



The Alabama Gazette



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VOL. 15. ISSUE 6 ~ March 15, 2015

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A GREAT PATRIOT!
**In Memory of
Dr. Jerry Conrad Frady**
March 4, 1938 -
February 21, 2015

Dr. Jerry Conrad Frady, who served as pastor of several Baptist Churches, passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2015 at the age of 76. An Anniston native, Frady is a graduate of Howard College (now Samford University) and earned graduate degrees from the following universities; Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas; Luther Rice Seminary, Lithonia, GA; East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee; and University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Dr. Frady pastored for 40 years and did supply preaching in the latter years of his life. He served churches in Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee. For a number of years, Dr. Frady served as guidance counselor and later as principal in secondary education. During his ministry, he was an adjunct professor for 15 years at Samford University and 4 years at Gadsden State Community College.

Dr. Frady also served as editor and writer for a Montgomery Newspaper, the "Alabama Gazette". He was a member of Heritage Baptist Church, Montgomery, at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Knight Frady; one son, Luke Frady. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to your favorite charity or to Gideons International. A Celebration of Life Service was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at Alabama Heritage Funeral Home with Dr. Teman Knight officiating. Burial followed in Alabama Heritage Cemetery.

The staff of the Alabama Gazette expresses their deepest sympathy to the family of Dr. Jerry Frady. He was a tireless reporter/writer and researched his information with great skill. He served the Gazette for over 9 years. We miss him.

I AM ASHAMED...



(Photo: NEWS CENTER) Government officials use ISIL, which refers to the Levant region.

Over the past several months, I have become increasingly embarrassed, and to be quite honest, ashamed of the majority of people running this great country of ours, Democrat and Republican. With every passing day, another item makes its way to the forefront of the news to further anger and disillusion most of us who pay attention to what is going on in the world around us. With that in mind, here is a not-so-complete list of some items that bug me right now.

- I am ashamed that we have an administration who WILL NOT call radical Islamic terrorism exactly what it is. They know what it is. We know what it is. The terrorists, for crying out loud, proudly boast exactly what they are. The rest of the world knows what is going on yet nobody in the administration will call it what it is. Remember, just because they won't say it, doesn't mean it isn't true.

Please see page 7A for Robert Tate's full story.



*Robert Tate
Observations*

LOOK Inside this issue for more great articles.

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA ROBY**

ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



NO HOMELAND FUNDING WITHOUT PROHIBITION ON AMNESTY ACTIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) today voted against the Senate's Homeland Security Appropriations Title because it did not contain language prohibiting funding from being used to implement President Obama's unlawful actions on illegal immigration.

"I could not support a Homeland Security Appropriations Title that does not prohibit funds for implementation of executive amnesty. Yes, the recent court action gives us some hope that the Judicial Branch will finally rein in this lawless president. However, I believe Congress had a responsibility to use its appropriations authority to stop this lawlessness and uphold the checks and balances that exist to protect liberty."

In November, President Obama attempted to circumvent Congress and act unilaterally, granting de facto amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants. In January, the House wielded its "power of the purse" to block the actions by specifically prohibiting funding for their implementation in the Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations Title. The Senate, however, removed the prohibition funding before it passed its version of the bill, which eventually went on to pass the House today.

After the vote, Rep. Roby expressed her dismay.

"I'm beyond disappointed. Of course what the Senate Democrats did to block this bill was ridiculous and shameful. When the House and Senate produce variations of the same bill, a

conference committee is formed by delegates from both chambers who meet and work out the differences. Unfortunately, Senate Democrats refused, putting the president's ill-advised amnesty plans above the well-being of the American people and before the rule of law."

Rep. Roby has fiercely opposed the president's immigration actions, calling them dangerous, irresponsible and a threat to the rule of law. On the first day of the new Congress, Rep. Roby proposed legislation specifically prohibiting federal funds from being used to implement the unlawful immigration actions.

For more information contact Communications Director Todd Stacy at 202-225-2901 / todd.stacy@mail.house.gov.

SAVING FOR COLLEGE? CONGRESS WANTS TO HELP

It's no secret that college and career-tech expenses have risen dramatically over the last several years. Planning ahead to cover these increased costs has become essential for American families who want their children to have the opportunity to train for the careers of tomorrow.

Millions rely on so-called 529 college savings plans for this purpose. These plans are named for Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, which Congress established in the 1990's to set up a tax-free way for families to save for higher education.

Their popularity has only grown since, leading families to open nearly 12 million accounts and accrue savings of more than \$225 billion to put toward school.

That's why it was mind-boggling to hear President Obama in his State of the Union Address propose taking away this tax savings benefit, calling it a "loophole." Why would we want to make it

harder for families to plan ahead and save for their children's education?

Not surprisingly, the president's plan to tax 529 college savings plans was roundly criticized by Republicans and Democrats alike, and soon the White House announced they were dropping it.

But, Congress can do more than just protect beneficial 529 plans; we can make them even better. My colleague, Rep. Lynn Jenkins of Kansas has a commonsense plan to do just that.

Her bill, appropriately-numbered H.R. 529, aims to expand and modernize 529 plans making them even more applicable and user-friendly for today's families. The bill would:

- Allow 529 account funds to pay for students' computers;
- Remove unnecessary paperwork to help simplify the process for both administrators and those seeking to invest in a 529 plan;

- Permit re-deposit of refunds from colleges back into a 529 account without taxes or penalties, so long as the deposit occurs within 60 days of a student withdrawing from the college.

I'm pleased to report that the bill passed with a strong bipartisan vote of 401-20. Such an overwhelming vote gives me confidence we will also have the support to pass this bill in the Senate.

As a parent, I want nothing more than for all children to have every opportunity to pursue their dreams. Congress should encourage, and not penalize families who want to plan ahead for their children's education.

I hope President Obama will join our efforts to make higher education more affordable and attainable for families across our nation, instead of looking for more ways to raise taxes.

Have a Happy and Blessed Easter!



Marcia Chambliss



WILLFUL IGNORANCE?

As I have increased my participation in the political process over the last six years, the realization of just how little our citizenry knows or even cares about our system of government is probably the most frustrating, and at times, the most discouraging aspect of politics.

My discouragement has little to do with the lack of involvement in party politics but rather in the basic knowledge and understanding of the system of checks and balances at the federal level envisioned by our Founders that has enabled our form of government to survive far longer than most.

After Alabama State Senator Arthur Orr announced his intent to introduce a bill requiring Alabama high school students to pass the same civics test administered to immigrants desiring U.S. citizenship, a current high school student from Spain Park High School in Hoover, AL shared his thoughts on the proposed bill with Alabama's ABC 33/40 in a manner that frankly made me want to cry.

"I don't actively follow politics. This isn't a career I want to go into. So for me to know all of this stuff, I don't really see a point in knowing it all unless I'm actively interested in politics."*

In a nutshell, this student identifies why we've already lost so much of our freedom and liberties, and indicates just how far we've fallen as a nation.

Sadly, this young student likely won't ever know what we've lost.

Given this young man's age, I can almost understand his mindset because he is the product of an education system that has "taught to the test" for so long that the idea of learning anything not deemed necessary for annual assessments tied to federal funding leaves scant time for much of the civics studies of the past.

However, based on the various comments I read daily on social media sites, there are plenty of older Americans who are also woefully deficient in the course of civics and desperately need a refresher course.

Without knowledge and comprehension of the role of our three branches of government (legislative, judicial, and executive) as well as the constitutional limitations placed upon each branch, citizens place themselves in the dangerous position of ceding control to unprincipled politicians and the powerful federal agencies they create.

As a nation, are we being willfully ignorant of what is happening to our

liberty? Doesn't our choice to remain uninformed convict us of facilitating the political elites who crave power at our expense? Is ignorance and apathy the "enemy within" that will destroy American exceptionalism?

The privilege of citizenship requires personal responsibility. I fear that we have allowed government to expand to the point where that responsibility and corresponding liberty is a complete unknown to the vast majority of Americans. Why else would we continue to look to government and more legislation to solve each and every problem that arises rather than believe in the resourcefulness of the free markets without the taint of government intervention and cronyism? We too frequently and readily look to government to "save us" from failure, but losing the freedom to fail can carry the consequence of losing the freedom to succeed.

If we only listen to the mainstream media and the big government operatives from each political party, it is relatively easy to assume that we need more government intervention to protect us in our daily lives. An expanded government sector is certainly an economic boom for Washington as well as in state capitals across our nation, and the political consulting class as well as K Street insiders are the largest profiteers.

Not everyone pursues a "career" in politics – thankfully – but as citizens, other career paths do not absolve us of our responsibility to fully understand the function of government and the task of citizens in its oversight. If we're not willing to participate in the process, even with a minimal study of civics, perhaps we never deserved the liberty that we've already lost.

*<http://www.abc3340.com/story/28181394/alabama-lawmaker-wants-to-require-students-pass-a-civics-test-to-graduate-high-school>

Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c) (3) non-profit dedicated to the education and training of activists and candidates, and Smart Girl Politics Action, <http://sgpaction.com/>, a 501(c) (4) which focuses on conservative issues. She can be reached at: Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics Action.

Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist.
His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers.
He may be reached at www.stevflowers.us.



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

March 18, 2015:

Alabama may be in the lower tier of the country in some categories but not when it comes to providing health insurance for children. In that one category we excel.

Brian Lyman with the Montgomery Advertiser provided an excellent study revealing that Alabama leads the south in taking care of its young people when it comes to giving them health coverage. A recent Georgetown University study showed that Alabama leads the south when it comes to healthcare for children. Remarkably we are ranked in the top 10 states in America.

The reason for this outstanding record is the state's excellent Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). We refer to it in Alabama as the "All Kids" program.

Children can be enrolled in Alabama's CHIP program even if their family income is up to \$71,500 per year. The study said that Alabama did better than most states in the nation and all of the states in the south in making it easy for kids to be enrolled in the program. All Kids partners with the Alabama Medicaid agency and stresses outreach and cutting down on red tape barriers. More than 88,000 children in Alabama participate in All Kids.

Only 4.3% of Alabama children are uninsured. According to the study, Virginia was the

closest southern state to us at 5.4%. Georgia has 9.6% and Florida has 11% of uninsured children.

Another survey done by the State Retirement Systems revealed some other remarkable facts about the economic impact of state pensions in Alabama. In 2012, over 115,000 Alabamians received a total of \$2.9 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans. The recipients range from retired teachers, state employees, public safety and city retirees throughout the state. The average pension benefit received was \$2,114 per month or \$25,367 per year.

The Retirement System boasted that retirees' expenditures stemming from state and local pensions supported 36,000 jobs that paid \$1.4 billion in wages and salaries. The total economic impact of the state is \$4.8 billion. The industries that benefit the most from the state retirement dollars are food services, real estate, physicians, dentists, public and private hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, and retail stores.

Yet another study done by the leading personal finance social network WalletHub ranked all of the 50 states on the most and least fair tax systems. The states varied widely because some have high property taxes, some states do not even have a state sales tax and some do not have an income tax. Some of WalletHub's findings and statistics show that the poor are most overtaxed in

Washington, Illinois and Florida. The wealthy are most undertaxed in Wyoming, Alaska and South Dakota.

According to their study, most Americans think a fair state and local tax system taxes higher income households at a higher rate than lower income households. WalletHub says the five states with the worst fair tax systems are Washington, Hawaii, Arkansas, Illinois and Florida. The states with the most fair tax systems are Montana, Oregon, Delaware, Idaho and Virginia. Alabama ranks about in the middle of the pack at 35th in fairness.

Speaking of taxes, Gov. Bentley has come forward with a package of revenue enhancement measures designed to shore up the beleaguered General Fund. The lynchpin proposal offered by the governor is to increase the cigarette tax from 42 cents per pack to 82 cents per pack. It reveals to be seen how our reactionary legislature will dispose of his proposals.

According to WalletHub, we Alabamians or among the nation's most generous givers. We are the 13th most charitable state when it comes to opening our personal purse strings. The ranking was based on a number of statistical categories, including percentage of donated income, volunteer rate, growth in giving, and median contribution to charity. Alabamians were third in the nation for percentage of donated income.

March 11, 2015:

The Common Core education topic is not only a hot political issue in Alabama, it has become a political football nationwide and it appears to be a hot potato in the looming 2016 GOP presidential contest.

As soon as Jeb Bush announced that he would "actively explore" a 2016 presidential bid, Kentucky Senator Rand Paul, also a potential candidate and Tea Party Libertarian said, "We need leaders who will stand against Common Core." The right wing candidates like Paul and Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida and Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin have staked out positions against Common Core.

The more mainstream GOP aspirants and probably the only ones who have a chance to actually win the presidency are proponents. In fact, Jeb Bush, who would be the best possible candidate the GOP could pit against the favorite Hillary Clinton, has embraced Common Core since his days as governor of Florida. Indeed, the Common Core standards were policy introduced by his brother President George W Bush.

"Common Core" guidelines were first introduced by the National Governors Association and have been adopted by 46 states. While Governor of Florida, Jeb Bush became known as a chief executive who raised Florida's education standards significantly. Since leaving the governorship of Florida, he has been an advocate for education reform, including Common Core as well as school choice.

Common Core has also been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. However, the right wing activists in the party see it as a federal intrusion into state and local control of education.

Speaking of our neighbor state to the south, Florida has become the nation's third most populous state. Florida has surpassed New York in population to claim the third spot. California remains number one and Texas is number two.

This Sunbelt trend has been evolving for at least four decades. In fact, demographers predicted that Florida, Texas and California would evolve as the three most populous states years ago. It appears that "snowbirds" who fled the Rust Belt and colder environs of states like Michigan and New York decided to stay all year in the Sunshine State. In fact, the census statistics reveal that much of Florida's growth has come from New Yorkers moving south. In 1950, New York's population was five times that of Florida. Today, they have more people than the Empire State. This makes Florida even more important than ever in the presidential sweepstakes.

Florida has been the most important state in presidential contests for several decades. It has now become even more significant. Given the way we select our president under an Electoral College system, Florida is one of about 10 pivotal swing states that decides the presidency. This makes Florida ground zero for the 2016 presidential war. It is also one of the reasons that Jeb Bush would be the most formidable GOP contender.

Even though a lot of New Yorkers have moved to Florida, it appears the wealthiest citizens have remained in the city of New York. Forbes magazine recently revealed the wealthiest zip codes in America. Amazingly 10 of the top 20 wealthy zip codes in America were found in and around New York City. In fact, there were eight New York City area zip codes ahead of the famous Beverly Hills, California 90210.

Out of the top 25, New York had 13 enclaves that were the wealthiest

pockets in all of America. California had nine. Florida had two and Colorado had two, including the ski resort of Aspen. The second 25 that made up the list of 50 wealthiest zip codes also were made up mostly of New York and California zip codes.

Out of the 50 top wealthiest zip codes, eighteen were in New York. However, California tops the list with an amazing 25 of the top 50 wealthiest zip codes in America. Therefore, 43 of the nation's top 50 wealthiest areas in the country were in California and New York. These two states are also considered the two most liberal states in America. This gives new meaning to the term "limousine liberals." No wonder democratic presidential candidates can raise so much cash.

By the way, there were no zip codes in Alabama, or for that matter the Deep South that made the list of wealthiest zip codes. Sorry about that Mountain Brook.

**Be SAFE when driving - remember to
BUCKLE UP and NO TEXTING!**

The Alabama Gazette

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Published by:
Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC
Volume 15 - Issue 5 Copyright 2015
The Alabama Gazette 20 pages

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

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The Education Station...

By Bobbie Ames

Attacks on Faith, Family, and Freedom



When America's Constitutional Republic was founded as a Christian Nation, the entire culture reflected Moral Absolutes. While it is true that not every citizen was what we call a "born again Christian believer," everyone enjoyed the blessings of liberty brought to our shores, the fruit of moral absolutes. Our Republic was birthed by the Protestant Reformation and the Biblical mandate that formed courageous character.

Education was important from its inception. From the home school around the open fireplace, to the first New England "Dame" school in the most humble village, Biblical world views were taught. By the turn of the next century, **Noah Webster** was



Noah Webster

the foremost schoolmaster in America and his influence remains to this day. From the training of pastors to the teacher of reading, his definitions of the English language, are unmatched for clarity and Truth.

His definition of Education includes these words: **"Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts, and science is important, to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests upon parents and guardians who neglect these duties."** In speaking of manners and habits, he defines these as the **"course of life: in a moral sense."** Webster's reference to religion is the Protestant Christianity, related to every subject.

In the early 20th Century, changes entered America's textbooks. The long proven Phonics as the best way to teach reading was cast aside and replaced by inferior and unproven experiments. History, the glorious history of Providence was cast aside for the new concepts evident in Social Studies. Even in the late 30's and 40's, parents were distressed over the Dick and Jane readers, boring and inferior, compared to what they had in school twenty five years earlier. Missing were the moral teachings of the Bible stories, which has helped form character for hundreds of years in education. By this time, Science had introduced Evolution, first as a "theory," and then as "fact."

What could be more damaging to children than to instill in them the idea that they are an "accident?" Darwin's theory has taken hold in the academic world, that all life has developed "accidentally" over eons of random interactions with chemicals and gases, with no life purpose, other than to survive. As preposterous as it seems, the leading universities in this once Christian nation embrace this atheistic philosophy.

By the time I was in college in the late 1940's, this arrogant philosophy had infiltrated every academic discipline. Children were in school many more hours than they were awake at home, or in church or synagogue. Is it any wonder that children from Christian homes were and are confused? And nearly 100 years later, is it any wonder that bewildered young people from Christian homes have walked away from the church in masses?

In 1964, the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States was formed in New York; a Tax Exempt Health Non-Profit. This organization, SIECUS, had a revolutionary plan to change all of Education through their program of Sex Education for all children and youth.

The Executive Director, Dr. Mary Calderone focused on radically new teaching materials for Sex Education in all schools. She had previously been the Medical Director of **Planned Parenthood**. Her husband, Dr. Frank Calderone, was a Chief Administrator for a number of years of the **World Health Organization**. The pair were known as "Ultra Liberal One Worlders." **Dr. Mary Calderone proudly believed that "everything that science knows about sexuality, our children should have access to."** She did not intend for teachers to be allowed to inject the restraints of **"old fashioned morality."** Federal funds were made available to promote the agenda, as she traveled the states teaching educators. Some of the people associated with SIECUS had earlier been identified with the Communist Party, according to the records of the House Committee on Un-American Activities (as early as 1955 and up to 1968).

Many of the programs were presented through schools as **"Family Life Education."** Parents complained about these as being "lewd" and relating the most intimate sexual experiences to very young children. Descriptions of slides presented cannot be described in this article out of respect for children.

Let it be known that the lessons were an open invitation for children to experiment with Sex. The textbook contents have increasingly become more obscene over the last decades. Parents who hold to moral absolutes are looked upon as totally "out of date," and unrealistic by these one-world educators. They were working passionately throughout the 1960's on their agenda. The Congressional Record of June 26, 1968, mentions Dr. Albert Ellis, Director of the Institute for Rational Living, Inc. He was the author of **"Sex Without Guilt"** and also, **"The Case for Sexual Liberty."** In the drive for new sexual freedom for America's youth, you will find the names of Dr. Isadore Rubin, the editor of **SEXOLOGY** magazine, and Dr. Lester Kirkendall, prominent in the **American Humanist Association**. To him, any moral absolute was unthinkable. These are some of the leaders who built the movement to capture American culture through government schools. To these people, "sex without guilt" includes: adultery, sex perversion, and premarital sex relations. Organizations prominent in the business world have continually assisted with funds and promotions for decades, while major funding has been the government from the top.

Speakers were bold in praising Sweden for their approval of vast freedom to young people to enjoy **"sexual activities without shame."** Look Magazine reported (November 15, 1966) that **"most high school Swedes regard premarital sex as natural and acceptable."**

Many honorable people were ignorant of the content promoted and believed that a Sex Education program in schools might reduce sexual activity among teens. However, without a moral foundation, without a strong sense of "right and wrong," how could they expect moral choices?

Another name to remember is Dr. Joseph Fletcher, "religious" author of "Situation Ethics---The New Morality." He urged amending the Commandments: "Thou shalt not covet, ordinarily. Thou shalt not kill, ordinarily. Thou shalt not commit adultery, ordinarily." There were to be no rules; everything would depend on the situation. He also, was associated with the Communists, according to the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The New Morality in American Schools is based on Situation Ethics. What is right for me, might not be right for you. There is really no absolute right or wrong. How prevalent is this attitude in today's culture? Far more than we choose to believe.

GRASSROOTS OPPOSITION BEGINS TO FORM: 1968

Dr. Melvin Anchell, world renown Jewish Psychiatrist from California, was an expert and published author on Human Sexuality. Called on by California legislators who had complaints about textbook content in the classrooms, Dr. Anchell sounded the alarm as to the damage to children. He explained that the physical component of sexual activity must be inseparably fused with spiritual and mental needs. When researching the way that sex education was presented in the classroom, Dr. Anchell wrote the Legislators, **"It may just as well give the same children guns and a cache of ammunition with the admonishment not to use them."** He continued to speak and publish and sound alarms.

It was my great privilege to work closely with Dr. Melvin Anchell for several years in the 1980's when we both worked for Protect America's Children. I witnessed his expertise in both writing and in active testimonies in courtrooms in America, to protect children from sexual abuse and other dangers. Later, the Hoffman Education Center published a book which he authored, titled, "What's Wrong with Sex Education?"

Much of the content of school textbooks is too pornographic for me to quote, but it is easily researched.

--

A Long process.

"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the exercise thereof."

Alabama was one of the strongest voices in the Opposition to the removal of School Prayer from schools. Alabama teachers were vocal in their opposition. Parents in Baldwin County were among the most vocal finding bias in Alabama textbooks. Parents from other towns and counties joined in the exposure of false and demeaning content in school texts. But the removal of School Prayer in (1962), generated alarm and fear for the children and their future in this "land of the free."

In reviewing textbooks used in Alabama, Dr. Paul Vitz, professor of psychology and history at New York University, exclaimed, "that Alabama history and social studies textbooks convey a message that religion is irrelevant or that it more or less doesn't exist."

School textbooks would be challenged in the October 6, 1986 - March 1987 trial held by District Judge W. Brevard Hand in Mobile. An earlier case involving School Prayer took place in

1981 when Ishmael Jaffree challenged Alabama's School Prayer Laws. Hundreds of people were involved in this case, and the State Board of Education, the defendant, declined to sign a pre-trial settlement agreement. The prayer advocates contended that the teaching of Humanism, a man centered theory (religion) rejects the teaching of Christianity and Judaism. People for the American Way and the American Civil Liberties Union entered the case as "interveners." Taking the leading role for the prayer advocates, then attorney Tom Parker and attorneys Tom Kotouc and Bob Sherling were assisted by The Freedom Council Foundation of Chesapeake, Virginia.

The people of Alabama have consistently stood for America's Christian Founding and the Rule of Law articulated in the Constitutions of the national and state governments. Their voice was loudly heard when 81% of Alabamians stood for traditional marriage in a state constitutional amendment. Our Alabama Supreme Court has been valiant in interpreting the laws of our nation. It is not their role to rewrite new laws. They have held to the standards to protect law, life and liberty. The greatest



jurist of the Founding Era, Judge William Blackstone, would applaud them. It is the judges on the federal benches across the land that have placed their hand on the Bible, and then, denied the God of the Bible as the Source of Truth and Law.

A friend in California called to say, **"Thank you Alabama, for taking a stand for us all. If you fail, we all fail."** Thank you, Alabama Supreme Court. As a retired History teacher, I am one of many Alabamians blessed and encouraged by your opinion.

The following list of rulings against "We the People" clearly reveals the attack on Faith, Family and Freedom -- war declared on moral absolutes by unelected federal judges:

A verbal prayer in school is unconstitutional, even if non-denominational and voluntarily participated in

Engle v. Vitale, 1962, Abington v. Schempp, 1963.

Freedom of Speech and Press is guaranteed to students UNLESS the topic is religious, at which time such speech is unconstitutional. Stein v. Oshinsky, 1965; Collins v. Chandler Unified School District, 1981.

Kindergarten children may not recite "God is great. God is Good, let us thank Him for our food." Wallace v. Jaffree, 1984.

It is declared unconstitutional to hang a plaque of The Ten Commandments in the classroom because it might lead children to read and meditate and perhaps obey them.

Stone v. Graham, 1980; Ring v. Grand Forks Public Schools Dist. 1980, and Lanner v. Wimmer, 1981.

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Psalm 11:3

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."

1 Corinthians 16:13

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:32

The Battle Concerning Charter Schools...

The views of these editorials may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

ALABAMA LEGISLATURE ON THE ROAD TO PASSING A BILL PILOTING CHARTER SCHOOLS



Dr. David Nichols

Among the many legislative bills which will be introduced during Alabama's legislative 2015 session is one with strong support of progressive lawmakers. They plan to introduce the bill in the upcoming spring session of the Alabama's State Legislature to provide a plan and process for the initial creation of a few charter schools. The bill will limit the number of charter schools to be established to fewer than a dozen during first fiscal year. Charter schools which exist throughout the country have been heralded for success. It is time Alabama stepped up the plate, using some of the key characteristics, best practices and most successful development of high performing charter schools in other states. While the list is long, our neighbor to the south, Florida, has already successfully created a system of charter schools throughout the state while public and private schools continue to operate. In recent years, parents, educators, corporate officials and some lawmakers have made efforts to pass legislation to establish charter schools in Alabama. Political opposition, state education officials and para-education organizations have defeated these efforts opting to perpetuate far too many failing public schools. Parents have no choice but to send their children to these schools where, in many cases, the least prepared teachers work, classroom disorder exists and there is a lack of effective discipline. A disproportionate number of minority students often lag behind and cannot read on grade level during their early years. When these students reach high school ill-equipped academically they are unable to pass rigorous high stakes tests. Common sense parents across our state have learned that Common Core, approved and supported by President Obama makes uncommon sense. In November 2010 the Alabama State Board of Education approved Common Core curriculum. The fact is that Alabama's curriculum and the aligned assessments were not locally developed

but created at the national level. Alabama's State Board of Education and State Superintendent Tommy Bice simply added the Alabama "College and Career Ready Standards" to "modify" Common Core. Many state and local education officials present Common Core as a state-developed program. In fact, it is covertly rolled into the liberal-based, federally developed Common Core curriculum fraught with a liberal perspective on American values, omissions of fundamental American heritage and the inclusion of ideologies opposed to the Judeo-Christian beliefs. While the "standards" may appear acceptable, the textbooks and nationally developed assessments reveal controversial historical and ideological information. This move to put education under the auspices of the federal government (the U.S. Constitution leaves education under state control) is significant enough nationwide that it has already become an issue in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election. There is increasing parent and student dissatisfaction over textbook content and recently aligned testing. Students in such states as New Mexico, New York and Pennsylvania are refusing to take the most recent liberal-biased tests.

Charter schools allow parents a greater role to choose schools which can develop and/or use reliable curriculum and testing. Michigan has more charter schools than any other state. The findings there are that charter schools offer a choice to parents, actually attracts more racially diverse students as parent of all ethnic and racial backgrounds want their children to succeed. Some charter schools in Michigan create competition and, thus, influence the public schools to raise performance. In Florida, Hillsborough County School Board Chair Candy Olson says that while public schools receive more funding, charter schools create a variety of fund-raising and other resource acquisition which usually closes the funding gap. Charter schools are typically somewhere

between public and private schools in many ways. Teachers report that students and their parents whose choice it is to attend a charter school are usually more academically serious, appreciate the unique strategies of the instructional programs and are well behaved.

Strong organizational management and exceptional instructional leadership is the preeminent factor in any school achieving its academic goals for all of students. The charter school usually engenders a sense of pride in the facility, a respect for faculty and staff and a willingness to contribute in every area to make "their" school more community oriented.

The charter school bill to be introduced to Alabama's State Legislature should be a bi-partisan effort based on improving the academic environment and to encourage school choice for parents and students who now feel trapped in a failing school. Why would any legislator oppose a bill which would permit the incremental creation of a few charter schools in an attempt to allow students the opportunity to perform and achieve their academic potential?

David Nichols, Ed. D. is a retired educator serving at both the K-12 and the university levels as a teacher, school administrator, and associate dean of students, consultant, author and presenter. His publications include books, journals, daily newspaper op/end pieces, etc. Dr. Nichols also had a twenty-year career in law enforcement as a police officer, chief of police and public safety director. He served as an expert witness, consultant and presenter to police departments, law enforcement academies and conferences. He is a graduate of the prestigious FBI National Academy.

**** Opposing VIEW! ****

We, the people of Alabama, are united in our demands that all members of the Alabama State Legislature refuse to approve **SB 45/HB 192** and focus, instead, on creating equity in our already existing public education system. Public charters will lead to further segregation, will increase inequalities, and will aid in the privatization of our public schools. Privatization will siphon much needed funds away from traditional public schools to the benefit of corporate entities, not the students that these reforms were supposedly intended to benefit. These charters will leave the vast majority of already marginalized high poverty students to languish with no real education reform to help them achieve their fullest potential. We must also note that only 17 percent of charter schools provide a better education than traditional schools, and that 37 percent actually offered children a worse education.

Setting aside our general concerns stated above about charters and privatization, here are our concerns that deal directly with **Alabama's Senate Bill SB 45/HB 192**:

1. A public charter's contract will be for five years despite studies showing that for the majority of charter schools a poor first year performance will give way to poor second year performance, etc., yet these schools will be given countless opportunities to 'try again'. SB 45 states: Every authorizer shall have the authority to conduct or require oversight activities that enable the authorizer to fulfill its responsibilities under this act, including conducting appropriate inquiries and investigations, so long as those activities are consistent with the intent of this act, adhere to the terms of the charter contract, and do not unduly prohibit the autonomy granted to public charter schools." (Emphasis added) SB 45 then states: In the event that a public charter school's performance or legal compliance appears unsatisfactory, the authorizer shall promptly notify the public charter school of the perceived problem and provide reasonable opportunity for the school to remedy the problem" We find this is inadequate and entirely too vague.
2. The decision of a local system to convert a public school to a charter cannot be appealed to the commission BUT if a local system denies a startup charter application the applicant can appeal to the commission and a public hearing will be held. Meaning the public has no input in a charter take over of their school but a charter company has input if their application is denied. Parents, students and stakeholders have a right to protect their schools from unwanted charter takeovers.
3. There is no cap on the number of converted schools but there is a cap on start up charters (10 per year). We believe this will cause constant concern from the community over the possibility of a takeover of their neighborhood school which will lead to instability for the students and the community. This is NOT conducive to learning and building strong communities.
4. Personnel reductions can be contemplated as the result of a conversion to a charter model which can lead to the local school board implementing a reduction in force. This will cause a stressful work environment for our educators and instability for the students, which is not conducive to teaching and learning.
5. Teachers in public charter schools will be exempt from state teacher certification requirements which will lead to lesser qualified educators in the charter school classrooms.
6. The fact that students will only be able to participate in organized sports programs if the public charter school they attend offers the programs will lead to students being denied the chance of sports scholarships and will deny them the physical and social benefits of participating in organized sports.
7. The fact that our public charters will not have to provide transportation like our traditional public schools will leave many students at a disadvantage.
8. The lease of an existing traditional public school building to a public charter entity will lead to public charter schools and traditional public schools co-locating, which has been proven to be problematic and harmful to the educational experiences of the traditional public school students.



cps299.wordpress.com

For all of these reasons we, again, are asking that the Alabama State Senate STOP SB 45. Charter Schools are not the answer to Alabama's education problems. Let us work together for real, positive, sustainable education reform for ALL of Alabama's students.

We urge everyone to GET INVOLVED! Follow this link to a FB invite that will keep you updated on all actions concerning this bill and all events that are taking place to fight it! Please use #NOonALSB45 as the hashtag on all social media posts you make!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1523635531194662>

Contact your Senators AND Representatives NOW!
You can search for the ones in your district here:

<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/FindLegislator.aspx>

Leave a message with the secretary if the legislator is unavailable. They do keep track of the calls. Be sure and email too!

ALSO, PLEASE CONTACT EACH MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE TODAY. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE! HERE IS THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Here is a link to the latest version of the bill:
<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/ALISON/>

[SearchableInstruments/2015RS/PrintFiles/165119-2.pdf](#) ;

WHAT MERIT DOES JUDGE MOORE'S ARGUMENT HAVE IN RELATION TO GAY MARRIAGE IN ALABAMA?



Ronald A. Holtsford

The Constitutional law in Alabama bans marriage between two people of the same sex. It is law. The Amendment was overwhelmingly approved by Alabama's voters. As a law, there was no decision by the Alabama Supreme Court that the law was unconstitutional.

Now a Federal District Court Judge has made a ruling based on a case in Mobile County. Judge Callie Granade's ruling was based on the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which states, "Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Judge Granade seemed more interested in the partner of the natural mother, having full rights, as any natural parent would over a child that they are raising, than the law and majority voters of Alabama. Surely children are important but one cannot negate a law of a sovereign state to justify the rights of one not recognized as a parent in Alabama. This is unfortunate for this child.

Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore pointed out an opinion by Justice Clarence Thomas in *Lockhart v Fretwell*, 506 U.S. 364 (1993). Lockhart was convicted of capital murder in Arkansas and sentenced to death as the murder had occurred during the commission of a felony (robbery). This was an Arkansas murder case and not a Federal case. Lockhart sought to raise a Federal issue to overturn his death sentence. Justice Thomas wrote a concurring majority opinion in the case though a different reasoning. Justice Thomas said,

"[S]ince state courts are bound by the Supremacy Clause to obey federal constitutional law, we conclude that a reasonable state trial court would have sustained an objection based on Collins had Fretwell's attorney made one.

I do not understand this statement to mean that there is a reasonable probability that the Arkansas trial court would have found Collins persuasive, and therefore would have chosen to follow it. Instead, the Court of Appeals appears to have been under the impression that the Arkansas trial court would have been compelled to follow Collins by the Supremacy Clause.

It was mistaken. The Supremacy Clause demands that state law yield to federal law, but neither federal supremacy nor any other principle of federal law requires that a state court's interpretation of federal law give way to a (lower) federal court's interpretation. In our federal system, a state trial court's interpretation of federal law is no less authoritative than that of the federal court of appeals in whose circuit the trial court is located. See *Steffel v. Thompson*, 415 U.S. 452, 482, n. 3 (1974) (REHNQUIST, J., concurring); *United States ex rel. Lawrence v. Woods*, 432 F.2d 1072, 1075-1076 (CA7 1970), cert. denied, 402

U.S. 983 (1971); Shapiro, *State Courts and Federal Declaratory Judgments*, 74 Nw.U.L.Rev. 759, 771, 774 (1979). An Arkansas trial court is bound by this Court's (and by the Arkansas Supreme Court's and Arkansas Court of Appeals') interpretation of federal law, but if it follows the Eighth Circuit's interpretation of federal law, it does so only because it chooses to, and not because it must.

Finally, Judge Moore correctly pointed out that Judge Granade's opinion affected Mobile County and that specific case, even though Judge Granade later said that the opinion affected every Alabama county.

We will have to wait until June to find out what the United States Supreme Court rules.

The pastors at my church addressed this situation and I was pleased as to what they had to say. It was not a political statement and it was more of a challenge to the membership as to how members might interact with one who has unrepentant sin. Without a doubt, the Bible teaches that homosexuality is a sin. The Bible does not distinguish between severity of sin except the only unpardonable sin is to permanently reject Christ. So lying and murder and theft and homosexuality can be forgiven if the person asks forgiveness of that sin and "seeks to sin no more". It is a "love the sinner and hate the sin" mentality and I appreciate the fact that I am loved by Christ and others on earth in spite of my sinful (but forgiven) nature. One pastor went on to quote from a book regarding a repentant homosexual who stated that he had found it easier to have relations with a man he met on the street than to get a hug from a church member. That is a very powerful statement and I'm sure all too true. Jesus Christ loves us all regardless of our sin if we will repent. He loves the person but not the filth. Somehow, those of us that call ourselves Christian must rise out of our comfort zone and if we encounter a liar or a murderer or one who has committed adultery or one who practices homosexuality then we must love them as Christ loves us and pray that they will repent of their sin and trust Christ as their Savior. That is what we are called to do regardless of the circumstances that may be around us.

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

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

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"GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO STOP HURTING ALABAMA FAMILIES"



Kenneth Paschal
Director of Governmental Affairs,
Birmingham Chapter Kenneth Paschal
(ALFRA)

Parental rights in Alabama are under assault. These fundamental rights are consistently treated as "ordinary" by federal and state government, which essentially provides government with unlimited power to undermine the family unit. We all know laws, and the court system were intended to protect citizens, but when it comes to families, husbands and wives, and fathers and mothers, laws and their enforcers can sometimes become harmful instigators. This harms children, parents, families and society. Power over the family unit is best placed in the hands of the parents not government.

In 2011, Senate Joint Resolution 65 (SJR65) was approved by the Alabama legislature, which requires proper proof of harm before the government will intervene in parental decision making. (As acknowledged by the US Supreme Court in Wisconsin

vs. Yoder (1972), that held, "The primary role of the parents in the upbringing of their children is now established beyond debate as an enduring American tradition.")

The signing of SJR65 sent a strong message to Washington. The state of Alabama acknowledged the fundamental right of parents (meaning, granted by God and cannot be taken away without compelling reason) to direct the upbringing and education of their children, is protected by the Alabama and US Constitutions. The Alabama Supreme Court has declared parental rights are fundamental in prior rulings; however, the Legislature has never before defined the level of protection granted to parents.

With that said, I am appreciative of our Legislature and Governor for publicly announcing to citizens a defined standard in SJR65, "the right of the parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children is a fundamental right protected by the Constitution of the United States and the State of Alabama".

Because SJR65 is not codified in Alabama statutes, the result of such failure to "Secure Parents' Fundamental Rights" is allowing the courts and other state agencies to routinely over-reach their responsibilities.

Examples: A Court order stating parents are not allowed to have a glass of wine during dinner; parents not allowed to send their children to church on Wednesdays; discontinuation of homeschooling of a teenager based on an argument that he needed more diversity; a 14-year-old is not required to share

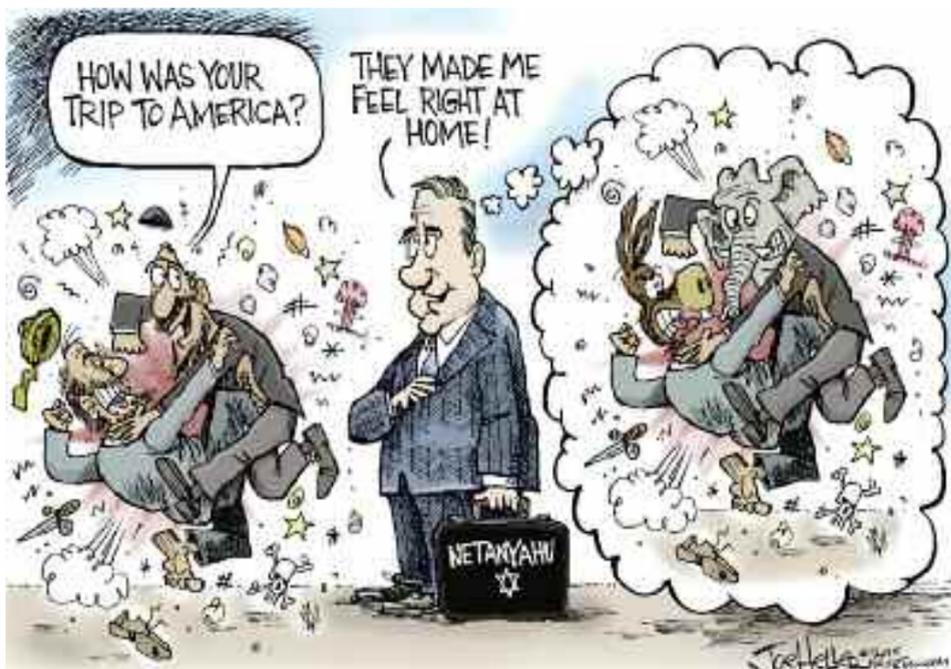


health information with their parents.

We need to strongly urge our Legislature to increase the protections of family values by declaring in this State, what they have already declared to the US Congress, any political subdivision of the state, or any other governmental entity or institution shall not infringe upon the fundamental rights of fit parent's to direct the upbringing, education, and physical and mental health of his or her minor child subject to strict scrutiny without demonstrating a compelling governmental interest, as applied to the child involved, is of the highest order, and the same is narrowly tailored in the less restrictive manner.

Submitted by: U.S. Army Retired First Sergeant Kenneth Paschal, Director of Governmental Affairs, Alabama Family Rights Association

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

ROBSERVATIONS... by Robert Tate

I AM ASHAMED



Over the past several months, I have become increasingly embarrassed, and to be quite honest, ashamed of the majority of people running this great country of ours, Democrat and Republican. With every passing day, another item makes its way to the forefront of the news to further anger and disillusion most of us who pay attention to what is going on in the world around us. With that in mind, here is a not-so-complete list of some items that bug me right now.

– **I am ashamed** that we have an administration who WILL NOT call radical Islamic terrorism exactly what it is. They know what it is. We know what it is. The terrorists, for crying out loud, proudly boast exactly what they are. The rest of the world knows what is going on yet nobody in the administration will call it what it is. Remember, just because they won't say it, doesn't mean it isn't true.

<http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2015/feb/22/punditfact-why-obama-wont-label-isis-islamic-extre/>

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/02/obama-violent-extremism-radical-islam/385700/>

– **I am ashamed** that our current administration allowed the release of details of an upcoming potential operation to recapture the Iraqi city of Mosul. Really, guys? In violation of at least three principles of war as clearly stated in our own Joint Doctrine and Sun Tzu's Art of War, there is no excuse for this shameful violation of standard rules of conducting war. Heads should roll.

<http://www.independentsentinel.com/administration-gives-details-of-an-upcoming-us-iraqi-attack-on-isis-treason/>

<http://www.independentsentinel.com/administration-gives-details-of-an-upcoming-us-iraqi-attack-on-isis-treason/>

– **I am ashamed** of the administrations continued use of the term ISIL as opposed to ISIS. The difference may be subtle but it is there nonetheless. Look it up. One has to do with a region void of Israel. Guess which?

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2015/01/20/isis-vs-isil-vs-islamic-state-the-political-importance-of-a-much-debated-acronym-2/>

<http://www.wcsh6.com/story/news/local/2014/09/10/isis-vs-isil-islamic-state-iraq-syria/15403133/>



(Photo: NEWS CENTER) Government officials use ISIL, which refers to the Levant region.

Levant - [the region of] Syria, Sham, and the Eastern Mediterranean. Historically, the region was known by a variety of names, of which the first recorded to apply to the whole region was Canaan. The Levant is a geographical term that refers to a large area in Southwest Asia, south of the Taurus Mountains, bounded by the Mediterranean Sea in the west, the Arabian Desert in the south, and Mesopotamia in the east. It stretches 400 miles north to south from the Taurus Mountains to the Sinai desert, and 70 to 100 miles east to west between the sea and the Arabian desert.[1] The term is also sometimes used to refer to modern events or states in the region immediately bordering the eastern Mediterranean Sea: Cyprus, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.

– **I am ashamed** that the State Department Deputy Spokesperson, Marie Harf, actually believes the way to defeat the enemy is a robust jobs program in their home countries. While the entire world laughs at her ignorance, she doubled down on her stupidity by announcing that her ideas, albeit contrary to thousands of years of proven military doctrine, are “too nuanced” for the rest of us to understand. I suggest she take a couple of folding tables over to Mosul, set up shop for a job fair and let's see what happens. For what it is worth, the first commander of Strategic Air Command and the architect of the bombing of Japan in WWII, Curtis LeMay said, “If you kill enough of them, they will stop fighting.” Gonna have to agree with him.

<http://www.mediaite.com/tv/state-dept-spokeswoman-marie-harf-we-cant-beat-isis-just-by-killing-them/>

– **I am ashamed** that we have an administration that refuses to identify Christian and Jewish victims of Islamic violence but happily mentions the Crusades and even the deaths of the “Muslim” three college students in Chapel Hill, N.C. Identify the victims as they are. Yes the 21 Coptic Christians were “Egyptian Citizens” as described by the administration, but they were first and foremost, Christian, and according to their captors, they were killed for that reason alone.

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/tony-perkins-slams-obama-for-calling-coptic-christians-beheaded-by-isis-egyptian-citizens-clearly-isis-has-no-difficulty-saying-christian-134222/>

– **I am ashamed** that after the death of Army Maj. Gen. Harold "Harry" Greene in August of 2014, the White House did not send any officials to his funeral (Yes Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel attended but that was his frapping job) yet they did send three officials to the funeral of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO. For what it is worth, no White House officials were sent to former British PM Margaret Thatcher's funeral either. Hmm.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/08/25/more-white-house-officials-at-michael-browns-funeral-than-thatchers/>

– **I am ashamed** that we have an administration that believes it is acceptable to tell our enemy what we will and will not do on the field of combat. To tell them point blank that we will NOT send in ground troops is to tell them there are now a countless range of options that they do not have to contend with or worry about. Sun Tzu 101 again. Never tell the enemy what you are going to do unless there is a good strategic or operational reason for doing so.

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/09/16/no-boots-on-the-ground-is-the-white-house-worried-assad-could-break-this-60-year-u-s-milestone/>
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/02/11/politics/isis-aumf-white-house-congress/>
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/12/us/obama-war-authorization-congress.html?_r=0

– **I am ashamed** that after the “Arab Spring” and other uprisings in the region, we still have no clearly defined, measurable and attainable political objectives (thus, our military objectives become questionable). The press continually harps on strategies but as I have written before, those are totally useless without being tied to viable objectives. Let's have a national dialogue on our strategic objectives. Then we can talk about operational and tactical objectives and then the strategies to coincide with them.

– **I am ashamed** that after reading the most recently released National Security Strategy that, well, uh, read it for yourself. Be sure to have a vomit bag close by. Do these guys, uh, just read it. Be sure to have a lot of “Strategic Patience” though.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2015_national_security_strategy_2.pdf

– **I am ashamed** that a large percentage of American students in some of our more prestigious institutions of higher learning actually believe that the United States is the biggest threat to world peace; even more so than ISIS. What???

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2786764/Harvard-students-think-America-bigger-threat-world-peace-ISIS.html>

– **I am ashamed** that the Seattle Seahawks lost to the New England Patriots. Okay, not really.

– **I am ashamed** that during time of war, our administration released five enemy Taliban leaders. These men were the equivalent of the Nazis Wilhelm Keitel, Wilhelm Frick, Arthur Seyss-Inquart, Alfred Jodl, Ernest Kaltenbrunner who was each tried at Nuremberg. Not only did we release these five men, we released them for a known deserter and likely paid money as well. By the way, 9 months after his release the administration has still yet to release the findings of their investigation. Transparency? Right.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/01/28/bergdahl-to-be-charged-with-desertion-ex-military-intel-officer-says/>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/nov/19/inside-the-ring-ransom-paid-for-bergdahl?page=all>

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/house-member-seeks-probe-of-bergdahl-ransom-payment/>

– **I am ashamed** that we have politicians, ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE, who think that our national debt of \$18,000,000,000,000 and growing is not worthy of correction. None of these so-called men and women are willing to step up to the plate and do what is necessary to reverse this trend. After a year where the United States took in record tax revenue, over \$3 trillion, yet we still came up \$500 billion short. Criminal. BTW, our most recent budget has called for \$3.99 trillion in spending for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. It also estimated that tax revenue would top \$3.53 trillion, resulting in another \$474 billion deficit, albeit the lowest since 2008.

<http://dailysignal.com/2014/10/21/thanks-obamas-tax-hikes-tax-revenue-surpasses-3-trillion-first-time-ever/>

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/obama-to-detail-nearly-4-trillion-budget-for-fiscal-2016-1422874801>



– **I am ashamed** that our new Secretary of Defense, Ashton Carter, has decided that his first real action worthy of his new job is NOT to outline, define and articulate clear tactical, operational and strategic objectives and strategies for dealing with ISIS, but rather to push forward with allowing transgender people to serve in the military. Really? Right out of the chute, so to speak? This is like having your baby playing in the middle of the freeway. The most important thing is to get your baby out of the road. Period! Instead you are worrying about what he had for breakfast that morning. Yeah, his breakfast of maple syrup covered M&Ms and cat food may be an important issue that needs to be addressed and dealt with appropriately but most importantly, you have to deal with the immediate and more dangerous threat first. Again, the issue here is not transgender service but the administration's overall strategic focus and the ability to prioritize and effectively deal with identifiable threats.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/23/ashton-carter-military-transgender-ban_n_6736736.html

Folks, the list goes on and on. Although I believe this still to be the greatest country on Earth and I would rather live nowhere else, we have to get our collective act together in order to reverse some of this craziness within our midst. I am sure some of these issues likely bother you as well. “Get me outta here, Percy!”



Steve Long

Woods & Waters with Steve



SMALL GAME ARE A GREAT WAY TO KEEP EVERYONE ACTIVE IN THE OUTDOORS, REGARDLESS OF AGE.

Now, if you've been listening to me for any bit of time, you've probably guessed what my favorite hunting season is; turkey hunting! Starting March 14th for everyone, and March 7th and 8th for youth season, turkey season is just around the corner.

This year, the season's starting a bit earlier than we're used to, but that suits me just fine! Since



John Adams with a good Bama bird killed last season.

we're pretty darned close to the start of the season, make sure your shotgun or bow is in great working condition. Keep up with your ammo, gear, and everything else. You don't want to wake up early on opening morning, only to realize you don't have anything you need! Turkeys have excellent eye-sight, so you want to have full-body camouflage, facemask and all. Make sure you've got the right permission to hunt wherever you're thinking of going, and of course make sure you have your hunting license and harvest record.

Once you get in the woods it's feast or famine when it comes to finding a bird to chase. But in recent years, some parts of the state have seen a reduction in the number of wild birds. An article that ran in the Montgomery Advertiser a week or two ago cited a new study being conducted by Auburn University to band and track birds to get a better idea of where the population stands and where it's going. As mentioned in that article, written by Marty Roney, some places have seen better hunting, but others have seen that drop off. Predators are a major concern, like coyotes, as well as weather. Turkeys make their nests on the ground, leaving them vulnerable to predators and the elements, like early spring flooding. This study will be a huge help in trying to determine how to best manage the state's turkey population. If results find that the bird population is sliding way too quickly downward, they might start actions like reducing bag limit to 3 instead of 5. So if you find a band or transmitter on a bird this year, please return them to the university. We need to make sure we take care of the bird population while we can still do something about it!

I'm pretty heavy-handed on conservation and management, because I want to make sure the gift of

hunting is something future generations can enjoy. As you get older and more seasoned in the woods, it becomes more about getting others involved. That's why I always take a big interest in youth season. This year it's March 7th and 8th, and you can now hunt on private property as well as public management areas.

Years ago, I remember taking my son, Steven, my friend Jeff Yourman, and his daughter Jessica "Rootbeer" Yourman to the Lowndes County Management Area. Right off the bat, we got a tom gobbling at us and moving quickly. We set up a couple hundred yards from the truck, and waited just a minute. That bird was making a racket the whole way! As soon as it popped its head through the brush, Steven took his shot, and that bird was on the ground. Barely 6:15 in the morning and one bird down.

The rest of the morning, we searched high and low, Jeff and the kids talking about anything and everything with me, as we looked hard for a bird for Jessica to take, but the other toms were a little smarter than the first one.

Days like that are why I love this sport. It's time with friends and family that you can't replace, spent doing something we all love. It is teaching patience, discipline, and personal responsibility in a way that connects us with nature and the outdoors as much as it connects us with each other. Youth season is something I always hold close to my heart, as it has come to represent what I enjoy most about the outdoors; sharing it with everyone else.

So my fellow hunters, let's get ready for what I think is the greatest time of year to be outside, doing what we love. Share it with everyone around you, and go make some of the greatest memories of your lives. Go get 'em!

"The Kritter Korner" WILD AMONG US

As human society grows, animal habitat goes, and our homes are not just our own castles anymore. Looking for a place to raise their families, industrious raccoons, squirrels, and other small creatures gnaw and claw their way into roofs, attics, basements, vent pipes, and chimneys. They ask for so little: shelter from the elements, sustenance for their babies, a soft spot for nesting and nursing. The raccoons, squirrels, skunks, and other wild animals who find their way into the cracks and crevices of our abodes are only doing what their human counterparts have always done: carving out a place in the landscape that they can call home. There's perfect logic to it, from a critter's perspective.

In the same spots where squirrels crawl into roof vents and raccoons climb down chimneys; these animals' ancestors once took up residence in the cavities of aging trees that have long since been chopped down and underground burrows that are now trapped under asphalt.

These creatures are nothing if not resourceful, these wild urban residents have managed to adapt to a changing world and find the next best thing to natural habitat: manmade structures that provide all the insulation and protection they need to raise growing families. Rather than admire their ingenuity, however, some members of our society want only to evict them from their environs in whatever way possible. On the borders of ever-shrinking woodlands and expanding urban landscapes lies an imaginary barrier created by a culture that,

somewhere between the dawn of civilization and the twilight of industrialization, has

all but lost its connection to the natural world. In an age when a snake sunning himself peacefully in the garden is often perceived as a grave threat, it's no surprise that animals that have penetrated the walls of our homes seem even more forbidding. But all they are doing is looking for a home of their own.

"Wild animals are adjusting to the conditions, opportunities and resources we provide them, intentionally or not." They don't know that a hole leading into an attic takes them into a place where they are not welcomed. Their populations are growing and expanding, too, and they will use all the resources available to them in response to that growth.



Ron VanHerwyn

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:21

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Sports Editor,
Ed Jones

Last month thousands of “football people” converged on Indianapolis, Indiana for a most important week. Thirty-two NFL teams will have had at least six representatives move into hotels and motels near Lucas Oil Field, the site of the 2015 NFL Combine. Over 300

players from college teams are annually invited to participate in their first “audition” for the best job that they will ever have. Depending on how well they perform, they will become instant millionaires if they are drafted high enough in the May NFL draft. Now, for the “unwashed”, let us more clearly define what this momentous occasion really is all about. Just what is the “combine” that has dominated sports pages, television and radio talk shows leading up to and leading out of the NFL combine?

Many years ago, National Football League teams would employ “scouts” that were assigned a regional territory or assigned a number of college teams to study. They were looking for college seniors who would be prospects for their respective NFL team. These scouts would normally be made up of former players or coaches who had played or coached in the NFL. However, that was not a prerequisite. Anyone who had the talent and football intuition that is required to evaluate players successfully, could be more than welcomed aboard by a NFL coaching staff, general manager or owner. Because of my coaching background and through the people that crossed my path during these years, I had the fortune to meet many of these scouts. Two became very good personal friends. I had known of them but never really knew them until they became scouts. Scouting is and was a very interesting job, but it did take a body away from his family. Many lonely nights in a motel room was to be expected and endured. **Milton VonMann** was such a man. He had played football in Montgomery in high school at Loretta, which later became known as Catholic High School, and by happenstance became the location of my first coaching job. Milt joined the Marine Corps after high school and was decorated for his combat service in Korea. After his service in the Marines, he went to VPI, now known as Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Virginia. The football coach at that time was **Frank Moseley**, a brother to a Montgomery sports writer, **Max Moseley**. Through this connection several football players from Montgomery found their way to VPI. At any rate, VonMann got his teaching certificate from Huntingdon and was a valuable assistant coach at Catholic High School under **Coach Jack Kresek** in the late fifties. Milt was one of those people described earlier, who was not an NFL player. He was only 5’8” in height when he was playing college football as a guard and part-time fullback. He did have an eye for talent. Through his many connections, he was hired by the Cincinnati Bengals as a scout. Cincinnati only had part-time scouts then. That way, they felt that they could cover more territory with many scouts and less money devoted to the process. Earlier it was mentioned that scouts spent lonely nights in motels. Milt wrote a book entitled “Lonely is the Hunter, a Football Scout’s Life”. Unfortunately, Milt passed away before he found a major publisher to print and distribute. The manuscript was extremely interesting to me.

The other scout that came to be a good friend was **Billy Atkins**, a former fullback and linebacker on the 1957 Auburn National Championship Team. He was also the captain of that team. He was drafted by the Buffalo Bills in the AFL (American Football League) where he played defensive back and punted for an extended career. He may be better known around Montgomery as Coach Billy Atkins, who put Troy State (now Troy University) on the map by winning the NAIA National Championship in 1966. After his college coaching days, Billy was hired by **Coach Bill Walsh** of the San Francisco 49’ers. His keen football mind was exploited by Coach Walsh by putting Billy on the road as one of his scouts. His long career as a scout was interrupted abruptly. After a good physical workout at one of the Texas schools, Billy dropped dead as he left the gym. It was a terrible loss to all that knew him. He was only in his late fifties.

Now that we have touched on the life of a scout, let us get back to the Combine. Years after the deaths of Billy Atkins and Milt VonMann, the NFL teams decided that it would be less expensive and much more efficient to bring known prospects to a central location, work them out, interview them, thereby getting to know them much better. Also entire coaching staffs could also be a part of the selection process. Although Minneapolis is not geographically a central location, it was the best location that provided the teams with the facilities and built in staff to host the event for almost a week. That is how the term NFL Combine came about.

There are many components of the audition, as we have called it. One is the press conference. NFL teams want to know how a player reacts to questions from the media. There is no wrong or right answer. They just want to see how poised and confident the player is when he is in the spotlight. It only lasts fifteen minutes. A second is the interview. This is when one or more staff members from a team will grill the prospect on different subjects. Not all of the topics are about football. Here the teams are trying to substantiate or differentiate what they

already know about this person. Who is this guy? Will he be a team player or is he a prima donna. Will he be a leader? Will he be a follower? Regardless of the talent level, do we really want this guy on our squad? Do we really want him in the locker room where many leadership qualities and attitudes surface? Does he really match the data that we have compiled on him? The obvious example is Florida State quarterback **Jameis Winston**. His behavior in college is something that has to be considered. Has he matured or is he a risk to continue risky behavior? A team can not afford to miss on the character issues, especially with the added emphasis in the league on controlling the rash of domestic violence instances that have brought disgrace to some teams recently, and disgrace to the NFL. Most of the analysts who observed Winston at the combine have decided that he in fact has matured, therefore, he is really not the risk that they originally considered. This observation will likely make him the number one pick in the draft. Tampa Bay selects first. They desperately need a quarterback and **Coach Lovie Smith** has already indicated that he desires making Winston his pick. Of course Coach Smith and all of the other experts at the combine have seen a lot more of Jameis Winston than I have. He always sounds convincing. He



Blake Sims

always says that he just made a mistake and that he will not make that mistake again. He is very intelligent. He is very football smart. He is very big. He is very strong. He has a rifle for an arm. He is the most NFL ready quarterback at the combine...He is just a little to “slick” for me! There are thousands of men incarcerated in prisons all over the United States that have exactly the same characteristics that have been used to describe the new and more improved Jameis Winston. His behavior and his explanations of his behavior are borderline psychopathic as far as I am concerned. With “Mr. Clean”, the Heisman quarterback from Oregon, **Marcus Mariota** available, why would a team place the franchise tag on Jameis, a quarterback that **MAY** have changed for the better? One positive thing can be said in Winston’s defense. He is not twenty-one years old yet. Maybe that devilish kid is gone. Maybe...Maybe... I would let someone else find out...The NFL is not a rehabilitation league anymore!

Other components of the combine are objective skill measuring drills. The forty yard dash is the most overrated measuring tool. However it is important in football to know how long it takes a player to get from point A to point B. This test gets more attention by the press. This is probably because it is so easy to understand. Much data is already known on most of these players. Having a great forty time would not drop a projected first rounder down to the second or third round. It is just one more test to confirm or deny what the scouts already know.

Another component is the cone drill. Plastic cones similar to what you see on highway construction are placed strategically in a square configuration. Each player is timed as he runs around each cone using different designated strides as he goes. This is one of the most revealing test of NFL ready talent because it shows the agility and athleticism of the player. It is probably more important in evaluating defensive players. Offensive players are generally moving in a low sprint forward, parallel to the line of scrimmage or backing up as in pass blocking for the linemen.

Another component is the standing broad jump. This is very important for linebackers, defensive backs, offensive and defensive linemen, tight ends, wide receivers and power backs. This displays the explosive power in the athlete’s core muscles, especially the thighs. Speed is important for most positions but power is equally important for linemen. It also displays how athletic the player is with his strength and balance.

A very important component for linemen is the bench press. How many times a player can bench 225 lbs. tells the scouts exactly how strong the player is in his upper body, the arms, chest and neck.

The last objective component is the standing vertical jump. This is just another method of judging the power in the lower legs, the hips, thighs and calves. It also reveals the reaching limits of a player. Most players who are tall have an advantage in this drill but is not always the case. For example Auburn quarterback **Nick Marshall** at 6-1, 210 had the best vertical jump of all the quarterbacks. Some were in the 6-4, 6-5 range or better like Mariota and Winston.

This was especially important for Marshall. He does not project as a quarterback but as a corner back who will be required to jump vertically and horizontally on almost every ball thrown in his direction. Marshall’s broad jump was second best among signal callers.

All the players are run through subjective drills that are designed for each different position. Quarterbacks throw, wide receivers run routes in various drills while catching footballs thrown by the quarterbacks. Linebackers, defensive backs are engaged in movement sideways, backward and forward as they ultimately are thrown a ball that is hard to catch. Offensive and defensive linemen are put through various skill level drills to show their quickness, speed, strength and technique.

Almost everyone at the combine knew that Nick Marshall was overall a better athlete than Alabama quarterback **Blake Sims**. However, Sims surprised some with his 4.57 second forty. Marshall ran 4.54. Mariota was fastest of the quarterbacks with a 4.52. Winston’s time was poor as expected (5.9). No quarterback will be lining up in a game and running straight ahead, so the quarterback times are almost irrelevant.

Unbelievably Blake Sims went from reserve running back, to back-up quarterback, to NFL quarterback prospect in three years at Alabama. It is one of the greatest college football stories in the history of Alabama football. In my opinion, he would succeed in the system run by the Seattle Seahawks. He reminds me some of Seattle quarterback **Russell Wilson**, even though at almost 6-0, Sims is taller...Sims is taller than a starting NFL quarterback? You bet...Wilson is barely 5-11. Sims moves are very similar to Wilson’s. A scenario could be that Seattle would draft Sims as a back-up quarterback, and keep present Seattle back-up **Travari Jackson** to help Sims develop. Jackson who played at Sidney Lanier High School and Alabama State University is the only Montgomery quarterback other than the great Bart Starr to start for an NFL team. Age is catching up to Jackson. Therefore his value to Seattle as a potential starter diminishes every year. This would be a very smart move for **Coach Pete Carroll**, and, he can get Sims cheap. My evaluation of Sims has never been as an NFL quarterback. I see him as a possession receiver in the slot like **Wes Welker** of Denver. To me his greatest asset is his ability to run in space.

In thinking about Nick Marshall as an NFL cornerback, he will definitely be a project for some



Nick Marshall

team, but a worthwhile project. Again my vision is to see this fantastic athlete catching passes from the slot receiver position. He reminds me of the smooth and effective **Julius Edelman** of New England, who also was a college quarterback. It would not take much of an adjustment for Marshall to make that move. He also could save a team money by being their third quarterback.

The number one fullback at the combine was Alabama’s **Jowlston Fowler**. Of course, this was no surprise. Every football man in the country knew he was an outstanding back except for **Coach Nick Saban**. Fowler had only thirty-five carries in five years at Alabama. Alabama should have two players taken in the first round, **Amari Cooper** first, then **Landon Collins** at safety. **T. J. Yeldon** did not have a good combine. He should have stayed at Alabama for his senior year. He ran a disappointing 4.61 in the forty. He has enough upside to be drafted, maybe as high as third round. There were many good backs available this year, but no great prospects. In my opinion **David Johnson** from Northern Illinois is the best NFL back available. He is big, strong, tough, and when he falls, he falls forward. **Melvin Cooper** from Wisconsin, the most heralded, may just be a tad fragile to be an every down back in the NFL. **Cameron Artis-Payne** had a good combine (4.53) but he still will be a late round draft choice.

Auburn’s **Sammy Coates** ran away with the NFL drills. He can do everything well that a wide receiver does except catch footballs right in his hands. At this stage in his career he is not a great route runner. His specialty in college was using his speed on deep routes. He should have stayed at Auburn to work on his hands and his route running. Progress in those two skills would have made him and early round draft choice in 2016.

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE ONE OF OUR OWN, CORPORAL JODIE WOODFIN, AS AN OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR WITH OUR AGENCY

From the beginning of his tenure in Investigations, Corporal Woodfin has exceeded many of the expectations of a new Investigator. His work ethic and desire to help others has proven him to be a vital asset to our agency. In addition to solving numerous property crimes, Corporal Woodfin has also worked directly and indirectly on several cases involving Persons Crimes, to include; crimes against children, assaults and narcotics.

On the afternoon of October 10, 2014, Corporal Woodfin passed the Montgomery County Courthouse and noticed a vehicle that was wanted in connection with several vehicle burglaries in the Bridle Brook community. After seeing the vehicle was unoccupied, Corporal Woodfin maintained a visual until the assigned Case Agent and fellow Investigators could arrive on the scene and locate the driver. Corporal Woodfin's keen observation and attention to detail, led not only to an arrest, but the recovery of stolen property and a potential lead into a narcotics investigation. This act in and of itself might sound routine; however, it should be noted that Cpl. Woodfin was headed to conduct one of three search warrants in his own cases, one of which led to an additional arrest and recovered property that same day.

Since June of 2014, Cpl. Woodfin has been assigned approximately 35 cases and has cleared 22 by arrest. Through Corporal Woodfin's investigation, the recovery of over \$100,000.00 can be attributed to his attention to detail. His hard work has led to the recovery of property stolen in several jurisdictions and cleared one of our largest burglaries in 2013.

Congratulations Corporal Woodfin on being an outstanding Investigator with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham was presented with this picture from Michelle Browder on Friday night, March 6, 2015, at the Davis Theater. Sheriff Cunningham was honored by Michelle for his many years of work with the youth of Montgomery County. Michelle was the organizer and producer of a great production entitled CONVERSE-SATION - on Truth and Reconciliation produced by I AM MORE THAN! This was a great educational, musical and drama production featuring our local youth and featuring artists, such as Ashley Spillane, Sheyann Christburg, Sabrina Fulton and performance by Tina Jones. Alabama Gazette

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th 4:00-6:00pm.

We gather on the grounds of Auburn Montgomery (AUM) on Senators Drive in the North Parking Lots (next to the AUM soccer fields) for the Egg Hunt.

Spring is just around the corner and with that comes our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Each year we host this event for our youth at Auburn Montgomery (AUM) for all kids between the ages of 1-11 years old. Giving back to the community is what it's all about and Easter being a special time of the year, is no exception to the rule. Please plan to attend this event with your child and make this Easter a special family time together!



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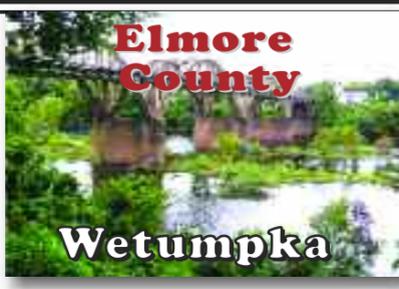
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The Myths About Long-Term Care

- Myth #1 - I'll never need long-term care.**
Most people can't imagine themselves needing long-term care services. But, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services indicates that people age 65 face at least a 40% lifetime risk of entering a nursing home sometime during their lifetime! Living a long life may increase your risk of needing long-term care. Isn't it better to insure against what that risk may do to your family and your financial plans?
- Myth #2 - Long-term care is only for the elderly.**
Actually, a surprising amount of long-term care services are provided to younger people. The U. S. Government Accountability Office estimates that 40% of 13 million people receiving long-term care services are between the ages 18 and 64. The unexpected need for long-term care could arise at any age for any number of reasons, including illness, or an accident.
- Myth #3 - My family will take care of me.**
The financial, physical and emotional stress that full-time care-giving may place on families can be overwhelming. Many families have struggled to provide care for parents or siblings only to eventually realize that the care required is more than they can provide. The truth is, sometimes the best way for a family to take care of a loved one needing long-term care is to make sure that they have access to professional care. With the advances in home care services, many people needing long-term care are actually able to stay at home, with or near families, and still get the professional care they need.
- Myth #4 - Long-term care insurance covers only nursing homes.**
Everyone wants to stay at home. Long-term care insurance can offer valuable benefits that may keep you at home for as long as possible. Long-term care insurance can also help cover the cost of care in other locations, such as adult day care centers, assisted living facilities and hospice care.
- Myth #5 - Medicare will cover my long-term expenses.**
Medicare does pay for nursing home care, but only for a maximum of 100 days if the 3-day qualifying hospital stay requirement has been met. In addition, Medicare will only pay as long as you are showing progress towards recovery. Once your condition becomes stable, even if you are not fully well or back to a completely healthy state of being. Medicare rules indicate that benefits will stop. Also, Medicare does not pay for individuals to attend an adult day care or for the room & board expenses at an assisted living facility.
- For more information on long-term care insurance, please contact Bernard Mathis, Agent, New York Life Insurance Company at 334-467-1108.

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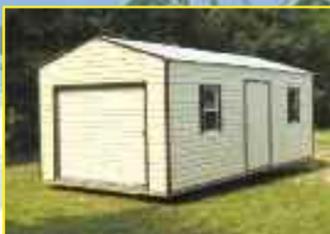
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THINK



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

ONCE AGAIN REPUDIATING MY STATE LICENSE TO MARRY WHILE REAFFIRMING GOD'S BLESSINGS & DOMINION OVER MY MARRIAGE

I applaud our Alabama counties refusing to issue govt. licenses to marry. I implore other counties to follow this course to get out of the marriage license business. True Christians do NOT look to government for definition, permission and validity to affirm and proclaim God's blessings. Sad so many seem compelled to side with one of two flawed arguments as the next round of **Roy Moore v. Myron Thompson**, et al "Duel of Wits Between Two Unarmed Opponents" unfolds... just as BOTH sides were wrong about 10 Commandments, BOTH sides are again embarrassingly wrong on marriage.

I pray Alabamians will have the courage to get our State out of the marriage license business. As one of the 81% in support of the traditional definition of marriage, the fact that I could NOT get married without a state license (when in SC) was despicable to me and polluted one of the most sacred blessings/covenants God has bestowed upon me. I thought it odd in a state where such despicables as Gov. Campbell, Sens. Hollings & Thurmond, Lindsay Graham and more than their share of other corrupt local govt. politburo members of such poor character and morality were placed in a position to impede my ability to marry and establish/proclaim in my church one of God's blessings I hold most dear. I made it **VERY** clear I did not want a government license soiling my covenant; my priest explained he was not allowed to perform this religious ceremony without a state license. Failing to ask for this despotic license on our wedding day and didn't notice until weeks later when having to submit the paperwork; my priest reluctantly called for me to mail a copy to him. I reluctantly submitted to comply with this tyranny. The toast by my best man following the wedding noted he was certain it was true and forecasted lasting love if I were willing to subject myself to the marriage tax. Hard to imagine anything of this earth which has generated more joy for governments to extract from me than the marriage to my bride I love so dearly.

Why would anyone seriously look to State, federal or local bureaucrats and politicians for moral guidance when I see far too great an incidence of failed moral compasses and disregard for oaths (including their own marriage contracts) in their ranks? The chief law enforcement officer in my county seems comfortable proclaiming he 'believes' in corrupt individuals (later indicted on multiple felony charges) under active grand jury investigation in his county - hard to take seriously other 'beliefs' held by this Sheriff. While effective at advancing pro-command economy conservatives' efforts promoting their god (govt.) and generating more revenue toward their ends; raising fees for failed contracts (dissolution of any commitment) being recorded in courts and even higher fees if to be determined by the courts makes more sense. I see no reason to further subsidize those who make poor choices in their commitments and contracts overburdening our courts.

I find it equally difficult to take Roy Moore or a gay couple seriously who thinks it really matters if the federal, State or local govt. recognizes or approves their marriage. In short, a commitment contract doesn't require a probate judge. Does anyone really care if a person of the Honorable Bill English's character and integrity (my probate judge) sanctions their marriage? Simply sign an agreed upon contract and get a notary at best. If an employer, et al wants to recognize my sort of commitment contract or demands it be recorded in court, OK - if not, even less taxing. I can look for employers who voluntarily subsidize my type of union, employees' children, adoptees, etc. I'll look for the employer who pays the best (*ceteris paribus*) and buy my own insurance, pay for my own spouse, children, etc. and if I'm blessed, have enough to privately give to my church food bank, donate to cancer patients, etc. as I've done in spite of all that's been taken from me. I suffered far too much discrimination (esp. up in MD) for pay raises and other advancements as a single man and/or one currently without children, etc.

Most can not see the extremist conservatives on the right started this morass of getting govt. into the marriage license business. As if often the case, they were the first 'easy pawns' to empower despotic big govt. into the result we've 'progressed' into today. I do NOT want my govt. subsidizing my children, church, marriage, etc. My God (baptism, bar mitzvah, berith, spiritual confession, confirmation, marriage, etc.) does not require any 'help' from governments which has done more to thwart/impede truly Christian efforts in our society than advance them. Wrongfully giving preferential treatment to marriage, mandating benefits to married couples, children, etc. opened the door for big govt. liberals to assert those wrongful (mandated) wealth transfers also apply to others. **It is most import to proclaim governments do NOT define my individual right to marriage, GOD DOES.** My God, my church, my marriage, etc. doesn't require government assistance - what greater evidence can be provided that one doesn't have faith in their god, church, commitment, truth or ideals than advocating govt. mandates and subsidies to advance these ends? My God is greater than the Leftist so many fear and also stronger than the equally deleterious Right championing more govt. involvement in our spiritual lives. As more good folks fell for this tautology to advance tyranny, we've ratcheted ourselves further into the unsustainable leviathan/soviet result we're suffering today.

I don't see enough current Christians with the courage to get governments out of raising their children, subsidizing their marriage, determining morality, dealing with the poor and infirm, etc. to move our State & nation forward again. It may be the outcome has been distorted for so long it is impossible to move forward out of the mess we've 'progressed' into until the current system finally implodes/fails. It took about a million dead to change from a voluntary coalition of sovereign States (as we were designed) into the forced coalition of states we are in fact today; it is doubtful return to these traditional values will come easy. It grows increasingly difficult as more agree 'traditional values' result from hegemony instead of religious freedom where those of good spirit (many of whom saw the path and teachings of Jesus Christ worthy to follow) prospered and set an example for others to voluntarily follow. Left, Moderate, Right extremists hold government(s) as their god - in this regard I'm an agnostic... there are very few things where there's a legitimate role for govt. (esp. at the federal level) without sound support it is economically efficient for public provision over the private sector; yet most Americans want to empower their god(s) of govt. even more. Most churches have become political bedfellows with the State. Pro-government thugs cleverly understood churches were a natural/broad based coalition to stand up against tyranny. To not have churches suffer the same excessive taxation and empower government to take on the church's function of ministering to the poor and indigent was a huge short-term boon and the path to church corruption we observe today.

Some readers may recall delight in my Alabama "Reinstating Our Chief Justice to the Alabama State Supreme Court" column. Several asked why I voted for Judge Roy Moore in the Republican primary after reading

past columns making it very clear how poorly I think Judges Moore AND Thompson argued the Ten Commandments monument issue where BOTH jurists were an ongoing, international embarrassment to Alabama. Judge Thompson will **continue** his 'well intentioned' path of destroying civil rights in our State as he remains unchecked by the 11th Circuit in Atlanta and now the Roberts' Court in DC. On the other hand, Judge Moore was sufficiently rebuked for his poor arguments/hubris and I'd hoped and prayed matured enough as a Christian to be a sound jurist for our State.

Most in Alabama concluded long ago the nine elected to Congress via our corrupt duopoly political process do not possess the integrity, intellect nor spine to discipline/impeach 'public servants' like Thompson - the 'honor code' amongst political thieves is well enforced. You will only see politburo members call for impeachment of judges (e.g. Mark Fuller) who actually allow political corruption cases go to juries who may discipline the 'graftmasters' in our state. After Roberts showed in 2010 the nine SCotUS jurists in DC would not again discipline Thompson (esp. on something as important as our 5th Amendment civil right to property) the Republican primary offered a very **rare** opportunity to reverse a despotic judge like Myron Thompson. Republicrats were clearly rattled when barely enough (50.3%) primary voters decided to reinstate the duly elected Alabama Supreme Court justice to avoid wasting even more taxpayer money in a run-off. Many came out to vote in the primary to secure Judge Moore's victory without run-off (as the two Republicrat establishment candidates split the remaining vote) simply because they wanted to reverse Thompson poor ruling and wrongful removal of our ELECTED judge. It was Moore's previous election victory to become Chief Justice which proffered the result Judge Thompson didn't like and had no problem going outside his authority to rule against Moore, setting the path toward his removal aided and abetted by the Hubbard, Riley, et al cabal. Moore being one of the highest elected judges in the nation and bucking other big government extremists in a manner they didn't like could not be tolerated.

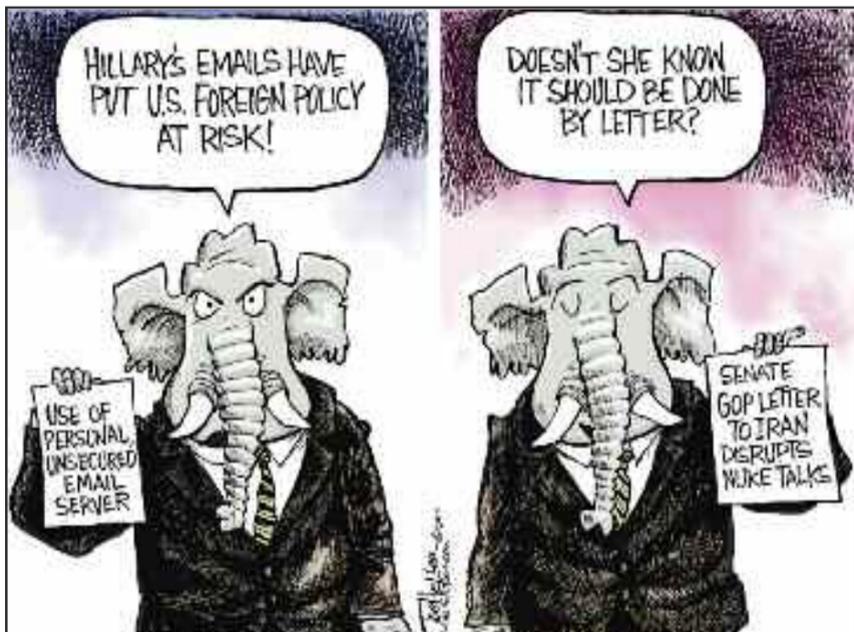
Our 1st Amendment civil right was further destroyed under the Moore/Thompson exchange in this first duel of wits between these two unarmed opponents. The establishment clause was put in place to prevent the FEDERAL government from asserting/subsidizing any church/religion since several States (as the sovereign unit in our once voluntary coalition of States) already had an established religion. In short, could our legislature/voters make Greek Orthodoxy (or Atheism, Buddhism, Catholicism, Druidism... to Zionism) Alabama's State religion? - **YES.** Nothing could make me more ashamed of our State and I'd hope my church would be Christian enough to do everything possible to stop such a vulgar act. Again, what could be more revealing one does NOT have faith in the power of one's argument, god, religion, etc., than it must be subsidized by government? I can assure you my God does not require the assistance of governments; observing many despotic governments and their minions destroyed by the Holy Spirit through the travails of time. Messrs. Moore, Thompson, et al can not change the power of my God one scintilla, but many disciples who have made government their god discovered long ago one way to destroy a once righteous religion is to let governments subsidize/capture a church and their clergy.

Sadly, this is what Judge Moore did not understand. He's made clear these past weeks he still can not learn this important lesson - once Christianity is coerced or subsidized upon someone, the battle is lost. **God's word teaches us freedom/liberty is a powerful purveyor of the Holy Spirit.** One who accepts Christianity under force or subsidy is of little conviction/use as they will simply morph to the will of the next despot or more promising largess over integrity and righteousness. How many are forever turned away from God because of 'christians' of this sort? What genius of Lucifer to use 'christians' so effectively toward his ends! Shamefully, when 'christians' slowly began to take positions of power in the Roman system, pagans were killed, persecuted, tortured (sawn in two, fed to lions, etc...) proffering the similar despotic result under a different name. Simply claiming Christian nomenclature doesn't mean one is indeed following the letter and spirit of Christ's path to our Heavenly Father.

The sage old retort asserts, "**Two wrongs do not make a right.**" This certainly applies to the current posturing as it did the past Moore/Thompson debacle. One could be more forgiving to Moore as I sincerely think he did not know what he was doing. Also, Moore was placed in the subordinate position to Thompson who should (although given his ivy league education, likely ignorant as well) have known better and guarded/preserved Moore's civil rights even when the victim is not of a mind to know/understand his own rights. Most despairing, it appears Judge Thompson enjoys opportunities to use Roy Moore types to further destroy our civil rights in Alabama. It is long past time for Chief Justice Moore to mature and be an effective advocate for our state under federal hegemony.

It is important to be very clear why both were embarrassingly wrong over a decade ago. A Chief Justice can not assert a State to be Atheist, Christian, Druid, Hebrew or otherwise. It may be legally established by citizens voting or the legislature; not **solely** by the executive or judicial. Obviously, many things of this sort are de facto true.

Continued on page 3B



Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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ECONOMIC MOTIVES OF PLAINTIFFS' LAWYERS

Last month we explored the economic motives of defense attorneys. This month we will discuss the economic motives of plaintiffs' attorneys. Both defense attorneys and plaintiffs' attorneys must operate their offices as a business, if they are to be successful. They are both motivated to earn a living practicing law. There the similarity ends. Defense lawyers serve corporate America and liability insurance companies, in large measure. They must practice law in a way that is pleasing to corporate America and insurance companies if they are to succeed.

Plaintiffs' lawyers must attract members of the general public who have a legal claim. Hence, the obnoxious advertising. Big bucks. Tigers. Prize fighters. Cowboys. Fighting for you! Before the 1960's, Bar Associations generally did not permit that kind of advertising. First the Supreme Court decides that fee schedules amounted to price-fixing, in violation of anti-trust laws. Then it decided that restrictions on advertising were a restraint on trade. Finally it concluded that the right of lawyers to advertise was imbedded in the First Amendment to the Constitution: commercial free speech. When one backs up and looks at the situation, none of that makes good sense, given the nature of law and the role of lawyers. Law is, among other things, the instrument of government. Lawyers serve a quasi-governmental function. They sell information about how to interpret and apply law. Why shouldn't the practice be regulated? But that should be the topic of a whole column (or book) and is suggested here only to give insight into the economic motives of plaintiffs' lawyers.

By the way, defense lawyers don't advertise much. The defense side was organized and practicing its methods of business recruitment long before lawyer advertising emerged. In fact, they at least had to give lip service in opposition to the advertising, on behalf of their clientele. Advertising is a plaintiffs' bar thing. The basic problem is how to get the members of the general public who have a legitimate legal claim in touch with an attorney capable of adequately presenting it. Maybe advertising is better than ambulance chasing. There are no real good solutions. Corporate America and insurance companies are not running over themselves to pay adequate compensation for legitimate claims.

But the efforts to communicate with the public about the provision of adequate legal representation for claims puts the plaintiffs' bar in the public eye, and makes them vulnerable politically. Something for nothing! Jackpot justice! Runaway verdicts. The political parties become involved. Republicans in Alabama are conservative; Democrats are liberal. Unfortunately, political motivations in Alabama continue to intertwine with race. In earlier columns, I systematically described the effect of racial demographics on the likely outcomes of litigation. Unfortunately, during the fairly recent years during which Alabama was sometimes referred to as "tort hell," there was probably truth in some of the allegations of jackpot justice and runaway verdicts.

So we put caps on punitive damages. And we educated the public. Jurors in conservative counties became more conservative. Jurors in liberal counties are not less liberal, but a conservative appellate system holds the lid on the pot. But corporate

America has not become more honest. Our caps on punitive damages are a small fraction of the annual salary of corporate executives and high ranking insurance company officers.

Today, plaintiffs' lawyers must carefully consider whether they can afford to take on a case. They seek out the cases that can be filed in a favorable venue. They must find enough business to stay afloat. They must usually await the long delays of litigation, all the while taking the risk of no recovery at all.

I am not suggesting that the economic motives of plaintiffs' attorneys are somehow purer than those of defense attorneys. What I am suggesting is that economic motives of lawyers on both sides are real, and have a strong impact on what problems Courts will have an opportunity to resolve, and whether the system will function efficiently.

We desperately need a system that will deal with every case efficiently and bring a fair result. The attorneys on both sides need to realize that they are entrusted with the sacred fabric of the law, that it is their responsibility to guide cases through the system with just results. There should never be jackpot justice, something for nothing results; and there must be a legal means to attack the most egregious conduct of illegal corporate practices. Lawyers on both sides should be adequately compensated for accomplishing these results.

Before leaving the general topic of the economic motives that propel the legal system, I will discuss the highly anomalous role of liability insurance next month.

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Continued from page 2B.

John Sophocleus

For example, after the Battle of Ft. McHenry (Sept. 14, 1814) the Star Spangled Banner became our national anthem following our victory in the War of 1812. Was it indeed any less our national anthem before being established as such by the federal legislature (Congress then signed by President Hoover) in 1931? The Chief Justice has no authority to establish Christianity for our State, however true it may be in fact - it violates the rights of citizens/voters to determine or change it. In fact, very few states have legalized 'gay marriage' as reported - only three last I checked, nowhere near the 37 reported by the mainstream extremist press. Definition of marriage (just like a State may foolishly establish a religion) is up to voters/elected representatives to decide, not executive or judicial fiat. Time for Justice Moore to put away his childish thinking and man-up to the warfare he's actually engaged in; not the lawful world he thinks should be enforced. The Republicans ended State sovereignty several scores ago. In our current lawless environment where outcomes are indeed determined by short-run politics over logic and reason, the long-term response is to get Alabama out of the marriage license business. What makes this outcome even more appealing is the State had no compelling reason (spiritual or otherwise) to ever get into the matter.

Justice Moore had an INDIVIDUAL civil right (States do not have rights, they have sovereignty) to express himself as an Atheist, Buddhist, Christian,

Druid, Hebrew, etc. If he wanted to put a Ten Commandments monument in the Rotunda; fine! If the next Chief Justice elected is an Atheist and wants to put up their "Atom Sign" to venerate the fallacy of negative proof; fine! The Chief Justice after that a Buddha wanting a Buddha statue in the Rotunda; fine! The next a Druid who wants to plant a tree; fine! You get the idea. Roy Moore failed us because he (as a Christian or otherwise) didn't have the courage to stand up for his specific individual civil right, allowing a despotic judge like Thompson to use his flawed argument and hubris to take even more of our civil rights. It is time for Justice Moore to mature and understand it is time to let others individual right to commit/contact in the manner of they decide.

Let's be a true Christian example to follow instead of another champion of big govt. tyranny to fear and loathe turning even more away from the Holy Spirit which shepherded our nation to greatness. Don't again be an effective vehicle for some judges to advance their god - the federal government. On a related note, it will be helpful to have a righteous man as Chief Justice to re-affirm convictions of those who may actually be sentenced for their corruption - some who took delight in removing Moore to advance their god. I type with a full heart and Spirit, God doesn't need your help Justice Moore; you can't impact His power on earth one scintilla regardless of all your efforts, posturing and rhetoric. God IS well served for you (Roy Moore) to be an effective, righteous jurist to curb the increasing corruption and tyranny enveloping us in the current economic, legal, political, spiritual warfare voters elected you to be an integral part of. If you do fail to be an input toward God's ends, He will find another way in sadness of the increased time in suffering which results, regardless if advanced with the best or worst of intentions. You've been given a wonderful second chance to use past failure well - don't squander it; a great deal depends upon it.

Voters did their part to reverse the decision of a despotic federal judge and his minions persecuting a duly elected Judge who's individual rights required protection for the protection of us all; please live up to that righteous outcome Justice Moore. We reinstated a Christian man worthy of forgiveness who I prayed had learned from past mistakes and hubris to be a sound Chief Jurist of Alabama; it doesn't look promising it was wise to give this second chance. Before the primary I sat at a table with Roy Moore in Auburn. Perhaps he simply can not comprehend a Christian who is so confident in God's word, message and power that I find those who wish to impose my faith on others repulsive. Please try to tolerate Christians who believe and think this way; learn to defend the civil rights of Alabama in this regard and see where God may again shepherd us with less government impediments and subsidies toward those wanting follow and venerate Jesus' path to their Heavenly Father.

THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills
Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama

Soul Searching

THE SILENT HOUR WHICH SPEAKS LOUDLY

To think about one's death is a sobering reality. Some may even want to read no further learning the subject of this article. A friend put it this way, "Didn't they realize that to die is to die, whether you are seventeen, forty-nine or one hundred and ten years old? Didn't they know our death is our death and that each one of us has to die?" It is something we will only have once so we probably need to give some thought to it.

As a Pastor of many years, I am well acquainted with death from those close to me in my own family as well as to the hundreds of funerals conducted. Death goes on but we have come to view it differently. Perhaps because of advances in medicine and even the place of one's death, which in many instances is a hospital or institution rather than at home, we have pushed it a little further from our conscious awareness.

I remember the day when all the students had to learn and reflect on William Cullen Bryant's words from "Thanatopsis," "So live that when thy summons comes to join the innumerable caravan, which moves to that mysterious realm, where each shall take his chamber to the silent halls of death."

I certainly have no desire to be consumed by sad thoughts or to suggest we fail to enjoy life because of death coming. However, I do have a concern that we may have missed some of the meaning of life in the light of death. Life must be lived in awareness that there is a day coming when we will not be here. There is a legacy to leave which is more than a career and a social life. People can become so engrossed in life there is no time to prepare for death. In many homes the subject of death is never discussed so that children and other family members are totally

unprepared for it when it comes. From my own observations, the uneasiness with the subject leads in many cases to the increased trauma associated with death and even the unawareness of the value and purpose of a memorial service.

The Psalmist was wise when he prayed, "Lord teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Part of wisdom is taking stock of our lives. Just as a business conducts an inventory once of year, the thought of death should prompt us to an occasional review and assessment in our lives.

Here are some interesting facts about life and death. "The average life of copper wire is twenty years. The oldest chicken on record lived eighteen years. The average age for a cat is fifteen years. The average life of a dollar bill is eighteen months. The average life of a painted line on the road is three to four months. The average life of a pro basketball players shoes is two weeks. The average life of a tornado is ten minutes. And the average life of a human is 25,550 days."

A closer look at the context of that verse in Psalms 90 reveals that these words came from Moses following his experience in the desert. You will remember he watched a generation die over approximately thirty-eight years. A million people perished during that time. He was surrounded by death. That averages out to be about a hundred deaths a day out of the people he was leading. He spoke out of the wisdom which comes from watching death.

The hour of death does speak loudly. "Often it hangs heavy with memories which march through numbed minds." It is a time when the deepest realities of life take shape because grief stops us in our tracks from

all the other things in life which grab our consciousness. That which is unreal becomes the most real. And most of all, it is in this hour God speaks in tones we are willing to hear.

His voice reminds us that humanity is not immortal. Our life, both here on earth and in eternity, is a gift from God, not a right of man. Death reminds us that the universe does not revolve around us. God is more important than we are.

His voice also raises the awareness that our only hope and help in this supreme hour is God. Mortality is more like a bondage than freedom. It holds us hostage to all the frailties of body and soul. We are more controlled by the environment of life than we control it. We are utterly helpless to fend off the reality of death for those around us as well as ourselves. Therefore, in every tribe through every generation, there has been an awareness of a higher being with whom we must deal in death even if we have ignored in life. Even the most pagan of religions is recognition of something and someone outside ourselves.

His voice in this hour redirects our thoughts from ourselves to the Christian understanding of life and death. It is the gracious act of God in Christ who gives meaning and hope to this hour. Death, instead of victor has become "a slave of the risen Christ." It is bereft of its terror. Somerset Maugham said, "Death is a very dull and dreary affair. My advice for you is to have nothing to do with it. In contrast to that view is that of Paul who said, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." "Gain" is a term from the business world. It means to make a profit. The bottom line of death is not losing, but gaining, not an end but a beginning, not a departure as much as an arrival, not

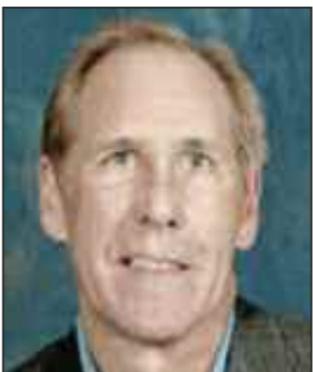
goodbye as much as hello and not a separation but a reunion." Death has the power to separate the body from the familiarity of this life on earth, but not from God.

Paul also reminds us further about grief. He counsels not that grief is inappropriate, but rather, not to "grieve as those who have no hope." Tears and the feelings of loss which come through separation are normal responses of our human nature. However, we must be careful to realize we are more than human. Of all the tragedies that befall the Christian as a part of humanity, the deepest tragedy is for the hurt, the sorrow we feel and the death we experience around us not to be used by God for positive purposes. Even when death occurred at unexpected times and in tragic circumstances, Christians hold onto the promise of God in Romans 8:28. Our God can bring good out of any circumstance. We must be careful not to stand in the way of God speaking to those who need to hear around us while we are so caught up in our own grief.

From time to time I hear people jokingly saying, "I got up this morning and my name was not in the obituary column, so I guess I'm living." It would also help us to rethink what would be said about us and more importantly, what would be our state if our name was in the obituary column. Our death yet to come needs to speak loudly to us if we are unprepared spiritually to die. It will speak loudly to those close to us after we are gone about what we thought was important in life and death. Be sure they will hear a message which will give meaning to their lives and hope of life beyond death which comes through Christ.

Reflections Read The Instructions

By Michael J. Brooks



It's been good to rent a few old TV series and get reacquainted with some of my heroes on such programs as "The A-Team," "Walker Texas Ranger" and "The Wild, Wild West." I don't remember seeing "The Greatest American Hero" when it debuted in 1981, but after watching a few DVDs, I learned more about the lead character Ralph Hinckley.

Hinckley, a teacher, took his class on a field trip to the desert. Some visiting aliens (the outer-space kind) gave him a uniform with super powers, but Hinckley lost the directions in the desert. Accordingly he never quite got the hang of things. He didn't fly gracefully like Superman and often crashed into buildings and broke things.

The point of this old series is that it pays to follow the directions!

The New Testament has a Ralph Hinckley-kind of person in it. His name was Simon. He had a heart of gold but often was stumbling in his attempts to serve the Lord.

Jesus met Simon at the Sea of Galilee and summoned him and his brother Andrew to service. The magnetism of Jesus' personality drew the brothers to abandon their nets and follow him. Jesus likewise was impressed with Simon. Someone

pointed out that Jesus always sees double: he sees us as we are and he sees us as we can be.

Interestingly, Jesus renamed Simon "Peter," or "Rocky." This is a strange name since Peter was more squishy than rocky!

Peter was one of three disciples Jesus took to a mountain to pray. They slept but were awakened by what the gospels calls the "transfiguration." Jesus' godly radiance shown through his earthly body. Moses affirmed that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament law and Elijah affirmed he was the promised messiah, and the voice of God spoke approvingly of Jesus' path.

Peter determined that the men ought to build a shelter and stay right there where the glory was. Jesus, however, left and went down to where the people were so he could preach, teach and heal (**Matthew 17: 4**).

Peter needed to learn that worship is preparation for service, not an escape from it.

The church errs whenever we get so enthralled with our internal fellowship that we forget the needs around us. Someone described this unworthy attitude is "bless us four and no more, shut the door." Genuine worship encourages us to follow Jesus down the mountain to where the people are who need ministry.

The Christian leader of another generation, C. T. Studd wrote, "Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell." -

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster and adjunct instructor of speech at Jefferson State Community College, Hoover.

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Happy Birthday, Chuck Norris

By Michael J. Brooks

I'd heard last fall that Chuck Norris would be 72 this spring, but didn't realize until lately that he and I share a birthday week. Mine is March 8 and his is March 10—easy to remember. I'm honored to share a week with Walker Texas Ranger. As a commentator suggested this week, "Chuck Norris didn't turn 72; 72 turned Chuck Norris"! "Walker Texas Ranger" remains my favorite series on cable. I've seen each episode enough times that I find myself finishing Walker's sentences. WTR answers the ago-old question, "Why pull out your sidearm and shoot someone safely when you can holster it and get in a karate fight?"!

But speaking of getting older, there are some advantages. Here's a list someone suggested:

1. Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
2. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
3. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
4. Your eyes won't get much worse.
5. Nobody expects you to run into a burning building to rescue someone.
6. There's nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Your joints are more accurate than the National Weather Service.
8. In a hostage situation you're likely to be released first.

We're all getting older, ready or not. However, I contend that getting older has a bad rap. King Solomon wrote, "**Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life**" (**Proverbs 16: 31**).

The scriptures frequently honor the older members of society as sources of community wisdom. The biblical concept of "elder" has a rich tradition in both the Old Testament and the New. Elders were often called on to settle disputes. They brought years of insight to situations of conflict.

The elders also knew firsthand the faithfulness of God. They understood that though others fail us, God doesn't fail. He's faithful to his people through good times and bad. Senior adults can say this with conviction, and they often do.

Now, I admit it would be wonderful to have this kind of experience at a younger age.

A lady told me recently about her 50th birthday. Then she remarked, "I'd love to have a '30' body and a '50' brain!"

Me, too!

But, unfortunately, the Creator didn't design us that way.

So, the next best thing is to accept aging as his plan, try to do it gracefully and look for new ways to use our experience and wisdom to glorify him.

Serving God is our birthright no matter our age.

Gazette Seniors...

YOU MAY BE OVER THE HILL
 "...if your favorite morning TV show was Captain Kangaroo"

WELCOME TO OBAMABALL



Dr. John Bitter
 Editor
 Senior Section

Travel with me into an imaginary world of the future. Imagine if you will the Bizarro world of "Obamaball."

Come with me as we arrive at a fictional ball game in Fantasyland. We're in the top of the ninth inning and the score is tied. A relatively unknown batter strides to the plate.

A hush descends over the field; the batter nervously adjusts his ill-fitting cap, smiles at the crowd and notices that the umpire is frantically trying to inform him that he's facing in the wrong direction.

Undaunted, the batter smiles at the crowd as strike one sails past his nose. He's somewhat perplexed by the call; he wasn't ready yet.

Strike two sails by, and now he's somewhat irked, until he notices the excitement in the opposing team's dugout and wanders over to see what's up. His amazed opponents greet him with cheers and handshakes, and he passes out cigars and Rolex watches to the well wishers. Finally, after some frantic yelling

and gesturing by his coach, the batter saunters back to the plate, as strike twenty-three" is called. Then his attention is drawn to a putt-putt golf game in the parking lot, so he strolls over to play a round or two, completely oblivious to the game that's going on—or maybe astray—behind him.

At last he loses interest in the golf and returns to the field, where strike forty has just been called. But this sort of mundane attention to the game has no interest for him; it's how the fans see him; he's the real focus of the event; in his eyes. By now the only fans remaining are those on the opposing side, who are cheering and patting one another on the back. They welcome the batter to their midst, but soon lose interest him, and he wanders off into the sunset with visions of his being named "Most Valuable Player of the Year," and accepting a sizeable bonus, while driving away in his new Cadillac with a bevy of comely starlets at his side.

You've just visited a fictional place called "Obamaland," where only the names have been changed to protect the innocent. Welcome to Bizarroworld.

--Apologies to Ed Jones for infringement on his territory.

THE BINGO ROOM

In one of his last dialogues the philosopher Plato described the imaginary city of Magnesia, which boasted an ideal political structure, overseen by benevolent philosopher kings.

Sir Thomas Moore wrote about Utopia, a community possessing near perfect qualities, and British author James Hilton wrote about Shangri La, an earthly paradise where people lived in blissful harmony.

And closer to home, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other havens for the elderly, we have The Bingo Room. One can pass the Bingo Room at almost any time of the day, any day of the week, and one will find bevy of delighted seniors hovered over their collections of Bingo cards, eagerly waiting to hear the next number to be called; hoping with fevered anticipation that it will be the right number.

Generally, the residents speak in hushed tones in the Bingo Room; but occasionally tempers flare: "I only need one number," one can hear from a variety of quarters, as eager seniors nervously hover, like starved vultures, over their cache of Bingo cards.

Some days they win; some days they lose, but as they leave the Bingo room one can hear them lament: "I only needed one number," the sad anthem of the Bingo Hall.

Undaunted, they return the next day in eager anticipation, anxiously removing their "lucky" Bingo cards from a variety of secret locations; for these are their lucky cards, and they won't abide anyone else having them.

MARCH - WHAT A MONTH!

It was nearly nine decades ago when your humble scribe entered this life, and almost seven decades past in March when he swore to defend the United States and the Constitution. March has been an auspicious month.

March 2 - Texas celebrates its Independence.

March 3 - We celebrate our National Anthem. (This may be forbidden in many places in this country today—a sorry truth we must endure.)

March 4 - It's "Hug a GI Day," more about GI's later on.

March 6 - Dr. E. Ward Smith may be beaming; since it's National Dentist Day. Daylight Savings Time goes into effect. "Spring forward."

March 9 - "National Panic Day"—one wonders why.

March 11 - Honors plumbers, and tools in general."

March 12 - We honor the Girl Scouts—and their cookies.

A lot went on by mid month.

March 15 - The Ides of March, of which Julius Caesar was warned; and he didn't listen. And it was also the date—some years later—that your scribe joined the U.S. Army. Tempus does fugit.

March 16 - Freedom of Information Day, which should give those of us in the journalistic world a laugh.

March 17 - The Irish have their day: "St. Patrick's Day," which is also the date set aside to honor the submarine; but we don't know if its the warship or the sandwich.

March 20 - Earth Day.

March 22 - National Goof Off Day.

March 25 - Pecan Day.

And so it is with the month of March. Celebrate as you will.



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



SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question:

I'm gathering everything I'll need to file my taxes this month. Do I have to pay taxes on Social Security benefits? Also, where can I get a replacement 1099?

Answer:

Some people who get Social Security must pay federal income taxes on their benefits. Still, no one pays taxes on more than 85 percent of their Social Security benefits.

You must pay taxes on some portion of your benefits if you file an individual federal tax return and your combined income exceeds \$25,000. If you file a joint return, you must pay taxes if you and your spouse have combined income of more than \$32,000. If you are married and file a separate return, you probably will have to pay taxes on your benefits. You can read more about tax preparation in relation to Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/taxes.htm. Social Security benefits include monthly retirement, survivor, and disability benefits. They don't include Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, which are not taxable. You can also get a replacement 1099 or 1042S when you open your own personal my Social Security account at: www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Question:

I know I shouldn't carry my Social Security card with me, and I always keep it in a safe place. Somehow, I lost it. How do I get a replacement card?

Answer:

As long as you know your Social Security number, you probably don't need a replacement. For most purposes, your number is your card. If you do need to get a replacement, you can do so for free. Although you can't apply for a card online, you can learn what identification documents you'll need, and you can fill out the replacement card application at: www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

Question:

I've been planning my retirement throughout my career, and I'm finally nearing the age when I can stop working. What is the earliest age I can start receiving Social Security retirement benefits?

Answer:

You can receive Social Security retirement benefits as early as age 62. Keep in mind that if you retire at age 62, we'll reduce your benefits by as much as 30 percent of what you'd get if you wait until your full retirement age. If you wait until your full retirement age (66 for people born between 1943 and 1954), you'll get your full benefit. You can also wait until age 70 to start your benefits. Then, we'll increase your benefit because you earned delayed retirement credits.

When you're ready to apply for retirement benefits, use our online retirement application, the quickest, easiest, and most convenient way to apply. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline.

Question:

I want to make sure I have enough credits to receive Social Security retirement benefits when I need them. How can I get a record of my Social Security earnings?

Answer:

The best way for you to check whether you have earned enough credits (40 total, equaling 10 years of work) is to open a free my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to review your Social Security Statement any time you want.

Once you create an account, you can:

- Keep track of your earnings to make sure your benefit is calculated correctly. The amount of your payment is based on your lifetime earnings;
- Get an estimate of your future benefits if you are still working;
- Get a replacement 1099 or 1042S.
- Get a letter with proof of your benefits if you currently receive them; and
- Manage your benefits:
 - Change your address; and
 - Start or change your direct deposit.

Accessing my Social Security is quick, convenient, and secure, and you can do it from the comfort of your home.

Question:

I'm applying for disability benefits, and I read about "substantial gainful activity." What is that?

Answer:

The term "substantial gainful activity," or SGA, is used to describe a level of work activity and earnings. Work is "substantial" if it involves doing significant physical or mental activities or a combination of both. If you are working and earn more than a certain amount, we generally consider that you are engaging in substantial gainful activity. In this case, you wouldn't be eligible for disability benefits. You can read more about how we define substantial gainful activity at www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/COLA/sga.html.

Join the Millions! Create your own my Social Security account at: www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov.

Southern Cuisine



Chef David Spooner

Retired Chef

Volunteer Fireman,
Lowndesboro V.F.D.

Senior Warden,
St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Lowndesboro

Town Councilman,
Town of Lowndesboro

I touched on the need for a stocked pantry in my last article. There have been books and websites about pantry stocking and I don't want to dwell too long on the subject. If you are starting out in a new apartment fresh from college, your pantry will be basic and mostly stocked with comfort food. Southern Living's Test Kitchen has a quick list of 10 items that could be a good start for you:

Beans—great for side dishes, salads, or in pasta.

Rice—easy and versatile side dish.

Pasta—Quick main dish with simple stir-ins such as chopped cooked chicken and pasta sauce.

Baking mix—make quick breads, biscuits, or crusts for casseroles.

Potatoes and onions—Versatile veggies that add flavor and substance.

Cream soups—Great for casseroles.

Pasta sauce—Stir into hot cooked pasta for a super-quick meal.

Canned tomatoes—Use in everything from casseroles to pasta.

Broths—Make quick sauces and soups.

Canned tuna—Stir into pasta and salads, or make a creamy spread for a sandwich.

You will still need items, like sweeteners, condiments, oil, and seasonings. A goal for your pantry will be, instead of buying a bottle of stir fry sauce, you will have all of the ingredients to make your own.

This list shows you how things have changed in the South and for that matter, everywhere. The quick fix in food preparation, calling for canned soups, jarred pasta sauces and a baking mix. I would tweak the list to be this:

Beans—dried beans Great Northern, kidney and Lima and dried peas

Rice—long grain white

Grits—yellow and white, stone ground, not instant

Flour and cornmeal

HOECAKES

This is the simple recipe. Some recipes are like flour pancakes with cornmeal added.

2 cups cornmeal

1 teaspoon salt

2 cups boiling water

Enough bacon grease (drippings) to fry the hoecakes.



www.foodnetwork.com

Mix boiling water, cornmeal and salt and stir until thick. Heat bacon fat to medium high. Shape mixture into 3/8 inch patties (about 1/4 cup) and carefully place into your cast iron skillet. Cook until underside is crispy brown about 2 minutes, turn over to brown other side. Makes about 10 to 12 hoecakes. What you don't eat for breakfast, save for lunch and dinner.

Turn down the heat in pan and add ham slices and just heat, then fry your eggs. Slice a tomato and heat it up and place a hoecake on your plate, then a slice of ham then egg on top with a couple slices of tomato on the side. Enjoy.

Use the leftover hoecakes with this recipe for Pork Tenderloin.



Broths

Potatoes and onions

Pasta if none other at least macaroni

Canned tomatoes

Canned corn

Country Ham salt cured and very versatile.

Just as a musician can look at the sheet music and mentally hear the notes, the instruments are needed for the rest of us to enjoy the composition. We have the recipes but need the right instruments to produce a meal. Just as you can not play Flight of the Bumble Bee on a bass drum, you are not going to stir fry in a plastic mixing bowl. The list of utensils that you can have varies with your knowledge of cooking and the types of meals you want to prepare. I am going to discuss one such item. The cast iron skillet. No other utensil in Southern kitchens has as many memories and is as revered as the iron skillet. Cast iron skillets are heirlooms. All the memories of the family meals are locked way in the dark recesses of those skillets. Every time a skillet is used, some of those memories are released and are linked with new memories to be shared with the next meal.

Now that you have your seasoned cast iron skillet, and in your pantry you have your corn meal, flour and of course your bacon drippings, let's whip up some breakfast, my favorite meal.

Hoecakes with Country Ham, Fried Eggs and Tomatoes

COUNTRY PORK TENDERLOIN

4 medium sized parsnips peeled and cut into 2-3 inch lengths

4 small sweet potatoes cut into lengths about the size of the parsnips

8 tablespoons butter

2 teaspoons dried thyme

2 pound pork tenderloin

2 tablespoons molasses

2 tablespoons bourbon



Preheat oven to 425. Mix parsnips and sweet potato in big baking dish; top with 6 tablespoons butter and half of thyme. Season with salt and pepper.

Bake until vegetables are tender, stirring and basting for about 30 minutes.

Melt 2 tablespoons of butter in a skillet over med-high heat. Season pork with salt and pepper and brown on all sides. Add tenderloin to vegetable dish. In the skillet, mix the molasses, the rest of the thyme and bourbon. Spoon over the pork and vegetables and bake for about 15 to 20 minutes. When done, slice pork into medallions and fan over hoecakes left over from breakfast. Spoon vegetables and sauce over top. Heat more hoecakes and pour hot butter and honey on top and have as dessert.

Southern Comfort Restaurant

It's always fun and interesting to go to a new restaurant. Especially if the food and atmosphere is inviting. Well, just travel to the Hope Hull Exit, take a right, go 1 block and turn left on Wasden Road. Only a short distance on the right. Only 10 minutes from downtown Montgomery.

You are greeted with a smile and quickly seated. Your server is there to serve you with your drinks and to take your order. Your food is prepared fresh and comes out quickly while you enjoy conversation with your family or friends.

What makes Southern Comfort outstanding, is Chief Tripp Mauldin. He is a Montgomery native, attended Trinity Presbyterian School, he then attended the University of Alabama with a finance degree and later graduated from Johnson & Wales University's Culinary School in Colorado. He pursued his profession in San Francisco and the Napa Valley area. He returned to Alabama to realize his dream by opening Southern Comfort in early November, 2014.

He knows how to engage the taste of food, while keeping those wonderful Southern recipes that we all grew up with. Tripp says, "I wanted to do Southern staples, but I wanted to do them with the best, freshest ingredients. To make everything from scratch, here in-house and give my customers the best possible taste."

Tripp is very proud of his BBQ which includes pork and the best smoked chicken quarter, (with his famous white sauce) you've ever tasted. It is smoked in the pit right out back. His BBQ is also presented in a new venue such as the BBQ Cuban Sandwich or the BBQ Chicken Quesadilla.

Let's not forget fried chicken, country fried steak, fried okra, Dirty Fries, collard greens, potato salad, even a new twist to beanie wienies, and more.

And let's not forget Southern DESSERT! The best being his Banana Pudding served in a Mason jar. Also Key Lime Pie in a Jar and an "ole fashion Coke Float."



And...good "good ole Southern Sweet Iced Tea".

By the way...You will see his Mom, Morning there greeting guest and serving their valued customers.

I ate there recently and my friend, Marie, had the Fried Pork Chops. She said, "They are the best she had ever eaten."

There is much more on the menu. Check it out! Take a short drive and visit Southern Comfort.



210 Wasden Road
Hope Hull, AL
(334) 280-0012



Hours:
Monday - Saturday
11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Sunday
11:00 am - 2:00 pm



Southern Gardening Potpourri for March by Peggy Givhan

Judge Peggy Givhan

March madness in our part of the country describes the many tasks that befall the avid gardeners when the temperatures get warmer and we suddenly see our gardens with a clear eye. Where does one start? I always start with the planning instead of the planting. If we made a rough plan last fall, then time to get it out and make decisions. Are we changing color schemes? Should we add perennials and biennials? Should we have a formal plan where we have long swaths or entire area with one plant and one color? But if we are pleased with last year's spring look, just repeat.

This is also a great time to sow seed for spring bloom and we look for cool weather annuals. If you have a low border to fill in, while it is still cool, get Sweet Alyssum seed, place a top layer of soil, and sow away. A great thing about alyssum is that you can sow it thick and do not have to thin out the seedlings. I prefer the white, but it also comes in lilac, yellow, and a deep purple. When the seeds germinate, they bloom almost at the same time. So there is no down time waiting for blooms, which is a real plus for us in this region, because when the heat comes, the Sweet Alyssum goes. These ground hugging plants make a nice transition between early spring and flowers we can plant in May for the summer. They will do great in containers and are lovely in rock gardens.

I read a lot of garden articles and came across an interesting fact regarding a prehistoric tree. Botanists throughout the world thought the dawn redwood (*metasequoia glyptostroboides*) was extinct. To everyone's surprise, the million year old "extinct" species was located in the 1940's in China. Plant scientists compared the tree samples with fossils found from the Mesozoic Era and confirmed it was a tree unknown to the scientific world. By 1946, the tree was confirmed one and the same of the extinct tree, giving it the above name, which means it is like the *Glyptostrobus*, the Chinese swamp cypress. Seeds were taken from this tree in China and shipped to the Arnold Arboretum where trees were grown in the U.S. The

trees has become the national pride of China, and in one town, there is an avenue of these trees which is about 45 miles long and contains over a million trees. I believe today, the once thought to be an extinct tree, has made a tremendous come-back. So thanks to the Chinese forester, Chan Wang, for his contribution to modern Botanical science.

When ever I give a garden talk, I occasionally ask the group why do you garden? Over the years I have heard so many reason that I thought I would share a few:

1. Some garden so that their family would have safe produce which include food free from bacteria and pesticides, free from additives and preservatives, and to give their food a fresh from the garden taste.
2. Others garden for the exercise.
3. Some like to garden to be creative.
4. Some garden for the pleasure of viewing God's beauty.
5. Others garden to attract wild life-butterflies, birds, etc.
6. Some garden to experience an emotional and spiritual satisfaction.
7. Others garden in order to learn about plants and how to keep them healthy.
8. Others garden for the social contact they have with other gardeners, which explains why we in this area have so many great garden clubs.



PLANT OF THE MONTH-GLADIOLUS

Glads are an old fashioned flower and a very favored perennial. The first hybrid glads appeared in 1837 and were formerly called *Acidanthera*. They are not seen growing in the garden as much as 20 years ago but are simple to grow from bulbs placed in a sunny location with any type soil. We see the dramatic flowers in the floral departments of grocery stores and florists. The flowers march up a long stalk and the plant grows up to 6 feet in height. To keep the glads from leaning, plant the bulbs about double the requirement. They have such a variety of colors, really the whole spectrum of the color charts. Some are even multi-colored. The name comes from the Latin word *gladius* which means sword. Roman history is replete with the actions of the gladiators.

GOOD GARDENING!

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City Across Eastern Pond Nancy Mimi Hartfield mixed acrylic on canvas

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www.stonehengeinc.com



ALABAMA MASTER GARDENER HELPLINE

The spring season is right around the corner. More time spent in the garden usually means more questions. The Master Gardener Helpline is ready!

1-877-ALA-GROW (1-877-252-4769).

It's open Monday-Friday from 9:00-4:00. Callers can leave a message if the line is busy.

Our new routing feature directs calls right to a Master Gardener who has training and experience with the plants, pests, and conditions in each Alabama region. Master Gardeners also have close contact with Extension Agents and the Diagnostic Lab for extra support whenever needed.

Please spread the word about this toll-free number to neighbors, friends and family. Use the signs, table cloths, and roll-shade banner to help publicize.

This valuable service would not be possible without the support of Master Gardeners statewide! Get in touch with Extension Agents **Chris Becker, Ken Creel, Bethany O'Rear, Nelson Wynn, Mallory Kelley, Mike McQueen, or Ellen Huckabay** if you are interested in volunteering on the Master Gardener Helpline in your area.



Hot dogs, chicken sandwiches & chili are doled out at this veteran mom-&-pop diner.



138 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone:(334) 265-6850
Hours:
Open 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
Menu at: chrishotdogs.com

Patricia Killough



Home Town Community News

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

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

March Birthdays



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Brett O'Neal | Betty Lossman |
| Donna Ross | David Hancock |
| Jean Bennett | 16 Lisa Gordan Hester |
| 2 Amie Dean | 17 Lowell Hattaway (83rd) |
| Bill Oates | 18 William Watters Box |
| Norma Renfro | George McKinley |
| 3 Frank Reynolds | Robert Singleton |
| 4 Todd Cole | Jacque Takacs |
| Russ Russell | 19 Charlotte Crane |
| 5 Glen Yost | Keisha Glasscock |
| 6 Gayle Bosworth | Frances McGuire |
| Emmett Poundstone | 20 Connie Crowe |
| Marjorie Wright | 21 Hannah Yost |
| 7 Everett Cole | Murlyne Clements |
| Laura Lane | Dorothy Lasaine |
| Tony Law | 22 Charlie Bodiford (88th) |
| Michael Carroll | Kentston Whigham (3rd) |
| Brad Wallace | 23 Ben Garrett |
| 8 Frances Ard | Laura Hudson |
| Linda Clayton | Morgan James |
| David Ehrlich | Brandy Landreau |
| 9 Courtney Whigham | Dawn Lane |
| 10 Jane Grubbs | Lallage Neil |
| Paula Lansdon | 24 Robert Adams |
| Cory Smith | Zenia Mims |
| Jeanne Villar | 25 Deborah Cox |
| Michael Weldon | Hunter Hannon |
| 11 Dr. John Bitter | Wanda Madison |
| Glenn Harper | 26 Ruby Macon |
| Herb Meadows | 27 Renee Grant |
| 12 Angie Ferreira | Cynthia Harper |
| 13 Linda Richardson | Wendy Powell |
| Samantha Jane Rice (4th) | 31 Carlie Corbin |
| 14 Brian Takacs | |
| 15 George Handey | (Send us YOUR Birthdays!) |
| Sandy Stephans Rogers | |

Welcome Isaiah

Well, grandbaby number seven is here for Pastor and Mrs. Chuck Glasscock of Montgomery.

Isaiah Michael

was born at 8:02 AM
March 9, 2015

and weighed 7 pounds 2 ounces.

His proud parents are Jon Michael and Brittany Glasscock. Brittany serves in the U.S. Navy and they reside in Yorktown, Virginia.

May he walk in the footsteps that the Lord has ordained for his life.



Isaiah

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Kristen Joy Messick
and
Chad Brandon Roberson

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Messick, of Troy, announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen Joy, to Chad Brandon Roberson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Roberson of Ramer.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Messick and Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Outlaw, of Troy, and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Pope, of Henderson.

Kristen is a 2009 graduate of Charles Henderson High School and a 2012 graduate of Troy University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics. Kristen recently graduated in December with a Master's of Science in Secondary Education and Mathematics. She is currently employed with Troy City Schools in Troy.

The future groom is the grandson of Mr. Morris Tucker and the late Mrs. Shirley Tucker of Ramer, the late Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Roberson of Olanta, South

Carolina and the late Mrs. Doris Strickland of Coward, South Carolina.

Chad is a 2009 graduate of South Montgomery County Academy. He is a member of South Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. Chad is presently employed with Lockheed Martin in Troy, Alabama.

The wedding is planned for June 6, 2015 at Joquin Baptist Church in Goshen at 6:30 p.m.



Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Ed & Dot Truitt (63rd) | 18 George & Lynn McKinley |
| 5 Frank & Helen Ralph | 19 Johnnie & Shirley Yarbrough |
| 7 Bobby & Myra Mills | 21 Craig & Mindy Trotter (6th) |
| Jim & Barbara Garrett | 23 Paul & Cynthia Harper |
| John & Melanie Higgins | 25 Tim & Nicole Sansom |
| 9 Fred & Connie Crowe | 26 Elvin & Cam Stanton |
| Sonja & Steve Campbell (42nd) | 27 Al & Conni Barnett |
| 14 Nicholas & Sally Corley | Mike & Cindy Smith |
| 15 Jim & Linda Richardson | 29 Bill & Vickie Gulsby |
| Ken & Linda Stringer (54th) | |
| 17 Wallace & Frances Bush (69th) | (Send us YOUR anniversaries!) |

ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT

On March 13, 2015

Glenn and Dimple McInvale
will celebrate 60 years of marriage.

Both were born and reared in Butler County, Georgiana, Alabama. They have three sons Anthony, Charles and Jason McInvale and 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Glenn McInvale worked twenty years in the U.S Navy and traveled all over the world, then worked another twenty years with the U.S. Postal Service in Montgomery, Alabama before retirement to Prattville, Alabama where they now live.



Glenn and Dimple McInvale

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"There is a difference in hometown banking!"

Sympathy to the families of...

- Willis, Eva "Fritz" Roe (96)died February 3, 2015
 Henderson, Mattie Smith Rutherford (94)died February 8, 2015
 Blount, Winton Malcolm, III (71).....died February 9, 2015
 Adams, Caroline Sophia Phillips (104)died February 13, 2015
 Daniel, Doris F. (77).....died February 13, 2015
 Pinckard, Jon David (74).....died February 13, 2015
 Mokler, Georgia Broadway (83)died February 15, 2015
 Battle, Carol Lee (55).....died February 16, 2015
 Smith, Holley Lee (82)died February 16, 2015
 Butler, Anna Beth Lander (65)died February 17, 2015
 Andrews, Buna Senn (96).....died February 19, 2015
 Hallum, Dr. Charles Edward (82).....died February 20, 2015
 Sadler, Ramon Hunter (70)died February 20, 2015
 Cox, Bernard Elder "Buddy", Jr. (67).....died February 21, 2015
 Frady, Dr. Jerry Conrad (76).....died February 21, 2015
 Rowe, William "Grady", Jr. (57)died February 23, 2015
 Julian, Norma Turner (85)died February 24, 2015
 Coats, Camille Alaina (24)died February 27, 2015
 Crew, Mildred Ward (84).....died February 28, 2015
 Fowler, Lamar Britten "Red" (101)died February 28, 2015
 Driver, Betty Joan Parker (81)died March 2, 2015

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Pregnant?

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

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

Contact us - 1-334-260-8010
380 Mendel Parkway
Montgomery, AL 36117
firstchoicewme.com

THANKS

Alice and Everett Cole!

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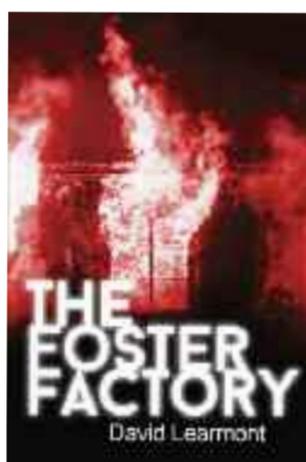


CONTACT ALICE COLE FOR ALL YOUR SHAKLEE NEEDS!
ACOLE.MYSHAKLEE.COM **334-288-8624**

The Book Nook

THE FOSTER FACTORY

By David Learmont



This book is a remarkable achievement and the author made me laugh on almost every page with his humorous and entertaining turns of phrase. Sharp wit and irony weren't what I expected from a book about an elderly couple becoming foster carers, but they are here in abundance.

David and Marsha Learmont are nothing short of incredible and it is heartening that there are people willing to pour so much energy and commitment into taking on troubled children and helping them. Neither does the author spare the negligent parents!

I have nothing but respect and admiration for the Learmonts and I hope they are enjoying their second retirement in Andorra.



*Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms. Wheelchair
America/Alabama
2005*

Trisston's Tidbits...

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

“DECLARE THE WORD OF GOD”

As a child of God, you have the power within you to overcome the world. That includes everything in the world and everything the world brings your ways.

I John 5:4 tells us, “...for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

The Bible says that faith comes by hearing the word of God. As you hear the word of God and store it in your heart, your faith in God grows stronger. When the enemy tries to attack you through sickness, fear, worry, or financial mishaps, just put your faith to work by declaring the word of God.

Declare that by His stripes you are healed! Declare that perfect love casts out all fear! Declare that God shall supply all of your needs! Declare that because you are born of God, you have faith to overcome the world! Store the word of God in your heart so you can declare it in your day of need.

Many Blessings!

A woman lifted up by others is stronger than a woman standing alone!



2015 Breast Cancer Support Group MEETING SCHEDULE

Frazer United Methodist Church
6000 Atlanta Highway • Room 8114

April 14, 2015 (5:30 pm - 6:30 pm)

Fresh Eyes and Renewed Spirit

Presented by Valerie Ball, Breast Cancer Survivor

womenofhope@charter.net • www.thewomenofhope.org

SAV-A-LIFE MINISTRY TO HOLD ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE

Sav-A-Life Montgomery is gearing up for its annual Walk for Life, the second-largest fundraiser for the ministry each year.

The Walk will be on Saturday, May 2, at Young Meadows Presbyterian Church on Vaughn Rd.

It's a family-friendly event, and dogs, bikes, skates, and strollers are welcome for this easy, one-mile walk.

After the Walk, there will be festivities for all, with music, food and children's activities like inflatables and face painting. There is no charge for this event, but participants are encouraged to recruit family and friends who will sponsor them as they walk for Sav-A-Life.

More information and details are available on the Sav-A-Life Montgomery web site—www.savlifemtg.org—including links to our event page where walkers can pre-register and begin their own personal fundraising page if they want.

Sav-A-Life Montgomery, Inc.
Bethany Garth
Advancement Director
334.260.8010
bethany@firstchoicewmc.com



SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015, 8:30 am in downtown MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

5K (ages 6 & older): \$25.00
Kids Dash (ages 3-8 only): \$10.00

We're excited to celebrate our 15th year of the Joy to Life Foundation! As part of our celebration, we have reduced the 5K registration fee to \$25! Thank you all for taking steps along with us to fight breast cancer.

While this is a 5K run/walk, there are a variety of ways to participate - either as a walker, runner, volunteer, survivor, sponsor or even virtually! How you participate isn't nearly as important as the reason you participate. Thank you for helping the Joy to Life Foundation raise as much money as possible so we can continue to create breast cancer awareness and provide free mammograms to those who need them throughout Alabama.

"Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world for, indeed, that is the only thing that ever has." ---Margaret Mead

WANTED:

42 Participants to Try the Latest Advancements in Hearing Aid Technology!

Are you, or someone you know, struggling with hearing loss?

We are looking for 42 participants to be among the first individuals to try the newest wireless hearing aid, 3 Series from Starkey. Advanced features are designed to:



- Improve hearing in noisy environments
- Eliminate buzzing and whistling
- Enhance television and phone conversations
- Ensure a comfortable, customized fit



Join us next week and receive:

- FREE hearing consultation and screening
- FREE in-office technology demonstration • FREE 90-day risk-free trial

CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT IN THIS TRIAL TODAY!

(334) 239-0671

REWARD

Not available with any other discounts, offers or prior purchases. Expires in ten days.

Participants who choose to keep the hearing instruments will receive:

- Trade-In Special: Up to \$1000/pair for your Miracle-Ear® or Beltone hearing aids!
- \$500 Off: one pair of Starkey Ignite Series hearing aids!
- Free Remote with Halo iPhone hearing aids!

NOTICE

Digital Hearing Aids at No Cost to You!

Federal Workers, Federal Retirees, Federal Spouses, and Federal Dependents:

You're Covered with Your Federal Employee Plan Membership with Enrollment Code 104, 105, 111, or 112.

Call now to schedule your FREE hearing test and consultation!

DeRamus Hearing Centers

I can hear you now!

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Alternative Health Shoppe
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Curley's Herbs & Vitamins
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Tired of living with pain? Join the thousands of people who have experienced relief through the science of frequency charged metals. This technology has been shown to provide relief from pain and to instantly improve balance and strength.

Miracle Band makes a great gift!



My mother and I both received bands as gifts, and I have to say at first we were skeptical but now wear our New You Miracle Bands every day. We both noticed immediate reduction in the aches and pains that typically accompany "maturing," such as sore elbows, shoulders, knees and hips. Before wearing my Miracle Band, I was aware of bothersome aches and pains almost on a daily basis; now, after using mine for over a year, I am rarely aware of any discomfort or pains. I would highly recommend them to anyone who feels prescriptions are no longer working and you want to use a natural cure. For only \$49.99 it's worth every penny.

—Laurie Magers

Executive Assistant to Zig Ziglar, Plano, TX



In October 2007, I was hit by a pickup truck while cycling. My extreme injuries included a shattered left tibia, five broken ribs, a broken pelvis, and a punctured lung. My recovery took over a year. Afterward, the pain in my leg was so severe that by the end of the day I was barely able to walk. In October of 2009, I went to Dr. Roland Hester of Southern Orthopedic Surgeons and asked him to cut my leg off, due to the pain. On Christmas of 2009, Glenda DeRamus gave me the New You Miracle Band as a gift, and after two days the results were unbelievable! To me, the Miracle Band is worth a billion dollars and is the best Christmas present I have ever received. It has been five years, and it's still working! Listen to my testimonial online at nymb.com. Then call me if you have any questions! (334) 782-0420.

—Jeff Hensley, Montgomery, AL

New You Miracle Band: So many uses! Order now!

- Protect your child and yourself from the harmful effects of cell phone use.
- Relieve pain from Arthritis, Carpal Tunnel, Fibromyalgia, Cancer, or Gout.
- Instantly improve strength and balance — great for athletes!

Mail-In Order Form

STEP 1: Fill out form, selecting from the options below.
STEP 2: Make checks payable to DeRamus Hearing.
STEP 3: Mail completed form with your payment to:
DeRamus Hearing, 2809 Chestnut St., Montgomery, AL 36107.

NEOPRENE BAND Qty: _____ Sub-total: _____
BAND SIZE 7.5-9.5 in. 8.5-10.5 in. (black only)
BAND COLOR Black White Pink
 Blue Brown Purple
FACE STYLE Blank Cross Gecko Greek Key
 Scroll Hearts Stars Tribal

WOVEN NYLON BAND Qty: _____ Sub-total: _____
BAND SIZE 7.5-9.5 in. 8.5-10.5 in.
BAND COLOR Black Tan
SUCER STYLE Gold Silver Black

Add 10% Sales Tax. Tax: _____
Allow 7-10 days for delivery. Shipping: \$6.95
Don't forget: Buy 2, get 1 free! **TOTAL:** _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____