

Let Us Never Forget Those Who Fought for Our Freedoms ...



Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heroes

Col Kenneth D. Carlson: Age 90

Col Kenneth D. Carlson served 29 years in the United States Air Force. His Military Occupational Specialty Code (MOSC) was Air Operations Staff Officer. He received the following medals, awards and decorations: Legion of Merit, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Expeditionary Service Award for Overseas: Lebanon, Congo and Formosa, Outstanding Unit Award and Vietnam Service Medal (four).

Col Carlson was born in Minneapolis, MN, November 11, 1930 to his parents, Ray and Maybelle Carlson, and he was reared in St. Paul Minnesota where he graduated from Murray High School in 1948. He attended the University of Minnesota for one quarter followed by attendance at Nichols State College in LA for one year. He then returned to MN and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force September 26, 1950.

Col Carlson's military service began at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in San Antonio, TX, for Boot Camp. He was then sent to Sheppard AFB, TX, then to Kessler AFB, MS, becoming a radar mechanic on B-29's and B-50's. In 1953, he became an aviation cadet training in the Piper Cubs, T-6, T-28 and T-33. He was commissioned in July 1954, and after training in the F-86 at Nellis AFB, NV, he was assigned to the 50th Fighter Bomber Wing at Hahn AB, Germany, with a tactical nuclear mission and later transferred to Toul-Rosiere AB France. He returned to the United States in 1957 to Donaldson AFB, SC, where he flew C-124 Globemasters. This three-year tour took him to conflicts in Lebanon, Formosa and the Congo with many transits through Greece, Turkey, Iran, and Libya as well as various Down Range Sites in support of the early space flights.

In 1959, Col Carlson attended the Squadron Officers School at Maxwell AFB, AL. In 1961, he was reassigned to the Air Force Ground Electronics School at Kessler AFB, MS, followed by assignment to the Air Force Technical Application Center in Alexandria, VA, where he was introduced to computers. After three years, Col Carlson was sent to Military Airlift Command (MAC) to serve as the Chief of the Command Control Computer Center. It was there Col Carlson became an instructor-pilot in the T-39 Saber-liner carrying VIP's all over the U.S. A. He was then deployed to Saigon, Vietnam, to serve as the "only pilot" assigned to the Data Management Agency of MACV HQ. Col Carlson returned to the United States to run the Air Force Command Post Computer Center at the Pentagon. While in the Washington, D. C. area, he then continued his T-39 flying duties, and he graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. Degree in Business in 1973. His last assignment was as Vice-Commander and Commander of the Data Automation Agency at Gunter AFS, AL. Col Carlson retired from military service at Gunter AFS, AL, April 30, 1979.

Col Carlson and his wife, Mary Ann, have been married 66 years, and they have five children, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He worked as a broker with the investment firm E. F. Hutton for 14 years 1979-1993. He has served as Program Chairman for 13 years and Flight Captain of the Daedalians, a fraternal order of military pilots. In addition, Col Carlson has served others as President of the Montgomery Catholic High School PTO and as a member of the Mobile Archdiocese Board of Education for eight years. In addition, he has served on the Parish Council and Finance Council of St. Bede Church, on the Board of Seton Haven, an assisted living facility, and on the Board of Catholic Social Services in Montgomery, AL. He served as the President of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) in Montgomery, AL. He served as a volunteer with A.A.R. P. during the income tax season helping the elderly with their income tax filings for 15 years.

Col Carlson's conclusions about military service are, "The Air Force gave me many opportunities. I will never forget those who worked for me and those for whom I served. It was a team effort."

#end#



Veterans love reading The Gazette!



Service members enjoy reading their articles in the August issue of the Alabama Gazette.

Terrell Lamar Best (deceased 9/1/21)
US Coast Guard (left)

CMSgt William Joseph Heath
US Navy/Marine Corps/Army (right)



If you know of a Veteran who deserves to be honored, please email: alabamagazette@gmail.com

Chaplain Colonel Rhon Vernon Carleton: Age: 83

Chaplain Colonel Rhon Vernon Carleton served 30 years in the United States Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code was chaplain including USAF Chaplain School Faculty Instructor. He served at Air Force bases in eight states and air bases in three foreign countries. His awards, medals and decorations include: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal with three Service Stars, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with six oak leaf clusters, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Device and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Chaplain Carleton was born December 13, 1937, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to George and Loraine Carleton. He was reared in Lockland, Ohio, until age 14 when his family moved to Hollywood, FL. While at South Broward High School, Carleton was a member of the swimming team and the science club, played saxophone in the band and graduated in the class of 1955.

He was called into Christian ministry during his freshman year at Florida State University and enrolled in the Air Force ROTC Pre-Chaplaincy program. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History with an English literature minor and was recognized as an AFROTC Distinguished Graduate. Upon graduation in 1959, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant.

He continued his post-graduate education on a tuition free scholarship at Duke University, Divinity School. During this time, he served as a freshman house master for two years and taught the American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor's Course on the Duke University staff. Carleton received a Master of Divinity degree in 1962 majoring in Clinical Pastoral Education. He later served on the Duke Divinity National Alumni Board from 2011 to 2015.

Chaplain Carleton's military career assignments began with his entrance into Air Force service as a Chaplain First Lieutenant in July 1962. He served at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (AFB) OH, 1962-1964; Norton AFB, CA 1964-1965; Takhli Royal Thai Air Base (AB), Thailand, 1965-1966; Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., 1966-1968; RAF Alconbury, Huntingdonshire, England, 1968-1971; Air Command and Staff College as a student, 1971-1972; and the USAF Chaplain School as a faculty member Maxwell AFB, AL, 1972-1975; Senior Protestant Chaplain, Elmendorf AFB, AK, 1975-1978; Senior Protestant Chaplain 1978-1980 and Installation Staff Chaplain (ISC), 1980-1983, Scott AFB, IL; ISC Yokota AB, Japan, 1983-1986; and ISC, Hill AFB, UT, 1986-89. His last assignment was service as the Wing Chaplain, Air University at Maxwell AFB, AL, where he retired from military service July 31, 1992.

His areas of interest include Biblical studies, clinical pastoral care, marriage and family counseling, and drug and alcohol addiction rehabilitation. While in Air Command and Staff College, Carleton received the award for Most Outstanding Contribution to Research for his paper on "A Viable Program for USAF Drug Abuse Rehabilitation." In addition, he earned a Master of Science Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Troy State University in 1972. He utilized this background while on the staff of the USAF Chaplain School to establish a therapeutic (TC) community behind the walls of Draper Correctional Center, Elmore, AL. He and his students from the Chaplain School visited TC inmates at the Draper Center to hear their stories concerning what approaches were successful in rehabilitation. Chaplain Carleton was also actively involved with teaching counseling and quality management in the Air Force and civilian communities.

Following his retirement, he served interim pastorates in Montgomery, Selma, and Weogufka, AL. He taught Choice Theory and Reality Therapy as a Senior Faculty Member of the William Glasser Institute in the United States, Canada, Alaska, Korea, Japan, Ireland, and Singapore. In 1998, he founded the hospital chaplaincy and served as a clinical chaplain in the Montgomery, AL, Baptist Medical Center East for a ten year period. John Ed Mathison invited him to join the staff of Frazer United Methodist Church in 2008 where he remains to the present. The Carletons are members of the Sowers Sunday School Class where Rhon serves as a teacher.

Chaplain Carleton and his wife, Carol, have been married 55 years, and they have two daughters, two grandsons, one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter. As a military chaplain, he encouraged military personnel and assisted them during hardship and adversity. Chaplain Carleton's conclusions concerning his military service are: "From my initial calling in my freshman year of college to my retirement, I have felt blessed to have the opportunity to serve others and my country in ministry."

#end#

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| David Timothy Boyle: Sept 2 | James Earl Jackson: Sept 17 |
| James Vernon Godfrey: Sept 2 | John Lakeos: Sept 18 |
| Herman Naron: Sept 5 | Luther Zeagler Rosser: Sept 30 |
| Robert Wesley Marcus: Sept 6 | |



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Lt Col Jerry Elmer Fossum: Age 86



Lt Col Jerry Elmer Fossum served 22 years in the United States Air Force. His Military Occupational Specialty Code was a Systems Analyst in the Personnel Career Field. He received the following medals, awards and decorations: Air Force Commendation Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Longevity Service Award with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Two Oak Leaf Clusters and Meritorious Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Lt Col Fossum was born in Albert Lea, MN May 20, 1935 to his parents, Elmer and Ella Fossum. He was reared there and graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1953. After working for a truck-gardener for several summers, he graduated from St. Olaf College with a B.A. Degree in Business and Economics in 1957. Having participated in the Air Force R.O.T.C., he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant at his graduation and began active military service July 19, 1958.

Lt Col Fossum was deployed as a postal officer for four years to Japan first to Misawa Air Force Base for two years followed by a two-year assignment at Fuchu Air Station at Tokyo, Japan. Lt Col Fossum then graduated from Texas A. & M. University with a Master's Degree in Business Administration in 1964.

Lt. Col Fossum began his work as a Systems Analyst in Personnel at Scott AFB, IL, for 4.5 years followed by assignment at Randolph AFB, TX, for five years. He completed training at the Air Force Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, AL. He served five years at Gunter Air Force Station as the Director of Personnel of 2500 automation types where he retired from military service September 30, 1979.

Lt Col Fossum's reflections on his military career are, "I enjoyed everyone of my assignments, and I was grateful. The Air Force was good to me, and I tried to be a good servant to the Air Force. I liked my job. I would like future generations to remember this about me: I pursued a love for my country and a respect for its flag. I tried to help, and I hope that I was a good leader and a good family."

After his military retirement, Lt Col Fossum worked at the AL Department of Economic and Community Affairs in the area of employment and training of personnel for 16 years. He has been involved in the antique business operating five booths at the Eastbrook Flea Market in Montgomery, AL. His passion is hunting deer, dove, ducks, geese and turkey as well as fishing. He has been a member of the Retired Officers Association at Maxwell AFB.

Lt. Col Fossum and his wife, Pat, have been married 63 years, and they have two children. Pat is world triathlon (swimming, running and cycling) champion having won six gold, 15 silver and six bronze medals for her age group. Pat accompanied him on all at his duty stations and supported his military and civilian careers. Pat's conclusions about her role as the wife of an Air Force officer are, "It was a wonderful life. I enjoyed it. There were at lot of moves, but I got used to that. I got use to leaving friends and meeting new friends. We have lived in some interesting places and in some not so interesting places. We just make do where you are put and go on."

#end#



A. Wyndol Murrah passed away on Tuesday, August 24 surrounded by family. He was 99. Mr. Murrah was born in Chilton County and was raised in the Collins Chapel community and in Clanton. He attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University. He was an Army veteran who fought in the Huertgen Forest in Germany in World War II. After the war he received his degree from Auburn University. He worked most of his life in the farm credit business, serving as president of the Alabama Division of First South Farm Credit Services. He provided leadership in many civic and religious organizations in Bay Minette and Ozark. In 1999 he was inducted into the Auburn University Agriculture Hall of Honor in recognition of his service to farmers and agri-business within the state. His article was published in the November 2020 issue of the *Gazette*. For his full obituary, please visit: www.Leak-MC.com.



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



Sergeant Jackson B. Dismukes passed away August 6, 2021. Dr. Simmons interviewed him at his home May 28, 2021, and his wife told her that he was on Hospice. Since time was of the essence, his article was published in the July 2021 issue of the *Gazette*. When Martha took copies of the *Gazette* to his home, his wife told her that day that her husband was now on morphine and some of the relatives were coming to see him over the weekend. Martha did not get to visit with him again after the interview. Mrs. Dismukes took his picture holding the copy of the July 2021 issue, and it was published in the August issue.



Terrell Lamar Best passed away on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. He was just shy of his 96th birthday. Lamar Best served almost 32 months in the United States Coast Guard during WWII. His article was published in the August 2021 issue of *The Alabama Gazette*.



Dr. Lester Spencer
Lead Pastor
St. James United Methodist Church
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WHERE WERE YOU?

Where were you when the world stopped turning on that September day?

Were you in the yard with your wife and children
Or working on some stage in L.A.?

Did you stand there in shock
At the sight of that black smoke
Risn' against that blue sky?
Did you shout out in anger
In fear for your neighbor
Or did you just sit down and cry?

Did you weep for the children who lost their dear loved ones
Pray for the ones who don't know?
Did you rejoice for the people who walked from the rubble
And sob for the ones left below?

Did you burst out with pride
For the red, white and blue
And the heroes who died
Just doin' what they do?

Did you look up to heaven for some kind of answer
And look at yourself and what really matters?

I'm just a singer of simple songs
I'm not a real political man
I watch CNN
But I'm not sure I can tell you
The difference in Iraq and Iran
But I know Jesus and I talk to God
And I remember this from when I was young
Faith, hope and love are some good things He gave us
And the greatest is love

"Where were you (When the world stopped turning)" is a song written and recorded by American country music singer Alan Jackson. The song is based on Jackson's own experience on September 11, 2001. Jackson had finished walking outside and returned indoors to discover news of the attacks on television. He immediately wanted to write a song expressing his thoughts and emotions, but he found it hard to do so for many weeks. "I didn't want to write a patriotic song," Jackson said. "And I didn't want it to be vengeful, either. But I didn't want to forget about how I felt and how I knew other people felt that day."

Finally, on the Sunday morning of October 28, 2001, he awoke at 4 a.m. with the melody, opening lines, and chorus going through his mind. He hastily got out of bed, still in his underwear, and sang them into a hand-held digital recorder so as to remember them later on. Later that morning, when his wife and children had gone to Sunday school, he sat down in his study and completed the lyrics.

Initially, he felt squeamish about recording it, much less releasing it as a single, because he disliked the idea of capitalizing on a tragedy. But after he played it for his wife Denise and for his producer, Keith Stegall, both of whom

gave their approval, Jackson went into the studio to record "Where Were You?" that week. On Stegall's advice, Jackson played the finished track for a group of executives at his record label. "We just kind of looked at one another," RCA Label Group chairman Joe Galante said later. "Nobody spoke for a full minute."

Where were you when September 11, 2001 happened? I remember exactly where I was. I was at work at Saint James Church where I serve as the Lead Pastor. My friend and church member, David Woods, President, and owner of WCOV-FOX TV here in Montgomery, called me on my cell phone and said, "Are you watching the TV right now?"

I said, "No, I am at work like most normal people."

He said, "Get to a TV and turn it on right now."

I was standing in the lobby of our church when he called so I ran over to a TV mounted on the wall and turned the TV on to a news channel just in time to see the World Trade Center engulfed in flames and the second plane hit the other tower. I immediately called my wife Janeese to tell her what was happening. Her office was in the church building too, and I told her to come down to the lobby to witness this horrible event unfold.

Our church staff gathered around the TVs in the lobbies as well, and we all watched in disbelief as this horrible terrorist attack unfolded. We were not sure at first if this was a just a tragic accident where a commercial airliner somehow got off course and hit the World Trade Center or if it was some kind of terrorist attack. But when the second plan hit the other tower, I think everyone knew then that this was no accident. The United States was under attack on our soil for the first time in my lifetime.

We dismissed the staff and told them to gather their children, go home, pray for our country, and stay safe. As we went to our homes that day, watched the news channels and gathered our families around us, we didn't know at that time if there were more attacks coming or what was next. It was a traumatic and scary few weeks and months as the country reeled in the horror of the attacks and the devastation of the Twin Towers and the Pentagon.

The USA was united in prayer like I had never seen. We prayed for our country and for the many thousands of victims killed and wounded! We prayed for the first responders who risked their lives to save others! We prayed for our US soldiers who were preparing to defend our country and attack the enemies who had perpetrated this cowardly, terrorist act.

We hugged and kissed our spouses! We held our children tight around us! We read our Bibles like we hadn't done in a long time! We gathered to worship together as our churches filled up on Sunday mornings! We prayed like we meant it! We thanked God for our blessings, our families, our country, and our places of worship!



Where were you when the world stopped turnin' on that September day?

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

www.steveflowers.us



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

Trump Comes to Alabama

Former President Donald Trump paid a visit to the Heart of Dixie last [month]. Obviously, this is Trump country.

Alabama was one of Trump's best states in the 2020 Election. He got an amazing 65% of the vote in our state. If the turnout for his August 21 rally in rural Cullman County is any indication, he would get that same margin of victory this year if the election were held again. Many of those in attendance were insistent that Trump won last year's presidential contest and that it was stolen from him.

The event was held on a desolate rural north Alabama farm. It was reminiscent of the 1969 Woodstock event in rural New York. In fact, our newly minted U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville referred to it as "Trumpstock." Tuberville nor I either one attended Woodstock, but we are old enough to know about the legendary music and imbibing event. It was also reminiscent of some of the old George Wallace rallies in the 1960's – only much larger.

The rally drew an enormous crowd. Estimates said there were 45,000 Trumpites in attendance and I am not an expert on estimating crowds, but I do not disagree with that number. It took me 30 minutes to walk through the crowd to get to my car.

Trump is truly an entertainer and Alabama is truly Trump Country, although there were quite a few folks in attendance from neighboring states. I was very appreciative to be given a VIP front row private reception invitation to the event. Allow me to share some of my observations.

Coach/Senator Tommy Tuberville won his seat in the U.S. Senate because Trump endorsed him. It is obvious that Trump and Tuberville like each other and have bonded. Tuberville ran for and is in the Senate for the right reason. He wants to spend some of his retirement years giving back to this country. Tuberville was not groomed to be a politician. He is a football coach, but he is doing a good job representing Alabama in Washington. He has put together a good staff headed by veteran Stephen Boyd. They are doing a good job with constituent service. Tuberville looked jovial, relaxed, and dapper when he spoke prior to Trump.

Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth gave a great speech. It was fiery and almost

George Wallace level. He is a true conservative. He has two young sons who accompanied him to the rally. They are very gentlemanly young men, who are always courteous and mannerly.

Attorney General Steve Marshall gave an excellent speech. It was conversational, sincere and well received.

Congressman Robert Aderholt was spectacular and gave a great speech and welcome. He represents Cullman in congress. His 4th Congressional District gave Trump the largest percentage votes of any congressional district in the country. Aderholt looks like a congressman. He is polished and erudite, but has a grassroots appeal. His people in North Alabama love him.

Mo Brooks spoke and was fiery as ever. Trump has endorsed him in the senate race. However, Trump only endorsed him once on this night.

There is a lot of internal discord among the Republican Party membership. It appears that the Mo Brooks supporters have taken over the Republican Party hierarchy and that this Trump event was a Mo Brooks rally. Trump probably was asked to temper his Brooks endorsement. Indeed, Mo Brooks's opponents, Katie Britt, Lynda Blanchard and Jessica Taylor were all in attendance.

Several state senators were there, along with the aforementioned state constitutional officers. I saw Greg Reed from Jasper, Tom Whatley from Auburn, along with hometown Cullman Senator Garlan Gudger, and PSC Commissioner Jeremy Oden also from Cullman County. In addition, Secretary of State John Merrill and Jefferson/Shelby Congressman Gary Palmer were in attendance.

It was good to see some of the old, longtime, 50 year Republican Party faithful founders there – Elbert Peters from Huntsville, Joan and Paul Reynolds from Shelby County, and Vicki and Mike Drummond from Jasper. They were laboring in the Republican vineyards before it was cool to be a Republican, and still are.

I had a chance to see Trump closeup. He looks amazing for 75. People age differently. He is a lot more cognizant and alert than 78-year-old Joe Biden. If you made me bet, I would say that Trump is running for President in 2024 and that he will carry Alabama.



Justice Will Sellers

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

The Atlantic Charter: Optimistic Leadership in an Uncertain World

Imagine your football team is in the first quarter of a game, a couple of star players are sidelined and the opponent's offense seems unstoppable. The score is already 28-0 when your head coach takes a time out.

He lets his assistants coach up the team while he meets with an architect to design a new stadium to display championship trophies and meets with another head coach to discuss developing a new conference with more efficient rules to increase attendance and enthusiasm for the game. Sound farfetched? Eighty years ago, something like this actually happened – but not on the gridiron.

In August 1941, World War II was almost two years old. While Britain was still in the game, her prospects for success were far from certain with no feeling of inevitable victory. Good news on the battle front was hard to come by, but inspired by Winston Churchill, the English people continued to maintain the stiff upper lip of optimism.

President Roosevelt couldn't know that Pearl Harbor was four months away and American ambivalence about the war in Europe was high. Nevertheless, Roosevelt understood the dangerous world situation and the probable and unavoidable entry of the United States into the conflict.

For the first time since Churchill had become prime minister and Roosevelt had become president, these two leaders meet at Placentia Bay, Newfoundland to discuss the future not only for their respective countries, but also for the world.

After a series of agenda-less meeting, not only between the two leaders, but also among their staffs, they issued a remarkable statement that was later dubbed "The Atlantic Charter."

Perhaps one of the most interesting things about this communique, is that it was never really reduced to a writing and signed by each country. In fact, it was never ratified by Congress or approved by Parliament. Rather, it was an eight-point idealistic explanation of a post-war agenda to outline to the world at large what the fighting was all about and to anticipate an Allied victory.

In 1941 with so many unknowns, the Atlantic Charter expressed an optimism that victory was in sight and gave hope to the nations involved in the conflict. Neither breath-taking hubris nor propaganda ploy, the Atlantic Charter expressed a manifest destiny that the English-speaking people would achieve victory and build a new world based on a unique English worldview.

In a nutshell, the Atlantic Charter made it clear that the British and Americans were united against the aggression of the Axis powers. While the United States had not entered the war, the Charter affirmed a solidarity between the two countries and set the stage for American dominance as a world power.

The Charter further presented a view that relationships between nation states would be founded on reciprocal trade agreements emphasizing open markets on equal terms for both the victor and vanquished. This stood in stark contrast to the unfavorable trade arrangements that punished Germany after World War I and precipitated Hitler's rise to power.

One new principle – perhaps the most controversial – was the right of all

peoples to self-determination. This concept was the logical conclusion that since Britain and the United States did not have territorial ambitions and would not support nations using armed conflict to expand their borders, something must happen to nations overrun by the Axis blitz. The clear implication, probably unintended, was that after the war, people within a defined boundary could choose their government, effectively ending colonialism and establishing new countries based on the consent of the governed.

The basic tenants of the Atlantic Charter were presented to other Allied nations and generally adopted in principle. The contents were printed on leaflets and dropped over Germany to repudiate the propaganda of any punitive post-war settlement.

In Japan, the Charter bolstered anti-American sentiment and was used to show a conspiracy against the insecure nation. Natives under the thumb of colonial powers believed the Charter promoted their rights to independence thus emboldening a commitment to the Allied cause.

One of the most striking features of the Charter was its impact despite having no authority or force of law from ratification by any government. Rather, the Charter was an agreement between two leaders of substantial stature in the world. Its binding impact was a reflection of personal leadership and integrity indicating that if these two giants made a statement about their goals for a future world order, their credibility gave other countries confidence that the Charter would be implemented.

Only great leaders can do things like this. Powerful personalities and bold initiatives characterized both men. In fact, the year before the Atlantic Charter, Roosevelt and Canada's Prime Minister, Mackenzie King, would complete the Ogdensburg Agreement which established a mutual defense agreement between the neighboring countries. Like the Atlantic Charter, this agreement was never ratified by any political body but expressed a mutual agreement between strong leaders protecting their countries. To this day, the Ogdensburg Agreement serves as an expression of the mutual defense of Canada and the United States.

The Atlantic Charter galvanized the Allies by outlining post war aims. Its expressed objectives for creating a stable world order were reflected in the creation of the United Nations, but the collective security of that body was thwarted by Soviet ideology which eschewed any sense of international cooperation and fairness.

The Atlantic Charter achieved its near-term objectives by precisely outlining why the allies were committed to the fight. In the long term, it failed to create a structure for nation states to live in harmony without the threat of territorial ambitions of a neighbor.

International organizations work best by providing a loose framework that exalts private property rights and promotes the rule of law. The Atlantic Charter assumed this, but the United Nations became a pawn for the Russians who used principles like self-determination to obtain control over misguided revolutionaries by convincing them communism and not democracy was a counterweight to colonialism.

Will Sellers is a 1985 graduate of Hillsdale College and an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama. Will Sellers is best reached at jws@willsellers.com

Tuesday
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22nd Anniversary of *The Alabama Gazette*

11:30 am
~ 1 pm

Tuesday, October 19th
~ Make Plans to Join Us ~

COVID guidelines will be respected for this event.

More Details in the October Anniversary issue

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



ROBSERVATIONS... THINGS TO COME?

“To see their Commander-in-Chief [Joe Biden] call into question the courage of men I fought with, to claim that they ran. It’s shameful. Those who have never fought for the colors they fly should be careful about criticizing those who have.”
Tom Tugendhat: UK Member of Parliament, Afghan War Veteran

I was asked to keep this Robservation a little shorter than normal because the paper would like to minimize its footprint this month. Not a problem.

What I want to write about is exactly what has been on everyone’s mind for the past week. President Joe Biden’s total, complete, pathetic, military and morally bankrupt failure in Afghanistan. There is so much to write about and so little time so this works into the idea of a shorter column since I will make this a sort of preview of “More to Come.”

To say the past week has been excruciating to watch would be an understatement. The quote at the beginning of this column sums it up. It is sad to see a member of an Allied government rightfully torch the living heck out of our President. We are talking a flamethrower to the face. Ouch! People are pissed. The world is pissed. People are dying. Who knows where President Biden is in terms of grappling with the reality of what he has done? He could not even admit people are dying amidst all the chaos despite videos, photos and intelligence reports. Even George Stephanopoulos looked dismayed during their interview. True to form, all he ever does is blame President Trump. In this case he adds to it by blaming the Afghans and saying nobody saw this collapse coming as quickly as it did. That, among many others, is a lie; a big fat whopper. Of course, a recently uncovered and previously classified State Department cable from July suggests that Secretary of State Antony Blinken was duly warned that Kabul would most likely fall into Taliban hands by the August 31 troop withdrawal deadline despite Biden’s warning on 8 July that a Taliban run Afghanistan would not happen. (www.breitbart.com/national-security/2021/08/19/report-state-department-memo-warned-of-afghanistan-collapse-back-in-july/).

This entire debacle has America in the world’s crosshairs. You know it is bad when even many Democrats are shaking their heads although Nancy Pelosi still stands behind Biden in total support. I saw a recent poll that stated Biden’s favorability numbers are down to 49%. I want to ask, who in the heck are these 49 percenters? Let’s just take a look at his first seven months in office: The southern border is a mess, illegals by the thousands, many with COVID are

allowed to pour across our border and are then ferreted under the cover of darkness to points throughout the country. The draw for undocumented Democrats is overpowering. Inflation is skyrocketing, building prices are through the roof (no pun intended), gas prices are marching upward and now – Afghanistan.

I spent ten years teaching operational planning and I cannot fathom what in the heck this administration has done. I’ll tell you what. They, as Mercury astronaut Gordon Cooper presciently warned fellow astronaut Gus Grissom have “screwed the pooch.” I heard a British politician on the radio yesterday say that Biden DID NOT consult with any of our NATO Allies in this travesty. Not one. Remember, this operation was not only a US operation but a NATO op as well. Biden left our NATO comrades out to dry; threw them under the proverbial bus and yeah, they are fighting mad. Can you blame them? This in addition to dumping on our Afghan Allies. There are also indications that he did little to listen to much of our own military leadership.

In my effort to keep this short, go to the following website and look at all the weapons we likely left behind for Taliban to use. It is enough to make you sick -- guns, ammo, vehicles, aircraft, communications equipment, drones (not on this list), and more. (taskandpurpose.com/news/taliban-weapons-afghanistan/). Not only did we leave behind these weapons, Biden left behind American honor, respect and trust with our Allies. Be sure North Korea, Iran, China, Russia and countless others are taking careful notes on this.

As one short note before I end this, and yes, there will be more to come, go to the following site. (www.rumble.com/vl16oc-true-story-sleepy-joe-biden-gets-lost-on-white-house-lawn.html). Yes, you will actually see President Biden get lost on the White House lawn after getting off of Marine One. Although Secret Service personnel try to direct him, he ignores their directions, gets lost and misses his turn onto the concrete walkway. Incredibly sad to see. The world, once again is taking notes. My final question is when will serious discussions take place on President Biden’s suitability to lead? *More to come.*



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THE BIDEN SURGE – ILLEGAL AFGHANS U.S. CONSTITUTION VS. SHARIA LAW CONFLICT

John W. Giles

The Biden Surge of illegal immigrants from the southern border and now Afghanistan has hit the exponential curve. As of this date, only 4,500 of the 75,000 removed from Afghanistan are Americans. Illegal Afghan immigrants being flown in U.S. funded aircraft are on their way to America. Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Great Britain (G7) have begged Biden to force a deadline extension with the Taliban for the removal of Americans and allies from Afghanistan, he has ignored their plight. European allies are now romancing Russia to partner against the Taliban. Biden was chastised on the floor of the British Parliament for abruptly leaving Afghanistan allowing innocent allies, including Americans and \$83 billion in U.S. Military equipment left behind for the Taliban terrorist to use against us. American allies worldwide now view America as an unstable and undependable partner. Our problem only begins with this knee jerk decision, just wait until Islamic Sharia Law and the U.S. Constitution collide, stay with me a minute.

Illegal immigration of thousands storming our southern border and now the mass exodus of Afghan Illegals coming to our country is grabbing the daily headlines. Americans have been on high alert since September 11, 2001, when commercial jets became weapons of mass destruction with Islamic terrorist in the cockpit killing approximately 3000 plus innocent people in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Most Americans want to know who enters our country, why are you coming into our country and always sleeping with one eye open.

Motivations of those coming to America today could be summed up in three categories. First, those seeking the American Dream; coming to America to be educated, start a business or find a good paying career where they can reach their maximum potential in life. I think the sentiment among the vast majority of Americans is we wholeheartedly embrace legal immigrants with these goals. Secondly, we have some entering our country because they have learned a way to get on our entitlement rolls and enjoy life living off of the backs of hard working American taxpayers receiving a free public education for their children, a government monthly check, free healthcare and being illegally registered to vote. Illegal immigrants entering our country are embraced politically as a protected new voting block for Democrats. Thirdly, those seeking to illegally come to America want to wreak havoc, do harm, destroy and kill U.S. Citizens. The Islamic deep hatred for the Westerners dates back to the Old Testament.

When Abram was ninety years old, God declared his new name Abraham (a father of many nations) and he promised him and his wife Sarah to be blessed with a son. After ten years, Sarah became impatient waiting on God and asked her personal Egyptian handmaid servant, Hagar to lay with Abraham in hopes of a child. Hagar did have a son and his name was Ishmael. As promised, Sarah did have a late in life son and was named Isaac. Tension arose between the two women and like a honeybee hive; there is no room for two queen bees. Sarah demanded that Abraham send Hagar and her illegitimate son Ishmael out of the camp. Ishmael was the beginning of the modern day Palestine. Here in lies the thousands of years old jealousy and hatred of Ishmael against Isaac. Both of these sons have the same father, Abraham and both claim Jerusalem. This has been a controversy even as late when the U.S. Embassy to Israel was placed by Trump in Jerusalem. Jews, Greeks, Gentiles and Christians are from the lineage of Isaac; utterly and passionately hated to this day by Ishmael (Radical Islam).

In previous writings I discussed with you the moral code for the English Common Law was the Ten Commandments; and the genesis for the U.S. Constitution and western civilized law was the English Common Law. On the other hand in Muslim countries, the moral code for their foundation of law is the Quran; one might see where this story is going and the conflicts that lie ahead; stay with me.

One of the hallmarks of freedom embedded in the U.S. Constitution is the First Amendment: *Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.* The “establishment clause” precludes congress and the U.S. Federal government from ever establishing a national sanctioned religion. The spirit and intent behind this clause is American citizens are free to worship or not worship, join the church of their choice, or not attend church and free to be associated with any religion. True freedom to worship as you wish or not worship is at the heart of this clause. The U.S. Government shall not impose any undue burden on an American citizen that causes one to compromise their religious beliefs or religious freedoms.

The emerging conflict already affecting communities across the country is the practice of Sharia law, which is embedded into the Islamic faith. The conflict

arises as an immigrant being granted U.S. Citizenship and takes the naturalization oath, which states: *“I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.”* Taking this naturalization oath and Sharia law is at the outset a conflict. Multiple media accounts authenticate when some Muslims are pressed, they will say Sharia Law supersedes the U.S. Constitution. . . .

Let’s look at the core of Sharia Law.

In Arabic, “Sharia” literally means “path” or the path to salvation. Sharia, a set of guiding principles derived from the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed is inseparable from the practice of Islam. There are many tenants of Sharia law, but here are a few:

- Muslims should engage in Taqiyya (Lying to advance Islam). Lying to non-Muslims is encouraged by Muhammad – the Taliban will look you right in the face and lie for the advancement of Ali and to kill the infidel
- Men are allowed to practice polygamy and to be married to four wives at the same time; women can only be married to one man
- Muhammad instructs female genital mutilation, girls clitoris is cut out so they cannot ever enjoy sex
- A man can beat his wife for insubordination
- A Muslim who becomes a non-Muslim is punishable by death
- Muslim men have sexual rights to any girl or woman not wearing the hijab (Head Covering)
- A woman or girl that has been raped cannot testify in court against her rapist. Testimonies of 4 male witnesses are required to prove rape of a female
- A woman’s testimony in court, allowed in property cases, carries half the weight of a man’s.
- A man can unilaterally divorce his wife; a wife needs her husband’s consent to divorce.
- A man can marry an infant girl and consummate the marriage when she is 9 years old.
- Criticizing Muhammad, Allah or any part of the Quran is punishable by death.
- Homosexuality is punishable up to death

Goals of the Muslim Brotherhood include executing their 100 year plan to advance Islamic theology and Sharia law worldwide, support a Jihadist mindset, inflame violence, destroying “The Great Satan” (United States), pass pro-Islamic legislation and use deception to mask the goals of Islam and Sharia law.

In conclusion, if you come to America in the aforementioned Category One, we welcome you with open arms. Welcome to America. If a man is knocking on your front door with a loaded weapon wanting to come in and kill you and your family; do you let him in? NO!! If someone has a tendency to embrace Sharia law over the U.S. Constitution, should they be allowed to run for or hold public office, build a Mosque or abuse, rape and mistreat girls and women? The Biden Surge is allowing illegal immigrants entering our country from the southern border and now Afghanistan.

Many of these issues are tracking in the Federal Judiciary under the façade of “protecting religious liberties.” The ultimate decision will be the U.S. Constitution versus Sharia Law. This is another reason we need strict constructionist and constitutional originalist on the bench and not those given to apply International law.

There is an old saying, when America retreats, chaos emerges, and it is true. Communist Chinese Party (China) supports the Taliban and they are salivating to capture Afghanistan natural resources like lithium (for batteries), Gold and Rare Earth used in the composition of rechargeable batteries.

I am afraid the Biden Doctrine in Afghanistan will lead to mass killings after the Taliban deadline of August 31st.

The Biden Surge on the southern border, the Afghan mass exodus coupled with Obama’s Syrian Surge into America advances the Muslim Brotherhood goals, weakens America and sets us on a course to become another Islamic State. Europe is forecasted to become an Islamic Continent in the next 30 years.

Ismael has been unleashed on Isaac in America. The Biden surge is un-American, pro Chinese Communist Party, dangerous, reckless, irresponsible, and cowardess toward the Taliban.

God Bless and Protect America.



Ronald A. Holtsford

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WHAT IS THE SULLIVAN CASE AND REFERENCE TO SOCIAL MEDIA?



Interestingly enough L.B. Sullivan was police commissioner in Montgomery, AL in 1960. An ad was displayed in the New York Times regarding the request for donations for the defense of Martin Luther King, Jr. The ad did not mention Sullivan specifically but was critical of the Montgomery Police Department. Sullivan felt that the incorrect statements in the Times ad regarding his department personnel reflected on him as commissioner. Under Alabama law, it was necessary that Sullivan object in writing to the New York Times, which he did. The Times did not retract the ad and Sullivan sued. Sullivan was awarded \$500,000.00 in Circuit Court and the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed. The case was heard by the United States Supreme Court.

In 1964, the United States Supreme Court reversed the holding of the Alabama Supreme Court in this First Amendment case regarding libel. At the time there were several cases against northern media outlets reporting on civil rights issues and it was the feeling of those in authority in the South that had been criticized that several of the criticisms were libelous. Alabama Governor John Patterson got into the fray with the Times stating how he was offended as Governor of Alabama and demanded a retraction. The Times retracted the ad based on Patterson’s demand but did not mention Sullivan. The Court felt that to have free and open reporting on events even if mistakes were made in reporting it was critical to move forward where public officials are concerned, summed up by; “the First Amendment protects the publication of all statements, even false ones, about the conduct of public officials except when statements are made with actual malice (with the knowledge that they are false) or in reckless disregard of their truth or falsity.”

Sullivan, like so many other monumental decisions has expanded over time regarding freedom of speech. A 1967 case further expanded this case to include public figures, not only to include public officials but now includes movie and television actors, businessmen, musicians and even people like Kim Kardashian whom I am yet to figure out how she is relevant to the world. A 1988 case, *Hustler Magazine, Inc. v. Falwell* involved an ad in *Hustler* magazine that

suggested Rev. Falwell to be an incestuous drunk. Though under *Sullivan* one might argue that the parody ad was in reckless disregard of truth, it was held by the Court that public figures are prohibited “from recovering damages for the tort of intentional infliction of emotional distress (IIED), if the emotional distress was caused by a caricature, parody, or satire of the public figure that a reasonable person would not have interpreted as factual.”

Twenty-eight years ago, then law professor Elena Kagan (now Supreme Court justice) suggested in a writing that *Sullivan* should be reconsidered. She suggested that both truthful statements of fact were supported as well as false statements. Conservative Justices Gorsuch and Thomas are now suggesting as well that Sullivan should be reconsidered. Gorsuch has pointed out that with the rise of social media and a decline of standard media outlets there has been a decline in fact checking. While *Sullivan’s* objective was an informed public debate now many people on social media have become something of a public figure. With that in mind, “fake news” and less fact checking has been on the rise, everyone believing their stories to be protected as being libelous. Justice Thomas submitted recently that the 2016 shooting in a Washington pizzeria was the result of a crazed conspiracy theory that had circulated online. He is concerned that people on social media now become public figures of sort and unlike real public figures who have the ability to defend themselves, others do not have the personal or public resources to defend them against libelous remarks.

It will be interesting to follow potential changes in *Sullivan*.

As always if you do not have an attorney, ask a trusted friend or family member or contact the Alabama State Bar, Lawyer Referral service.

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Daniel Sutter

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Why Is Inflation Costly?

Inflation exceeded 5 percent in June. Double-digit inflation burdened Americans in the 1970s. Although we treat inflation as bad, economists find its costs hard to pin down.

The three economic functions of money help us think about inflation’s costs. Money’s first role is a medium of exchange, meaning a good way to conduct transactions. With barter, if you have oranges and want potatoes, you must find someone with potatoes who wants oranges. The second role is a store of value, or a way to avoid your oranges spoiling before you buy potatoes. Finally, money is a unit of account, or a convenient way to express prices.

A pure inflation means proportional increases in all prices, including wages and salaries. Consequently, inflation should not make households poorer since incomes should go up about the same as expenses. Any stress on budgets should be temporary, due to some prices rising before wages.

Rising prices reduce the dollar’s purchasing power, impairing money as a store of value. Suppose you plan to use \$500 from a garage sale in August to buy Christmas presents. If the dollar loses half its value by Christmas, it is as if half your garage sale proceeds were stolen.

This is a cost, but a modest one for inflation of 5 or 10 percent. Many assets besides money provide stores of value and earn interest or capital gains to offset inflation, so people should limit how long they hold cash. Do not put your savings in a mattress during inflation.

Trying to hold as little cash as possible produces “shoe leather” costs, called this because in the 1970s depositing or withdrawing cash required trips to the bank. Prior to deregulation, banks were open limited hours. Electronic banking has dramatically reduced shoe leather costs.

Money still works as a medium of exchange with modest inflation because people can shift dollars into other assets after trading. Money stops working with extremely high levels of inflation, say thousands or millions of percent a year. This is called hyperinflation and is enormously costly; economists do not question the costs of hyperinflation.

Daniel Sutter is the Charles G. Koch Professor of Economics with the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University and host of Econversations on TrojanVision. The opinions expressed in this column are the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the views of Troy University.



Perry O. Hooper, Jr.

Republican State Executive Committee
Former State Representative

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Thirteen Heroes We Must Never Forget

As I watched 13 brave American heroes being brought home after being killed in Afghanistan, it was tragic and heartbreaking.

All but one were in their early to mid-twenties. They choose to defend the homeland while many of their classmates are playing beer pong, hanging out at the beach and enjoying life without regard to the dangerous world we live in. They gave their lives for freedom and are shining examples of what it really means to be an American. They and their fellow heroes who volunteer for military service are the best among us. Let me highlight five of them.

Maxton Soviak, 22 Navy – Soviak, a Navy hospital corpsman, hailed from Berlin Heights, Ohio, and graduated from Edison High School in Milan in 2017. His older sister posted to Instagram “I’ve never been one for politics and I’m not going to start now. What I will say is that my beautiful, intelligent, beat-to-the-sound of his own drum, annoying, charming baby brother was killed yesterday helping to save lives,” the sister wrote.

“He was a medic, there to help people, and now he is gone, and my family will never be the same. There is a large Maxton-sized hole that will never be filled,”

Kareem Nikoui, 20, Marine – He was from Norco, California. Nikoui’s father told *The Daily Beast* his son “loved what he was doing” and “always wanted to be a Marine. He really loved that [Marine Corps] family. He was devoted – he was going to make a career out of this, and he wanted to go. No hesitation for him to be called to duty,” his dad said.

David Lee Espinoza, 20, Marines – He was from Laredo, Texas and graduated from Lyndon Johnson high school. Representative Henry Cuellar (D-Texas) wrote this on Twitter, “Mr. Espinoza, a Laredo Marine killed in Afghanistan, embodied the values of America: grit, dedication, service, and valor. When he joined the military after high school, he did so with the intention of protecting our nation and demonstrating his selfless acts of service”

Rylee McCollum, 20, Marines – McCollum, from Bondurant, Wyoming, was on his first deployment, had just gotten married, and was three weeks away from being a dad when he was killed in the blast, according to the *Casper Star Tribune*. “He wanted to be a Marine his whole life and carried around his rifle in his diapers

and cowboy boots,” McCollum’s sister Roice McCollum told the outlet.

“He was determined to be in infantry ... Rylee wanted to be a history teacher and a wrestling coach when he finished serving his country. He’s a tough, kind, loving kid who made an impact on everyone he met. His joke and wit brought so much joy,” she spoke.

Nicole Gee, 23, Marine – In 2016, Sgt. Nicole Gee graduated from Oakmont High School. Her husband, fellow Marine Jarod Gee, is also a graduate of Oakmont, *The Sacramento Bee* reports.

Just days before her death, Gee posted a photo on Instagram of herself in uniform while holding a baby in Afghanistan with the caption, “I love my job.”

All thirteen have similar stories. They all loved this great country. They all knew that they may have to make the supreme sacrifice, but they signed up anyway. My dad certainly knew when he enlisted to be a Marine. We must never forget these heroes, and the hundreds of thousands that have gone before them.

*We must be eternally grateful for their sacrifice,
or all is lost for our country.*



Photo Credit: Army Master Sgt. Alejandro Licea

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John Sophocleus

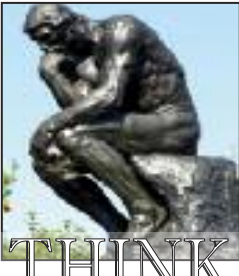
Submitted for your (dis)approval. Our next chapter of ‘Malice in Hubbardland’ addresses ‘I like Mike’ minions pressing the Lee County delegation to impose zoning on all remaining Beats (like recently duped Beat 13) instead of each beat voting. ‘Flyover country’ must be incorporated into their “Lee City” vision (think UN Agenda 21) Master Plan these statists fought so long and hard to accomplish these past decades. Conveniently, this already written Lee County Master Plan is their foundation for zoning and consolidation.

Fearing property rights (specifically trespass) would not be respected, citizens of Beat 13 voted to adopt zoning rules to protect themselves from another quarry. When the Planning Commission openly admitted inability to stop the quarry, County Commissioner LaGrand [Dist. 5] adamantly declared opposition to the quarry. With Beat 13 successfully misled into adopting zoning, Chairman Flannagan urged appointed (not elected) commissioners to contact the County Delegation and press State legislators to impose zoning power on all beats. Flannagan said (with no press and few non-govt. employed citizens present) he’d spoken to Sen. Randy Price who was in support; asserting a desire for the people’s will to be done. If truly advocating the people’s will, let citizens of each Beat vote on zoning -- just as Beat 13 voted.

Without Zoning/Beat maps for the remaining unincorporated areas provided, those interested in the fate of their property are once again poorly informed. Why do commissioners want citizens uninformed as they press the delegation for more power? As with blocking citizen comment from taxpayer funded audio/video feed and put into the record on Lee County Commission meetings, citizens are similarly impeded from observing zoning commission meetings.

One citizen expressed concern w.r.t. vagueness of zoning rules and lack of clearly defined standards the Zoning Review Board uses. One Planning Commissioner assured the questioner appeal processes would protect property owners. If one is brave enough to challenge zoning decisions and loses, (s)he pays all legal fees instead of only court cost as is customary. This discourages citizens exercising their civil rights to grieve county wrongdoings. Why doesn’t the county pay property owner legal fees when owners win? – the owner has already paid taxes for county attorneys. Some may not want to delegate their property use rights to a Board whose rules are vague and confers huge discretion to yet another layer of bureaucrats. Recent twilight zoning inconsistencies are indeed ripe for suits against the county.

Zoning promises to be expensive directly and indirectly. Another county administrator is appointed and paid to enforce restrictions. The Zoning Review Board is comprised of a Planning Director, Public Works Director, two experts (planner, architect, civil engineer and one public member). Currently County Commissioners decide these issues without the ‘twilight buffering’ of these politburo members/bureaucrats. Citizens can attend second and last Monday meetings with a modicum of accountability because each county commissioner’s vote is recorded and in the minutes. Commissioners making poor decisions may be voted out. With yet another layer of bureaucracy, there’s less transparency.



THINK

Property owners have been well blocked from | determining their own fate as informed citizens. The most corrupt commissioner (on the prior Lee County planning commission) has long championed this UN Agenda 21 style Master Plan. Quarry fears paved an easy (however well-intentioned) path to induce Beat 13 citizens to embrace/adopt this power grab to get ‘the camel’s nose under the tent’ and restart this planning apparatus. Imagine if we had less corrupt/more thinking politicians which required Lee County quarries post a bond and sufficient insurance to pay for damaged homes, destroyed aquifers, sinkholes, etc. due to their economic activities/trespasses. The libertarian in me champions individuals doing as they wish on/with their property until they damage others/generate significant negative externalities to others.

All this aligns with increased Hubbardland efforts to impede citizen input, failing to provide documents requested (like legal bills supposedly to block a quarry) and establishing more bureaucratic layers between commissioners and those they serve. One of the most gut-wrenching moments occurred when a citizen comment/question was asked by Morris Lewis, fearing the proposed property ordinance would prevent his business of buying/selling trucks. Mr. Lewis was assured he was protected by ‘grandfathering.’ County commissioners did not explain if his business requires repairs/maintenance/restoration in excess of 50% of the govt. determined valuation, it will no longer be ‘grandfathered.’

For those who’ve witnessed a corrupt probate judge assign commissioners ‘to do their bidding’ (again another safety layer) and provide valuations the judge desires... that is if the commissioner wants to do more govt. appraisals in the future - there’s little to no comfort. Some who found it worth the effort and could afford the time and resources to take govt. valuations to circuit court received about three times what the commissioners submitted; still well below ‘replacement/reproduction’ (18-1a-et seq.) documentation submitted to the court by non-govt. appraisers. Even more illustrative, some property owners were offered a pittance to purchase their ‘uneconomic remnants’ to be treated poorly for refusing the government’s beneficence; only to find upon receipt of the first tax assessment (or ‘love letter’ as called by our revenue commissioner) on their ‘uneconomic remnant’ it was valued 15 times the amount offered when the govt. wanted to acquire it.

It may seem foolish to demand competence and quarry bonding in a county with a commission abdicating oversight roles, doesn’t follow/enforce existing land management/subdivision rules and access management policies, already failed to bond employees required by law, thwart efforts to provide law enforcement resources to address wrongful dumping in county dumpsters along with overloaded trucks/verify large trucks are properly tagged/insured, submit fraudulent traffic studies to return bonds to crony developers, etc... I know some care if the blue or red parasite sucks them dry, a quarry or a commissioner steals their property rights. Those who remain in ‘Lee City’ will be well served to have a liquid stash of monies substantial enough to quickly move elsewhere when a politburo member comes knocking on their door.



John M. Taylor

“The Informed Southerner”

Astute Observations of Mr. Charles Dickens

Western civilization has produced an enormous number of brilliant individuals. English writer Charles John Huffam Dickens would definitely be in the top echelon. Not only was Dickens a great writer, he was compassionate about those less fortunate, an opponent of slavery, and a frequent critic of the so-called “elites.” Dickens possessed a remarkable degree of social and political acuity.

Dickens was born in 1812 in Landport, Hampshire, England, and died in 1870 in Higham, Kent, England. During his life he wrote numerous classics, e.g., *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations*, *the Pickwick Papers*, *David Copperfield*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *A Christmas Carol*, etc. Common themes included the portrayal of the abysmal circumstances of the poor (often children) and the presence of memorable characters that were often eccentric and/or repugnant. Indeed, such themes gave rise to a writing style called “Dickensian.”

Dickens lived through tumultuous and transitory times. For example, The War for Southern Independence resonated throughout the world and Great Britain felt a direct impact through disrupted trade markets and sometimes-tattered relationships with her “American Cousins.” Generally speaking, the English leaned toward the South; however, there were some who supported the North and others who preferred neutrality.

Dickens was aware of the many schisms that had arisen between the agrarian South and the increasingly industrialized North. As with virtually every conflict in history, he saw money as the pivotal issue. Dickens engaged English government economist John Stuart Mill about this very subject.

Mill was closely connected to classical liberalism (similar to Jeffersonianism, the prevalent philosophy in the American South); however, he was somewhat of an apologist for those who ruled individuals supposedly incapable of ruling themselves, i.e., in Mills’ view, a “barbaric” people needed rulers and empires were just fine. As a philosopher, aristocrat, Member of Parliament, and political economist, Mill was not lacking in credentials but he did lack insight into the American quarrel. The history of discord between Mill and Dickens spilled over into disagreements about the American conflict.

Noting the predictions of Jefferson and Washington about the growth of government, Dickens understood the conflict was not over slavery, stating, “The struggle between North and South has been of long duration. The South having the lead in the federation had fought some hard political battles to retain it...” One of these contentious issues dated back to the late 1700s. The U.S.

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Constitution states taxes “shall be uniform throughout the United States” – Dickens understood the election of Lincoln directly threatened this relationship. [The railroad, steel/iron industries, and banks of that era were essentially equivalent to the Military Industrial Complex, the Pharmaceutical Complex, Corporate Media, and banks of our era that dictate policies, laws, and “allowable” information.] Dickens realized the economic warfare manifest in placing high tariffs on agricultural economies would be a disaster and noted, “the quarrel between North and South is, as it stands, solely a fiscal quarrel.”

Ignoring the multitude of regional disagreements, Mill countered by claiming slavery was the one and only cause of conflict. Mill claimed the South wanted to extend and protect slavery and resurrect the slave trade (the Confederate Constitution specifically outlawed the international slave trade). He also claimed the tariff did not motivate secession yet the completely sectional Republican Party let it be known that a high tariff was their primary objective.

Perhaps Mill chose not to look at issues that did not fit his narrative. For example, on October 11, 1860, the *Charleston Mercury* stated the Republicans would “plunder the South for the benefit of the North, by a new protective tariff.” Two days before the election, the same publication noted, “The real causes of dissatisfaction in the South with the North, are in the unjust taxation and expenditure of the taxes by the Government of the United States...” Also, the January 21, 1861, *New Orleans Daily Crescent* observed, “They [the South] know that it is their import trade that draws from people’s pockets sixty or seventy millions of dollars per annum, in the shape of duties, to be expended mainly in the North...”

During his 1830s’ American visit, Alexis de Tocqueville noted the North was a much more bigoted region than the South. Yet, a generation or so later, some claim these same Northerners miraculously invaded the South to free slaves. Has a bigger lie ever been told?

Mill claimed secession may be an admirable endeavor but, in this case, it did not apply because the South had no real grievance. Conversely, Dickens clearly saw the underlying issue—the only issue as Lincoln plainly stated on March 4, 1861, that would prompt an invasion--“to collect duties and imposts.”

Not only was Dickens a great writer, he was a critical thinker with an astute ability to “look under the hood” and identify root causes.

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PRISON REFORM

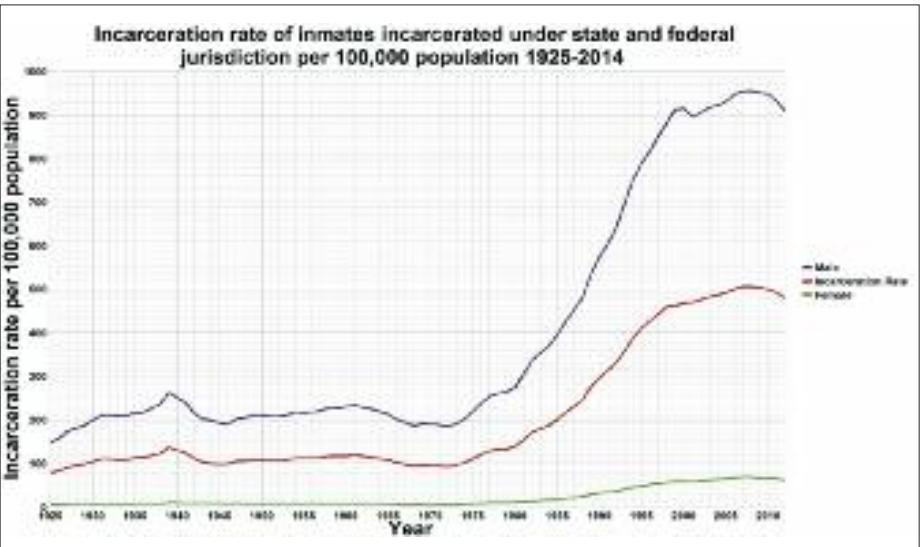


John Martin

We can be thankful that Governor Kay Ivey’s insane proposal to build and then rent three new mega-prisons has so far bitten the dust—as it should have. But “Poison Ivey” has not yet given up. And she has not even thought about any rational solutions to end our prison overcrowding problem.

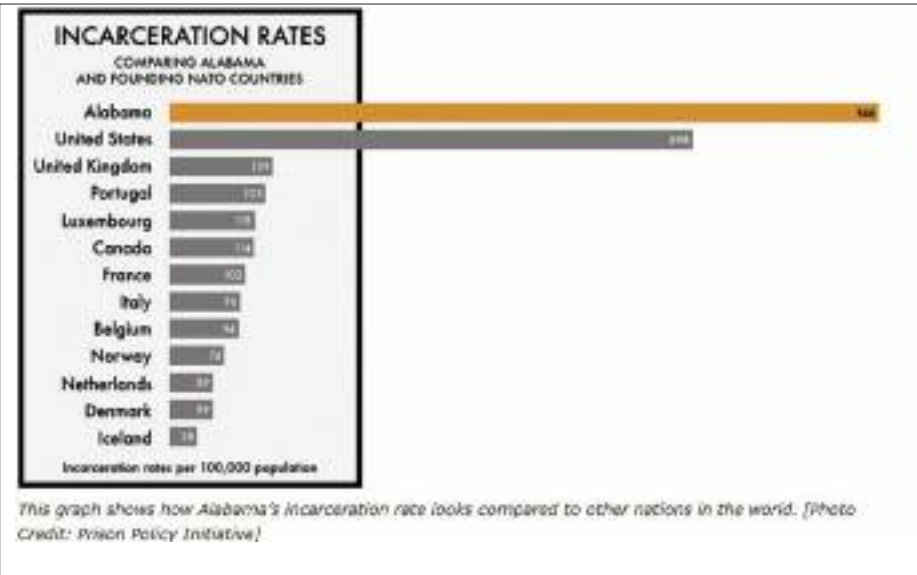
Building and filling up more gulags is a “solution” that is worse than no action at all—an “insidious form of mass punishment based upon profit and expediency.” It will only exacerbate our already outrageous incarceration rate—the very highest in the civilized world. If the prison industrial complex continues much longer, we could decay into an unspeakable slave state that would make the antebellum plantations seem like Sunday picnics.

According to *The Atlantic*, “America spends \$80 billion a year incarcerating 2.4 million people.” Vicky Peláez said that 97% of 125,000 federal inmates and 2/3rds of a million state inmates had been convicted of non-violent offenses, and that more than half of 623,000 county and municipal inmates are innocent of their charges, with most of them still awaiting trial.



How did it all start? Let’s begin with Attorney General Jeff Sessions—“a man who wouldn’t recognize the Constitution if it smacked him in the face.” During his tenure, even before he became a senator, he pulled out many of the constitutional stops to prevent innocent people from being arrested and imprisoned for lengthy periods for minor infractions, including what rational people recognize as victimless crimes. That includes poor people unable to pay fines and penalties imposed by the state. And of course, he was a staunch advocate of the “war” against drugs.

In past decades before about 1970, prisons were used to contain dangerous criminals. Today, they have become mass punishment to generate profits from unfortunate people for violating minor regulations and mandates.



John Whitehead says: “Unfortunately, the criminal justice system has been operating as a for-profit enterprise for years now, covertly padding its pockets through penalty-riddled programs aimed at maximizing revenue rather than ensuring public safety. All of those seemingly hard-working police officers and code-enforcement officers and truancy officers and traffic cops handing out ticket after ticket after ticket: they’re not working to make your communities safer—they’ve got quotas to fill.”

And that’s not all. “In the late 1980s, Missouri became one of the first states to let private companies purchase the probation systems of local governments. In these arrangements, municipalities impose debt on individuals through criminal proceedings and then sell this debt to private businesses, which pad the debt with fees and interest.” Our state and local governments have essentially become predatory lenders. That is why Kay Ivey’s proposal for profitable prisons is so hideous.

So what should we do to stop this tragedy? Let’s start with ending the so-called “war” on drugs. Like prohibition in the 1920’s and early ‘30’s, it has been a catastrophic tragedy. And unlike prohibition, which lasted only about 13 years, the drug war has been underway since the early 1970’s and is still ongoing.

Why are the drug cartels so powerful and dangerous? It’s not because of lax drug enforcement; it’s just the opposite—excessive enforcement. The big drug lords can bribe themselves out of trouble by ratting on their smaller competitors, and in the process, protect their monopolies, drive up prices, and enhance their profits.

Why don’t we just decriminalize all drugs, even the dangerous ones? That sounds insane at first, but it is probably the only way to save our civilization from collapsing into the ultimate slave state.

... continued next month in the October issue



By **Kyle’ D. McKinney**
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(334) 272-7630 – Fax



**Alabama Public Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration
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Montgomery, Alabama 36116**

my Social Security’s Representative Payee Portal



Millions of Americans who get monthly Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments need help managing their money, and may need a representative payee. A representative payee is a person or an organization we appoint to receive and manage a person’s benefits.

Representative payees must know the beneficiary’s needs to decide the best use of benefits for their care and well-being. To help with this responsibility, **representative payees can now receive, save, email, and print a benefit verification letter for a person they represent** using their own **my Social Security** account, at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

Many representative payees are responsible for completing an annual form to account for the benefit payments they receive and manage. Representative payees can fill out the form and return it to Social Security by mail, or conveniently file it online at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/rep-payee.html.

Please visit www.ssa.gov/payee if you have questions about representative payees.

Do You Know These Social Security Terms?

Some of the terms and acronyms people use when they talk about Social Security can be a little confusing. We’re here to help you understand.

We strive to explain your benefits using easy-to-understand, plain language. The Plain Writing Act of 2010 requires federal agencies to communicate information clearly in a way “the public can understand and use.” This can be particularly challenging when talking about complicated programs like Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicare. If there’s a technical term or acronym that you don’t know, you can find the meaning in our online glossary at www.ssa.gov/agency/glossary.

Here are a few examples. If you’re considering retirement, you may want to know your FRA (full retirement age) and your PIA (primary insurance amount). These terms determine your benefit amount based on when you when you start getting requirement benefits. The PIA is the amount payable for a retired worker who starts his or her benefits at full retirement age. If you start your retirement benefits at your FRA, you’ll receive the full PIA.

Most years, your benefit amount will get a COLA (Cost-of-Living Adjustment), which usually means extra money in your monthly benefit.

What about DRCs (delayed retirement credits)? DRCs are the gradual increases to your PIA that occur the longer you delay taking retirement benefits after your full retirement age. Every month you delay taking benefits, up to age 70, your monthly benefit will increase.

If one of these terms or acronyms comes up in conversation, you can be the one to help clarify the meaning, using our online glossary. Learning the terminology can deepen your understanding of how Social Security programs work for you.



Social Security Services for the Hispanic Community

At Social Security, we strive to deliver great customer service and easy-to-access information about our programs. Our Spanish-language website, <http://www.ssa.gov/espanol>, provides information for those whose primary language is Spanish. There, your family and friends can learn about how to get a Social Security card, plan for retirement, apply for benefits, manage their benefits, and much more.



We also provide many publications in Spanish at www.ssa.gov/espanol/publicaciones/ on popular topics such as:

- Retirement, Disability, and Survivors benefits.
- Medicare.
- Supplemental Security Income.

Spanish-speaking customers who need to speak with a representative can call us at 1-800-772-1213. Please share these resources with friends and family who may need them.

Social Security BENEFITS You

We take pride in having provided vital benefits and services to this great nation for 86 years. America has a diverse population with a variety of needs. To meet those diverse needs, we’ve created web pages that speak directly to groups of people who may need information about our programs and services. These pages are easy to share with friends and family on social media. Here are just a few resources that might help you or someone you love:



- We proudly serve wounded warriors and veterans, who made sacrifices to preserve the freedoms Americans treasure. Many veterans do not know they might be eligible for disability benefits from Social Security. Please share this page with them to make sure they get the benefits they deserve: www.ssa.gov/people/veterans.
- Social Security plays an important role in providing economic security for women. Nearly 55 percent of the people receiving Social Security benefits are women. A woman who is 65 years old today can expect to live, on average, until about 87. A 65-year-old man can expect to live, on average, until about 84. With longer life expectancies than men, women tend to live more years in retirement and have a greater risk of exhausting their sources of income.

Women often have lower lifetime earnings than men, which usually means lower benefits. Women need to plan early and wisely for retirement. We’re here to help with valuable information. Please share this page with someone who needs this information and may need help planning for their golden years: www.ssa.gov/people/women.

- Do you know someone who is just starting their career? Now is the best time for them to start preparing for retirement. Social Security benefit payments provide only a portion of retirement income. Those starting their careers should begin saving early to have adequate income in retirement. Please share this page with a young worker you know: www.ssa.gov/people/earlycareer.

These are just a few of the web pages tailored to specific groups’ needs. You can check out our People Like Me home page at www.ssa.gov/people to see all of them.



Please help inform others by sharing these messages with family and friends.

Kylle’ McKinney
SSA Public Affairs Specialist
kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov



Southern Cuisine

Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef
*Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D., St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County*



September is the bridge between summer and the start of fall, which is September 22. I can remember some hot Septembers. This is the time when the gardens around Alabama are at their peak in producing the fruits and vegetables that we had planted earlier in the year. The gardeners have been watering, weeding and trying to keep the deer from eating everything down to sticks in the ground. I say this with the voice of experience. All of my okra looked like I planted small sections of a bamboo fishing rod.

If the harvest is good we will have enough to freeze, can or dry to carry us over to the next season. If we have too much of one crop there will always be a neighbor that has too much of a harvest of another crop that you are lacking in and trading time starts. By the end of the growing season you can hope that you have enough and a variety of produce to spare you from having to buy much during the winter.

So my chest freezer and my three refrigerators are full of fruit and vegetables. There are other ways I save on groceries over the year. You would not like to go grocery shopping with me, especially if you are in a hurry. I usually go up and down every aisle and I do it in a certain order. First up and down the dry goods. I keep an eye out for sale items, usually a yellow tag on the shelf. That takes care of the non-refrigerated items, almost half of the store. Next is the produce. If I had a good growing season and so did my neighbors, I do not have to spend much time there. From there I circle around the outer sections of the store. Dairy items next and then meats. The meat section is where I get some good deals. Some cuts or type of meat do not sell quickly so the stores have some BOGO sales. I like them. My favorite cut of meat that I buy a lot of when they are on sale are pork tenderloins. There are so many ways to cook them and they good with any fruit or vegetable you want to either stuff inside the tenderloin of have as a side. Hence my first recipe is for a stuffed tenderloin. When I am having a tenderloin for a meal, I cook two or three extras. I always have a stuffed tenderloin in the freezer. They freeze well and easy to reheat for a quick meal. I change the sauce and the sides depending on what mood I'm in and what I have in the pantry and freezer. Of the thirteen items in the ingredients list I had to buy two, the mushrooms and the spinach. I have made this dish with frozen spinach but I increase the amount of kale and use less spinach. It is up to your preference.

Spinach and Prosciutto Stuffed Pork Tenderloin



INGREDIENTS:
2 Tbsp olive oil
10 white mushrooms, minced
1 shallot, minced
½ tsp dried thyme
½ tsp garlic powder
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
¼ tsp salt
1/4 cup chopped kale
1 tsp Dijon mustard
1 pkg fresh baby spinach (@ 2 cups)

1 pork tenderloin (two lbs) butterflied and pounded flat
6 slices Swiss cheese
4 slices prosciutto

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F.
2. Sauté onion in olive oil until translucent and softened.
3. Add spinach and cook until tender. Set aside in strainer to drain.
4. Make a 1/4-inch deep slice lengthwise into the tenderloin.
5. Continue making lengthwise slices so you are unrolling the tenderloin.
6. Cover with parchment paper and hit the tenderloin until it is even in thickness. Use the flat bottom of a small fry pan.
7. Layer on the Swiss cheese slices.
8. Top with the drained spinach mixture.
9. Place the prosciutto slices next.
10. Roll the tenderloin lengthwise.
11. Tie with kitchen string or wrap in parchment paper.
12. Roast until internal temperature reaches 160; about 35 minutes

I am not doing three unrelated recipes here. I decided to do a complete meal. The last time I did this was for a Valentine's Dinner. It is not any special meal, just that I like Brussels Sprout and had a large supply of frozen and fresh Brussels Sprout. And yes I do believe it is called Brussels Sprout. And I like Ina Garten recipes and her cooking show, **Cook Like A Pro**.

The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook.

Julia Child

Ina Garten Brussels Sprouts

INGREDIENTS:

Good olive oil
¼ lb applewood smoked bacon, 1-inch diced
1 cup chopped yellow onion
½ cup sliced shallots (halved lengthwise, sliced in half-rounds)
12 oz Brussels sprouts, trimmed and quartered through the core
Kosher salt & freshly ground black pepper
1 Tbsp unsalted butter
1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar (not syrupy)

Yield: 4 to 5 servings

METHOD:

1. Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in large (12-in) saute pan over medium heat.
2. Add the bacon and cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 to 7 minutes, until browned and crisp.
3. With a slotted spoon, transfer the bacon to a plate lined with a paper towel and set aside.
4. Add the onion and shallots to the pan and saute for 5 minutes, until lightly browned.
5. Add the Brussels Sprouts (including any loose leaves), 2 teaspoons salt, and 1 teaspoon pepper, toss well, and cover.
6. Cook for at least 5 minutes .
7. Add the butter and cook uncovered for 5 more minutes, until the sprouts are tender.
8. Stir in cooked bacon and balsamic vinegar and stir to deglaze the pan.
9. Sprinkle lightly with salt and serve

The third recipe for my dinner has an ingredient that is not nearly as popular as it was before the 1940s.

The Washington Post, in a 1907 editorial said, "There is no other pie to take its place. Custard pie is good and so is apple pie, but neither has the uplifting power and the soothing gratifying flavor possessed by mince pie when served hot, with a crisp brown crust."

It was the indispensable comfort food dispatched to American expeditionary forces in World War I to reinforce their morale with the taste of home. As an icon of the American way, apple pie is a johnny-come-lately, a usurper, a pale pretender to its pastry throne. The phrase, as American as apple pie, is of 20th-century origin and didn't attain wide currency until the 1940s.

I found this story about mincemeat on a web site; www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/mince-pie-the-real-american-pie. It is very well written and interesting history. And this is the ingredient for my final recipe.

Warm Sticky Toffee Pudding & Sauce

INGREDIENTS:

¼ cup butter, softened
¾ cup packed brown sugar
1 large egg
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup, plus 1 Tbsp all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
2 ⅓ cups prepared mincemeat
¾ cup chopped walnuts, toasted



Toffee Sauce:

½ cup butter, cubed
1 cup packed brown sugar
½ cup heavy whipping cream

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 325°. Grease a 9-in. square baking pan.
2. In a large bowl, cream butter and brown sugar until blended. Beat in egg and vanilla.
3. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; gradually beat into creamed mixture.
4. Stir in mincemeat and walnuts.
5. Transfer batter to prepared pan. Bake 45-50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
6. Cool slightly in pan on a wire rack.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan: melt butter over medium heat; stir in brown sugar and cream; bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve sugar; reduce heat; simmer about 5 minutes or until slightly thickened, stirring constantly; remove from heat; serve with warm cake.

Note: To toast nuts, bake in a shallow pan in a 350° oven for 5-10 minutes or cook in a skillet over low heat until lightly browned, stirring occasionally.



Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for September

First of all I must make a correction: in the August 2021 article of the photo illustrating the plant of the month, Cleome or common name "spider plant". The photo showed an indoor plant, which is a spider plant, but not the outdoor one "cleome." [Editor: This was a *Gazette* error, not the author. We apologize to all.]

With the Covid virus, it seems we have the same song but a different verse with masks, vaccines, and a lot of isolation. All the more important for all of us to become gardeners even if we are at most amateurs. I think just getting out of the house and out in the fresh air is not only a boost to one's general mood, but the sunlight can be helpful with boosting our immune systems. I went on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) the other day to find gardening segments, which are really good. Many have step by step processes, for example, in building and maintaining raised beds, pruning trees and shrubs, starting a vegetable garden, propagating trees by air layering techniques, and many other subjects.

September will find us with many chores to complete if we desire our flower gardens to be spectacular in the late winter and spring. First of all, we must keep the area free of weeds, so plunge right in with trowel in hand. I make sure that the ground is moist so that most weeds can be yanked out of the ground. If you notice any grass that has crept into the beds, take immediate action and get rid of this. Grass invasion can spell a disaster for a flowerbed. Many times I have been able to spray Round-Up to this task. If there are too many flowers near the grass, take a small watercolor paint brush and apply the herbicide that was – works like a charm.

Another hint, when working in your beds this time of year, is to hold off on dead-heading annuals that would otherwise self-seed or reseed such as marigolds. However, I usually set a time, late July or early August, to dead head and prune flowers such as zinnias and Dragon Wing begonias since these get top heavy, leggy, and will just collapse in September. Pruning will allow the plant to have a spurt of new growth and bloom all during the fall until frost.

Dividing bulbs can be a chore and this is an ideal time to dig up daylilies, iris, gladiolas, hostas, and canna lilies. Separating these bulbs, and replanting them will be well worth the trouble come spring when the blooms will be bigger and better. Plus, remember your gardening friends when you have an abundance of bulbs and corms.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – Nicotiana (Solanceae)

Nicotiana is also known as flowering tobacco and is a tender perennial, which does not survive a frost. Most varieties grow to around 2-3 inches in height and the blooms are fragrant. It need regular watering, must have full or partial sun and is grown in all zones. But, beware, all parts of this plant are poisonous if ingested.

**Happy Labor Day
and Good Gardening!**



Photo by:
www.gardensillustrated.com

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Tears & LAUGHTER:
We are woke, but are we awake?

It depends on how old you are, but most people in the United States can tell time by the attacks that took place on September 11, 2001. There was before, and then there was after.

Everybody remembers where they were. I was home. The kids were little, they were playing...too young to fully comprehend what was happening.

It was before cell phones were common and my husband had called home from work asking what was happening. I was standing in front of the television. I had been glued to the screen all morning. I was telling him what I could based on what I was hearing and seeing. I was on the phone with him when the first tower fell, and while watching it happen, I told him, "Hold-on, this can't be right." My mind could not accept what my eyes were seeing.

Prior to September 11, 2001...many Americans had never experienced anything that had been surreal. People watching on television several states away did not experience it on the same level as residents in Manhattan, but all Americans were affected because America – our America – had been attacked. Thousands of American lives had been lost.

People were scared, nobody felt secure. We had no assurance there wouldn't be other attacks. But underneath all of the tragedy and sadness, above all of the fear, was an overwhelming sense of unity. We were Americans. Our flag served as a cover of comfort and oneness.

President Bush spoke shortly after the attacks. He told the nation, he told the world, that the acts of mass murder were intended to frighten the United States into chaos and retreat, but they had failed...that our country was strong.

President Biden needs to come out now – twenty years later – and assure confidence that our nation is still strong. The way Afghanistan fell so quickly to Taliban rule when American troops were pulled is alarming. It was poorly planned and executed. The events on the ground there prove it. The world has helplessly watched it unfold over the last few days. Scenes from the Kabul airport will stay with us...just like the snapshots in our minds from September 11.

Getting people out of Afghanistan safely should have happened on the front end of this withdrawal, it should have been factored into the plan and the fact that it wasn't makes the Biden administration look weak and unprepared. There are thousands of Americans and American allies stranded to fend for themselves in a war zone.

If the White House comes across as weak, the entire country looks weak. And it does look weak. Every speaker sent out in ill-fitted suits from the State Department seems to unveil another layer of weakness and unpreparedness. Our Generals wear uniforms that hang like they were tailored for someone else. It is as if the one department doesn't communicate with the other. They do not share the same message. What is happening, and what they are saying is happening, do not match. Anybody watching and listening can see.

It makes America look vulnerable. It puts the nation at risk. And it was possibly preventable.

At first glance, the Taliban doesn't seem to be a very inclusive group. I don't think they are woke. I don't think they give a damn about pronouns. They don't obey mandates.

As a nation, many of our recent focuses have had little relevance and hold no meaningful value. Leadership matters, and having powerful strength is important. We, the unified people, may be wise to remember that we help steer both.

Amanda Walker is a contributor with AL.com, The Selma Times Journal, Thomasville Times, West Alabama Watchman, and Alabama Gazette. Contact her at Walkerworld77@msn.com or at https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist.



Ms.Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“There is Hope”

If there's one thing that fateful day twenty years ago has taught us, it's that life is precious.

Indeed, the 9/11 tragedy reminds us of what is truly important. Sad, but true...evil is out there.

However, this tragedy that could have torn our country apart, instead has united us. It has given a message of hope...hope for the present and hope for the future.

Yes! There is hope. There is hope for the present because the stage, I believe, has already been set for a new spirit in our nation. We desperately need a spiritual renewal in this country, and God has told us in His Word time after time that we need to repent of our sins and return to Him, and He will bless us in a new way. There also is hope for the future because of God's promises. As a Christian, I have hope and peace, not just for this life, but for heaven and the life to come. That is the hope for all of us who put our faith in God. I pray that you will have this hope and peace in your heart.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27

My prayer today is that we will feel the loving arms of God wrapped around us and that as we trust in Him we will know in our hearts that He will never forsake us.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Many Blessings & God Bless America!

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Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Home Town Community News

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

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Joe Boyd (82nd) | 18 Eddie Spivey |
| 2 John Hannon | 19 Beth Cline |
| 3 Dian Majors | Bobby Hudson |
| Leslie Riley | 20 Lynn Davis |
| 4 Jimmy Dick | Carol Hudson |
| Gary French | 21 Marlee Day Smith (12th) |
| Tim Riley | Kristen Taylor |
| Britney Williams | Sarah Kate Taylor |
| 5 Joyce Moore (81st) | 22 Tom Garlington |
| 6 Ethleen Bazzell (82nd) | David Webb |
| Bonnie Edwards | 23 Era Hall |
| Diana Elliott | Kirksey Jones |
| C. J. Faulk (86th) | 24 Barbara Berg |
| 7 Tanner Grant | Ava Catherine Crowe (13th) |
| Richard Kirksey | Lynda Maddox |
| Ruby Law (68th) | Catherine Preston |
| 8 Adam Broadway | Chrystal Rahn |
| 9 Kendra Devon Lamar | R. J. Seevers |
| 10 Terry Dotherow | 25 Brenda Abrams |
| 11 Traci Weafer | Linda Abrams |
| 12 Catherine Jane Grubbs (15th) | Rocene Fowler |
| Brian Hudson | Betty Gafford |
| 13 Donna Mulcahy | Sue Meredith |
| Debbie Partridge (64th) | Baxter Moseley (26th) |
| 14 Elaine Webb | 26 Barbara Mitchell |
| Amanda Whitfield (37th) | 27 Roy Stephens (92nd) |
| 15 Shannon Flores (49th) | 29 Elvin Stanton |
| 16 Phyllis McCalman | 30 Scott Borders (59th) |
| 17 Mike (Pete) Moore | Lydia Brown |
| Mandy Stringer (18th) | Kim Butler |
| Don Dawkins | Susan Feaga |
| Dale Jones | Hunter O'Neal (17th) |
| Jace McClelland (8th) | Mike Smith |
| Betty Russell | |



Sarah Kate's first day of school in 2021.
Please remember to watch out for school children and buses!

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Joe & Jean Douglas | 18 James & Sarah Glass (10th) |
| 3 Howard & Martha Stripling | 20 Jason & Stephanie Selvage (17th) |
| 4 Don & Barbara White | 21 Tony & Janie Drake |
| 6 Thomas & Louise Light | 22 James & Sherry Tucker |
| 7 Gary & Lyda Crowe | 24 Larry & Linda Browder |
| Ralph & Brenda Davis | Jimmy & Linda Perdue (51st) |
| Steve & Paige Stringer | 25 Chuck & Betty Holmes (38th) |
| 10 Mike & Linda Reynolds | 26 Jose' & Susan Guevara |
| 14 Terry & Tammy Boyd (3rd) | 28 Morgan & Ashley James |
| 16 Skip & Connie Mainor (8th) | Chris & Kelley Grantham |
| 17 Andy & Lori Meadows | |



Takacs
Bugg
Wedding

Ann Elizabeth Takacs of Pike Road, Ala., and Robert Brandon Bugg of Opelika, Ala. were married on Saturday, July 17, 2021, in a beautiful ceremony at Woodland United Methodist Church in Pike Road.

Reverend Nick Hughes performed the ceremony, which was his first at Woodland.

Matron of Honor Sarah Glass and Best Man was Richard



Cross. A reception was held at Arrowhead Country Club.

Ann is the daughter of Richard and Jacquelyn Takacs. Robb is the

son of Alan and Kathy Bugg.

Their photographers were Chris and Joanna Call of Call Photography in Auburn, Ala. Cake Designs in Montgomery made the delicious, beautiful cakes. Melissa Kendall was the floral designer.

After a honeymoon at Disney World, he couple will reside in Opelika, Ala.



Sue Boyd Drake, of Miami Lakes, FL, was 100 on August 5, 2021.

Sue is the aunt of Patricia Killough. She was born in Sprague, AL, and attended Montgomery County High School in Ramer. Sue lived in Miami with her late husband, Bob, and they raised their sons, Rob and Ken, in South Florida. A family celebration will be held at a later date due to Covid concerns. Sue did enjoy receiving cards and gifts from her Alabama relatives in the meantime.



Raymond Cohen Celebrates 90!

On August 2, 2021, Raymond Cohen turned 90 years old. He celebrated this milestone with family on Saturday, July 31, with dinner at the Pub. His cake from Liger's Bakery was decorated with a record as a reminder of his days as owner of the "Record Shop." Established in 1957 in Normandale, in 1977, it moved to the Eastern Boulevard where it became Cohens Electronics and Appliances, Inc.

Raymond with his sons (L-R) Michael, David and Joel.



Hughes Baby Shower

A baby shower was held on Sunday, August 1, in the fellowship hall of Woodland United Methodist Church in honor of their Pastor Nick Hughes and his wife, Rebecca. They are expecting their first child, a girl, in September.

Nick and Rebecca celebrated their first wedding anniversary on July 25, 2021, with a trip to the mountains.



Carolyn Marie Glasscock 6/16/39 - 8/21/21

Carolyn was born in Coos Bay, Oregon, and resided in Montgomery for 50 years. Carolyn is survived by her children Marie Culpepper (Richard), Chuck Glasscock Sr. (Keisha), Corinna Davis (Ronald), and Tammy Green (Kenny). She was blessed with 8 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings, Rick Shoemaker (Suzie), Michael Shoemaker (Cindy), Terry Shoemaker (Jeed), Linda Jean Shoemaker, and multiple nieces and nephews. She was a treasured employee at Tyson Manor for over 30 years and went on to retire from there as well. Carolyn enjoyed being involved with church activities of all kinds and was a current member of Beacon of Hope Church of God. She found joy being in the house of the Lord. She loved to bake, and boy could she bake the best Chocolate Chip pound cake you could ever taste. Carolyn loved spending time with her family, whether it was sitting and chatting at her home, going on trips to the beach, the mountains of Tennessee and Oregon, or watching over her great grandchildren anytime they needed her. She will be remembered as a daughter of the King, loving Mother, spunky grandmother, and a friend to many. She will be missed, and all memories treasured.

Alabama Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

McDonald, Jason Daniel (43)	July 26
Thigpen, Lucinda "Cindy" Jane (70)	July 27
Hillis, Winifred Taylor "Peggy" (85)	July 28
Morris, Delores "Dee" Laverne Eckman (91)	July 28
Crawford, Sr., Robert A. (58)	July 30
Thrash, Jr., Robert "Bobby" Eldredge (59)	July 30
Boyd, Sr., Roy J. (84)	August 1
Gladwell, Wanda (62)	August 2
Burgess, Rodney (67)	August 3
McGaughy, Kathleen Slawson "Nana" (85)	August 4
Stewart, Helen Louise Spurlin (69)	August 4
Turner, Robert "Rob" L. (74)	August 8

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In Memory Of

Helen Marie Baxley Colley	August 30
Charles Michael "Mike" Jones	August 30
Alpha Omega Sewell Hollen	August 26
Jessie Lee Berry Adams	August 25
MSGT William C. Jennings, USAF (Retired)	August 25
Winford Nix "Nick" Jackson	August 25
Robert Lee "Bobby" Carr, Sr.	August 24
Randy Farrel (Hot Rod) Grier	August 23
Lt. Col. RET. William E Dreyer	August 22
Judy Royster Lovelady	August 22
Carolyn Burdette	August 21
William Fred Peek	August 20
Geraldine Pylant Moore	August 19
Laura Edwards Murchison	August 18
Thomas Leon (Bubba) Wood	August 14
Mary Frances Brooks (Frankie) Payton	August 14
Janice Johnson Hamilton	August 11
Dorothy A. D'Arciprete	August 11
Timothy (Tim) Everett Rolan	August 9
Charles Richard Irvin	August 9
Margaret Rose Pullen	August 7
Lloyd W. Huckaby	August 6
Henry Allen Patton	August 5
David Lynn Driskell	August 4
Shannon Faye Self Shockley	August 3
Joseph Harold Ryals	August 2

There is a Lady Crying in the Harbor

by John W. Giles

Friday September 14, 2001 – President Bush Called For Prayer

– On Friday September 14, 2001, I was awakened at 3:00 am with overwhelming grief for our nation on the heels of the September 11th attack. All I could see was the Statue of Liberty crying over her nation and was compelled to pour my heart out on paper, reflecting the pain felt by every American during this time of a national tragedy.

Her name is Liberty and she is a 22-story tower of strength overshadowing the NY Harbor, which symbolizes to the world the best in freedom and democracy, but today her tears fill the rivers of her great land. Down through the course of time she has greeted millions crossing onto her soil from abroad with a hearty welcome to the land of the free and home of the brave. Until now, her interior borders, blanketed and protected by two great oceans, have never been perpetrated by foreign missiles, but as she turns the page of a new century, those claims of freedom have been shaken. Her neighborhood in Manhattan still hemorrhages with pain, tears and suffering while an untold number of the missing members of her family lay covered in a grave of mortar and steel.

As she greeted the crisp freshness of the early fall morning of September 11th, little did she know what plans were underway to take her down. Only time will reveal the full mission of her adversaries, but her own foundation was shaken as innocent means of transportation were suddenly turned into well orchestrated and efficient lethal weapons of mass destruction; only seen before animated on movie screens. Her President found himself one minute domestically focusing on the education of our children and only moments later mysteriously swept away in the flying command center as he swiftly managed several hours of chaos. Her Commander and Chief was criss-crossing the country while these assailants of democracy attempted to destroy her financial stability and military power, all the while he artfully wove from the arrows seeking his own life, his family and the leadership team of the free world. Now, like Nehemiah, he reaches deep within his soul to rebuild the wall with one hand as he wages war with the other.

She weeps way into the night with the children whose moms and dads will not be there to kiss, embrace and tuck them in bed. She hears the echoes of wailing from spouses and loved ones globally grieving from the depths of their souls. Her heart aches from and seems unrepairable, pierced by a gulf of unanswered questions, broken cell phone calls and clear final



messages left on answering machines of love and farewell. Although her tears will forever tarnish her copper brow and cheek, this lady stills stands. She is reminded of the words penned by Francis Scott Key, "...gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." This lady who represents all of what we call America, while noted for compassion, sympathy and grief will hardly view this as her final day.

Today her face is pointed in the wind as a flint, her shoulders are square and she is on a providential mission to seek justice, heal and to restore. She can only accomplish this insurmountable feat because this land she represents is "One Nation Under God and indivisible." And so this great lady says goodbye to all of those who have fallen and salutes as if to signal until we meet again and is reminded one day that "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away." God Bless America, stand beside her and guide her for your stabilizing hand insures she will prevail.

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