beacons of light, guiding others toward paths of righteousness and communal unity. At the top of the list is Coach Bruce Pearl, whose life and career embody principles that resonate deeply with the values we all should cherish. It is not merely his remarkable success as a coach that merits acclaim but, more profoundly, his unwavering dedication to his faith, his profound love for his country, and his deep respect for God's chosen land, Israel.

Bruce Pearl's career as a basketball coach is marked by a series of remarkable achievements that underscore his exceptional skill, strategic acumen, and leadership on the court. From his early days transforming lesser-known programs into contenders, to his tenure here at Auburn where he has completely revitalized the men's basketball program, Pearl's coaching journey is a testament to his ability to inspire excellence and foster a winning culture. In his tenure, Auburn has achieved milestones rarely seen before on The Plains, including SEC championships, NCAA tournament appearances, and an unprecedented run to the Final Four in 2019.

Pearl's impact however extends far beyond victories and accolades; he has been instrumental in developing players' character as men as well as their basketball skill. He instills a strong work ethic, promotes teamwork and resilience. His success as a coach is not just measured in wins, but in the lasting influence he has on his players and the broader basketball community and the Auburn Family.

Bruce Pearl's coaching transcends the hardwood of basketball courts; it is a testament to the power of leading by example. In a profession where success is too often gauged by win-loss records and championship titles, Pearl distinguishes himself by prioritizing the character development and spiritual well-being of his players. His constant presence at The Church of the Highlands, alongside his players, is not a formality but a sincere demonstration of faith in action. By integrating his life's work with his spiritual convictions, Pearl illustrates the impactful role of faith in leadership and community engagement.

Pearl's influence is mirrored by the involvement of his players in church and community activities, where they are not just church attendees and community residents but active participants in outreach and service. This engagement with



**Perry O. Hooper Jr.**

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



the community fosters an environment where young athletes learn the importance of giving back, underscoring the idea that true victory lies in making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Moreover, Bruce Pearl's love for his country and his deep affinity for Israel are emblematic of his broader world view, one that acknowledges the significance of heritage, spiritual connection, integrity, and the belief in causes greater than oneself.

A testament to Bruce Pearl the man is his Bruce Pearl Family Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting children and families facing challenging and life-altering illnesses, particularly cancer and financial hardships. The foundation raises funds for Children's Harbor and families battling cancer, providing significant contributions to various organizations like Russell Hospital Foundation and East Alabama Medical Center Foundation. Additionally, the foundation collaborates with Auburn University Athletics through initiatives like AUTLIVE to continue the fight against cancer.

In a society yearning for positive role models, Bruce Pearl stands out not just as a coach but as a mentor, a community leader, and a man of faith. His commitment to the spiritual growth and moral fortitude of his players, coupled with his patriotic zeal offers a blueprint for how sports can serve as a conduit for larger societal and spiritual lessons.

As we reflect on the ten years of contributions of Bruce Pearl to the Auburn family, we are reminded of the profound impact one individual can have when their professional excellence is matched by their personal convictions and their unwavering faith. May his example inspire others to lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and live with a deep sense of purpose, honoring both our God and the communities we are privileged to serve.





John Martin

# Elon vs the UAW

Nearly everybody knows that Elon Musk does not like unions—just like he does not like oppressive big government and other violators of free markets and individual liberty. Although purported to be enforcers of fair wages and safe working environments, unions tend to be invasive, coercive, and sometimes criminal. The United Auto Workers is one of them.

There is no question that the UAW is lusting to get its meat hooks onto America's newest, greatest, most prosperous, and most valuable automobile company—Tesla. Its happy well-paid workers (with very few exceptions) are very satisfied making fine cars in spotless new high tech factories without the hassles of union dues, arguments with union bosses, calling new workers "scabs," and being begged to go on strikes and spend hours carrying picket signs in the cold rain.

Columnist Matt Hardigree wrote, "Elon Musk garners little affection from the left-wing arm of the labor movement (and the Democratic Party) that's come in to help support the UAW's leadership." But **WHAT** "leadership"?

In just about every case, any company is better off without union intrusion or government intervention. It is free to offer reasonable wages and hire the people that it chooses. On the other hand, workers can accept or refuse the wages and environments offered. Somewhere in the middle, the law of supply and demand will settle disputes and disagreements without any need for meddling from outsiders. This translates into greater productivity, better products, and lower costs and prices.

There is no need to go on strike. If a worker is unhappy for any reason, he can quit and seek employment elsewhere. If a worker fails to adequately perform, the company can fire him, or perhaps pay a lower wage. But **NOBODY** has a right to coerce a company or its workers.

In the past, Musk actually invited the UAW to come to his Fremont, CA factory and hold a union election among his employees, already knowing that they would say, "NO." Even former UAW members rejected the offer.

Tesla workers earn from \$22 up to \$39 per hour while Ford and GM workers get from \$25.25 up to \$36. UAW's president Shawn Fain claimed that Tesla's pay is "pitiful," that workers are just getting by, so that "greedy people like Elon Musk can build more rocket ships." But Tesla offers stock options, and Musk has openly stated, "Quite a few of our factory techs who work on the line have become millionaires." That one item alone is worth far more than any benefits a union could ever hope to offer.

There is no worker shortage. Even though Tesla requires its employees to produce with minimal "goofing off," the desire to be part of the world's most advanced and fastest growing automobile manufacturer is overwhelming. **In 2022 alone, over 3.6 million people applied for work at Tesla—25.7 times its entire global work force.** A Fremont factory worker said, "People are proud of what they do here. They believe in the mission of the company."

Today, Tesla has 20,000 workers at Fremont and 140,000 worldwide.

When unions find businesses that are reluctant to accept their "offers," they hire spies to apply for jobs at them and seek out strategies to entice the workers to adopt the "benefits" of becoming unionized. To get a foot in the door, they must coerce at least 30% of the workers to be willing to join. The union holds an election, and if it gets the needed 30% approval, it has a shot to take over the company.

But the company can resist. Sometimes it wins and remains unscathed. Sometimes it loses to the union, and the union begins demanding higher pay and other benefits. The workers enjoy these perks for a while, but the company's profits diminish. For a while, the company can survive, but as the union's workers demand more and more, and the profit pie diminishes to a breaking point, the company is forced to shut down, and **EVERYBODY** loses his job and his benefits. The company could either go bankrupt or relocate to a more business-friendly environment, far away from the hostile unemployed workers and the union's tentacles.

A perfect example of a train wreck caused largely by the UAW is Detroit, often called "Motown." In its heyday, it was the automobile capital of the world. Look at it today. The automobile manufacturers that survived bankruptcy have fled to other states and other countries.

In Europe, millions of workers have recently erupted for several months in the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Spain, causing considerable mayhem.

Fortunately, U.S. unrest is at a low ebb. Union memberships across the board have diminished, including the UAW. They have plummeted from about 33% in the 1950's to 10% today. People have become wiser and wiser about the corruption and devastation they have wrought in the past. They have learned that getting too greedy for higher wages has killed the geese that used to lay their golden eggs.

Today, according to the Hamilton Project, the U.S. has one of the lowest union

memberships among industrialized nations, a striking contrast to the days of violent demonstrations and brawls decades ago. However, we still suffer from public-sector unions. Their membership rate is 33.1 percent—more than five times the 6 percent rate at the private-sector. Massive, excessive government expansion is largely to blame. The highest memberships include firefighters and police officers (34.6%) and teachers (33.7%).

Alabama, along with former union strongholds (Michigan, Wisconsin and Indiana) are now fortunate to be blessed with right to work laws that prohibit compulsory union membership. Today, 30% of America's 14.3 million union members remain in California (2.6 million) and New York (1.7 million).

On Quora, Seth Chazanoff had this to say: "The way that unions operate in the United States if you are in management, you have to be crazy to want to have a union in your company."

"Unions will promise to increase wages and benefits from whatever the baseline is, while protecting non-productive workers. They typically drive down productivity, since merit based raises go away in favor of raises across the board."

Seth recalled "a small company about 30 years ago" that hosted barbecues for its employees on Friday afternoons while still "on the clock." They were very popular. A union tried to sue the company to stop them, claiming they were "unfair labor practices." As a result, the employees flatly refused to join the union.

How well do Tesla's employees like their CEO, Elon Musk? Workplace culture website, **Comparably**, recently released the results from its 2018 Best CEO Awards from over 10 million ratings collected from more than 50,000 companies via employees' anonymous votes from November 26, 2017, through November 26, 2018.

At both SpaceX and Tesla, Elon's employees ranked him "among the best CEOs in the United States." They praised him for his "can do" attitude and his dedication to his work, right down to sometimes working 22 hour days and sleeping on the factory floor. When asked by a Twitter user how much he needed to work to change the world, Musk replied that around 80 hours a week were necessary.

Musk strives to be part of every decision his companies make. When testing a risky new part of an autopilot feature in a Tesla, he personally became a living test dummy to back up his argument.

**Thomas Sowell** says it in a nutshell: "The most fundamental fact about labor unions is they do not create any wealth. They are among a growing number of institutions that specialize in siphoning off wealth created by others.... Unions are for unions, just as corporations are for corporations, and politicians are for politicians. Nothing shows the utter cynicism of the unions and the politicians who do their bidding like the so-called Employee Free Choice Act, like the Obama administration tried to push through Congress. Workers' free choice as to whether or not to join a union is precisely what that legislation would destroy.... The actions of union mobs in Wisconsin, Ohio, and elsewhere give us a free home demonstration of how unions respect the rights of those who disagree with them, and how much they rely on harassment and threats to get what they want.... At one time, US Steel was the largest steel producer in the world, and General Motors the largest automobile manufacturer. No more. Their unions were riding high in their heyday, but they too discovered there was no free lunch as their members lost jobs by the hundreds of thousands. Workers have also learned there is no free lunch, which is why over the years, they have voted against unions in secret ballot elections."

Of course Elon Musk does not like unions. He already knows they come with grave consequences.

This is one of the ethics that made Musk the greatest entrepreneur in history.

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

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

**YOU ARE NEVER ALONE... Veterans Crisis Line**  
**DIAL 988 then PRESS 1**  
[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)



**God Bless The USA**





Alabama Public Affairs Specialist  
Social Security Administration  
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100  
Montgomery, Alabama 36116



Email: [KYLLE.MCKINNEY@SSA.GOV](mailto:KYLLE.MCKINNEY@SSA.GOV)

Fax: (334) 272-7630

Cell: (334) 479-1242

**SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS  
ARE SAFER AT HOME**

## PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE DURING FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

We celebrate Financial Literacy Month (FLM) every April to promote financial education and well-being in the United States. FLM also serves as a reminder that Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan. Our online tools are here to help you understand your potential Social Security benefits and how they fit into your financial future.

You should periodically review your Social Security Statement (Statement) using your personal *my* Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Your Statement is an easy-to-read summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability, and survivors' benefits.

If you're planning to retire, you can visit our *Plan for Retirement webpage* at [www.ssa.gov/prepare/plan-retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/prepare/plan-retirement). Here you can compare how different future earnings and retirement benefit start-dates might affect your future benefit amount.

Please tell your friends and family about the steps they can take to improve their financial knowledge by exploring their personal *my Social Security* account. If they don't have an account, they can easily create one at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

## SOCIAL SECURITY'S TOP 5 SCAM AWARENESS ARTICLES

Did you join us for Slam the Scam Day in March? If so, you know how important it is to raise awareness about government imposter scams. That's why we want you to have all the information you need to protect yourself. Check out our top 5 scam awareness articles below:

1. We work with our Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to protect you from scams that use Social Security as bait. In *How We Protect You from Misleading Advertising and Communications*, we detail what to do if you receive a suspicious advertisement or imposter communication. Please see [blog.ssa.gov/how-we-protect-you-from-misleading-advertising-and-communications](http://blog.ssa.gov/how-we-protect-you-from-misleading-advertising-and-communications).
2. Identity theft affects millions of people each year and causes serious harm. Here are 10 ways to protect yourself by securing your personal information at [blog.ssa.gov/10-ways-to-protect-your-personal-information-2](http://blog.ssa.gov/10-ways-to-protect-your-personal-information-2).
3. Financial crime against all Americans is an ongoing problem. People living with dementia have a higher risk of becoming victims of fraud. You can learn how to minimize this risk for your loved ones at [blog.ssa.gov/minimizing-the-risk-of-scams-for-people-living-with-dementia](http://blog.ssa.gov/minimizing-the-risk-of-scams-for-people-living-with-dementia).
4. Fraudsters also target veterans, active duty service members, and their families. To learn what to look for and how to help the veterans and military members in your life, check out [blog.ssa.gov/stay-alert-fraudsters-target-veterans-active-duty-service-members-and-their-families](http://blog.ssa.gov/stay-alert-fraudsters-target-veterans-active-duty-service-members-and-their-families).
5. Quick Response (QR) codes are very popular these days. A QR code is a scannable barcode that directs you to a website or social media account. Did you know scammers place fake QR codes on top of official ones? It's among the latest trends we list in this post to combat scams at [blog.ssa.gov/new-years-resolutions-to-combat-scams](http://blog.ssa.gov/new-years-resolutions-to-combat-scams).

We encourage you to review these articles and bookmark them for future use. Please share this information with friends and family to help us spread the word about scams.

## MY SOCIAL SECURITY: IT'S NOT JUST FOR RETIREES

A personal *my* Social Security account can be helpful in so many ways. You can benefit from its personalized tools even if you are not retired or close to retirement. With your personal *my* Social Security account, you can do much of your business with us online. You rarely need to call or visit a local Social Security office once you have one. Let's look at some of the features offered by an account. If you do not receive benefits, you can:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in most states and the District of Columbia).
- Check personalized retirement benefit estimates to compare different dates or ages to begin receiving benefits.
- Check the status of your Social Security application after you apply.
- Get proof that you do not receive benefits.
- Get your *Social Security Statement*.

If you already receive benefits, you can:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in most states and the District of Columbia).
- Get a benefit verification or proof of income letter.
- Update your direct deposit (Social Security benefits only).
- Update contact information (Social Security benefits only).
- Get a Social Security tax form (1099/1042S).
- Opt out of receiving certain notices by mail and receive them in the secure Message Center.

Please help us spread the news! Let your family and friends know that they can create a personal *my Social Security* account today at [www.ssa.gov/my-account](http://www.ssa.gov/my-account).



## SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORTS SMALL BUSINESSES

Running a small business can be a 24-7 endeavor. Managing employees, inventory, scheduling, services, and marketing can be challenging.

If you're a small business owner, or you work for one, our online suite of services can help make your life easier. Our online business services at [www.ssa.gov/employer](http://www.ssa.gov/employer) will save you valuable time when you file electronic W-2s and W-2Cs and verify employee names and Social Security numbers.

Small business owners can also take advantage of our Business Services Online at [www.ssa.gov/bso/bsowelcome.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/bso/bsowelcome.htm). You must register to use this free service. This service offers fast and secure online W-2 filing options to Certified Public Accountants, enrolled agents, and individuals who process W-2s and W-2Cs.

For more information about electronic wage reporting, please read our publication at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10034.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10034.pdf).

## HOW TO SPOT AN IMPOSTER SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT

Want to learn how to spot fake Social Security social media accounts? The tips below will help you protect yourself and your family.

### How fraudsters create imposter accounts

Fraudsters create imposter social media pages and accounts using Social Security-related images and vocabulary, making them appear as if they're associated with or endorsed by us. They also create imposter social media pages of Social Security and OIG officials, such as the Commissioner or the Inspector General.

### Protect your personally identifiable information

We will never ask for sensitive information through social media as these channels are not secure. Sometimes, users are asked to enter their financial information, Social Security number (SSN), or other sensitive information. This is a red flag, and often an indication of a fraudulent account.

### How to spot a fake social media account

Identifying an imposter account may seem difficult at first, but there are a few things you can look for right away. You will want to focus on the following:

- How many people follow the imposter page. In most cases, fake pages have a very low number of followers as compared to Social Security's official page.
- Improper punctuation.
- Links to pages not on SSA.gov.
- Advertisements for forms or other Social Security documents for a price.
- Incorrect social media handles. To view the list of our official social media channels, we encourage you to visit [www.ssa.gov/socialmedia](http://www.ssa.gov/socialmedia).

Please report suspected Social Security imposter scams — and other Social Security fraud — to the OIG's website at [oig.ssa.gov/report](http://oig.ssa.gov/report). You can find more information about scams on our Protect Yourself from Scams webpage at [www.ssa.gov/scam](http://www.ssa.gov/scam). Please share this information with your friends, family, and colleagues to help spread awareness about imposter social media accounts.



## HEAVENLY FATHER

*On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of FREEDOM. May the example of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of your son, our lord Jesus christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops, and fill their homes and lives with your strength peace. We pray through christ or lord. AMEN*



**Meals on Wheels  
Montgomery Alabama  
Metro Area**

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging (MACOA)  
SERVING SENIORS FOR 48 Yrs.

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging assists senior citizens by providing services to promote independent living, by offering opportunities to enhance quality of life, and by increasing community awareness of senior issues. You can help! MACOA needs volunteers once a week to deliver meals.

If you can help, please call **334-263-0532**.

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<https://www.macoa.org>

Support **YOUR** Local Law Enforcement

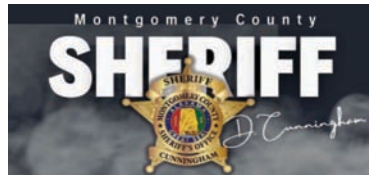


**Montgomery County Sheriff's Office**

(334) 832-4980

♦ [www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com)

Sheriff  
Derrick Cunningham



Chief  
Deputy Murphy



**Montgomery County Sheriff's Office  
Inmate Growth Naturally  
and Intentionally Through  
Education I.G.N.I.T.E**

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce a new, first of its kind educational program to assist inmates in successfully returning to the community. The MCSO is the first law enforcement agency in the State of Alabama to offer the Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through education (IGNITE) program to incarcerated individuals.



The goal of IGNITE is to empower people to take control of their future by providing job and trade skill training, classes on completing job applications and interviews, job readiness, building a resume, and connecting them with prospective employers. Drug education, counseling and building communication skills courses are also available, in addition to a variety of financial, food industry, trade and commercial trade courses.

Sheriff Cunningham believes IGNITE will provide former inmates with the necessary tools to succeed in our community.

Sheriff Cunningham and the staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office would like to invite Montgomery County Citizens to participate in our Citizen's Academy. The Citizen's Academy was established in 1997 to educate the citizens of Montgomery County on how the Sheriff's Office operates and to promote public safety among our community members. Classes are designed to be interesting as well as informative. Citizens are given an opportunity to ride with a Deputy on patrol, tour the Montgomery County Detention Facility, volunteer at community events, and train on the Firearms Training Simulator.

The Citizen's Academy is a **FREE** 6-week course that meets on Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at our office, located at 115 South Perry Street. All material will be discussed during the meetings and neither homework nor physical activity is required.

**Requirements:**

- Resident of Montgomery County
- At least 21 years of age or older
- Pass a criminal background check
- Attend weekly meetings

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
CITIZENS ACADEMY**

APRIL 15TH - JUNE 1ST  
MONDAY EVENINGS 6PM - 7PM

TOPICS COVERED

- ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE OF PUBLIC SAFETY
- INVESTIGATIONS AND CRIME SCENE
- SPECIALIZED UNITS
- RIDE ALONG PROGRAM
- PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY EVENTS
- FACILITY TOURS AND MORE

6-WEEK PROGRAM  
FREE TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS 21+ YEARS OF AGE

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR THE NEXT CLASS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AT (334) 832-2515. WWW.MONTGOMERYSHERIFF.COM

**Next Class Date: April 15, 2024 – June 1, 2024**

**How to Enroll:** Applications can be submitted at our website: [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com)

Applications can also be requested by calling the Administrative Office at 334-832-2515 or by email at [marshawngarner@mc-ala.org](mailto:marshawngarner@mc-ala.org)

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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162 W 4th Street,  
Prattville, AL  
[www.autaugasheriff.org](http://www.autaugasheriff.org)

Sheriff  
Mark Harrell

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Sheriff  
Bill Franklin

**Lowndes County  
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Hayneville, AL 36040  
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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

**U. S. CUSTOMS AND  
BORDER PROTECTION**

Protect the American people, safeguard our borders, and enhance the nation's economic prosperity.

**ENDURING MISSION PRIORITIES**

**Counter Terrorism – Anticipate, detect and disrupt the threat of terrorists, their weapons and actions to protect the people and economy of the United States.**

**Combat Transnational Crime – Detect, deter and disrupt transnational organized crime that threatens U.S. national and economic security interests at and beyond the border.**

**Secure the Border – Protect the Homeland through the air, land and maritime environments against illegal entry, illicit activity or other threats to uphold national sovereignty and promote national and economic security.**

**Facilitate Lawful Trade and Protect Revenue – Enable fair, competitive and compliant trade and enforce U.S. laws to ensure safety, prosperity and economic security for the American people.**

**Facilitate Lawful Travel – Enhance, enable and transform the travel experience by anticipating, detecting and intercepting threats prior to and at ports of entry.**



**MISSION STATEMENT**



Myles Mellor is one of the top crossword writers in the world. Published in over 1000 magazines, newspapers and web outlets. Over 20,000 crosswords published worldwide. Visit him at:

<http://www.themecrosswords.com/>

Also see his CBS interview at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ems-BZqyohY&t=22s>

**MYLES MELLOR  
CROSSWORD**

Answers on Page 6

- Down**
- Kept
  - Gothic, for one
  - Ruins
  - Amounted (to)
  - Etcher's need
  - Robinson or Jones?
  - Lovey
  - Be playful
  - Till compartment
  - Propensity
  - Devoured
  - Fun time, slangily
  - Camp leftovers
  - Where the buoys are
  - Totally
  - Nurse type
  - Diamonds, slang
  - Barring
  - Had confidence (in)
  - Boat propeller
  - Imp
  - Not waste
  - Get winter exercise
  - Cartographic drawings
  - Vicinity
  - Abide
  - Grime
  - Frosts, as a cake
  - This girl
  - It may be high in the afternoon
  - Avenue
  - Metal source

**Across**

- Beatles "I Saw \_\_\_ Standing There"
- Temporary quarters
- Employment
- "What \_\_\_ the odds?"
- Bit of land
- Loonie, e.g.
- Lady horse
- Understood wrongly
- Like some good wine
- Student's "final" ordeal
- \_\_\_ Minor
- Miracle response
- Displaying good judgment
- Shoe part
- Outmoded, with been
- Ethnic
- Bit of tennis
- Lobster tail on a combo plate
- 1994 Carrey film "The \_\_\_"
- Cubes
- Creative
- "Tea for \_\_\_"
- Pod vegetable
- "\_\_\_ we are" Gloria Estefan
- Audience
- Speak
- Gobbles up
- Tie-\_\_\_ (sixties shirt style)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12					13		
14				15					16		
		17	18						19		
20	21					22	23				
24				25	26				27	28	29
30				31					32		
			33						34		
35	36	37				38	39				
40				41	42				43	44	45
46				47					48		
49				50					51		

# Community Lifestyles

## NOTICE!

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## Honoring Our Heroes



### AHERO: America's Heroes Enjoying Recreation Outdoors



AHERO (America's Heroes Enjoying Recreation Outdoors) connects Veterans with patriotic members and first responders of local communities by organizing outdoor events and social activities. Its goal is to heal the physical and psychological wounds of war and military service by: (1) Introducing Veterans to resources and programs available to them to increase their overall quality of life, (2) Developing an informal support network of Veterans across the country. (3) Encouraging constructive communication and engagement and (4) Boosting morale. AHERO helps veterans and first responders using its Four Pillars-Physical, Financial, Emotional, and Spiritual. By connecting with its participants and addressing all four areas instead of one, they can walk away from its events and programs with valuable resources and tools that help as a whole and not just a part.

AHERO was organized and is operated by OIF and OEF Marine Corps and Army Veterans who understand the challenges today's war veterans face in reengaging the civilian world. Approximately 94-98% of all donated funds go back to the service members and Veterans in the form of program development, support and execution. AHERO has no paid staff members, and it keeps its overhead and administrative costs to between three and six percent of funds raised on an annual basis.

AHERO was conceived and founded by Major Lee Stuckey who served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Maj Stuckey served three combat tours in Iraq. Maj Stuckey was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in Iraq, Bronze Star, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a "V" device for Actions of Valor during combat, Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and other military ribbons/medals for outstanding service. Maj Stuckey suffered a brain injury from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in 2007. Lee's brain injury and coupled with the emotional trauma of several combat deployments, he was led to the edge of suicide. Lee was tired of dealing with the nightmares and stress and put a gun to his head. As he was pulling the trigger, his cell phone rang and displayed the word "Mom." He immediately dropped the pistol and realized he needed help. As a Marine Corps Officer, Maj Stuckey realized that if he was struggling with psychological issues, thousands of American veterans must be silently suffering in similar ways. Lee began to visit Walter Reed Hospital and other military hospitals across the country and connected with the servicemen and women that he met at these facilities. He was deeply affected by the severity of the physical and emotional injuries that so many servicemen and women had endured. Approximately 22 Veterans a day are committing suicide to put the yearly average at a horrific 8,030 a year. Maj Stuckey's new mission was to lower these numbers by sharing his story and reaching as many veterans as possible before it was too late.



AHERO is a veterans organization whose purpose is to serve America's wounded veterans by providing fellowship and mentoring opportunities through outdoor activities. All 100% of donations go to the veterans. Nothing goes to administration or salaries.

For information about AHERO, contact:  
Major General James E. Livingston USMC (MOH), Ret.  
Warrior Lodge 8410 US Highway 80 W. Tuskegee, AL 36083 Phone: 910-548-8864,  
website: [Info@AHEROUSA.com](mailto:Info@AHEROUSA.com)

**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.



Staff Sergeant Preston Frazier



Col Richard Aldridge

Hope you enjoy reading the Gazette as much as these veterans.



Treach Sergeant Willie James Rogers



Master Sergeant Waldo Spencer

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- |                                |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Frank Stovall April 2nd        | John L. Canady April 15th     |
| Trent H. Edward April 4th      | Samuel Brown April 22nd       |
| John Gibson Hamilton April 4th | Wanda Sue Mehlhoff April 25th |
| Antonio R. Whetstone April 8th | Larry H. Stevenson April 29th |
| Harold Woodman April 9th       |                               |

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Edward G. Platt May 2nd     | Ronald Balkcom May 20th    |
| Jimmy F. Meacham May 5th    | Willie Durham May 22nd     |
| Linda L. Boyle May 6th      | Charles Lynn May 23rd      |
| Joel Burdette, May 6th      | Johnny Saxton May 25th     |
| Sandra Dee Lucas May 13th   | Dennis M. Drew May 27th    |
| Paul Williamson May 14th    | Ell White May 27th         |
| David L. McFarland May 16th | Joseph Simon May 29th      |
| Lenora White May 19th       | Jamie M. LyBrands May 30th |
| Richard Aldridge May 20th   | Danny M. McDonald May 30th |

### Eagle Scouts Honored by Marine Corps Townsend Detachment #920

The Marine Corps League Townsend Detachment #920 honored two Eagle Scouts at their monthly meeting on Monday, February 20th.



Jonathan Benton and David Stabler both received Eagle Scout Recognition Certificates from the Detachment which were presented by Commandant Michael Jeffries.

The Eagle Scouts are members of Boy Scout Troop 191 in Millbrook, Alabama. In order to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, a scout must earn a total of twenty-one merit badges, some of which are required. In addition, an extensive service project must be completed. Being an Eagle Scout represents the best Scouting has to offer.



Congratulations to Eagle Scout Benton and Eagle Scout Stabler for their perseverance in completing the Eagle Scout requirements and for earning the highest rank of Scouting.



## Col John William Schmidt: Age 76



Col John William Schmidt served 26 years in the U.S. Marine Corps. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) included: (1) Infantry Officer for 24 years and seven months, (2) Ground Officer, Colonel, three years one month and (3) Public Affairs Office, 11 years two months. Col Schmidt participated in Operations Against Viet Cong Forces in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) and in Operation Desert Shield/Storm. This valiant Marine received the following medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons: Legion of Merit with one Gold Star, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation, Navy Commendation with Combat "V", Navy Achievement Medal with one Gold Star, Combat Acton Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation with one Star, National Defense Service Medal with one Star, Vietnam Service Medal with two Stars, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with three Stars, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Col Schmidt was born June 26, 1947 to his parents, Harold and Margaret Schmidt, at Menasha, WI. His father served in the U.S. Army during WWII. His family moved to Birmingham, AL, where he was reared and where he graduated from John Carroll High School in 1965. He graduated from Alabama College which is now the University of Montevallo in 1969 with a BA Degree in Political Science.

Having participated in the Platoon Leadership program in college, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps as a 2nd Lt. June 3, 1969. He completed six months of training at the Marine Basic School at the Marine Base Quantico, VA. His first MOS was Infantry Officer, and his first assignment was deployment to Camp Hansan, Okinawa, Japan, with the 3rd Marine Division in June 1971 for five months followed by service for five months at Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division where he served in combat. Next, he served at Camp Pendleton, CA, still with the 1st Marine Division from June 1971 to September 1972. He earned a Master's Degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of Wisconsin in 1973. Then he served at the Marine Headquarters at Washington, D.C. in Public Affairs 1973-1977. While in this capacity, Col Schmidt helped to implement the Freedom of Information Act for the Defense Department. In May 1977, he returned to Birmingham, AL, and served with the Marine Reserve with the 4th Battalion Marines while working at the University of AL at Birmingham, AL, for one year.

Col Schmidt returned to Active duty serving as the Infantry Officer with the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton 1978-1979. He then served as the Public Affairs Officer at Camp LeJeune 1979-1987. While there, he served as the

primary spokesman for the Vietnam War POW PFC Robert Garwood who stood trial for AWOL desertion at Vietnam. This was the first televised court-martial for the U.S. military. He returned for a second deployment to Okinawa. Then he served for two years at the Marine Aircraft Group-26 at New River, N.C. Completing his tour at New River, he was assigned commanding officer of a logistics unit with the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit. He next deployed for sea duty in the Mediterranean Sea 1987-1989 serving aboard the USS Shreveport (LPD-12), an Austin-class amphibious transport dock and the USS Nassau, (LHA-4) a Tarawa-class amphibious assault ship. In 1989, he completed the program at the U.S. Air Force War College at Maxwell AFB, AL. In 1989-1990, he served with the US Central Command (CentCom) at Tampa, FL. He was deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1990 after the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. He served as the Operations Officer there during Desert Shield and Desert Storm where he planned defense and offense operations until April 1991. He served in Kuwait August 1990-June 1992.

Col Schmidt then served at Camp LeJeune, and he was involved with the Marines' assistance to people affected by Hurricane Andrew in Florida. Next, in February, 1993, he commanded the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Force on the aircraft carrier, USS Theodore Roosevelt, for six months off the coast of Saudi Arabia. One of the missions was to rescue downed pilots. He commanded another Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force aboard the USS Nassau off the coast of Haiti in August 1993-December 1993. Col Schmidt retired from all military service October 31, 1994.

After military retirement, Col Schmidt received an EdD Degree in Higher Education from Nova University. He worked for 20 years during 1994-2014 with Troy University. He served in leadership positions as the Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, Vice President for Advancement with fund raising, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Senior Vice President for Student Affairs. While there, he created a Student Service Center to inspire retention. From 2018-2021, he worked as Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Services Administration.

Col Schmidt and his wife, Vickie, have been married 52 years, and they have three sons and five grandchildren. He is a life-time member of the Marine Corps League and a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church and the Board of Trustees of the American Village. He has served as President of the Troy Rotary Club. For recreation, he enjoys exercise, reading and fishing.

Col Schmidt's conclusions about what serving in the Marines means to him are: "Give back to this great nation. What this great nation gave to me was love of country and family." He would like people to remember him as a man who loved the Marine Corps.



## Col Denny Rea: Age 70



On September 11, 2001, Col Denny Rea was stationed at Luke Air Force Base, AZ, as the commander in charge of 10,000 US Air Force personnel while the Wing commander was away, as the disastrous events of that day unfolded on the east coast. He saw his teams react as they had been trained which was to load aircraft with weapons, fly 24-hour air patrols over the southwestern United States, work with the City of Glendale for local security, rapidly set-up an off-base dispensary for life-saving medications for the elderly in the turmoil, coordinate with the North American Defense (NORAD) command for national directives and

work with the FBI's anti-terrorism task force to prevent further incidents or damage. Col Rea states, "This was a sober time, but one of the culminations of a career in military service that made me proud."

Colonel Denny Rea served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Service Code (AFSC) included: (1) Command Fighter Pilot for 25 years, (2) OPS Commander for two years and (3) Academic Program Manager for three years. Among his awards were the following: Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster (OLC), Meritorious Service Medal with four OLCs, Meritorious Unit Award with two OLCs, AF Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Air Medal with OLC, Aerial Achievement Medal with three OLCs, Combat Readiness Medal with three OLCs, National Defense Service Medal with Service Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Col Rea was born January 1954 in Austin, TX, to his parents, Jim and Ann Rea. His father served as a P-47 pilot during WWII in the Pacific Theater. Col Rea was active in the Boy Scouts and earned the rank of Eagle Scout and was a member of the Order of the Arrow. In high school, Col Rea played football, ran track and played in the concert and jazz bands. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School in 1972.

Col Rea entered the U.S. Air Force Academy July 3, 1972, ran inter-collegiate hurdles in track, completed U.S. and British parachute jump schools and the Air Force Survival School and qualified in the T-41 aircraft. He graduated on June 2, 1976, with a BS Degree in Management and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Air Force.

Col Rea's active-duty military service began with pilot training at Vance Air Force Base (AFB), OK from 1976-1977. His assignments included: (1) Holloman AFB, NM, for fighter lead-in training, 1977, (2) MacDill AFB, FL, for F-4D fighter training, 1978, (3) Kunsan AB, Korea, as an operational F-4D fighter pilot & flight lead, 1978-1979, (4) Nellis AFB, NV, as an F-4D and then F-16A flight lead, instructor, test pilot and flight evaluator, 1979-1983, (5) Luke AFB, AZ, as an F-16A instructor pilot, flight evaluator and flight commander, 1983-1987, (6) Randolph AFB, TX, on the Fighter Personnel Assignments staff, 1987-1990, (7) Maxwell AFB, AL, Air Command & Staff College, 1990-1991, (8) Spangdahlem AB, Germany, as an F-16C Operations Officer and Squadron Commander, 1991-1997, (9) Tucson AFB, AZ, 12th Air Force Inspector General Director of Inspections, 1997-1999, (10) Mountain Home AFB, ID, Operations Group Commander 1999-2000, Kusan AB, Korea, F16C Wing Vice Commander, 2000-2001, (11) Luke AB, AZ, F16C Wing Vice Commander, 2001-2003, and (12) Maxwell AFB, AL, as an Air War College Associate Professor and Command Chair for Air Combat Command, 2003-2006.

Col Rea's 30-year military service spanned across all major theaters of operation. He completed two remote tours in Korea and spent over five combined years in Europe and the Middle East. While serving, Col Rea earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Golden Gate University and graduated from Professional Military Education (PME) courses including Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College. He also completed the Nuclear Instructors Course at Sandia Laboratories, USAF Europe Commanders Course, Senior Commander Leadership Training, Senior Leaders Maintenance Course, and the USAF Accident Board President Course.

Col Rea served as the Director of Inspections for the 12th Air Force Inspector General, commanded America's only true composite flying group with B-1, KC-

135, F-15A, F-15C and F-16C aircraft & maintenance teams, as the Air University Command Chair for the Air Combat Command where he instructed at the Air War College and led two senior officer delegations to the People's Republic of China. Col Rea completed his military career with 3,500 fighter hours including 300 combat hours over Iraq and Bosnia. Col Rea retired from military service in 2006.

Col Rea then worked as a Senior Project Manager and Consultant for 17 years primarily in the "learning technology" industry upgrading federal government training courses to interactive and immersive learning methods in new modalities. These efforts enhanced the progress by the younger generations who are "wired" to learn by interactivity, digital awareness, and online situational problem solving vs. his generation's reading and highlighting books or PowerPoint briefings.

Col Rea worked 10 years for Vertex Solutions which was later named Adayana and based out of Falls Church, VA. His projects included creating innovative learning products for AETC agencies such as the Culture & Language Center and the Air Force Negotiation Center of Excellence at Maxwell AFB, developing a "Future of Learning" blueprint for HQ AETC, creating voice-activated situational courses for the Defense Language Institute and developing interactive virtual scenarios for the Department of Defense Fire Academy. He also directed projects to develop e-learning courses for the U.S. Postal Service, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Center for Credibility Assessments (Polygraph School). Col Rea worked with the State Department to create Anti-Terrorism Training modules for teams traveling to over 50 countries worldwide and with EUROPOL to combat international virtual currency (Bitcoin) criminal activities on the dark web.

After Vertex Solutions, Col Rea continued with independent consulting for various companies including Blue Force, Mesmo, Inc., Betis Corp., and Community Force, continuing to develop new content and designs for diverse learning delivery formats. Rea joined with Datum Software, Inc. in 2018 to assist on an Air University (AU) Project at Maxwell AFB to build a new Learning Management System for AU's colleges and schools. He ended his career on a project with the Bureau of Indian Education writing policy and providing solutions for Indian K-12 schools in over 26 states. Col Rea retired from full-time employment in June 2023.

Col Rea and his wife, Trudy, have been married 41 years, and have lived in Montgomery since 2003. They have two children and two grandchildren. They are members of Frazer Methodist Church where he teaches adult Sunday School and serves with the Prison Ministry Program and the Men's Leadership Council. He is active in the community through the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, Wright Flyers Association military support group and the Air Force Association. He enjoys playing golf, biking, swimming, and reading.

Col Rea comments on his military service: "It was a fantastic time to serve as a fighter pilot in the Air Force. I gained a lifelong family of friends in the military and from many other countries. The flying was fantastic, with many hours spent over northern Iraq and over Bosnia-Herzegovina. I had some amazing personal experiences such as: (1) Attending Turkish and German weddings, (2) drinking strong coffee in a shepherd's tent in the Israeli countryside and discussing world events with Arab and Jewish men simultaneously, (3) having long conversations with Turkish friends on big piles of handmade rugs, (4) playing with Korean orphans during Christmas in South Korea, (5) attending a formal dinner in a former Nazi bunker in Denmark, (6) leading the Air Force contingent in the Patton Day Parade in Luxembourg, (7) flying with pilots from more than 20 countries, (8) engaging in senior-level discussions with Chinese military, academic, and government leaders and (9) administering the Air Force oath of office at my daughter's commissioning to name a few.

Col Rea states, "People don't need to remember me. They just need to pass the torch of values and lessons for a path to follow Jesus Christ which was passed to me. And remember, those who desire the peace the most are those who must go out and defend it."





## Aviation Machinist Mate James L. Tatum: Age 100



Aviation Machinist Mate (AMM) James L. Tatum served three years, 11 months and two days in the U.S. Navy during WWII. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was airplane mechanic and aerial gunner. His Naval unit received the Presidential Unit Citation. His entire Naval service was in the Pacific Ocean where he was aboard aircraft carriers in the battles at Tarawa, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam and Leyte.



AMM Tatum was born December 29, 1923 at Autauga County, AL, to his parents, James L. Tatum and Sarah Ella Tatum. His brother served in the 101st Airborne in France. He attended Lanier High School in Montgomery, AL; however when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, he decided to volunteer and join the U.S. Navy. At age 18, he reported for duty at Birmingham, AL, January 13, 1942.

AMM Tatum completed Boot Camp at the Navy Station Norfolk, VA, followed by six months of aviation machinist training there. He was then sent to Hollywood, FL, for six weeks of training as an aerial gunner. Next, he was stationed at North Island at San Diego, CA, for more training as an aerial gunner. While there, he flew behind the pilots flying dive bombers such as the Grumman TBF Avenger torpedo bomber and the SBD, Scout Dive-Bomber which was the Navy's main carrier-based scout/dive bomber. He was then sent to Alameda, CA, with a VT CV37 (fixed wing) squadron where he worked as a mechanist and as an aerial gunner. This was followed by serving at Monterey, CA, for six weeks, at El Centro, CA, training for night flying and at Los Alamos, CA, for six weeks.

AMM Tatum boarded the Sangamon (CVE-26) a former oiler, a U.S. navy escort carrier, at North Island, San Diego, CA. He was involved in very dangerous service in combat on the deck where he was involved with mechanical maintenance of the airplanes on the carrier. In July 1943, the Sangamon was redesignated CVE-26 and supported the Tarawa Invasion in November 1943. He arrived on the 20th in the Gilberts to support the assault on Tarawa. His first combat battle was the Battle of Tarawa which was fought on November 20-23, 1943 between the United States and Japan in the Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands and was part of Operation Galvanic, the U.S. invasion of the Gilberts. During the first two days of this operation, her planes struck enemy positions on the island. Then through December 6th, weaponry repairs were made at sea.

During early January 1944, the ship trained off southern California and on the 13th, it sailed west, and from January 31st until mid-February, the Sangamon supported the assault and occupation of Kwajalein. Steaming via Pearl Harbor, the carrier pushed on toward her next amphibious operation, the assault on Kwajalein in the Marshalls. AMM Tatum's second combat was the Battle of Kwajalein which was fought as part of the Pacific campaign of World War II. It took place January 31- February 3, 1944 on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Employing the hard-learned lessons of the Battle of Tarawa, the United States launched a successful twin assault on the main islands of Kwajalein in the south and Roi-Namur in the north. The Japanese defenders put up stiff resistance although outnumbered and under-prepared. The determined defense of Roi-Namur left only 51 survivors of an original garrison of 3,500. For the US, the battle represented both the next step in its island-hopping march to Japan and a significant morale victory because it was the first time the Americans had penetrated the "outer ring" of the Japanese Pacific sphere. For the Japanese, the battle represented the failure of the beach-line defense. Japanese defenses became prepared in depth, and the Battles of Peleliu, Guam, and the Marianas proved far more costly to the US.

On the 25th, during routine flight operations, a returning fighter failed to hook a wire on landing, broke through the barriers and crashed into parked planes on the forward flight deck. Its belly tank was torn loose and skidded forward spewing flaming fuel. Fire soon spread among the planes. It raged along the flight deck, and flames beat up over the bridge making ship control extremely difficult. The carrier was turned out of the wind so that the fire could be fought. By 4:59 p.m. it was under control. Seven of the crew died in those eight minutes. Seven others were seriously injured, and of the 15 who jumped over the side to escape the flames, 13 were rescued and two missing. AMM Tatum was on deck when the crash happened, and he was thrown into the sea. He suffered second degree severe burns to his arms and legs; however after being treated in the sick bay, he returned to duty.

Next, the ship moved on to Eniwetok, where her planes covered the landing forces from the 17th to the 24th. On the latter date, she departed the Marshalls and headed back to Pearl Harbor to complete repairs received during the Kwajalein Invasion and was sent out on CAP and ASP On March 15th, the CVE got underway again. Departing Hawaii, the carrier rendezvoused with Task Group (TG) 50.15, the fast carrier force support group, on the 26th. For the remainder of the month and into April, it escorted that group as it operated north of the Admiralties to refuel and resupply the fast carrier force after it had conducted strikes on the Palaus. In early April, the Sangamon retired to Espiritu Santo and at mid-month, sailed for New Guinea. Briefly attached to the 7th Fleet, the carrier covered the landing at Aitape from the 22d to the 24th, retired to Manus for two days and then returned to the Aitape area where she conducted patrols with five missions to protect the escort carrier group and the target area.

Following repairs, he served in the Marshall Islands area and participated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea that June. The Sangamon then returned to Espiritu Santo whence it departed on May 19th. Rehearsals for the Marianas campaign followed, and on June 2nd, he sailed for the Marshalls. Rendezvousing with TF 53 en route, the carrier covered that force to Kwajalein and then to the Marianas. From the 17th to the 20th, the carrier guarded the force as it steamed to the east of Saipan as a backup force for TF52 which was then engaged in the assault on and the occupation of the island. From June 2-17, the carrier guarded the force as it steamed to the east of Saipan as a backup force for TF52 which was then engaged in the assault on and the occupation of the island. From July 13th to August 1st, the carrier covered the bombardment groups engaged in the capture of Guam. On August 4th, the carrier returned to Eniwetok, and on the 9th, the carrier proceeded to Manus where it was anchored for almost a month. On September 9th, the Sangamon departed Seadler Harbor, New Guinea, and steamed for Morotai. There from the 15th to the 27th, the carrier again covered Allied assault forces. After the initial waves had landed, her planes shifted from combat support to bombing and strafing missions to destroy Japanese airfields on nearby Halmahera. AMM Tatum participated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea in the liberation of Leyte. From the flight deck, he saw the first Japanese kamikaze hit the USS Santee (CVE-29), an escort carrier. After the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the Sangamon was detached from TF 53. The Battle of Leyte was the last one that the cruiser and he were in, and then he was sent to Seattle, WA, and then to Chicago for training at the advanced engine school. While there, he fell and suffered an injury to his head and was hospitalized in Seattle when WWII ended. He was then sent to New Orleans to be mustered out of military service December 15, 1945.

AMM Tatum recalls attending the USO shows starring Bob Hope. He remembers enjoying the shows at Magnus Island, Leyte, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Espiritu and the Admiralty Islands. He recalls hearing Tokyo Rose on the radio.

After his military service, AMM Tatum used the G.I. Bill to study farming which paid him \$90.00 per month for four years, and he started farming. He was employed at Maxwell AFB, AL, for 30 years as an aviation machinist in maintenance control in Civil Service on the T-39 airplanes which were used to fly dignitaries. He retired from that employment in 1982. He is a member of the Pine Level Methodist Church. He is a member of the Escort Carriers Association. In the past, he has owned 520 acres where he raised 200 head of cattle and 45 acres of cotton, and he lives in a house there that he built. AMM Tatum and his wife, Mildred, were married 54 years, and she is now deceased. They had three children, six grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.



AMM Tatum's conclusions about what serving in the U.S. military means to him are: "It meant that I was helping my country. We were at war, and we were fighting someone who wanted to rule the world. I was doing my part as good as I could do. Whatever they told me to do, I tried to do it right as good as I could. It meant a lot to me to know that I was serving my country and knowing that I was helping." He would like people to remember him, he always tried to do the right thing, and if he could help someone, he wanted to help them. He tried to look for the best in a person.



## cc Captain James Edward Klingler: Age 78



Start Medal and the Army Commendation Medal with VDC.

Captain Klingler was born February 19, 1946 in Akron, Ohio, to his parents, Harold H. and Lucie Pickett Klingler. He was reared on a cattle farm in Bullock County, AL. He graduated from high school at Marion Military Institute in 1964 and remained there two more years for part of his college education, and he completed summer camp at Ft. Bragg, N.C., while in ROTC at the University of AL where he graduated with a B.S. Degree in Chemistry and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army in 1968.

Captain Klingler began his active duty military service at Ft. Sill, OK, where he completed six weeks of the basic Artillery course. He was then stationed at Ft. McClellan, AL, where he was a training officer of the Advanced Infantry Training Course for six months. He was then deployed to Vietnam for 12 months from mid 1969 to mid 1970. He was with the Army's 1st of the 30th Artillery where he was in combat as his battery fired the 155 Howitzer with 100 lb. shells which took two people to lift the shells. He was at a fire base during the entire time of his deployment located northwest of Saigon near the Cambodian border. His battery was with the redeployment into Cambodia in 1970. Captain Klingler was wounded by shrapnel in the lower part of his body by incoming fire during the Cambodian Campaign. He was operated upon in Ben Hoa and Saigon, Vietnam, and in the hospital at the Army Garrison at Camp Zama, Japan, where he spent the 4th of July, 1970. He was sent back to the USA to Ft. Gordon, GA, for three weeks and then to Ft. Riley, KS, for one year where he was discharged from the Army August 22, 1971.

Since discharge from the Army, Captain Klingler has spent 53 years as a financial investment adviser. He worked for five years with Merrill Lynch who sent him to New York City for education in financial investment. He

transferred to the Robison-Humphrey LLC for 23 years, and in 2010, he began working with Stifel Nicolas Inc. and is still with that firm.

Captain Klingler and his wife, Jane, have been married 54 years, and they have two children and five grandchildren. They belong to First United Methodist Church in Montgomery, AL. He is a twice past president of the Montgomery Symphony and is still on the board today. He is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Montgomery. He enjoys fishing and hunting quail and doves. On his farm in Bullock County, he has a brood cattle herd and forest products.

Captain Klingler is concerned about America's current situation. He states: "I see many similarities with what I learned in the Artillery and what is going on in our country today. He states, "The artillery along with airpower is used to "soften" the enemy before the ground troops attack. The similarity to this in our country today and the "softening" aspect of yesterday are; today we have military age men streaming across our southern border to do significant damage to our country by them if they so choose. We are not teaching the civics courses in the government school systems today that we did 50-60 years ago. We are tearing down national monuments across our country which continues to destroy our national heritage. We are removing from history those things that helped make our country great. I am not going to get into the weaponization of our agencies the FBI, IRS, etc. I am not going to get into the crippling of free speech. All of these things have a tendency to cause our people to be silenced. This is not how our country was founded, in fact, it is just the opposite.

This deracination of our history and heritage makes it much easier for an enemy." Captain Klingler's conclusions about his military service are: "Serving in the military helped re-establish my love of country. I do dearly love my country. I do not trust my government." Because he has been working in financial investments, he would like to be remembered as someone who assisted people in making a better financial life.





## Sergeant First Class James Edward Pierson: Age 67



Sergeant First Class (SFC) James Edward Pierson served 29 years in the military including 15.5 years in active duty in the U.S. Army and 14 years in the National Guard. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Unit Level Communications Systems Circuit Controller with Radio Repair and Water Treatment Specialist. He received the following decorations, medals, badges and citations: Army Good Conduct Medal, (5th award), NCO/ Professional Development Ribbon (two), Overseas Service Ribbon (three), Army Service Ribbon, Expert Marksmanship Badge M-16 Rifle, Army Lapel Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Air Assault Badge, Driver and Mechanic Badge, Army Meritorious Service Ribbon, Army Commendation Medal (three with oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal, Southeast Asia Service Medal (with three bronze service stars) and Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal. SFC Pierson was born March 10, 1957 in Troy, AL, to his parents, L.C. and Bula Pierson. He was reared in Wetumpka, AL and graduated from Wetumpka High School in 1975.

SFC Pierson volunteered for military service in the U.S. Army in May 1976 under a delayed entry program and reported for duty October 14, 1976 at Ft. Jackson, SC. for basic training which was referred to as Tank Hill, a large water tower at the top of the hill which recruits had to run up after completing vigorous training at the end of the day. He completed eight weeks of boot camp and also trained as a field wireman while there. He was then deployed to serve three years at Baumholder, Germany. He reenlisted and trained for 10 weeks at Ft. Sill, OK, to work as a radio repairman. Next, he served at Ft. Lewis, WA, for two years. His second tour to Germany was to the NATO Air Base at Geilenkirchen, Germany, for three years. He returned to the U.S.A. for one year at Ft. Riley, KS from 1985-86. He re-enlisted and served his third tour to Germany at Bamberg for three years 1986 to 1989. He then returned to the U.S.A. and served at Ft. Campbell, KY, in 1989-1992 where he served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm 1990-1991. His active duty ended July 16, 1992, and he returned to AL, and he immediately began serving in the National Guard July

17, 1992. SFC Pierson served respectively with the 123rd Supply & Support Company / 1208 Quartermaster Supply Company in Goodwater, AL, 1992-2019, The 122nd Troop Command, in Selma, AL, 2019-2001 and in 2001 when SFC Pierson was assigned to HHC 167 Theater Support Command Birmingham, AL 2001-2005. After 9/11 SFC Pierson was deployed to Ft. Monroe, VA in 2002 to 2004 to support the Global War on Terrorism. After he returned to Alabama, SFC Pierson retired from all military service October 21, 2005.

SFC Pierson used the G.I. Bill, completed training, received a certificate in trunk driving at John A. Patterson Technical College and drove trucks for one year. He then attended the Alabama Corrections Academy at Selma, AL and afterward, he was employed at Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women at Wetumpka, AL, as a corrections officer for five years in 1999-2004. He then worked with the AL Department of Transportation in Alexander City, AL 2004-2007. His last employment was with the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs at the Tuskegee VA Medical Center as a Medical Support Assistant 2007-2015 and as The Lead Medical Support Assistant in the Specialty Clinic in 2015-2017 retiring from all employment in 2017.

SFC Pierson has six children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is an active member of the Disabled American Veterans. He is a member of the Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Wetumpka, AL, and serves as an usher. He is a member of the Vet Center Client Stakeholder Board in Montgomery, AL, and the American Legion Post 231 in Wetumpka, AL. He enjoys traveling and attending football games at AL State University.

SFC Pierson's reflections on his military service are, "It provided a successful life full of accomplishments. Without the military, I do not think that I would have accomplished a lot of things that I have done, gone to places or seen things." He would like people to remember him as an outstanding person who would do anything for anybody as long as they are willing to do right by him.



## Colonel Dr Patricia Thomas: Age 50



Col Dr Patricia Thomas is currently serving honorably and consistently for the past 27 years. Her military service includes 15 years on Active Duty (1996-2011) in the U.S. Air Force, and 12 years in the U.S. Air Force Reserve (2011-present). Her Air Force Service Code (AFSC) is Acquisition Contracting. She is a recipient of the fifth highest ranking U.S. military honor, Defense Superior Service Medal. The Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM) is a military decoration of the United States Department of Defense, which is presented to United States Armed Forces service members who perform superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility. Among her many other medals, citations and decorations are the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Col Thomas was born March 14, 1974, to her parents, A.J. and Lula C. (Rockett) Wells in Chicago, IL, until moving to Attala County, MS, in 1982. While in high school, she mastered playing the clarinet. She graduated from McAdams High School in McAdams, MS, in 1992. She received a band scholarship to play clarinet at Grambling State University (GSU). While attending GSU, she received an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) scholarship in January 1993. In December 1996, she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Advertising, and she was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the U.S. Air Force to begin her military service.

Col Thomas's first duty station was at Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB), CA, with the 30th Contracting Squadron. There she became proficient in Operational Contracting while supporting various space and missile missions and engineering squadrons. Her responsibilities also included leading the Construction and Services Flight where she led the implementation of the Government Purchase Card. During this assignment, Col Thomas obtained her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of La Verne.

Col Thomas' second assignment was at Maxwell AFB-Gunter Annex, AL. She was assigned to the Standards Systems Group where she became proficient in systems contracting and program management. During this timeframe, Col Thomas led the acquisition team that launched the satellite supporting the Air Force Portal. In 2001, she deployed to Pristina, Kosovo in southeastern Europe as the Lead Contracting Officer for NATO led Kosovo Force (KFOR) helping to secure the Balkans and to maintain a safe and secure environment for our US and NATO Allies. She returned to the US and continued to serve at Gunter-Annex until she was assigned to Tuskegee University Air Force ROTC, 'Home of the Tuskegee Airmen', as the Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies. She taught sophomores USAF history and was the Senior Recruiting Officer and Education Officer from June 2003 – July 2006. During this assignment, she instituted the Bridge Scholarship where students with 5-year technical majors such as engineering and nursing can receive a one-year scholarship to cover their tuition fees.

Next, Col Dr Thomas was assigned to Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Atlanta in

Smyrna, GA, administering weapon system contracts for all branches of the U.S. military. As Deputy Group Chief of Acquisitions, one of her most memorable career moments was administering the contract for the Mine Resistance Ambush Protective (MRAP) vehicle which is designed to withstand improvised explosive devices and ambushes.

While assigned to DCMA Atlanta, Col Dr Thomas embarked on her second deployment. She was deployed to support Operation Iraqi Freedom July 2007 to July 2008 at Balad (Anaconda), Iraqi. She commanded this effort as the Theater Lead Contracting Officer with two primary missions: Theaterwide Transportation Mission (TTM) and Combat Life Support Services (CLSS). These missions required her to dangerously travel through the entire country on average accumulating over 1200 flight hours. Following this assignment, Col Dr Thomas received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. After her tour in Iraq, Col Dr Thomas served at the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, AL from May 2009 – November 2011 teaching military leadership to joint force military majors and American Cultural Studies to international officers.

Col Dr Thomas transferred to the USAF Reserve in December 2011 and served as the Acquisition Contracting Officer with DCMA Manassas, VA. She was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in October 2012, and in March 2013, Col Dr Thomas deployed to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Khandar, Afghanistan. During this timeframe, she led the entire southern region as the Southern Afghanistan Contracting Lead. She developed and designed the historical 'Operation Tire Strike' which involved returning leased vehicles back to the original leasing companies saving the US tax payers millions of dollars.

From 2014-2017, Col Dr Thomas led the entire DCMA organization Contract Closeout effort resolving several closeout issues and taking the entire organization out of 'Red Zone' into the 'Green Zone'. Within DCMA, Col Dr Thomas' assignments included DCMA Baltimore and supporting DCMA Huntsville, DCMA Lockheed Martin Fort Worth, DCMA Dallas, DCMA Lockheed Martin Orlando and DCMA Santa Ana. Her last assignment with DCMA was supporting DCMA Central Region in Chicago, IL, and the Senior Reservist for the entire agency.

In 2018, Col Dr Thomas was one of less than 1% of the Lt Cols and Cols selected to attend the prestigious Air War College (AWC) at Maxwell AFB, AL. During this time, she was also promoted to Colonel. While attending AWC, Col Dr Thomas led her team in establishing a Civil Air Patrol Unit at Goodwin Middle School, and their effort yielded accolades from the Secretary of the Air Force, the Honorable Heather A. Wilson. During this timeframe, Col Dr Thomas earned a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the Air University and a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from Capella University.

In 2020, Col Dr Thomas, obtained her Doctorate in Organizational Leadership from the University of Phoenix. Her dissertation is titled, "Factors Contributing to Promotion of Females U.S. Air Force Field Grade Officers.", aimed to shed light on some of the reasons females exit the USAF. Once leaving DCMA, Col Dr Thomas was assigned to serve as the Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) to the Senior Contracting Official for Pacific Command

and USINDOPACOM located at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH), Hawaii. Colonel Thomas is one of only four Colonels in the USAF Reserve Contracting career field.

Most recently, Colonel Thomas was hand selected to serve as the Acting Reserve Advisor to the Air University Commander and President. She also serves as the Program Director of the Air Reserve Component Seminar supporting Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Majors through Colonels at Maxwell AFB, AL.

Col Dr Thomas' philosophy about her military service is: "As I reflect over my 27 years of service, my military career has been outstanding. After having my first child at the age of 14, my desire was to make my parents proud and to be a successful parent. The military gave me the opportunity to do both and to become an amazing military officer and citizen. I have enjoyed defending our nation, and I have embraced the challenges along the way. I would not trade it for anything. I look forward to serving for many more years to come. I am proud that my oldest son has joined the U.S. Army and is serving as a Chaplain. My youngest son is currently enrolled in Tuskegee University's AFROTC program. Col Dr Thomas is a Christian and someone who is unselfishly volunteering, giving and supporting others, and pours into our youth so they too can believe that they can achieve greatness as well.

Col Thomas has three children and three grandchildren. She is a member of the Maxwell Faith Chapel at Maxwell AFB, AL. She enjoys volunteering, exercising and taking cruises. She is a member of Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., serving as the National Risk Management Chair and the Southern Region Financial and Recording Secretary. She is also a member of Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority.

In 2021, Col Dr Thomas received proclamations from Attala County, MS, and McAdams High School in McAdams, MS, recognizing her as the first African-American female to be promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Air Force from Attala County.

In 2022, Col Thomas launched the Colonel Dr Patricia Wells-Thomas (PWT) Foundation. The primary reason for starting this foundation is to help veterans and youth. This involves teaching life skills to youth. Additionally, this foundation provides a scholarship to McAdams High School Seniors. The scholarship grants \$1,500 to a McAdams High School senior that will be attending one of the 107 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). If the student participates in an ROTC program at the HBCU, an additional \$500 is awarded. Students can apply from December 1st through March 1st each year. The Foundation hosts a Veterans Day socks drive and provides Christmas cards to the residents at the Crowne Health Care Center in Montgomery, AL.

If anyone would like to donate to the Colonel (Dr.) PWT Foundation, please contact Col Thomas at: Col DR Patricia Thomas:  
**E-mail: PatriciaThomas1474@gmail.com**





## Sergeant First Class Eddie Frank Harris: Age 66



Sergeant First Class (SFC) Eddie Frank Harris served 20 years in the U.S. Military including four years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 16 years in the U.S. Army. While serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, his Military field includes ground forces who are trained to locate and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver or repel their assault by fire and close combat. These roles all require high levels of fitness, mental toughness, and tactical abilities. His MOS in the U.S. Army was Supply Specialist. He received the following medals, decorations, awards and ribbons: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (five), Army Achievement Medal (two), Army Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Retiree Lapel Button, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Bronze service stars, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development ribbon with numeral three, Army Service Medal, Overseas Service Medal (three), Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Southeast Asia), Marksman Badge (rifle), Driver and Mechanics Badge and Drill Sergeant Identification Badge.

SFC Harris was born March 5, 1958 to his parents, O.B. and Larceina Harris in Goshen, AL. He had 11 siblings. He was reared in Glenwood, AL, and attended Woodford Avenue High School, Luverne AL. He was later transferred to Brantley High School where he played fullback in football for three years, and during his senior year at the age of age 17, he voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Marines February 27, 1976. He earned his GED while serving in the Marines in 1979.

SFC Harris completed Marine Corps Boot Camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, where he graduated June 14, 1976. From there, he was assigned to Alpha Company 1st Battalion 6th Marine Corps, Camp Lejeune, N.C., for three months training in special weapons. He took leave to Montgomery, Alabama where he married his wife Denise, November 1, 1976. The following week he deployed to the Mediterranean Cruise on the USS Fort Snelling (LSD-30), a Thomason Class dock landing ship, with the 34th Marine Amphibious Unit for seven months. He sailed to Spain, Italy, Greece, Egypt and Kenya. A storm at sea caused internal damage to the USS Snelling, and the ship was tossed onto its side and took on water. When it arrived at a port in Spain, the Fort Snelling was deboarded because of the unrepairable damage. He was transferred to the USS Guam (LPH-9), an Iwo Jima amphibious assault ship, to complete his Mediterranean deployment. The Marines and equipment were loaded onto the USS Guam. On January 17, 1977 in Barcelona, Spain, a landing ship craft being used as a liberty board by the USS Trenton and the USS Guam with over 124 US sailors and Marines was run into by the Basque freighter, Uria, destroying the small boat and hurling service members into the harbor. Many were rescued, but 49 perished. SFC Harris returned to U.S. Marine Corp Base Camp LeJeune and completed his time of service, and he was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps February 27, 1980.

SFC Harris remained a civilian for only 30 days. He re-entered military service in the U.S. Army May 30, 1980 and completed Training at Company A, 2nd Battalion 4th Brigade, Fort Knox, Kentucky. He was sent to HHC, 4th Bn, QM Bde, U.S. Army Quartermaster Brigade, Ft. Lee, VA, for one year where he was a Handling Equipment Instructor. He received Permanent Change of Station, August 27, 1981 to Company A 2nd S&T Bn 2nd Infantry Division,

Dongducheon, South Korea, on an unaccompanied tour for one year where he was a Service Receiving-Edit Manager. He had Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to Fort Benning, GA, with the 197th Infantry Brigade. He completed 60 days of desert training at Fort Irving, CA. SFC Harris returned to Fort Benning, GA, where he reenlisted and was transferred to 598th Maintenance Company. He was selected for Drill Sergeant School where he graduated and served as a Platoon Drill Sergeant with the Harmony Church Installation for two years. He received Permanent Change of Station orders to S & T Trp RSS 2nd ACR on December 3, 1986 on a three year accompanied tour to Nuremberg, Germany. While on assignment in Germany, he enrolled in Central Texas College completing a Course in Mechanic, and Supervisor Service Administrative Management. In 1989, he was stationed back at 598th Maintenance Company at Fort Benning, GA.

SFC Harris was deployed August 12, 1990 to The Persian Gulf War Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Dharan, Saudi Arabia, as a supply unit for 13 months. On 25 February 1991, a Scud missile hit a U.S. Army barracks of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment out of Greensburg, PA, that was attached to 598th Maintenance stationed in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 28 soldiers and injuring over 100. He was there for the duration of duty. He returned to the USA to serve at Fort Benning with the 598th Maintenance Company. His second tour to Germany was unaccompanied in 1993 to Baumholder, Germany, for two years where he worked in front line supply. His last duty station was with Kilo Company at the Hunter Air Field U.S. Army Garrison, Savannah, GA, where he retired from all military service May 30, 1996.

After his military retirement, SFC Harris used the G.I. Bill and completed technology training via correspondence earning an Associate Degree as Master Automotive Technician from the McGraw-Hill Continuing Education Center. He then earned an Associate Degree in Automotive Service Technology from John M. Patterson State Technical College. The technical and mechanical skills enabled SFC Harris to gain employment as a Diesel Mechanic with Colonial Bread Company for 10 years, and employment at Jack Ingram Motors as an Automotive Technician for 18 years. He retired from all employment in 2014.



SFC Harris and his wife, Denise Summerlin Harris, have been married 47 years; they had two sons, Dr. Frankco Harris (Valerie), a New York City pastor and the late Anthony Harris and four grandchildren. They have traveled together from state to state, overseas and abroad. They are members of the Free and Accepted Church in Montgomery, AL, where he serves as a deacon, and she is a Missionary. They are engaged in their community and active in their home-owners' association where Denise serves as an officer. He is also a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans. He can be seen helping seniors, children and adults mentally and spiritually. His selfless acts are innumerable.

SFC Harris' conclusions about his military service are, "It set my life on the way that I live right now. I was able to establish a provision for my family. I became a well groomed and knowledgeable person learning about different parts of the world and how people lived. To me, it was a way of life." He would like people to remember him as an honest, fair and decent person.



## Tech Sergeant Donald Allen Heil: Age 76



Tech Sergeant (TSgt) Donald Allen Heil served 23 years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Telephone Technician Specialist. During his entire military service, he worked as a liaison with the cities where the military bases were located wherever that he served setting up the communications systems. He received the following medals, decorations, citations and ribbons: Air Force Good Conduct Medal with Bronze and Silver Stars, Air and Space Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon, Air and Space Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air and Space Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air and Space Commendation Medal, Air and Space Longevity Service Ribbon, Space Training Ribbon, Army of Occupation Medal in Germany, National Defense Service Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

TSgt Heil was born November 24, 1947 to his parents, Leonard and Jean Heil at Kankakee, IL. His father served in the Navy's Seabees in WWI, and his son-in-law served in the U.S. Marines and in the Air Force. He was reared in Marshalltown, IA, where he graduated from Marshalltown High School in 1966. After working at fast food and other retail establishments, he volunteered for military service entering military service November 24, 1967. TSgt Heil began his military service at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, where he had six weeks of Basic Training. He was then sent to Sheppard AFB, TX, for 16 weeks of training in telephone communications technology. His first assignment was at Barksdale AFB, LA, for two years. He was deployed to

Taegu Air Base, Korea in 1970 for 16 months. He deactivated for a few weeks July 4, 1971, and after a few weeks, he reenlisted for Active Duty and reported to Randolph Air Force Base, TX. His first assignment after reenlistment was at Chanute AFB, IL, for one year. This was followed by an overseas tour at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, for four years, and this was an accompanied tour. He returned to the USA and served at Dyess AFB, TX, in 1976-1980. His second accompanied tour to Germany was at the Tempelhof Air Station at Berlin, Germany, in 1980-1983. He returned to the U.S.A. and served at Robins AFB, GA, in 1983-1991 where he retired from military service February 1, 1991.

After his military retirement, TSgt Heil worked in 2001-2006 at fast food businesses, starting up and operating a lawn-sprinkler business and then working in school cafeterias. He enjoys fishing, traveling and visiting with friends. He serves as an Elder at the Community of Christ Church at Warner Robbins, GA. He is a member of the VFW Unit 6126 at Perry, GA. He and his wife, Brenda, have been married 54 years, and they have two children and one grandchild. TSgt Heil's conclusions about what serving in the U.S. military means to him are: "It meant that I was helping Americans to be safe. I was helping further the freedom of people in America. I was serving my country." He would like people to remember him as a good American who loved his country who wanted better for other people.



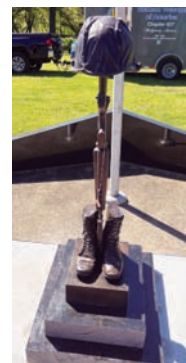
## 2024 National Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony



The 2024 National Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony was held at 10:00 a.m. at the VVA Memorial Garden in the Greenwood Cemetery in Montgomery, AL, on March 29, 2024. Members of Chapter 607 Vietnam Veterans of America conducted the ceremony led by its President, Jessie Donaldson. John Eidsmoe served as Master of Ceremonies. After the Pledge of Allegiance to America's flag, the National Anthem was sung by all who were present followed by a solo of "Mansions of the Lord" sung by Bill Thomas. President Donaldson made

remarks about the special occasion followed by Vietnam War Veterans Day comments by Geoff Colt, Chapter 607 Honor Guard Captain.

An elegant, beautiful cast bronze Battle Cross was dedicated. The Battle Cross is a memorial for those killed in combat. It is made up of the soldier's rifle with bayonet attached stuck into the ground with the soldier's boots on each side of the rifle and a helmet on top. Dog tags are sometimes placed on the rifle as means of identification. It still serves as a method of mourning among the living as attending the funeral is not always possible for soldiers still in combat.



The names of veterans from the counties of Montgomery, Elmore, Bullock, Autauga, Macon and Russell who lost their lives in Vietnam were read. John Eidsmoe and Mary Huffman sang "O Valiant Hearts" as a duet. Vietnam veterans performed the 13 Folds of Honor on the American flag while each fold's meaning was described. The Missing Man Table ceremony was performed. Three volleys were fired by the 607 Honor Guard, and "Taps" were played by the bugler, Babs Couch. The Ceremony ended with a benediction by Chapter 607's John Eidsmoe.



# AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE

21st Century Leaders for 21st Century Challenges



## The River Region and Gathering of Eagles Opportunity

By: **Dr. Stefan Eisen Jr., Col (ret) USAF**

Wait, I know what the River Region is... it's my home!!! But what is the Gathering of Eagles (GOE)? The GOE is part of Maxwell Air Force Base's Air Command and Staff College (ACSC). Each year, ACSC prepares about 500 students representing every U.S. military service, as well as several federal agencies, and 65 partner nations. In addition to the rigorous curriculum focusing on leadership in the operational environment, there are numerous other activities and events that enrich the year-long experience. One of them is the GOE. The GOE idea began in 1980, when retired Brig. Gen. Paul Tibbets (pilot of the Enola Gay) visited ACSC. During his visit, he shared some of his remarkable experiences, which sparked an interest to hear first-hand from other trail blazers in their field. The first official GOE event, initially known as "Great Moments in Aviation History," took place in 1982. This annual aviation event continues to honor the legacy of airpower, and now space and cyber power, as it helps inspire future leaders.

The GOE concept has grown into much more than a meeting with heroes. The ACSC students, with faculty advisors, work to strengthen relationships with the River Region community partners, with a deep focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). It raises funds for scholarships to River Region students to attend the National Flight Academy, Space Camp, Aviation Camp, Cyber Camp, and Red Tail Flight Academy. The GOE also sponsors ROTC Scholarships. The GOE team even gets face-to-face, conducting site visits and mentoring engagements at STARBASE Maxwell as well as throughout River Region Schools. All of this supports their motto:

### HONORING HERITAGE - SERVING COMMUNITY - FORGING FUTURES

During the CAPSTONE event, running from **6-10 May** this year, eight aerospace leaders will share their stories with the ACSC (and hint, also an opportunity for you!). These leaders include:

1. **SFC (Ret) Clifford Newman** served as a Special Forces Team Leader. In Vietnam, he volunteered for Bright Light missions, requiring him to control Close Air Support for troops in contact, as well as operations to extract wounded and fallen warriors. He also led the first combat high-altitude low opening jump in U.S. history.

2. **Lt Gen (Ret) David Deptula** has over 50 years of contributions to air and space power. He was key in Desert Storm planning and execution. He masterminded "Global Reach, Global Power," the Air Force's first Service-wide mission statement since its inception. As the Combined Joint Task Force Operation Northern Watch Commander, he flew over 80 F-15 combat missions. Currently, he helps shape, and impact air, space, and cyber power through his role as the Dean of the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies.

3. **Lt Col (Ret) Tim "Rhino" Bennett** flew F-15Es on active duty and then F-16s in the South Carolina Air National Guard. He is a Desert Storm veteran and flew combat missions in both fighters. He has the first, and only, air-to-air kill in the F-15E...using an air-to-ground weapon!

4. **Capt (Ret) Guy Gruters** was a Vietnam O-1 Forward Air Controller (FAC) followed by missions as an F-100 Misty Super FAC. He flew 412 combat missions, coordinating attacks on hundreds of enemy positions. On one perilous mission, Capt Gruters was shot down and held POW for 1,912 days. As a POW, he cared for Medal of Honor winner Capt Lance P. Sijan, and led and taught the other prisoners tap code communication. Capt Gruters exemplifies the highest in heroism, honor, perseverance, and strength.

5. **Mr. Gene Kranz**, if his schedule permits, will also attend. He is a household name in the Space Program. But first, he served the USAF in Korea as an F-86 pilot. After his USAF service, he joined NASA and became one of the first and most iconic NASA Flight Directors, leading the Gemini 5, Apollo 11, Apollo 13 (Houston, we have a problem) and what would become the last moon mission, Apollo 17. He rose to become NASA's Mission Operations Director before retirement.

6. **Dr. Natalie Crawford** is a Senior Fellow and Distinguished Chair for Air and Space Policy at the RAND Corp. She excelled in many roles, most notably as Vice President and Director of Project Air Force. Dr. Crawford shaped numerous RAND research projects. Twice, she earned the Air Force's Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service. Dr. Crawford also earned the Air Force Analytic Community's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Lt. Gen. Glenn Kent Leadership Award, and the Vance R. Wanner Memorial Award from the Military Operations Research Society.

7. **Col (Ret) James Harvey III**, a Tuskegee Airman, flew with the 332nd Fighter Group's 99th Fighter Squadron in WWII. In the early days of the Air Force, he and his team from the 332nd won the first Top Gun competition. He was also the first African-American fighter pilot to fly combat operations in the Korean War. He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2006. Col Harvey is one of the last living Tuskegee Airmen.

8. **Gen (Ret) Jeffrey Harrigian** served as the United States Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa Commander from May 2020 to June 2022. He concurrently served as the commander of Allied Air Command and director of the Joint Air Power Competence Center. He has flown over 4,100 hours in the F-22, F-15C, A/OA-37 and MQ-1 and was instrumental in the development of the F-22 and F-35. A combat-tested warrior, he flew in Operations Just Cause, Iraqi Freedom, Inherent Resolve, Atlantic Resolve, and Allies Refuge.

**Now to you!** How do I get a chance to be part of this? Well, the Air and Space Forces Association Chapter 102 is honored to partner with the ACSC GOA team as we create even stronger ties between Maxwell AFB and the River Region. You are extended an invitation to a special GOE Luncheon! The 9 May 2024 event will be held at the Wynlakes Country Club Ballroom, with sign-in beginning at 11:15 am, a social time between 11:15-11:45 am and lunch from 12:00 am - 1:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50.00 per person, payable in advance. Attire is any Service Dress (no BDUs or flight suits) for military members or Business Attire (Coat & Tie or Open Collar) for civilians. Want to go? Who wouldn't! Register and Pay NLT 2 May 2024 at [www.afa102.net](http://www.afa102.net). We look forward to your attendance at this truly historic gathering of aviation legends.



**Brandon Moseley**

**Montgomery hosted the Capitol's first Navy Week from April 1 to 7.** The celebration emphasized the importance of the U.S. Navy to Montgomery, the state of Alabama, and the nation.

Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed issued a proclamation to salute the Navy and kick off Navy Week. "This week as we enjoy the festivities, let us also renew our commitment to supporting our service members, veterans and their families, fostering a community that recognizes and appreciates their unyielding commitment to our nation," said Reed. The Navy's senior executive for the week is Rear Adm. Charles "Mike" Brown, Reserve Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

"The purpose of Navy Week is to bring your Navy closer to you," said Admiral Brown. "Closer to the citizens of Alabama, the citizens of Montgomery and help you see the value that you receive every day of a globally deployed force that protects America's security, its economic prosperity and its way of life."

The Alabama Department of Archives and History hosted the Navy Band Southeast Woodwind Quintet on Tuesday. On Thursday crew members of the U.S.S. Constitution, U.S.S. Montgomery littoral combat ship (LCS 8), and U.S.S. Alabama ballistic missile submarine (SSBN731).

Members of the Navy attended the Alabama State University versus Troy baseball game on Tuesday night. Participating Navy organizations include Navy Band Southeast, USS Constitution, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, United States Ceremonial Guard and Color Guard, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Atlanta, U.S. Navy Esports, U.S. Naval Academy, Navy History and Heritage Command, nuclear-power Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Alabama (SSBN 731), and the Independence-class Littoral Combat Ship USS Montgomery (LCS 8).

## The Navy Descends on Montgomery



In addition to Brown, Command Master Chief Keith Wilkerson with MyNavy Career Center participated as a Navy senior executive host in the city of Montgomery during Navy Week. There was a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Expo at Maxwell Air Force Base on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. 30 exhibitors participated in the expo including: Alabama State, the 20th Special Forces Group, Faulkner University, the Air Force Wargaming Institute, Auburn University Montgomery, Troy University, the U.S. Naval Academy, the Space and Rocket Center, and more.

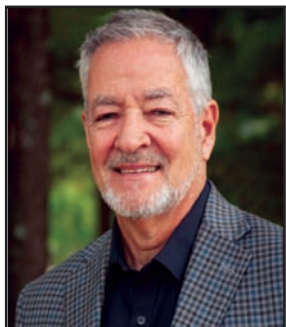
The week concluded with an Air Show on Saturday and Sunday at Maxwell Air Force Base. The air show will feature a performance by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels. The Blue Angels team is stationed at Forrest Sherman Field, at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, during the air show season. The squadron spends January through March training at Naval Air Facility in El Centro, California. **They fly the Navy's F/A-18 fighter jet.**

Additional performers include the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, F-16 Viper Demo Team, an F-16 and a World War II era P-51 Mustang both in Tuskegee Airmen Red Tails paint schemes, Greg Koontz of Ashville who perform aerial aerobatics, Rob Holland performing aerial aerobatics in his customized MXS-RH airplane, the Redline aerial aerobatics team of Ken Rieder and Austin Rieder flying Van's RV-8 2-seat, tandem aircraft, Kyle Fowler flying the unconventional delta-winged Long EZ, and Bob Carlton flying a twin jet engine Foxjet sailplane.

In addition a MH139 helicopter, a Fairchild A-10C Thunderbolt II attack bomber, F-15 Strike Eagle, F1-A jet, T-38 jet trainer, T-68 Texan trainer, HC-130J Combat King II, a PT-7 biplane the Tuskegee Airmen trained on, a Fairchild PT-19A Cornell trainer, KC-135 Stratotanker, and a Soviet Mikoyan-Gurevich Mig-17 were on display for the event. There will be a total of 15 Navy weeks across the U.S.A. during 2024.

To connect with the author of this story, or to comment, email [brandonmreporter@gmail.com](mailto:brandonmreporter@gmail.com)





**Dr. Lester Spencer**  
President Pro Tem



On the 1980's sitcom, *CHEERS*, there was a line in the theme song that went like this: "and so you want to go where everybody knows your name." In a way, we all want to go where "everybody knows our name." When someone remembers and calls us by name, we feel more valued and significant.

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But how often have we heard or said, "I'm terrible at remembering names." Some however, have been blessed with a good memory. Napoleon knew thousands of his soldiers by name. James A. Farley claimed he knew 50,000 people by their first name. Charles Schwab knew the names of all 8,000 of his employees at Homestead Mill. During his 40 years as president of Harvard, Charles Eliot earned the reputation of knowing all the students by name each year.

We may not be as gifted as some of these, but we can all work harder at remembering names. Calling someone by name will make his or her day! Oh yes, you remember me...

**Did you know that God knows your name?**

*Yes, the Lord knows your name!*

*Isaiah 43:1-2 NLT*

The God who formed you in the womb, knows you by name. So there is no reason to fear the Lord or to fear the things that come your way in life. The rivers of difficulty will not drown you. The fires of oppression will not burn you up and the flames will not consume you. Because He is the God of Israel your Savior. Further on in verse 4 we read "You are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you."



**God Knows YOUR Name**

When someone remembers your name and calls you by name, they honor you. The Lord remembers your name forever and calls you by name. We have three grown children named Harden, Ciara and Joshua. I love to call their names and hear their names. It brings joy to my heart. Just as my children's names are precious to me, your name is precious to our Heavenly Father.

In *John 10:2-3*, Jesus says, "He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out." Jesus tells us that the Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name. Well, we are His sheep, the sheep of his pasture. Jesus calls us by name and He knows us by heart. And, Jesus tells us that when we walk with the shepherd, we can recognize His voice when Jesus calls us by name.

God knows your name. Never forget that. You can call out to Him anytime, and He will recognize your voice. You are His son or His daughter and you are precious to our Father who formed you in the womb and knew you before you were born.

What an amazing God we have. Of all the 8 billion of his children who inhabit the earth right now, you are not a number to Him. He knows your name! Listen carefully, still your heart and you can hear His voice calling to you!



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*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

**Reflections.....**

**By : Michael J. Brooks**

**O Death, Where Is Your Sting?**

It's been my experience that funeral home directors generally have a great sense of humor. I asked a gentleman about this once and he explained that a sense of humor is the only thing that saved him from awful depression. I can imagine these men and women deal with the greatest of tragedies.

Swertfeger, later told me she was stung repeatedly as well, but I remember her sitting and looking, well, dignified and cultured, despite this.

I always think of this funeral when I read Paul's word in 1 Corinthians: "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" (1 Corinthians 15: 55).

All my life I've heard preachers explain this verse to their congregations. Christ took our punishment on the cross temporally so that we can be released from the sting of death eternally.

Death does sting. No one of us wants to see the deaths of those we love, except in times when their suffering is so terrible with no hope of recovery. Most often death is as unwelcome as a thief in the night. The death angel is normally not invited inside our homes to visit.

But Paul reminded his readers, and us, that the sting of death is temporary. Those who believe and follow Christ are assured that he accompanies us across the River of Death and brings us safely home to the father.

This is our resurrection hope. -30-

But on the other hand, I've heard some interesting stories from them. One funeral home employee told me about trying to salvage a graveside service after several pallbearers were drunk, and one fell into the open grave. I can't imagine officiating at this service and trying to recoup!

It wasn't funny to me at the time, but it was memorable.

I was in the Old Live Oak Cemetery in Selma conducting a service not far from the mausoleum of Alabama Sen. William Rufus King, the only Alabamian to serve as U.S. vice president, albeit briefly. He was sworn in on the island of Cuba where he'd traveled for his health, only to die a month later. He also became the only vice president to be sworn in on foreign soil. Today he's honored as one of the founders of Selma as well as James Buchanan's vice president, at least for a few weeks.

Nevertheless, I was nearby this site and trying to comfort the family when I felt sharp pain in my feet and legs. I tried to be discreet but found to my dismay that I was standing in a nest of yellow jackets. I think I was stung three times, but managed to complete the service. A dignified and cultured Selmian, Louise

"Reflections" is a weekly faith column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama. The church's website is [siluriabaptist.com](http://siluriabaptist.com).

--  
Michael J. Brooks  
Siluria Baptist Church  
10696 Highway 119 South  
Alabaster, Alabama 35007  
205.663.7904  
[siluriabaptist.com](http://siluriabaptist.com)



# Home Town Community News

**NOTICE! Please send Patricia your family and friends:  
BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, WEDDINGS AND EVENTS to:**

**Patricia Boyd Killough**

**alabamagazette@gmail.com**

## April Birthdays

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Magan Gramling        | Ruby Goodman (82)           |
| 2 Ronnie Broadway       | Moseley Higgins (24)        |
| Helen Gordon (95)       | 16 Judy Barnes (73)         |
| Patricia Killough (74)  | 17 Donna Daffron Allen (79) |
| Colby Mills             | 18 Julia Norris             |
| 3 Cole Andrews          | Slade Rhodes                |
| 4 Bill Younkin          | Eunice Broadway             |
| 5 Prasertsi Atkinson    | 19 Haley Boyd (31)          |
| Steve Stringer          | 21 Jennifer Champion        |
| Coleman Taylor (28)     | 22 Brady Boyd (20)          |
| 6 Lew Baxter            | Tammy Orr                   |
| Brenda Caprara          | Sarah Kathleen Selvage (9)  |
| Ann Orr (86)            | 23 Shane McKinley           |
| 10 Jean Douglass        | Jud Parenteau (15)          |
| Wade Norris             | 24 Bara Edwards             |
| Jimmy Grubbs            | 25 Blane Campbell (27)      |
| 11 Mae Bishop           | Debra Kinman                |
| Margaret Boyd           | 26 Joe Cotney               |
| 13 Kim Golson           | 27 Erik Box                 |
| Lillie Ben Harris       | Julie Livingston            |
| Sherry Knight           | Wayne Watkins               |
| Patrick O'Mailia        | Landyn Whigham (14)         |
| Jimmy Sellars           | 29 Katie Moseley (26)       |
| 15 Skylar Campbell (26) | 30 Luke Adams               |

**Frankie Davis**  
**April 21, 2004**



**In Memory**  
**Lt. Col Jerry Elmer Fossum**  
**March 25, 2024**

## April Obituaries

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| Passmor, Sandra Ellen Brill (59).....       | Feb 24 |
| Byers, Jr. Raymond Allen (39) .....         | Feb 25 |
| DeBardeleben, Dorothy Lane Pate (97).....   | Feb 25 |
| Sauls, Ruth Aileen (96).....                | Feb 25 |
| Steen, Jr. Wiley Oliver (76).....           | Feb 25 |
| Wilson, Anthony Lanier (74).....            | Feb 25 |
| Bosch, Oscar Hincapie (103).....            | Feb 26 |
| McDaniel, Jr. Berry Alexander (85).....     | Feb 27 |
| Thompson, Thomas Wayne (71).....            | Feb 27 |
| Dees, Annie Ruth (89) .....                 | Feb 29 |
| Jordan, George Wayne (82).....              | Feb 29 |
| Sadler, Gwendolyn Windham (81).....         | Mar 1  |
| Martin, Josephine "Jo" C. (95).....         | Mar 2  |
| Moses, Christopher Evans (74).....          | Mar 2  |
| Talley, Kenneth Judson (79).....            | Mar 2  |
| Clark, Jr. Robert "Butch" Chester (77)..... | Mar 3  |
| Mahoney, Robert "Bob" R. (82).....          | Mar 3  |
| Williamson, Norma Buffington (79).....      | Mar 3  |
| Wilisford, Nancy Carol Breedlove (84).....  | Mar 3  |
| Cain, Jennie Juliet (80).....               | Mar 4  |
| Cowles, Jr. Neill Jacobi (83) .....         | Mar 4  |
| McNeill, Rufus Aubrey (90).....             | Mar 4  |
| Smith, Donna Rene Cole (72) .....           | Mar 4  |
| Evans, George andrew (39) .....             | Mar 5  |
| Parker, Elizabeth Jean (90).....            | Mar 5  |
| Armstrong, II Robert lee (65) .....         | Mar 6  |
| Morris, Dale (78) .....                     | Mar 6  |
| Lammon, Margaret Alice (95) .....           | Mar 7  |
| Reedy, Jeanne Adams (69).....               | Mar 7  |
| Saucer, Willie bell Tompkins (98) .....     | Mar 7  |
| Davis, Betty jean Hudson (91) .....         | Mar 8  |
| Floyd, Margaret Jean (81) .....             | Mar 8  |
| Campbell, Larry Gene (85) .....             | Mar 10 |
| Russell, Louise Ward (93) .....             | Mar 11 |
| Hyde, Thomas John (71) .....                | Mar 12 |
| Ohme, Barbara Ann Scroggins (79) .....      | Mar 12 |
| Scott, Joseph Marvin (72) .....             | Mar 12 |
| Blitz, Rhonda Ann Wise (67) .....           | Mar 13 |
| Garner, Jr. Howard Patterson (67) .....     | Mar 15 |
| Humphries, Betty Lou (86) .....             | Mar 16 |
| Runkel, Paul Arthur (90) .....              | Mar 16 |
| Wilkes, Betty Jean (94) .....               | Mar 16 |
| Cox, Mack Albert (86) .....                 | Mar 17 |
| Leister, Majorie Neal Pigott (93) .....     | Mar 19 |
| Owen, Lester Wayne (83) .....               | Mar 19 |
| Roper, Richard Amory (80) .....             | Mar 19 |
| Turner, Jr. Burt M. (92) .....              | Mar 19 |
| Williams, Sr. Rev. Norman Glynn (85) .....  | Mar 19 |
| Alexander, Mary Ann (94) .....              | Mar 20 |
| Herndon, Frances Diane (77) .....           | Mar 21 |
| Morse, Donna Lynn White Rowe (64) .....     | Mar 21 |
| Timmons, Robert "Bobby" D. (91) .....       | Mar 22 |
| Watson, William Michael "Mike" (72) .....   | Mar 22 |
| Ferris, Ida Florence (82) .....             | Mar 24 |
| Thompson, Joseph Isaiah (85) .....          | Mar 24 |
| Andrews, William Harvey (94) .....          | Mar 25 |
| Fossum, Jerry Elmer (88) .....              | Mar 25 |
| Whitehurst, Vanessa Michelle (60) .....     | Mar 26 |
| Johnson, Marilyn Jane McNeill (79) .....    | Mar 27 |
| Lovett, William Albert SFC Ret. (81) .....  | Mar 27 |
| Wright, Joe Samuel (86) .....               | Mar 28 |
| Hicks, Jimmy (91) .....                     | Mar 29 |
| Wilkinson, James Elbert (75) .....          | Mar 29 |
| Bowden, Delaris Ann WinBorne (64) .....     | Mar 30 |
| Land, Rose marie (90) .....                 | Mar 30 |
| Morgan, Jacqueline "Jackie" (93) .....      | Mar 30 |
| Shoemaker, Charlene (84) .....              | Apr 1  |

## April Anniversaries



- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Warren & Doris Miller (62nd)    | 8 Eric & Melony Gwin          |
| 2 Bobby & Mickey Ann Boyd (36)    | 20 Jeremy & Stacy Dickinson   |
| 3 John & Patricia Killough (53rd) | 22 Lamar & Glenda Boyd (52nd) |
| Shawn & Katie O'Mailia (14th)     | Jim & Phyllis Fenn            |
| 6 Clint & Tiffany Hammock         | Wayne & Jan Morris (52nd)     |
| Pat & Lonnie Smith (56th)         | 23 Zack & Geri Azar (47th)    |
| 7 Richard & Susan Feaga           | 30 Aaron & Kayla Ramer (14th) |

## Memory Café at MANE

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- April 3
- April 10
- April 17

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

**Today's Woman**

By: Amanda Walker

By: Trisston Wright Burrows  
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com



Ms. Wheelchair  
America/Alabama 2005

**TEARS & LAUGHTER**

**Trisston's Tidbits:**

**"The Joy of Easter"**

*The Welcoming Warmth of*  
**SPRING**

*The lessons of baseball and life begin in spring – play by the rules, try your best, and the sun will still come up again if you lose.*

*Farmers keep pace with the changing seasons. The American food grower knows to bend with these changes, but they are sustained by the promises of spring. If there is another spring, there will be another chance.*

*Not bound by the set dates on the calendar, the remnants of winter are sometimes slow to go, but soon the sun's warmth will grow stronger every day. Freshly planted seeds will respond, raising green flags of life.*

*Gardeners are a unique group. They will go out and inspect these pale green sprigs, then over the following few days find reason to inspect them repeatedly...it is just what gardeners do. It is part of the joy.*

*The same soft breezes that make curtains stand out a little when the windows are open, spray pollen though the flower beds, and across the corn fields, and onto all the cars, and porches, and yard furniture.*

*Yards are alive with singing birds, whose eggs nestled safely in their nests will soon erupt into feathery balls. Cattle following their well-worn trails will begin to have pink-tongued calves running along beside them.*

*The same sun that warms new life, tracks early age across our faces...one of the many equal opposites in nature.*

*I read once that God and man are at odds on order. Spring cleaning always reminds me of its truth.*

*There is a pleasure that comes with having everything in order. We all tend to strive for it.*

*Order is when everything is in its place. When all the dishes are washed and stacked in their cabinets. When all the laundry is not just washed and folded but ironed and hung and all put away in their drawers and closets.*

*Order is when all the beds are made, and the throw pillows set at right angles. When there are no papers or books cluttering the living room.*

*It is when the floors are all swept and vacuumed, and clean rugs wait at the front door to greet visitors.*

*It is when today's supper is on the stove and tomorrow's is planned, leaving extra time for garden inspections.*

*The azaleas are almost in full bloom. Daffodils and tulips planted generations ago have sprouted and opened, wisteria is cascading from fines in lavender and purple. Fruit trees are blooming, as are dogwoods and dewberries.*

*Honeysuckles vines and jasmine are beginning to climb – as the bees serenade their beauty and ring in the beginning of spring.*

For Christians, Easter represents Jesus Christ's victory over death. His resurrection is proof He is the Son of God, and it is the reason we can find hope in an eternity spent with Him. During Easter, we celebrate what we believe to be the biggest moment in history.

Before celebrating Easter Sunday, however, many observe Good Friday. On this day, we remember how Jesus was persecuted and put to death. Jesus was crucified and took on the sins of the world, even though He was blameless. Because of this, many people wonder how this day could possibly be referred to as "good."

**Romans 3:23** says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." To understand the good news of the gospel, we must first understand our sinful nature and our need for a Savior. Without Jesus, we are hopeless. Our sinful nature causes us to fall short of His glory and the punishment we deserve is death.

But there is good news! While Jesus suffered a terrible death, it was God's plan to save us from our sins. Because Jesus conquered death, this made a way for all who believe in Him, and He reigns for eternity. If we believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus, we can receive forgiveness and salvation.

We are not meant to keep this good news to ourselves. Jesus died for the sins of the world and the gift of salvation is available to all who believe. As Christians, we are called to tell others about God and His great love for us.

Mark 16:15 says, "And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'"

During this season, I encourage you to share the joy of Easter with others. Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and reflect on the sacrifice He made on the cross. In telling others of His goodness, we can bring Him glory.

**Happy Easter & Many Blessings!**

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**Spring is here, and that means  
STRAWBERRIES!**



You've probably already noticed the fresh strawberries at local farmer's markets. While modern farming and supply chains make strawberries available year-round, there's nothing quite like the taste of a fresh strawberry grown right here in Alabama.

Strawberries aren't just a treat for your taste buds. They're loaded with antioxidants, vitamins, and fiber, so you can enjoy them with little or no guilt. Blessed as we are here in Alabama, we can enjoy their deliciousness fresh from the farm for most of the late spring and summer months.

To pick the best strawberries, look for a bright red color and a fresh green cap. Avoid those with bruises or soft spots, as those poor berries have probably been abused. Gently squeeze the berry; if it's ripe, it should have a little "give". Too firm means it's not ready. Too soft, and it may still be good, but it needs to go into a dish or a jar of preserves ASAP.

To clean your strawberries, rinse--don't soak--them under cool running water and gently pat dry. Soaking can damage them, and the longer you let strawberries sit underwater, the more likely this is. Strawberries are best eaten within a day or two after you buy them, but if you need to store them for longer, keep them in the fridge, unwashed, in a shallow container lined with paper towels.

There are countless ways you can enjoy this taste of sunshine and happiness, from adding them to your breakfast cereal to that late-night snack. Adding sliced strawberries to any green salad makes them the perfect compliment to any meal, and then, of course, there's the desserts.

*This recipe shared by Bill Chitwood. Thanks Bill!*

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**STRAWBERRY CLOUD**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 Strawberry Jello®, 6 oz. box (the big size)
- 1 angel food cake (store-bought)
- 1 Cool Whip®, 8 oz. (regular size)
- 1-2 cups strawberries, sliced

**Prepare the strawberry Jello®** according to the package instructions in advance. (You want it chilled and firm.)

**Tear the angel food cake** into roughly 1" cubes--this is the part kids love to do. Get them to not squish the cake down by telling them "We're making little clouds, not pancakes." Show them how first, then let them enjoy themselves.

**Mash the Jello®** into small- to medium-sized bits. (Again, let the kids do this if they can.)

**Fold together** the angel food cake pieces, Jello® and Cool Whip®. Add most of your strawberries and gently continue folding until well mixed.

**Refrigerate well**, and garnish with remaining strawberries before serving.

Your kids can proudly tell everyone how this is THIER dessert that THEY made. When that old hag Opel screeches at them and makes them cry, give her an extra serving of relish and don't remind her that she left her insulin baking in the hot car outside.

You'll probably find yourself needing a quick and easy yet impressive cake to take somewhere this spring and summer, so here's a version based on the [MyCakeSchool.com](http://MyCakeSchool.com) "Doctored Strawberry Cake Mix Recipe". I've yet to get a bad recipe from MyCakeSchool, and this one isn't just easy, it's delicious. This recipe begins with a box of cake mix and jazzes it up, which is great for inexperienced bakers and those of us who are too busy to whip up a scratch cake. This is also a good recipe to start teaching kids to love cooking, as it's easy enough for them to help as well as do their duty as beater- and bowl-lickers.

# SOUTHERN GARDENING

## Potpourri for APRIL



Judge Peggy Givhan

Did you know that the term of one having a "green thumb" has been declared a type of intelligence. A Harvard professor who studied educational psychology in college, Howard Gardner, declared this fact in his "Theory of Multiple Intelligences." He found areas of the brain which 'light up' when certain abilities are activated. We have known people with abilities in the areas of music, mathematics, and

languages. He calls this green thumb knowledge "naturalist" intelligence. These are the people who go on vacation and tour botanical gardens, are comfortable outdoors, more interested in what plants they will add to their garden in the coming year, than keeping up with ball games. So, all of our green thumbs, it is time to get outdoors in our own flower beds and gardens.

I heard a woman in the garden center exclaim that she had to hurry to plant her caladiums and this was the end of March. I wanted to tell her that planting them now was a waste of time since 1. the squirrels will probably dig many up and 2. caladiums will not shoot up until the ground temperatures are almost 60 degrees. After years of trial and error, May is the best month to get these caladiums in the ground. Now that the spectre of a hard freeze is over, time to plant begonias, impatiens, all sorts of bulbs, except tulips, and perennials. Sowing seed directly into the garden soil such as Cleome, Zinnias, and Cosmos should be done this month. Other seeds are better sown in a flat of soil and then transplanted into the garden area, but these flowers do better directly sown into the garden.

### PLANT OF THE MONTH--AJUGA REPTANS

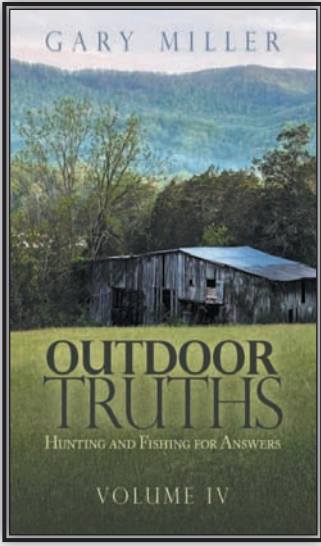


The common name for this tough ground cover is bugleweed or carpet bugleweed. Ajuga is a shade loving ground cover that once established is trouble free as far as maintenance is concerned.



No pruning back, hardly ever allowing weeds in its mat of roots, and a prolific bloomer. It needs well drained soil, moderate fertilizer, and shade. It can tolerate some sun, and definitely will not survive wet feet. The tiny bugle of blue flowers are the most common, but does come in white, 'Alba'; pink 'Rosea'; and burgundy 'Bronze Beauty'. The foliage has crinkled leaves about 6 inches long and can be metallic tinted, solid green or variegated. This plant is cold hardy and is even grown in Nova Scotia. Once established you will be enjoying Ajuga for years to come.

"GOOD GARDENING"



### You Reap What You Sow

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 20 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](mailto:gary@outdoortruths.org)



Gary Miller

Fishing is a great sport that millions of men and women participate in each year. Most of the country boasts of its places to fish and each area has its specialty. For instance, my area is known for its lakes. Other areas are known for their rivers or streams, and some for their access to the ocean. There really is something for everyone. What I forget many times about fishing is how my success today is based on what has happened yesterday or even the past several days. It may be beautiful and sunny today but if the last several days were full of rain, it may be impossible to fish. This doesn't affect the larger bodies of water as much, but it still makes a difference. The rivers and streams will always show the effect of the weather of a few days earlier.



reaction. The best way to ensure the right response is preparing for the action ahead of time. For instance, if you are fishing with the expectation of the possibility of an evening thunderstorm, you will be both

prepared for it and not taken aback when it comes. Many times, in our spiritual lives we are thrown into a storm. The Bible is clear that these will come to all our lives from time to time. Thus, we need to expect them and be prepared for them as well. But how? We do this by knowing what the Bible says about these storms and by reading how God delivered His people in and through them. When we see how God responded then, we know how He will respond in our situation as well. As a result, we will not be blindsided by whatever comes our way. There is a Biblical principle here. It's this. Regarding our natural life, "you reap what you sow." If you sow into your life the truths about

God now, you will reap the benefits of right reactions when you're caught in the storm later. Don't wait until you're in the storm to look for needed help. Everything you need to prepare for is available now.

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Please feel free to call the AL State Director for Bugles Across America, Raymond Keel, at 334-233-8736 or e-mail him at [rkphac@gmail.com](mailto:rkphac@gmail.com).

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