



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.

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The 2022 World Games Will Showcase Alabama

Allow me to deviate from politics to discuss an important event for our state. The World Games 2022 will place Birmingham and the entire state of Alabama squarely in the global spotlight.

Believe it or not, this once-in-a-lifetime event is only a few months away with approximately 3,600 athletes from more than 100 countries and up to 500,000 visitors expected to flood Birmingham for one of the world's largest athletic competitions.

Folks, there are many questions about the World Games 2022. Is it the biggest sports party in state history? Is it a way to reconnect humanity in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic? Is it a chance for sports fans to witness history? Is it a showcase for Birmingham that can elevate and enhance the city's and state's images?

This is Birmingham's gold medal moment. It is a moment to show the world that the story of Birmingham and the entire State of Alabama is the story of perseverance and triumph. It is a moment we will remember with pride for the rest of our lives.

So, what is The World Games, which is happening July 7-17 in Birmingham? The easy answer is it is "the new generation of global sport competition," organized with the support of the International Olympic Committee. These are the fastest growing sports in the world and several of them compete on the Summer Olympic platform, also. So, we will have a lot of the Olympians that competed in Tokyo last summer competing again here.

Elite athletes from all over the world will converge in Birmingham to participate in 34 sporting competitions at over 25 venues around the metro area.

It is also so much more. The schedule includes mainstream sports that many Alabamians have heard of, like flag football presented by the NFL, softball, lacrosse, bowling, waterski jumping and wakeboarding and sumo wrestling. Fans will also enjoy emerging sports like parkour, sport climbing, drone racing and canopy piloting.

There are multiple disciplines of dance sports, as well as many different



types of martial arts, including Muay Thai and Jiu-jitsu.

Don't forget about sports that most Alabamians have never encountered, such as floorball, korfbal, beach handball and tug of war.

The sports program also includes wheelchair rugby, making The World Games 2022 making the first multi-sport international competition to include an adaptive sport as part of the regular sports program.

Alabama is filled with sports fans, and The World Games truly has something for anyone and everyone to enjoy.

As more and more people in Alabama and beyond learn about The World Games, organizers face another question: What impact will The World Games have on Birmingham and the State of Alabama? Alabama will welcome the world to the biggest athletic event in the Southeastern United States since the Atlanta Olympics in 1986.

Our renowned southern hospitality will be on full display. Visitors from around the world will be exposed to Birmingham's vibrant food scene. They will see a city and state no longer defined by the brutal black-and-white images from the 1960s, but a place that has grown and matured.

The Opening Ceremonies promise to showcase Birmingham on the global stage. That is why local, state and national leaders have come together to support the World Games 2022. The business communities in Alabama, especially Birmingham, are fully engaged.

Folks, remember, this is the first time the event has been held in the United States in more than 40 years, and Birmingham is the perfect place to bring the world back to America. Birmingham's story is America's story – built on hard work, perseverance, and teamwork. "I believe Birmingham and the entire State of Alabama is going to show up in a big way on the global stage," says Nick Sellers, Chairman of the World Games 2022.

The World Games 2022 gives Birmingham and Alabama a true chance to shine.



Justice Will Sellers

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The Terrors of Justice

Eighty years ago this month, with the stroke of a pen, President Franklin Roosevelt in Executive Order 9066 effectively relegated 120,000 Japanese Americans to internment camps. Many of these American citizens were afforded no rights to object to their removal, and there was no procedure to prove loyalty to the United States. These citizens were interned solely because of their ancestry, nothing else.

In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, there was widespread fear that the Empire of Japan might invade the West Coast. No doubt people were scared and on high alert, and, certainly, there was anxiety that turned rational people into frenzied xenophobes. But rather than deal with the reality of the situation, political leaders galvanized the country into transferring all these concerns into a government campaign to round up almost the entire population of Japanese Americans and relocate them.

Granted, they were not sent to concentration camps organized along the German or Soviet models. There was no plan to cleanse America of Japanese influence by premeditated death through forced labor. Nevertheless, these citizens were forced to leave their homes, abandon their businesses, and take their entire families to detention centers surrounded by barbed wire, guards and dogs.

And all of this was accomplished through legal and judicial means. Congress had passed an act giving the President broad and sweeping emergency powers to organize the country for total war. These wartime powers had precedent as Abraham Lincoln also used similar powers to suspend the writ of habeas corpus and incarcerate pro-secessionists. Ironically enough, Chief Justice Roger Taney, who authored the Dred Scott decision, warned Lincoln that such actions potentially violated his oath of office and could mean that citizens were no longer living under a government respecting the rule of law.

War, like other national emergencies, set in motion a series of restrictions subjugating the rights of individuals to the needs of the state. Fighting a war and making the decisions necessary to win cannot be done by consensus, but must be determined by leaders who have both national support and critical judgment to implement a plan for victory. Roosevelt's almost dictatorial power was derived from legislative mandate, not usurpation. The hindsight of history clearly shows that he, like Churchill, was the man for the times.

But the internment of loyal American was perhaps an excessive use of presidential authority and a blot on American values. The need to systematically detain these citizens was no doubt a knee-jerk reaction to Pearl Harbor. But leadership is more than succumbing to situational whims and should be based on evidence or some proof that a threat existed. In fact, the exact opposite was true.

Military intelligence and the FBI found no disloyalty among the Japanese Americans. They uncovered no organized network of spies or saboteurs ready to support an invasion. The only reason for the detention was a suspicion based upon fear and a complete misunderstanding of Japanese American culture.

With no basis in fact, an assumption was made that anyone of Japanese ancestry would remain loyal to the Emperor. Like all foundations of racism, there is an assumption that people of similar backgrounds and appearance must share other, monolithic traits attributed to them by imaginary, irrational views. Political and military leaders simply agreed that these citizens would be disloyal, were probably spies, and posed a threat even though no evidence existed to support these assumptions. Thus, the President who told his country that "all we had to fear is fear itself" incorporated a racist fear into his policies that detained 120,000 Americans.

Despite the fact that this incident was humiliating and demeaning, almost 35,000 Japanese American men and women demonstrated their loyalty as United States citizens by serving in the military during World War II. In some cases, sons and daughters fighting for Roosevelt's four freedoms had relatives detained by the same Uncle Sam. Units comprising these Japanese American troops were sent to the European Theater and distinguished themselves in battle. If there can be any humor to both the internment and the war, there was a story that Germans fighting in Italy were captured by one of these units and thought that the Japanese had changed sides and joined with the Americans to defeat the Third Reich.

Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of deporting people based on race was the number of prominent liberals who blindly went along with the procedure. It is easy to see that military commanders on the West Coast truly believing that an invasion was imminent would want to evacuate civilians from a potential war zone. But it is difficult to understand how leaders normally inclined to support the rights of minorities, expand civil liberties and limit the powers of government would so easily embrace wholesale deportation without a hint of due process.

California Attorney General Earl Warren supported and encouraged this action. In the Korematsu case, Alabama's own Justice Hugo Black wrote that "the military urgency of the situation demanded that all citizens of Japanese ancestry be segregated from the West Coast." Justice Felix Frankfurter provided cover to the administration by writing that the possibility of espionage and sabotage, not race, supported the government's actions. Justice Robert Jackson disagreed, and in a vehement dissent argued that the government's actions legalized racism in a manner no different than the "abhorrent and despicable treatment of minority groups by the dictatorial tyrannies which this nation is now pledged to destroy."

Executive power is potent and requires conscientious leadership to assess and organize the needs of a nation to prepare a unified response to an existential threat. But even good leaders can succumb to fear and misunderstanding and attribute suspicions without substantial foundations.

In America, executive power is not absolute, and our rule of law requires that even emergency actions be reviewed and, if necessary, checked so that a looming or perceived threat is not used as a cover to suspend or deny rights based on political misperceptions.

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ROBSEVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

BITS AND PIECES: 14TH EDITION WHERE IN THE HECK IS. . . ?

Here I go again with several interesting stories that have happened or are happening as I write this. Let’s face it. The world can be a disappointing place. I call this installment of Bits and Pieces, “Where in the Heck Is...?”

1. WHERE IN THE HECK IS THE U.N.? In my last Robsevation, I asked a similar question. Regarding the likely Russian invasion of the Ukraine: Where is the U.N.? What are they doing? What have they said? What actions are they willing to take? As the last month has come and gone, Russian troops are still massing along the Ukraine’s eastern border. At last count, there are reported to be 190,000 Russian troops along the border and a total of about 265,000 within 250 miles of the border.

1. thehill.com/policy/international/russia/594873-reports-up-to-190000-russian-troops-now-along-ukraine-border
2. americanmilitarynews.com/2021/12/report-russia-now-has-265000-troops-near-ukraine-border/

This has reported to be the largest massing of troops in Europe since WWII. So, as all of this is clearly unfolding before our watchful eyes, the feckless U.N. sits on its keester refusing to take any actions at all. It is as though they, and the rest of the world for that matter, are waiting to see America interject ourselves in this and in their minds, let the Americans spill American blood in yet another European misstep. I for one cannot go for that.

So what good is the U.N.? Obviously in these matters, they are about as worthless as you can get. A sovereign nation is about to be invaded by another, a permanent member of the U.N. in fact, and they say absolutely nothing. Except like I said in my last Robsevation, the U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres saying that a Russian invasion of Ukraine would be “against international law” and that he was convinced it would not happen and that he “strongly” hoped to be right. www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/un-chief-convinced-russia-wont-invade-ukraine. Ooohhhh, some tough talk there.

People have asked me what I thought the U.N. could do. I said for starters, how about telling Russia if they invade the Ukraine, they will lose their permanent seat in the U.N. Yeah, yeah, I know it would be extremely difficult to do, but it could be done. I have read how and most of the language is bedded within a mountain of worthless legal jib-jab but yes, it could be done. Not easy but probably better than who knows how many thousands if not tens of thousands of dead Ukrainians strewn about.

But the biggest reason I think they are going to do nothing is because if they slam Russia, what are they going to say to China when they invade Taiwan? They are not going to be willing to call China to the carpet. No way. So, they are just going to do nothing like the worthless do nothings they are. Think Rwanda. That is of course unless Israel is knocking down rockets headed for its cities or they are doing retaliatory strikes against those launching said rockets into Israel. Then the big, bad U.N. is willing to step up and flex its puny muscles.

There have already been several cross border “skirmishes” if you will and what is the real American position here? Sanctions? Be careful. Remember that on July 16, 2014 under the leadership of President Obama, under the U.S. Department of Treasury Secretary, Jacob J. Lew, Executive Order (E.O.) 13662 imposed sanctions or targeted US persons from providing new financing to the Russian financial institutions. In all, eight arms firms were identified. The very next day, the Russians shot down Malaysian Flight 17 enroute to Kuala Lumpur International airport, killing all 298 passengers and crew. See my March 2015 Robsevation. Coincidence? You tell me. Bottom line, where in the heck is the U.N.?

2. WHERE IN THE HECK IS THE I.O.C.? By now we have all heard about or watched the drama surrounding 15-year-old Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva. She tested positive for a banned substance back in December yet was allowed to skate nonetheless. Why? The drug, Trimetazidine, was allegedly her grandfather’s and she accidentally took it; but only three times. Right. This drug is used for things like angina, tinnitus (I could use that) and vertigo. One beneficial side effect for a cheating athlete is that it enhances the body’s ability to efficiently utilize oxygen under stress, i.e., exercise. Thus, banned. When the race horse Secretariat died, they weighed his heart and it registered a massive 22 pounds compared to the average 8-9 pounds. This means the horse could pump so much blood and oxygen to its body that its endurance was increased so much above the normal horse. There is no reason for a healthy

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teenage girl to take this drug. Who, by the way, is probably the best figure skater in the world.

Following revelations of the cheating (it is what it is) the Court Arbitration for Sports (CAS) decided that if they acted and prevented her from skating, she would suffer “irreparable harm” if not allowed to skate. They also cited “exceptional circumstances” because she was a minor. Wow, you can’t make this stuff up. I personally don’t believe her falling or stumbling four times in the long program while on the world stage did her any good and the nonsense of being a minor? So, for the next Olympics, lets get a team of drugged up, hyper-roided 14-year-olds and let them compete. After all, they would only be minors. Please. Spare me. The CAS made her situation worse in the long run.

As for the I.O.C., they wrote a 41-page missive justifying their cowardice. They wrote in part, that it was not her fault since she “accidentally” took the drug. Let’s say that in the 2024 Summer Olympics, a boxer beats the living bejeezus out of his opponent. After the fight, they determine the winner had a metal bar hidden in his gloves. The boxer says he knew nothing about it and the I.O.C. says, “You know what? Maybe he didn’t know. He can continue competing.” I know what some might be thinking but, no, it is the same thing. Sorry. Accident or not, she still cheated and no I am not buying what she is selling in that she did not know.

But through all of this, you know what I don’t hear? What about the athletes who trained their whole lives for this moment, did it right, did it legal, and got pushed off the podium by a cheater? Yeah, Valieva lost the long program but won the short and the Russians won the team gold. We don’t hear anything about those athletes. Shame. My cynical side tells me that if it were a non-Russian or Chinese athlete, especially an American or the way the I.O.C. thinks, a rather homely female, would their answer have been the same? I honestly do not believe so.

Before you roast me for saying anything about the way the I.O.C. thinks, do some reading on how the lady’s beach volleyball uniforms, for example, have to be cut and worn obviously to please and gratify the world of misogynistic voyeurs. Let’s not forget the crap many brave women took by not wanting to wear those very revealing outfits. Did they make them play any better? Nope. Do we really need to watch them pull their shorty-short-shorts out of their cracks time and again? Nope. I didn’t think so. But I digress. As an example, go to the following link www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTGh0EMmMC8 and see a short video of an example of the double standard in male and female uniforms; in this case armor. It is pretty funny but you will get the point. Bottomline? Where in the heck is the I.O.C.? The real travesty here? Valieva is so good, that, like Barry Bonds, she did not need to cheat. Her image will now forever be tainted.

3. WHERE IN THE HECK IS THE NCAA? Last week, Penn University trans swimmer Lia Thompson won the Ivy League Championships and, in the process, set five records. I honestly cannot believe this is a thing. I can sit back and accept his decision to be whatever he wants to be. It is his life. But for anyone to argue that it is acceptable for a dude to race against women, claim records and titles and then think it is absolutely normal, I am sorry. I cannot agree with that. You know, that is why we have men and women’s sports. The NCAA, for fear of being cancelled or whatever ails them, should be ashamed. Just like in the case of the cheating Russian skater, what I don’t hear is the press talking about the women athletes who are losing to these men. I want to hear their stories. Whether it be swimming, track and field ... you name it. If a woman on the other hand wants to be considered a man and then wants to step into an event, I might be okay with that. No unfair advantage there. A biological male competing against biological females on the other hand? And you want to call this fair? Sorry. I’m tapping out of this insanity. Actually, I won’t. I am one who will fight for the integrity of women’s sports. Bottom line? Where the heck is the NCAA?

Get me outta here, Percy?

DID YOU KNOW?

Sixth in a Series

The **Emancipation Proclamation** did not apply to areas of the Confederacy under Union occupation.

- The State of Tennessee
- Twelve parishes of lower Louisiana, including the city of New Orleans
- Forty-eight counties of Virginia that would become the state of West Virginia
- Seven counties in eastern Virginia, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth

"Now therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln . . . as a fit and necessary war measure . . . designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following to wit: Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the City of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts, are for the present, left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued."

On June 20, 1863, six months after the **Emancipation Proclamation** took effect, West Virginia was admitted to the Union as a slave holding state.

Slavery in the Union did not end until ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865.

Capt. Henry C. Semple Camp 2002
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Teaching of Critical Race Theory has no Place in Alabama Education

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Perry O. Hooper, Jr.

content of a person’s character.” It is antithetical to all we believe as Alabamians.

In August, the Alabama State School Board passed a resolution that banned the teaching of certain concepts or tenets that promote Critical Race Theory. Several Alabama school systems HAD spent time and money trying implement tenets of critical race through the back door by trying to implement a program titled “No Place to Hate,” This action by the board stopped these back door efforts in their tracks.

Alabama Governor. Kay Ivey voted for the resolution. “As I’ve said many times, CRT doesn’t belong in Alabama schools,” Ivey said. “CRT currently isn’t being taught in Alabama classrooms, and I’ve previously called on the Alabama School Board to keep it that way. We need to focus on teaching Alabama kids how to read and write, not hate.”



John Martin

Beginning in the late 1960’s, “Uncle Sam” began to impose mandates on auto manufacturers to “reduce emissions” and impose more “safety.” Every year, these mandates became more and more extreme, jacking up car prices and maintenance from double to over four times what people could be paying if we had a free market—where the manufacturers and the customers, not the government, made the decisions on what to buy and drive.

Today’s new cars cost from a low of about \$20,000 up to and well beyond \$40,000—a huge jump from 50 years ago (1972), when one could buy a new car for as little as \$2000. If we had a market as free as it was back then, a new car could start at under \$5000 and average less than about \$10,000. With today’s technology, it could very likely be less.

Reducing emissions has lately been one big headache. Initially, cutting them by about ¾ has not been particularly difficult. But when pushing the limit much more, the law of diminishing returns rapidly kicks in, and getting the last smidgen pushes costs and prices many times beyond anything practical. But the insane government regulators are never satisfied.

We also have outrageous safety mandates—going crazier every year. It started with little things like seat belts, but at least they are inexpensive and actually save lives. Later came more expensive air bags, beginning with just one for the front passenger seat. Now some cars have six, if not more. Why can’t we buy a new car without air bags? I fasten my seat belt. I don’t need them.

With each year, cars and trucks are becoming flimsier and flimsier. In the 1970’s, nearly all new cars were equipped with hydraulic bumpers that could withstand a 5 mph impact against a solid abutment with NO damage. In fact, it was a government mandate to help mitigate insurance claims for repeated bumps in parking lots (one of the VERY RARE mandates I could actually support). But beginning in the 1980’s, that practical feature was replaced by an opposite mandate that a car’s entire front end had to be crushable, and thus destroyed. One very light tap meant \$1000 or more in damage. A 5 mph bump would likely total the car. Why aren’t the insurance companies, and the people, complaining about that?

To make cars more fuel efficient, manufacturers struggled to minimize weight. Therefore, they made everything as thin as possible and replaced much of the steel with plastic. Not only are they fragile, they are also highly flammable.

The best way to reduce weight is to eliminate the items we are better off without. Make air bags strictly optional. Increase fuel efficiency by eliminating mandates that retard it. And REPEAL that outrageous law that whacked Volkswagen for its tiny bit of emission “cheating” to enhance fuel economy.

“Big Brother” has also imposed limits on practical vehicles imported from other nations. There are numerous cars and trucks in other parts of the world that Americans would love to buy and drive, except for one caveat—our government won’t allow them. They either emit a bit too much NOx or more likely lack some of the mandated safety devices that many of us would much rather do without.

What could we get if we had a free market? You could legally drive a Mahindra Roxor—a clone of a Jeep CJ/Wrangler 4×4 that COSTS HALF AS MUCH as a new Wrangler over here. But our government, for whatever crazy reasons, claims it is not safe enough. *(image below)*



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This vote applied to all public kindergarten through the 12th grade but has no effort on higher education.

Now the Faculty Senate at the University of Alabama is getting in on the act. The Senate passed a resolution urging the University, including the Board of Trustees, to resist all efforts to ban CRT. They are making the outlandish claims that banning CRT is against their freedom of speech and academic freedom. These assertions are completely false. Teachers or professors do not have the academic freedom to teach the earth is flat even if that’s what they believe. Teachers do not have the freedom of speech to use their taxpayer funded Alabama classrooms to proclaim that all Muslims should be banned from the University campus. They do however have the right to post their beliefs on social media on their own time. Teaching CRT in the classroom is just as outlandish.

It is now up to the legislature to ban CRT in higher education as well. Representative Danny Crawford has prefile HB11 that does just that. I urge all legislators to immediately get to work on it when they convene in January and pass it unanimously.

FORBIDDEN CARS

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It’s not actually “unsafe.” It’s just not flimsy enough to pass the latest government-mandated crash tests. And it doesn’t have a back up camera and other mandated “equipment.”

Have a look at the Zhengtu, a truck made by Wuling, a Chinese subsidiary of General Motors. It costs only \$9000. It also has some cool features like hinged, outward folding-flat bed walls that allow you to transport bulky items. But “Uncle Sam” will not allow it in this country, even though it’s made by an American company. *(image above)*

The \$25,200 Chevy Colorado is the least expensive new truck GM sells in the United States. And its bed is not as wide.

The Zhengtu features a reliable manual transmission and averages 33 miles per gallon. A four cylinder Chevy Colorado struggles to reach 25 MPG on the highway with its mandated automatic transmission and its expensive electronics, should they fail, could cost more than the entire truck is worth.

What about electric cars? Surely our government would not object to any of these. After all, our rulers have been hyping them up since the beginning of this century.

Nope! Not all of them. Not the ones that low and middle income people can afford to buy. Most people are unable to shell out \$50,000 for a Tesla, \$27,400 for a Leaf or even \$17,990 for a Volt. But in China, people can buy a variety of electric cars for well under \$10,000.

They can even buy them for less than half of that—the \$4,500 Wuling Hongguang Mini. It is the best-selling EV, in China. Practically anybody in the USA could afford one, even some high school students. It’s small and light—just under 1,500 pounds (slightly less than a 1960’s Volkswagen Beetle). It has a 17.4 horsepower electric motor powered by a 9.2-13.8 kilowatt-hour battery pack that weighs only 250 pounds, a fourth of a Tesla’s half ton behemoth. It can go 106 miles at 62 mph on a charge, adequate speed and range for many Americans. And being much lighter, it gets far greater kilowatt efficiency than an overpriced Tesla.

Yes, it’s made by the same GM subsidiary that makes the Zhengtu pickup truck—Wuling. BUT, also like the Zhengtu, you can’t buy or drive it in this country. *(image below)*



You would think our government “masters” would welcome people buying cars like these. After all, they are dead set on eliminating internal combustion engines. So why are they usurping their own proposed mandate by prohibiting the American people from buying the very practical, affordable EVs that will meet that objective? These cars create NO emissions. In fact, because they are lighter and more kilowatt-hour efficient, they emit LESS emissions at the power plants that charge them up than their overweight brethren in this country.

We MUST put an end to this government insanity. Think about that when you vote this year.

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John Sophocleus

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Discrimination via Poor Representation



Once upon a time, I’ve been told, students were taught ‘*taxation without representation*’ as a trigger in our first war for independence. Sadly, it wasn’t something stressed in my government school approved education. Thankfully enough true teachers remained to direct me toward some of the more important clauses of our

Declaration and **Constitution**. Some classmates may also cite old textbooks stored in the back of a high-school classroom where I’d try to hide (bored in trig class, desperate for reading) likely played a bigger role in my education.

Much ink has been spilled these past weeks about Alabama’s redistricting maps which are indeed an abomination to the most elementary math class and any Constitutionally correct basic civics class – *i.e.*, NOT politically correct as taught today. Long time column readers have suffered my lone voice in the wilderness many times these past dozen plus years *w.r.t.* our Constitutional [Art. 1, Sec. 2] design for the HoR. Disheartening to observe how far we’ve ‘progressed’ since the 435 limit was imposed (1929) by DC oligarchs from the one representative for every 30,000 (round-up) rule well argued in the Constitutional convention. As population increased this past century, we now have one representative for about 800,000. Well over a 25 fold reduction in **real** representation. 1929 was highly influenced by the progressive era, successfully redefining the lost cause of fighting for independence and sovereignty to hegemony and white supremacy. A very effective way to block progressives’ ‘undesirables’ from Congress, enhancing gains from hyper-gerrymandering, restrictive ballot access laws and reducing the number of representatives further concentrating DC oligarchs’ power.

Recap for past readers; I forecasted Alabama losing a US House seat in the 2020 census. Federal judges planned to use this reduction to six seats and get off the hook to ‘do right’ when one House member would be **17%** (1/6) of the population instead of the current **14%** (1/7) result. Somehow 17% would magically better match Alabama’s 27% Black population than 14%. Much to my surprise the forecast of one less congressperson did **NOT** come to fruition and this lame ‘*get out of ruling free*’ card didn’t evolve for our poorly educated federal jurists.

Now more than ever is the time for legislators and judges to restore **ALL** voters’ rights and allow more representation and candidates as designed by our wise founding fathers. Imagine the diversity if we started incrementally increasing toward approximately 140 US House members from Alabama to become what our **Constitution** envisioned. I’m weary of folks telling me their ‘feelings’ on what the number should be ... Washington weighed in when delegates suggested lowering the threshold down to 20,000* – some States did not yet have enough population for the 30,000 rule. This moved including text each State (as the sovereign unit) must have at least **one** representative, causing the unconstitutional 3 elector State tallies in presidential elections today under the 435 abomination. In short, until one exhibits the fortitude, visionary wisdom, integrity and intelligence of George Washington, I’m not going to listen to anyone’s **feelings** on what the number ought to be in their mind. Increasingly clear we do not have this sort of sagacity and conviction in our current politburo members claiming to care about ‘*Democracy*’ (yes, this is a *flashback* to last month’s column) and voters’ rights.

Eddie Burkhalter’s **APR** report [2/8/22] quoted AL State Rep. Chris England [D – Tuscaloosa and AL Democratic Party Chair] saying, “Today’s SCOTUS decision means that the canary in the coal mine just died. If there was ever a time for Congress to act on voting rights legislation, now would be it. Make no mistake, this is not a good outcome,” **and** “Tonight, we will feel the sorrow that comes from watching our forbearers’ hard-won work be wiped out with the stroke of a pen from the shadows.” I applaud Chair England sounding the alarm on this abomination. Perhaps an analogy of the already sick canary (not to be confused with the BCA Canaries raping our State) finally being murdered by the progressives in 1929 is a more apropos perspective.

Imagine how much ‘un-mined’ intelligence, talent and thought has remained buried by our incompetent (at best) federal judges these past several score. This is not the first time our forbearers’ hard work has been wiped out by the pen and/or the sword. Representative England was also quoted with, “But tomorrow is a new day with new possibilities. And we will fight, work and organize to regain and protect voting rights for Americans of all colors.” Amen Brother England – let’s make the House representative again! England’s words and passion reminded me of my favorite Coretta Scott King quote, “**Freedom is never really won; you must fight and win it every generation.**”

Congressperson Terri Sewell has been evoked in much of the redistricting debate. Her antipathy for civil rights (esp. for wrongful taking from Black landowners and others unable to defend themselves) is exactly what DC oligarchs want installed into their packed, unrepresentative, gerrymandered districts. Under constitutional districting it is much less likely the politburo could hyper-gerrymander a result to install her. Even so, a reduction from 1/7 to 1/140 power would correctly dilute her rhetoric, Ms. Sewell would require others in the Alabama delegation for support. Remember a Constitutionally correct HoR wouldn’t pass much federal legislation – reduced to issues more representative of the people. My Congressperson is similar, thankfully he is too incompetent/lazy to get much accomplished. There was a brief moment it appeared Congressperson Rogers found a spine donor, speaking out against big govt. Democrat Trump, but when it was more expedient to go with the duped... that fleeting moment of bravery quickly ended.

Congressman Mo Brooks may be the only Alabama Congressperson with math intellect and integrity to possibly shepherd us back to a more representative/Constitutional result. I appreciate Candidate Britt ads reminding me Brooks’ stand against big govt. Trumpism. Mo’s the most likely to return to sanity once Alabama finally rejects this current charlatan, but his rhetoric on the ruling shows he’s still wanting to be a part of the DC duopoly power concentration play. Similarly, the ACLU’s rhetoric is more support of the DC oligarchy; much like Congressperson Sewell, the ACLU record on **basic** civil rights like property has been horrific. Don’t expect them to champion making the House representative again to promote voters having more members to elect. Congressional re-districting maps have clearly violated Art. 1, Sec. 2 of our Constitution for well over a century and the ACLU has done nothing to fight this discrimination via decreased **real** representation.

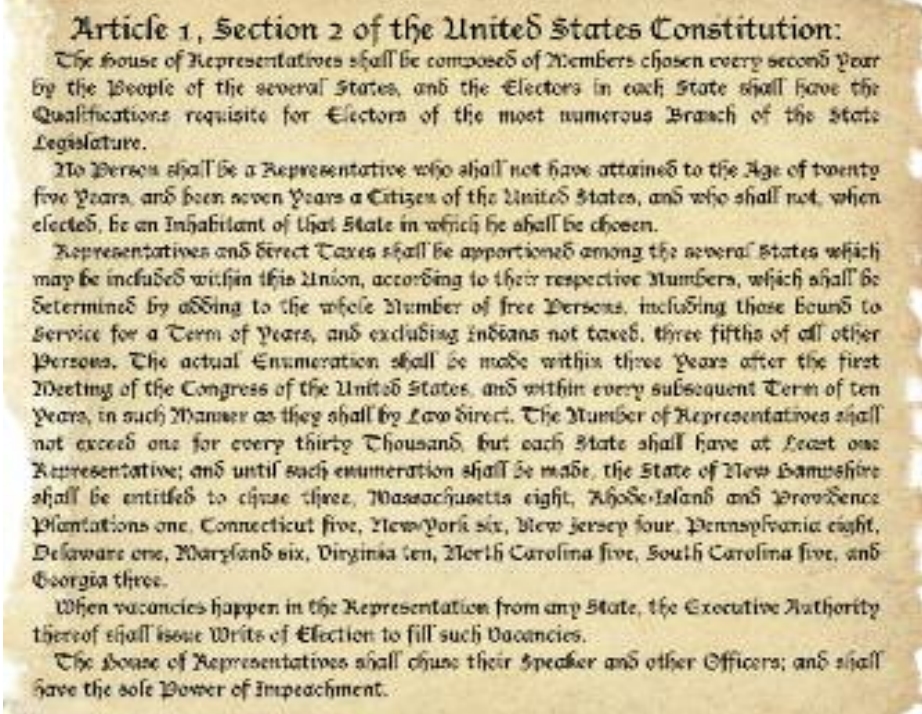
Presidential and congressional elections all the way down to my corrupt Lee County commission Districts and Auburn City Council exhibit this growing discrimination via poor representation results from flawed redistricting. The Lee County arithmetic is as follows. Our last increase in District seats to the current

five member result was set circa 1970 at 61,268 population – *i.e.*, approximately one commissioner for every 12,000. County population had tripled from 1870 to 1970. Population has now almost tripled **again** this past half-century since 1970. With “current population at 166,314 and **no** change in number of districts, real representation has decayed to one commissioner for every 33,000 with **much** more to address than those few things States authorized to the federal government enumerated in Art. 1, Sec. 8. Sadly, the incompetent Lee County judge doing the redistricting droned on about how wonderful he was getting each District within a few person difference, instead of doing the hard work of keeping areas intact as directed with +/- 5% tolerance allowed. Perhaps when this incompetent is aged out, a more thinking judge will replace the political hacking we’ve observed these past decades.

The Lee County delegation would be well served to evoke the letter and Spirit of Art. 1, Sec. 2 of the **US Constitution** [the number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand] to craft legislative text apropos to Lee County. Consider the following:

The number of Lee County Commission Districts shall not exceed one for every Twenty-five Thousand to be adjusted every decade after each federal census determination of Lee County population.

The threshold is worthy of serious contemplation, one for 30,000 would retain the five district result until 180,000 county population. One for 25,000 threshold currently requires one more district – *i.e.*, total of six. Even numbers make tied votes more likely (maybe not with our current lock-step commissioners) but the existing rule is the chair [Probate Judge] casts the deciding vote as the US Vice President does over the 100 member US Senate. To think we will ever see one for 12,000 representation again (would be about 13 commissioners) is ‘swinging for the fences’ in my humble opinion since most are uneducated on how political power has concentrated in DC, Montgomery and Opelika.



Auburn City discrimination via poor representation outcome is just another iteration of the same abomination. 43% population growth with no increase in number of seats for voters to elect. Lee County **NAACP** Branch 5038 did a splendid job. The **LDF**’s attorney using a ‘barbell’ illustration from a past case of two populations connected by a hyper-gerrymandered sliver of a highway to connect them was perfect! Of course this was being done because the letter and Spirit of representation is dead... these two population centers would be two distinct voting districts with different candidates to elect in each race. The Auburn politburo proudly boasts how much over-subsidized, unsustainable growth they’ve accomplished this past decade; no discussion *w.r.t.* growing the **number** of city councilpersons to stop concentrating power to local oligarchs. The City could’ve easily added 3 more members to keep **real** representation a little more constant.

This is how discrimination via poor (unconstitutional) representation works nationally and at the State/local levels. A House unrepresentative cannot stand – how much longer do we have?

Postscript* in 1789 some States had not yet reached 30,000 so with each State allotted one House member regardless of population, at 20,000; **one** Representative. At 30,000; one Rep. At 59,999 still one Rep. At 60,000; **two** Representatives. State population at 89,999; still two Reps. At 90,000; **three** Reps. Y’all get the idea... because we do **not** follow Art. 1, Sec. 2 of the US Constitution we have US House members representing over 800,000! This also distorts the Electoral College (Art. 2, Sec. 1) driving the Bush *v.* Gore result, etc. The reason so many 3 electoral vote States are observed is because the number of Senators is more than their one House member which has not been allowed to increase as per the Constitution – *i.e.*, a House which is **NOT** very representative.

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My husband is beginning to show signs of dementia, maybe even Alzheimer’s. What type things should I do to prepare us should he become incapacitated?

Ronald A. Holtsford *I think that you are doing the hardest thing and the best thing for your husband and yourself by facing this right now. When our loved ones are faced with such devastating diseases it’s easier to not face it and believe they will improve. Being proactive will have you prepared.*

First I will advise that you visit an attorney that can assist you with estate planning. The three basic documents that your husband will need (and you) are **a Last Will and Testament, Durable Power of Attorney (health and Financial) and an Advance Directive.** Even if he has these documents, if they were prepared more than 3-5 years ago or there have been other significant changes in your lives (family, health or financial), then I would advise that you both consider new documents.

If your husband is in early stages as you state and still has times of clarity, then he should be able to state his wishes for a **Will**, The capacity requirement for a Will is lower than that required to have a Power of Attorney and Advance Directive prepared. As I have said so often, if you don’t have a Will, the State of Alabama has one for you via the rules of intestacy. As an example, the share for the spouse is stated in the following manner:

§ 43-8-41. Share of the spouse

The intestate share of the surviving spouse is as follows:

- (1) If there is no surviving issue or parent of the decedent, the entire intestate estate;
- (2) If there is no surviving issue but the decedent is survived by a parent or parents, the first \$100,000.00 in value, plus one-half of the balance of the intestate estate;
- (3) If there are surviving issue all of whom are issue of the surviving spouse also, the first \$50,000.00 in value, plus one-half of the balance of the intestate estate;
- (4) If there are surviving issue one or more of whom are not issue of the surviving spouse, one-half of the intestate estate

Without a Will you can see that you might end up with significantly less than what you thought. Additionally, the Administrator (Personal Representative) must be bonded and an inventory is required of the assets of the decedent. A Will usually states there will be no requirement of a bond or inventory.

The next document is a **Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA)**. While there are different types there are two popular types of a financial DPOA. The Durable Power of Attorney is probably the most popular and must contain a statement that the POA is effective even in your incapacity to make it durable. The other is a “springing” POA in which a certain event must occur to have it “spring” into action. Such an event is usually your incapacity, which would have to be established by a physician. It can make the effectiveness a bit subjective. One of my attorney friends has compared the two documents by asking, “If you are going to trust someone under your POA when you are incapacitated, why not trust them now?” Alabama has adopted a Uniform Power of Attorney Act, which became effective 1 January 2012. There is a statutory form, but most attorneys seem to prefer to work the statutory form into their own tried and true document. The new form does NOT invalidate prior POA’s that meet the legal definition of an effective Alabama POA.

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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.



“The Informed Southerner”

Lincoln’s Dilemma: Inconvenient Facts Likely to be Omitted

Advertisements for “Lincoln’s Dilemma” have been aggressively promoted. It is said to begin with the January 6, 2020, event that some call a riot and some call an “insurrection”—a so-called insurrection with no weapons, individuals walking around taking pictures and chatting with Capitol personnel, and a few mysterious instigators with seemingly nefarious intentions, e.g.,

Utah’s John Sullivan (connected to CNN) and Ray Epps. In similar fashion, competing views of the War Between the States exist but we typically only hear the “Yankee” version.

Anyone who has studied primary source documents should understand the propaganda that has been (and still is) used against the South for over 150 years. Much of the agitprop coincided with the creation of the mythical Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln’s bodyguard, Ward Hill Lamon, witnessed it at the outset: “The ceremony of Mr. Lincoln’s apotheosis was planned and executed by men who were unfriendly to him while he lived...” One of those planners, Union Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, often called Lincoln “the original gorilla.” After Lincoln’s death, Stanton gloriously proclaimed, “Now he belongs to the ages.” Naturally Stanton, Thaddeus Stevens, Charles Sumner and other Radical Republicans were going to offer glowing praise—Lincoln spearheaded the treasonous invasion of sovereign States and denied their right of self-government—these men were part of it.

The Lincoln’s Dilemma promo references a metamorphosis of Lincoln transitioning from being mildly anti-slavery to being a staunch advocate for its abolition. This phenomenon is supposedly from a man who supported the Original 13th Amendment (the Corwin Amendment), which would have perpetually removed the institution from federal interference. Doris Kearns Goodwin believes Lincoln wrote the Corwin Amendment. He also initially sanctioned the Fugitive Slave Act, including the most draconian element concerning runaways.

We have been led to believe the Republican Party was adamantly against slavery and/or its spread. While many members were anti-slavery, they consistently leave out a key piece of their reasoning, i.e., their goal was to keep Blacks confined to the Southern and Border States. Lincoln wholeheartedly agreed with this position. Union Secretary of State William Seward explained—the Republican Party’s opposition to “the extension of slavery had always really been concern for the welfare of the white man, and not an unnatural sympathy for the Negro.” *New York Tribune* Editor Horace Greeley concurred, stating the “unoccupied territory...shall be preserved for the benefit of the White Caucasian race—a thing which cannot be except by the exclusion of slavery.” Greeley and Lincoln corresponded affirmatively on this topic.

On September 18, 1858, Lincoln proclaimed: “I will say, then, that I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of bringing about in any way the social and

While I have been told that the proxy selection discussed below in the Advance Directive for Health Care can be used in general health settings, I prefer to prepare a health care power of attorney which better delineates the available powers and desires of the principal.

The capacity requirement to name someone to act under your POA is roughly the required capacity to enter into a contract. As an example could your husband enter into a contract to buy an automobile?

The final document is the **Advance Directive**. It consists of the **Living Will and Health Care Proxy**. It allows you to make decisions about life support measures and artificially provided food and hydration should you be in such a condition that you will die in the near future and are unable to communicate your wishes about your health care.

Additionally, you will want to consider future care. Are you and your family willing and able to provide care for your husband at home? Alzheimer’s patients can become violent at times and family members have been hurt badly by loved ones because they allowed the affected family member to get between them and an escape route (out of a room). Will you want to hire sitters? What about Assisted Living? Assisted living can only keep Alzheimer’s patients for a certain portion of their illness. After that it is necessary to go to a SCALF (Specialty Care Assisted Living Facility) or to a skilled long term care facility (nursing home). If your husband is a veteran he may be eligible for VA care if necessary. You also have to consider how to pay for the more advanced care. If very wealthy you can pay for it or if poor you can have Medicaid cover it in the case of being impoverished. For those in between there may very limited Medicare coverage, selling assets to cover the cost, a viatical settlement of an insurance policy, a reverse mortgage (I am not fond of these in most cases as they require payoff within six months after the last person dies or leaves the home permanently) for in home care or the very best is a long term care insurance policy. If your husband is having symptoms of dementia, has other major health issues or is elderly he may well not be eligible to purchase such insurance. I think long term care insurance is the best hedge against the potential for long term care, but it is always a gamble as with many insurances as you may never need it, just as you may never need homeowner’s or car insurance.

Also consider what you might do if you have to take the car keys away from your husband. This will probably need a family pow wow and a visit to the doctor. The doctor can make an assessment with a promise of a future assessment if your husband needs to give up driving. This may give your husband something to look forward to and a reason to be more compliant if he believes he may get his driving privileges back.

Taking these steps will hopefully by pass most reasons to seek a conservatorship or guardianship through the Court in the future.

I hope that you will talk to your attorney or an elder law attorney about these things in the near future. The Alabama State Bar also has a referral service if needed.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist. No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.”

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political equality of the white and black races...” On August 14, 1862, Lincoln said, “Your race suffers very greatly, many of them, by living among us, while ours suffers from your presence...But even when you cease to be slaves, you are yet far removed from being placed on an equality with the white race.” Relative to his treatment of the slave controversy, in an August 22, 1862, letter to Greeley, Lincoln stated: “What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union...” The Emancipation Proclamation supposedly freed slaves out of Lincoln’s reach and kept enslaved those within his reach. England’s Lord Palmerston scoffed at this hypocritical stratagem; Lincoln called the proclamation what it was: a “war measure.” New England historian Edward Channing said: “Of course, it did not abolish slavery as an institution anywhere.” Another angle identified by fellow *Alabama Gazette* columnist John Sophocleus is Lincoln’s timing of the proclamation (January 1, 1863) based on the anticipation of a broken blockade (January 31, 1863). The “war against slavery ruse” thus created an impediment of perception to deter British and French intervention.

Most Southerners were not anxious to go to war. Confederate General Richard Taylor (son of President Zachary Taylor) was alarmed at Southerners who naively thought the North would allow the South to govern itself. Having been educated at Harvard and Yale, Taylor knew the mercenary nature of the power brokers in the North. Three meetings between Lincoln and Southern representatives (who tried to talk Lincoln out war) in April 1861 failed to produce a peaceful resolution as Lincoln told them all the low duty tariffs through Southern ports would put the North out of business and “he might as well shut up housekeeping at once.”

In *Colonization after Emancipation*, Phillip Magness and Sebastian Page uncovered documentation in British Archives that Lincoln was still attempting to deport Blacks from these United States virtually up to the day he died. I have a gut feeling that this (and everything else in this piece) will not be mentioned in Lincoln’s Dilemma.

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[Correction: The Hampton Roads Conference was February 3, 1865, not February 5. Sorry for the mistype.]



Daniel Sutter

Did Slavery Make America Rich?

The New York Times’ 1619 Project examines the impact of slavery on America. One essay contends that our economic system was built on slavery. Was America’s ascension as an economic powerhouse due to slavery?

Slavery was a repugnant and evil institution. Its abolition is a sign of humanity’s moral progress. Slavery taints America’s founding and was incompatible with “all men are created equal.” Yet Emancipation took ninety years and a terrible civil war, plus another 100 years to extend the promise of freedom to all Americans.

Journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones curated the series of essays. Princeton University’s Matthew Desmond authored the essay linking American capitalism to slavery, drawing heavily on the scholarly research of the “New History of Capitalism” (NHC). I will focus on Desmond’s claim that, “Slavery was undeniably a font of incredible wealth.”

Economic historians have extensively studied slavery, including Nobel Prize winner Robert Fogel. Economic theory and econometrics have illuminated the institution’s operation. Economic historian Phillip Magness draws on this plus his own research in his *The 1619 Project: A Critique*, which I rely on here.

A plausible connection exists between slavery and prosperity during the first half of the 1800s. Textiles produced using cotton largely from the southern U.S. were an enormous part of the Industrial Revolution.

Before examining economic details, let’s consider the big picture. Slavery existed throughout human history. If slavery really could produce “incredible wealth,” presumably humanity would have prospered before 1776 or 1619.

How important was cotton to the American economy? NHC Historian Edward Baptist claims that cotton accounted for nearly half of U.S. economic activity in the 1830s, a statistic cited supporting reparations for slavery. As Dr. Magness describes, Baptist erred; he “proceeded to double and triple count intermediate transactions involved in cotton production,” namely things like tools, land, and transportation. Yet GDP includes only final goods and services to avoid double counting. As Magness continues, “Baptist’s numbers are not only wrong – they represent a basic unfamiliarity with the meaning and definition of GDP.”



Professor Desmond, again following NHC historians, attributes the 400 percent increase in cotton productivity between 1800 and 1860 to American slavery’s brutal efficiency. But economists Alan Olmstead and Paul Rhode, who established the productivity increase, attributed it to improvements in cotton seeds.

Another Desmond claim was the necessity of slavery to produce cotton in sufficient quantities. This turns on a technical question, returns to scale in cotton production. If economies of scale existed, only large plantations using slaves might have been able to capture these economies. Yet economic historians found no important returns to scale; Stanford’s Gavin Wright concludes that cotton, “could be cultivated efficiently at any scale.”

Furthermore, if slavery was necessary to produce cotton, supply should have collapsed following Emancipation. Yet the price of cotton returned to pre-war levels by the end of the 1870s.

Economists have documented an enormous increase in standards of living beginning around 1800. A plot of world per capita GDP over time shows a true hockey stick shaped takeoff then. Economic historian Deirdre McCloskey calls this the Great Enrichment. Humanity prospered as slavery was abolished.

People long believed that commanding and enslaving others was the key to prosperity. This was incorrect. Professor McCloskey argues that thousands and thousands of improvements, discovered through the imagination and intelligence of ordinary people, produced the Great Enrichment. Prosperity results when freedom unleashes everyone’s full potential.

A society organized on commands and whips requires obedience, which in turn requires keeping the underlings from fully recognizing their humanity. Once Harriet Tubman recognized her value as a human being, she was never going to be anyone’s slave. Slaves repeat the tasks they are commanded to perform as opposed to discovering how to perform these tasks more efficiently.

The political philosophy of liberalism, founded on the moral equality of all people, gave birth to capitalism. Liberalism implies both that government must serve the citizens and that no human being should be a slave. That capitalism produced modern prosperity and ended slavery is no accident.

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

While February was the official Black History Month, the *Alabama Gazette* Still Wishes to Honor These Black American Leaders ...

The American Public Power Association pays tribute to Black American leaders who, over a half-century ago, established the Utilities Board of Tuskegee

Tuskegee, Alabama Public Power Utility Formed

The Tuskegee City Council unanimously adopted a resolution on January 27, 1970 to incorporate a public corporation responsible for utility services. The effort was spearheaded by Booker T. Conley, Edward Reid, and William Allen, who are widely recognized as “the fathers of the Utilities Board of the City of Tuskegee.” Their goal was to incorporate a public utility to operate an electric system, a water works system, and a sewage system.



Booker T. Conley (1923-2019)

Booker Conley embodied the best of his family’s virtues: he was humble, intelligent, brave, and adventurous. He would be proud of the legacy he left for public power today. Conley greatly admired his older brother, Coleman, and would follow him to Tuskegee University, where he had enrolled in the very first class of Tuskegee Airmen. That first class of just 13 U.S. Army Air Corps cadets graduated from Tuskegee Army Air Field on March 7, 1942.



Booker Conley (above & above right) / Photos Courtesy of UBT

Booker Conley studied architecture at Tuskegee University, and later drafted the plans to build the airplane hangars that housed Tuskegee’s famous “Red Tail” fighter planes. When his older brother was tragically killed in a combat exercise, Booker took his place and joined the civil pilot training program at Tuskegee in 1940.

Upon graduating from Army ROTC, he went on to serve with the 92nd “Buffalo Soldiers” infantry division in Italy during World War II, flying P-51 Mustang fighter planes. The Buffalo Soldiers Division was the only Black infantry division that participated in WWII combat, serving in Italy from 1944 to the war’s end. Booker Conley flew missions over Italy and Northern Africa. He and Coleman Conley are the first known brothers to be documented amongst the 996 Tuskegee Airmen pilots. Conley returned to Alabama after World War II and lived near Tuskegee University where he helped advance the formation of UBT to improve services in his hometown.

UBT Today

The Utilities Board of Tuskegee (UBT) continues to thrive today and operates with 72 employees. The 103-square mile service area includes the City of Tuskegee, the towns of Franklin and Shorter, and much of Macon County, Alabama. The utility has approximately 6,714 electric customers – 88% are residential customers. The utility is overseen by a five-member board of directors. All five members are Black men, with Black men and women comprising the predominant majority of UBT’s leadership team.

Gerald B. Long

UBT General Manager

Gerald Long, CPA, CGMA, graduated from the University of Alabama, Birmingham in 1983. He joined the Alabama Public Service Commission in 1988 and was later promoted to director of the telecommunications division. In 2008, Long became the Chief Financial Officer of UBT and, later, its General Manager. UBT was awarded a Mutual Aid Commendation certificate in August 2020 for supporting power restoration efforts in Louisiana after the local utility was hit hard by Hurricane Laura. "I love working for UBT because we provide indispensable services to the community," Long said. “And, through the provision of those services, we are able to plot a future for our community that will lead to economic growth and prosperity," he said.



Gerald Long
Photo Courtesy of UBT

Alvin Woods

UBT Light & Power Supervisor

Alvin Woods has been with UBT for nearly 35 years and is proud to be part of the utility’ growth and development. And, he is proud, too of UBT’s electric reliability rating of 99.9886 percent. And, UBT continues to give back to the community. Most recently, UBT donated \$10,000 to the Public Library and acquired new equipment and uniforms for the city’s High School Boys Basketball team. “We love serving our communities,” said Woods.



Alvin Woods
Photo Courtesy of UBT

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Norman (Tony) Mitchell

Taxes Are Due AGAIN?!

Tax Deadlines, who can appreciate them? There it is circled on your calendar, **April 18, 2022, taxes in the mail or online.** Did you know there are more tax documents than ever before? If you qualified for the **Child Tax Credit**, the IRS has sent you a Letter 6419, however; if you changed banks or moved during this past December, you need to get the most up to date figures on your Child Tax Credit before filing. You can go to your IRS online taxpayer account to get the information.

The Alabama Legislature passed a bill recently that will help the families who used the Child Tax Credit. The law will not count against the federal deduction. The new Alabama law will do what the U.S. Congress intended it to do. The earned income tax credit and dependent care tax credit won't count against the federal deduction. Governor Kay Ivey supports the law and plans to sign the law.

Another issue for many taxpayers is the **Stimulus Payment Letter**, which gives a significant effect to a great deal of Americans. The IRS gave out millions in economic impact payments in 2021 which means you may have received a summary of the payments given to you in Letter 6475. This letter was mailed in late January, you will need to use this letter to accurately report your economic income payments on your tax return.

Many do not realize that the IRS may have assigned you an Identity Protections Pin. Why do you need this? For your protection, an IP PIN is a six-digit number that keeps anyone else from filing a tax return using your Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer ID Number. The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS.

An error could be discovered by you or your tax preparer on your tax form. If this happens a corrected version must be mailed to both the taxpayer and the IRS. Some of the forms that may have been corrected are:

- **Form W-2** from your employer that shows corrected wages, salary and taxes withheld
- **Form 1099-INT or Form 1099-DIV** from your investment broker that shows a revision in interest and dividend income
- **Form 1099-NEC** from a client to whom you provide services
- **Form 1098** that shows how much mortgage or student loan interest you paid

If a correct tax form does show up in your mailbox (or inbox), don't throw away the old one. Save it along with the old form for future reference. The ease of filing your tax return is dependent on having the correct information.

Tips for the Home-Based Business

Home-based businesses have become more financially rewarding and can provide some flexibility with day-to-day schedules, but you must take time to keep your records accurate. Keep these tips in mind.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MUST BE A TOP PRIORITY. Many people get caught up in keeping their customers happy then they forget that to be a successful businessperson you must take time to keep the business unharmed. Invoices you have sent can't go unpaid. When a new customer signs with you, discuss immediately and politely let them know what the payment terms and deadlines are. To be a fruitful business you must keep current with regular invoicing and collections.

BOOKKEEPING MUST BE KEPT UP TO DATE. If you neglect this part of your business, you may find unpaid invoices that are many months outstanding. While balancing your checking account each month, remember the other parts of bookkeeping. Check your accounts receivable, accounts payable, any debts (credit card, car loans or other borrowings), as well as money you invest in your business. You may realize there is not time to keep your book yourself or you may need help properly setting up a bookkeeping software. Talk to a professional to prevent having a tax time disaster.

CONFIRM BUSINESS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS. Depending on the type of home-based business you have, you may be required to keep various permits, license, or other registrations. The Small Business Administration is the best resource for helping with this information.



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INSURANCE IS A MUST! Obtain the suitable insurance for the type of business you operate. Besides the insurance required for your many people, add a rider to the homeowner's policy for liability protection in case of an accident occurs while a client is on your property.

TECHNOLOGY MUST BE A PRIORITY. If you are trying to cut corners, your computer and printer required for your business must stay in top condition as well as the bandwidth needed. Remember to keep your apps and data storage updated too. A back-up plan must be in place in case of equipment breakdowns. Have someone you trust to do repairs. You should actively manage your security settings.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TAX BREAKS. There are many tax breaks available for a home-based business, including deductions for supplies, equipment and vehicle expenses. You may be able to deduct the cost of your home office, including a prorated amount of your real estate taxes and utilities but certain conditions must be met.

SET ASIDE MONEY TO PAY YOUR TAXES AND REQUIRED PERMITS. Ask for help to calculate the amount you need to be setting aside monthly particularly for the federal, state and local taxes. Most find having a separate bank account for these expenses is the best solution.

Support local Law Enforcement



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

(334) 832-4980 ♦ www.montgomerysheriff.com

All employees and anyone entering a County building will be required to wear a mask or face covering, have their temperature checked, and practice social distancing.



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

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- | | |
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Dr. Lester Spencer
Lead Pastor
St. James United Methodist Church
9045 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL

Soul Searching

11 Commandments for Relating to People

- 1. Speak to people.** There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word or greeting.
- 2. Smile at people.** It takes seventy-two muscles to frown, only fourteen to smile.
- 3. Call people by name.** The sweetest music to anyone’s ears is the sound of his or her own name.
- 4. Be friendly and helpful.**
- 5. Be cordial.** Let’s speak and act as though we are grateful people.
- 6. Be genuinely interested in people.** If we try, we can like almost everyone.
- 7. Be generous with praise** – cautious with criticism.
- 8. Be considerate with the feelings of others.** There are usually three sides to a controversy: ours, the other person’s, and the right one.
- 9. Be alert to give service.** What counts most in life is what we do for others.
- 10. Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience and a dash of humility,** and you will be rewarded many fold!
- 11. Never, never, never gossip.**

Here’s why:
*“My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice. I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted, the more I am believed. I flourish at every level of society.
My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no face.
To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.
I am nobody’s friend.
Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same. I topple governments, wreck marriages and ruin careers – I cause sleepless nights, heartaches and indigestion. I spawn suspicion and generate grief.
I make innocent people cry in their pillows.
Even my own name hisses...
I make headlines and headaches.”*

Before you repeat a story ask yourself, is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary?

If not- don’t repeat it.

If you practice these 11 commandments, I guarantee you it will dramatically improve all of your relationships!

Dr Lester Spencer
Lead Pastor, Saint James Church

***Note:** These are excerpts from Dr. Spencer’s book, “Perceptions: A Collection of Favorites” Volume 2.*

Dr. Spencer is Lead Pastor at Saint James Church in Montgomery, Alabama and writes the **Soul Searching** column for *Alabama Gazette* each month.

Join Saint James Church Sunday Morning

8:00 Outdoor Cafe

10:00 Contemp service

11:00 Traditional service

9-9:30 Open Communion



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CELEBRATING ARBOR DAY

Thursday March 10


2:00pm

Gold Star Park

Downtown Wetumpka

Join the City of Wetumpka and Wetumpka Pride for an annual tree planting in honor of Juanita Franklin Brand

For more information go to www.cityofwetumpka.com or call 334.567.5147



Arbor Day Foundation



Judge Peggy Givhan

daffodils which multiply and come back year after year are: Mount Hood, Ice Fol-lies, and Carlton. If you are in our area and see these for sale, buy as many as you can. You will really get your money's worth over the years.

If you have not made a garden scheme or plan, or you are just plain bored with what you have used over the past few years, then change it up. Sometimes you must rethink the plan because suddenly there is too much shade with the only solution is to cut back or cut down a tree. Even taking steps to prune low lying limbs may help. And I hate to declare the death penalty for the tree, but a plan that includes more shade loving flowers is a great alternative. You may even have to have shade tolerant plants in the back of the bed and sun loving in the front of the bed. Also, we do have some flowers that thrive in both sun and shade. The color range in both types of plants have vastly grown over the years. In other words, you may duplicate the color scheme you want and still use shade loving plants. Sun exposure is tricky, but a little trial and error is useful.

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for March

GARDEN CHORES FOR MARCH

1. Weeding. A never ending task this time of year, but these annual late winter weeds are so simple to pull out. For instance, dock is wide spreading but has a small root system which means you can accumulate a large pile with very little effort. These are the type of weeds which will be killed off with a lot of warmth, so once they are gone, they are gone for good, or until this time next year.

2. Planting. Now is the time to fill in some of the areas of the beds that have not been planted with winter annuals or perennials such of lambs ears, dusty miller, dianthus and pansies. Geraniums, begonias, canna lilies, elephant ears, come to mind. I would not plant impatiens until closer to the end of March. These are mostly fillers and will carry the beds through most of the summer.

3. Fertilizing. Purchase a good all round fertilizer with 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 and work into the soil. You can also spread Osmocote now that the temps get above 45%, but Osmocote much more expensive and can be used in summer when the commercial grade fertilizers may burn the

foliage. Spraying with a liquid fertilizer is also a good idea. Just buy a hose end spraying, add the correct amount of a water soluble, fertilizer, then add water to the proper dilution rate, and spray away.

4. Stop to smell the roses and take in all the joyous sights of the flowering trees such as Red Bud, Japanese Magnolia; and shrubs, such as Loropetalum, Forsythia, and quince.



Source: begoniafields.blogspot.com

Happy St. Patrick’s Day & Good Gardening!

Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heroes



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

Technical Sergeant Christopher Laneaux (89)

Technical Sergeant (TSgt) Christopher Laneaux served 21 years in the U. S. Air Force with four separate periods of voluntary service. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Supply/Logistics. TSgt Laneaux's service included deployments to Germany, Italy, Thailand, Turkey and an assignment in Alaska. SSGT Laneaux distinguished himself by meritorious service as a Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Material Control Branch while assigned to the 7307th Support Squadron, and 7499th Support Group (USAFE) from January 27, 1967 through September 1968 resulting in his receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster. He received other decorations, medals, commendations, citations and campaign ribbons: National Defense Service Medal with One Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal with Three Bronze Stars, Air Force Longevity Service Award with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and Air Force Good Conduct Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

TSgt Laneaux was born July 24, 1932 in Kiln, MS, to his mother, Wilhelmenia Williams. He was reared in Bay St. Louis, MS, and graduated from Saint Rose de Lima High School in 1953. He volunteered for military service and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force June 12, 1950.

TSgt Laneaux completed Basic Training at Sheppard Air Force Base (A.F.B.) and completed the Supply System Management Course at Lowry A.F.B., CO. During the Korean War for two years, he was stationed at Eielson Air Force Base, AK, where the Air Defense Command deployed interceptors which were used to monitor Soviet air power during the Cold War. His next assignment was at Suffolk County A.F.B., Long Island, N.Y. where he left military service June 11, 1954. He then reenlisted in the U.S. Air Force at Mitchell Air Force Base, Long Island, N.Y. He was next deployed to Naples, Italy, for four years, and then he served for one year at Sheppard A.F.B., TX with a missile training unit for operation of the Jupiter Missile, the first nuclear armed medium range ballistic missile. He returned to Italy to serve at the Italian Gloia del Colle Air Base where the U.S. Air Force's 36th Strategic Interdiction Air Brigade trained the Italian Air Force in missile operations. He then transferred to Turkey near Izmir where the Turks were trained in operation of the Jupiter Missile. He returned to Sheppard A.F.B., TX, to Hurlbert Field, an Air Force installation in FL, to Eglin A.F.B., FL, and then to Brookley A.F.B., in Mobile, AL, followed by deployment in December 1965 to Ubon Royal Air Force Base in Thailand during the Vietnam War for one year and then deployment to Rhein Main Air Base in Germany in 1967-1969 for three years. TSgt Laneaux's final assignment was at Maxwell A.F.B. where he retired from military service August 23, 1970.

After his military retirement, TSgt Laneaux worked 21 years for the State of Alabama in three departments. First, he worked as a salesman in the AL Beverage Control. Next, he served as a counselor with the AL Department of Youth Services at the Mount Megs Campus. He then worked with the AL Department of Corrections as a supply officer of equipment for each of Alabama's prisons. Using the G.I. Bill while employed by the State of AL, he received a B.S. Degree in Sociology and Psychology and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Troy State University. TSgt Laneaux retired from all employment in 1990.

TSgt Laneaux and his wife, Janice Wesley Laneaux, have been married for 56 years. They met in Mobile when he was stationed at Brookley A.F.B., and they were married in Mobile in November 1965. He has three sons, one daughter, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is an active member of the City of St. Jude Catholic Church in Montgomery, AL. For four years, he served as a van driver for the Church providing transportation to services for people who otherwise would not have had transportation. He has been a member of the Knights of Peter Claver, the largest African American Catholic organization in the United States whose purpose is to render service to God and His Holy Church, render aid and assistance to the sick and disabled, and promote social and intellectual association among its members. He has held the positions of Deputy Grand Knight and Financial Secretary within this organization. He also drove and delivered Meals on Wheels for elderly with the Montgomery Council on Aging for two years. He enjoys fishing and rooting for the athletic teams of the University of Alabama.

TSgt Laneaux's reflections on his military service are, "Being in the military in the military service gave me opportunities to see places that I would not have been able to see or even to imagine. Each country that I went to gave me knowledge of that particular country's culture and people. I enjoyed it. I enjoyed each station, and I never had any bad experience. I am grateful for those opportunities. It gave me an education, and it gave me pride that I was able to serve my country."

end



Sergeant First Class Patrick Louis Campbell (84)

Sergeant First Class (SFC) Patrick Louis Campbell served in the United States Army for 21 years. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Explosion Ordnance Specialist. While serving in Vietnam, he received the following medals, awards and decorations: Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal with V Device and Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with V Device, Good Conduct Medal (1st-5th Award), National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, EOD Specialist Badge, Senior EOD Badge, Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm and Meritorious Unit Citation.

SFC Campbell was born August 17, 1937 to his parents, Gordon and Elsie Campbell, in St. Charles, MO. His father worked as a migrant laborer, and the family moved to many states including CA, CO, AR, TN etc. His two brothers served in the U.S. Marine Corps retiring after successful military careers. At age 17 before finishing school, SFC Campbell enlisted in the U. S. Army in November 1954. He completed eight weeks of Basic Training and eight weeks of Infantry training at Ft. Jackson, SC, for service in the Infantry. SFC Campbell was deployed to peacetime forces in Korea with the 24th Infantry Division for 18 months. After that deployment, he was transferred to Ft. Riley, KS, for completion of his three years of enlistment in December 1957. He then reenlisted for six years, and for 13 weeks, he retrained to work in Explosive Ordnance at the U. S. Navy Propellant Factory and E.O.D. School at Indianhead, MD. He then served at Granite City Engineering Depot, Ill. He also served at Okinawa, Red River Army Depot, TX, Korea and Sandia Base, NM. SFC Campbell was deployed to Vietnam serving from April 1967 to June 1969 where he was wounded and received medals.

SFC Campbell continued his military career by serving at White Sands Missile Range, NM. SFC Campbell retired from military service at the Redstone Arsenal, AL, December 1975 at the rank of E7.

After his military retirement, SFC Campbell entered civil service and worked as a logistics specialist at Tinker Air Force Base, OK, and then he became a government contract specialist at Maxwell Air Force Base Gunter Annex retiring in 1995 at GS11. He has membership in the Vietnam Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

SFC Campbell and his wife, Marion Mercer, were married 16 years before she passed away, and they had two adopted children, two granddaughters and six great-grandchildren. He and his wife, Mary Hollis, were married 22 years until she passed. He and his wife Brenda have been married almost two years, and they are active members of Frazer Methodist Church.

SFC Campbell is grateful for the education that he was able to receive during his military service. He received a GED while serving in Korea, a B.S. Degree in Business Administration from William Carey College in 1956 and a Master of Business Administration from Oklahoma City University in 1981. SFC Campbell reflects upon his military service saying, "It was an honorable life style that I enjoyed. It was a step ladder up for life. I entered the Army having completed only the sixth grade, and I left the service with a degree. I would like future generations to remember that I served with pride and honor."

end



WWII veteran, Lt. Woodward Durham Lamar passed away on February 24, 2022 at the age of 99. His article was published in the October 2021 issue of the *Alabama Gazette*.

Ukrainian story continued from front page ...

Contributed by A.C. Beck

Humanizing the Invasion of Ukraine

While reiterating that he felt safe at the time, this Ukrainian recognized that many other areas of his country were being hit hard. Again, he stressed that the City of Odesa was reasonably safe. Not a Ukrainian citizen by birth, Odesa was home to him. He had established a family there and made many friends. He had enough food and supplies for a month, and a car full of gas. At the time, still not comprehending that he might have to flee Ukraine.

Who is this man giving a first-hand report from overseas in a country invaded by Russia on Thursday, February 24, 2022? He is known as Gustavo – a well-known musician on the high seas and beloved by many. His profession is that of a piano bar entertainer in the cruise industry. He is just one face and one account of what is happening to the citizens of Ukraine. He is just one person in a city of more than a million and in a country of 41 million. But Gustavo is a real person. He is not media hype or a fictitious character. He is a man in fear of his life and that of his family.

On that beautiful Sunday morning, the piano man ended the video with hopes of peace talks, but he wasn't naive and he was prepared.



Gustavo on left. Source: Facebook

Gustavo's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gustavopianobar>

Three days after that video and six days after Russia invaded Ukraine, on Wednesday afternoon, he began making plans to flee the country that had become his home and take his family to safety.

Please stop and pray for Gustavo and for the millions of others who choose to protect their family, for those who stay and fight, and for this situation to be resolved peacefully and quickly with minimum loss of life.

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

Norma Lynn Lundy – March 4th
Tamara McClendon – March 18th
Robert Douglas Pike – March 24th
Margaret Leah Compton – March 29th

Resources for Veterans



Veterans Crisis Line
www.veteranscrisisline.net



National Center for PTSD
855-948-2311 / ptsd.va.gov

Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System
2400 Hospital Road, Tuskegee AL 36083 / 334-727-0550
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VACentralAlabama>



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> and fill out the form for requesting a live bugler, and provide date, location and time of interment.

Lt. Col Tamara McClendon

Lt. Col Tamara McClendon served 22 years in the U.S. Army. Her Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Human Resource Officer. Her medals, decorations and awards included: Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (3rd award), Joint Commendation Medal (3rd award), Joint Commendation Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (2nd award), NATO Medal, Parachutist Badge, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Career Defense Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Master Fitness Training, Master Resilience Training and Combat Life Saver.



Lt. Col McClendon was born March 18, 1973 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Her adoptive parents were Nathaniel and Carolyn Powell. She was reared in Deerfield Beach, FL, where she graduated from Deerfield High School in 1991. She attended St. Augustine University, participated in Army R.O.T.C., graduated with a B.S. Degree in Communications and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Army May 12, 1995 by her father, Nathaniel Powell, and Ernestine Powell.

Lt. Col McClendon’s military career began with Basic Training at Ft. Knox, KY, with eight weeks of training followed by six months at Ft. Bragg, N.C. where she engaged as a trainer in basic soldier skills. Next, she went to Ft. Riley, KS, as the Chief in the Processing Center in Human Resources for two years. Her first overseas deployment was to the 2nd Infantry Division at Uijconybu, Korea, for 13 months followed by serving as Company Commander at Ft. Benning, GA for 24 months. She was sent to Ft. McCoy, WI, as Personnel Officer for 24 months. Next, she was assigned to Ft. McPherson, GA, serving as Exercise Planner and Simulation Officer for 24 months. Then she served at Ft. Bliss, TX, as Personnel Strength Manager for 24 months followed by assignment at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, for one year as a student of war strategy at the Army’s School of Advanced Military Studies. Next, she served at the Schofield Barracks, HI, in Human Resources with the 130th Engineer Brigade in the Joint Logistics Command for 1.5 years. Lt. Col McClendon’s second over-



seas deployment was to Afghanistan with the Human Resources Sustainment Command for one year. She returned to Hawaii to serve in Human Resources with the General Staff of the Pacific Command for 12 months at Ft. Shafter. Lt. Col McClendon’s had two assignments at Ft. Bliss, TX, as the Personnel Officer with the 32nd Army Air Defense Command for 24 months followed by one year as the Sexual Harassment Assault Response Prevention Program Manager. Next, Lt. Col McClendon was sent to Shaw AFB, S.C., for two years at Chief of Staff writing policies for deployment to the Middle East. Lt. Col retired from military service at Ft. Jackson, S.C., January 7, 2017.

Lt. Col McClendon and her husband, Frank D. McClendon, have been married 13 years and have four children and one grandchild. He served as a U.S. Marine. They enjoy traveling. Having been a journalism major in college, she writes children’s book and poetry. She also works as an assistant at the Highway 80 Café in Lowndesboro, AL. They have a farm where cattle are raised on their farm which they lease, and they have a fish pond where they enjoy fishing and which is used by veterans.

Lt. Col McClendon’s conclusions about her military service are: “I guess that being adopted, I did not feel that I belonged. When I entered the military, everybody dressed the same, looked the same, marched same and talked the same. We did things as a unit, and I believe teamwork was dreamwork. Having that esprit de corps brought out so much in me that I never missed family. I had something of which I was a part. When I went beyond my emotional needs, I looked at what we were doing for society. We were contributing by being model citizens, living a good, clean, healthy life, working out and being an ambassador to other people who were less fortunate. I was strengthened by being in the military. I was so overwhelmed by everything that I received, the training, the strategies, the operations, that now that I look at myself, all I want to do is to give back. I think that having a family helped me to balance and focus on the mission because of my family’s notes and e-mails encouraging me on down days especially during deployments and travel.”

#end#

Veterans love reading *The Alabama Gazette!*



Lt Col Cooper
(U.S. Navy / U.S. Air Force)



SSG Gullede
(U.S. Army)



MSgt Johnson
(U.S. Air Force)



Knight
(U.S. Navy)



The February 4, 2022 100th birthday of the WWII veteran, John F. Morrow, was celebrated at the New Home Missionary Baptist Church in Wetumpka, AL, February 6, 2022. **Admiral Kent Davis,** Commissioner of the AL Dept. of Veterans Affairs, presented a commendation from Governor Kay Ivey to Morrow. **Martha Poole Simmons,** ARC SAF volunteer, described his military and civilian life, saluted him, thanked him for his service and presented an ARC Tote of Hope to Morrow. (His article was published in the October 2019 issue of the *Alabama Gazette*.)

DAR Hosts a Patriotic Tea

Members of four chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) hosted a patriotic tea at the Church of the Ascension in Montgomery February 20, 2022. Members of the Atagi, Captain William Bibb, Francis Marion and Peter Forney Chapters honored the AL State Regent, Patrice Renee Donnelly, at the event. DAR’s objective is to foster true patriotism and love of country.

(Below, from left to right) *Andrea Harris, Regent of Francis Marion Chapter; Kathy Clements, Regent of Atagi Chapter; Patricia Donnelly, AL State Regent, Kathleen Gillian, Regent of Captain William Bibb Chapter; Terry Douthorow, Regent of Peter Forney Chapter.*



(Below) *Members of Peter Forney Chapter; Regent Donnelly (with sash).*



Ukrainian Observation’s continued from front page ...

OBSERVATIONS:

Putin served in KGB for 16 years. He has ordered opponents to be imprisoned or murdered. He is not crazy; he is cunning. He also seeks the glory that was once held by former Soviet dictators and wants to be in the pantheon of the Communist Soviet leaders.

Ukraine was one of the founding countries of the USSR. It has rich and complimentary mineral resources that can directly help the Russian economy.

Surprisingly, Russia's GDP (\$1.4 trillion) is roughly equivalent to that of the state of Florida (\$1.3 trillion). War is often an excuse leaders use when the economy is doing poorly. Half of Russia's GDP is tied to oil exports.

Russia controls the flow of oil to most the European countries. Interestingly, the current embargos do not include stopping Russian oil.

The U.S. imports over 200,000 barrels a day. The Biden sanctions do not include any disruption as of the time of this writing.

China is sitting on the sidelines, but only in appearance. It has been strongly suggested that it will provide as much funding as Russia needs in turn for its opportunity to attack and control Taiwan in the coming months if not weeks.

Banks around the world have ceased all transactions with Russia and the U.S., and others have seized Russian assets in affiliated banks. These actions seem to strengthen a tie between not only between Russia and China, but also Iran. China abstained from condemning Russia’s attacks in a UN resolution.

Oil prices have surged to over \$110 a barrel at the time of this writing.

Reports out of Ukraine indicate war deaths of over 20,000 Ukraine soldiers and 5,000 civilians thus far, with predicted loss of life to be much higher. Some estimate in the hundreds of thousands, with those injured exceeding 100,000. Bombings continue across the country including key seaports. It is reported that between one and two million refugees will flood into neighboring countries.

Kyiv (pronounced Ki-ev not Keiv) is currently under siege with a 40-mile Russian convoy heading toward the capital city, approximately 20 miles from the city center.

The Ukraine has no air assault to speak of and none of the NATO forces have volunteered to attack this convoy or other key spots. The U.S. has deployed about 10,000 troops thus far, and has also given the Ukraine military Javelin missile weapon systems made in Troy, AL by Lockheed Martin.

One of the key criticisms of Putin was that the Ukraine was attempting to join the U.N. Security Council.

Germany and other countries are now beginning to attempt to send more sophisticated weapons, but not enough to stop the onslaught.– *Staff Reporter*



Ukraine Facts:
It is a country in Eastern Europe.
The population is 41.3 million.
Size slightly smaller than Texas.
Second-largest country in Europe – after Russia
The Capital City is Kiev (Kyiv).



Dr. Martha Poole Simmons attended the dinner meeting of the Townsend Detachment #920 Marine Corps League, February 21, 2022 at the Fried Tomato Buffet in Montgomery. Thirteen Marines received copies of the November, December, January and February issues of the *Alabama Gazette*. She also gave them a bag, Tote of Hope, containing 10 toilet articles from the American Red Cross. The *Alabama Gazette* appreciates all Martha does and Fried Tomato Buffet for hosting the Marines!





CAVHCS CLC rated 5-stars for 10 Consecutive Quarters

By Tramel Garrett, CAVHCS Public Affairs



The U.S. Army's premier big band, Jazz Ambassadors, performed New Orleans-style jazz to our New Horizon Community Living Center Veterans to celebrate Veterans Day. (Photo by Robin Johnson, CAVHCS Public Affairs)

The New Horizon Community Living Center (CLC) continues to set the standard for every nursing home to emulate. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our health care professionals must perform at a high level to ensure the safety and comfort of our most vulnerable Veterans.

Our expert staff continues to give the best care possible. New Horizon CLC was recently named a 5-star facility for the 10th consecutive quarter. This performance rating places CAVHCS' community living center among the top-performing Veterans Health Administration and the country.

A recent Long Term Care Institute survey indicated there were no clinical findings with no medication errors.

"Through the various surveys, our CLC has demonstrated that they deserve the 5-star status they have to date," said Amir Farooqi, CAVHCS Director. "Maintaining this level and continuing to improve are significant steps in the journey to becoming a high-reliability organization."

Caring for senior Veterans is not just a job to the CLC staff. On numerous occasions, they have gone above and beyond for the well-being of our Veterans. For example, because of COVID-19 protocols, a CLC resident Marine Veteran Jessie Barnes Sr. could not attend the funeral of his son Jessie Barnes Jr., and Army Veteran.

The team jumped into action and arranged for a private virtual viewing of the funeral service and stayed by his side during the very emotional time.

"We arranged a quiet and serene location for the resident with the staff surrounding him for comfort," said Dr. Audrey Hodge, Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS) for Geriatrics and Extended Care.

Although our CLC continues achieving a 5-star rating, staff push the envelope to reach higher goals such as modernization of the health care provided at our facilities. New Horizon is the first CLC in Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) 7 to implement the teledermatology program. Residents rotated as part of our academic affiliation with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

"This aligns with the CAVHCS strategic vision through innovation as well as enhancing our academic learning and training environment," Farooqi said. "This latest 5-star rating of our CLC solidifies the great work they have done every single day to take care of our CLC Residents."

Contact: Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, **Sheila Marie Austin**, (334) 324-1222, Sheila.Austin2@va.gov.

CENTRAL ALABAMA AGING CONSORTIUM (CAAC) is a part of a state-wide aging network that provides a variety of Home and Community based services to the region's senior and disabled populations and their caregivers. CAAC coordinates services for these targeted populations in Montgomery, Autauga, and Elmore counties. The primary goal is to develop, coordinate, and support services in the community that support an active and independent life-style where those we serve can live and thrive.



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Social Security Services

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



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH and Social Security

Each March, we celebrate Women's History Month.

It is a time to reflect on the achievements of women. Social Security has served a vital role in the lives of women for more than 85 years.

Women have longer average life expectancies than men, which means they live more years in retirement and have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income. It's important for women to plan early and wisely for retirement.

Our retirement pages at www.ssa.gov/retirement provide detailed information about how life events can affect a woman's Social Security retirement benefits. These events may include marriage, widowhood, divorce, self-employment, government service, and other life or career changes.

Your earnings history will determine your future benefits, so we encourage you to verify that the information we have is correct. You can create your personal **my Social Security** account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount and review your earnings history. If you find an error in your earnings record, it is important to get it corrected so you receive the benefits you earned when you retire. Our publication, *How to Correct Your Social Security Earnings Record* at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf, provides you with details on how to make a correction. You also can view your Social Security Statement on your **my Social Security** account, for estimates of future benefits and other important planning information.

If you would like to learn more about how we can help women plan for retirement, check out our online booklet, *Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know*. You can find it at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10127.pdf. Please share this information with family and friends.



Guard Your Card: Protect What's Important to You



We encourage you not to carry your Social Security card with you every day. The best way to "Guard Your Card" is to keep it in a safe place and share it only when required. In fact, in most cases, just knowing the Social Security number should be enough. In 49 states and the District of Columbia, a Social Security card isn't required to request a Real ID. Only Pennsylvania requires it.

Please be careful about sharing your number when asked for it. You should always ask why your number is needed, how it will be used, and what will happen if you refuse. Also, you shouldn't carry documents that display your number.

If you need a replacement Social Security card, we make it easy. You may be able to use a personal my Social Security account to request a replacement on our website. If you live in one of 46 participating states or the District of Columbia, and are requesting a replacement card with no changes, like a name change, you can use our free online service at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/replacement-card.html.

Visit our Social Security Number and Card page at www.ssa.gov/ssnumber to learn more about your Social Security card.

Please read our factsheet, *How You Can Help Us Protect Your Social Security Number and Keep Your Information Safe*, at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10220.pdf

Our Guard Your Card infographic at, www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/assets/EN-05-10553.pdf, is another great resource to understand whether you need to show your card.

Workers in Your Home and Social Security Taxes

Do you plan to pay a cleaning person, cook, gardener, babysitter, or other household worker at least \$2,400 in 2022? If you will pay at least \$2,400 to one person during the year, which may include transportation, meals, and housing, you have additional financial responsibilities to consider.

When you pay at least \$2,400 in wages to a household worker, you must do all of the following:

- Deduct Social Security and Medicare taxes from those wages.
- Pay these taxes to the Internal Revenue Service.
- Report the wages to Social Security.



Accurate reporting is important as employees earn credits toward Social Security benefits and Medicare coverage. You can currently earn Social Security or Medicare credit for every \$1,510 in wages that are reported. Generally, people need 10 years of work to qualify for:

- Retirement benefits (as early as age 62).
- Disability benefits for the worker and the worker's dependents.
- Survivors benefits for the worker's family.
- Medicare benefits.

You can learn more about reporting household worker income by reading Household Workers www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10021.pdf.

Your PERSONAL My Social Security Account is for Every Stage in Your Career



Your online personal my Social Security account is here for you at every stage of your career. You don't have to be retired or even close to retirement to benefit from it. Most people can conduct their Social Security business online with their account without contacting Social Security, whether they receive benefits or not.

If you are not currently receiving benefits, use your personal my Social Security account to:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in most states and the District of Columbia).
- Estimate your future benefits.
- Get instant proof that you do not receive benefits.
- Check the status of your Social Security application when you decide to apply for benefits.
- Review your earnings history.

If you already receive Social Security benefits, use your account to:

- Request a replacement Social Security card (in most states and the District of Columbia).
- Get instant proof that you receive benefits.
- Set up or change your direct deposit.
- Change your address.
- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Get an instant copy of your Social Security 1099 (SSA-1099) or SSA-1042S.
- Opt out of receiving certain notices by mail and instead receive them in the secure Message Center.

Please let your family and friends know that they can create their personal **my Social Security** account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Save time and go online.

Please help inform others by sharing the messages below with family and friends. Kyle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, kyle.mckinney@ssa.gov

Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage

Bobbie Ames' erudite collection of prose, first published in *The Alabama Gazette*, will serve humanity, and more specifically, the Christian community, for generations to come. We at the Gazette are humbled and honored that Bobbie chose our publication to share some of her greatest treatises. Bobbie undoubtedly stands as one of the foremost Christian writers of this or any generation. Her book can be purchased at the link below.

<https://www.nordskogpublishing.com/product/land-that-i-love/>



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TODAY'S WOMAN

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



By Amanda Walker

Tears & Laughter: How to be Social Without the Social Media

The United States surgeon general has issued a report stating the negative effects social media platforms are having on mental health, especially in teens and young adults. The platforms generate feelings of loneliness and erode self-esteem.

Social media has proven to offer the opposite of what the name states, allowing users to isolate while constantly comparing themselves to others. This has been exacerbated further by the pandemic. There has been a rise in suicide attempts, depression, stress, and anxiety.

It is a problem made worse by a lack of access to quality care for mental health issues. It often takes years from the onset of symptoms before a child receives treatment.

The report expressed the immediate need for prevention programs, and the need for a better understanding of the impact technology and social media can have on young people.

Those of us who grew up before social media can remember what it was like to be social without an app. It was a different time. People would go out. And out could be anywhere.

I had the opportunity to be young in two places. I lived in Thomasville until I was 16, then lived in Clanton – where I graduated from high school – until I was 18.

In Thomasville, on Friday and Saturday nights the place to be social was the Hardee's parking lot. The Hardee's parking lot may not sound like a very exciting place, but at the time it was the most exciting place in Thomasville to young people.

Girl's would dress up and fix their hair just to go sit in the Hardee's parking lot. Guy's would wash their trucks and put on fresh button-down collared shirts.

It wasn't always Hardee's. My parents lived in Thomasville when they were young too and they would pretty much do the same except they would gang up at the Dairy Queen.

Clanton, was a little different, but most towns had similar routines. In Clanton come the weekend, the thing to do socially was fit as many of your friends in your car or your mama's car as you could, and then drive to the Pizza Hut. It was there on the main street through town. Everybody in town who could go, would. So many it was a traffic issue every weekend.

Nobody much went into the Pizza Hut to eat. We just circled it, driving slow, looking at who else was out driving around. We would wave at one another. Not everybody waved, but most people waved. That was part of the socializing. Some people tried to act stuck-up, or mad, or sometimes somebody might be too drunk to recognize anybody to wave at, but for the most part people were friendly. That was the whole point.

What we would do then would be drive from the Pizza Hut up the street to Jack's, and then we would drive around Jack's, still looking and waving and hollering out the window at one another. Then we would drive back down to Pizza Hut. It was fun. We would do it for hours.

Sometimes there would be a swapping up of passengers from car to car. Most people knew a few back roads. Knew where the peach orchards were, and the gravel pit. Back then people liked to feel on one another. They didn't have screens to touch. That was how a lot of families started. But mostly, kids just drove back and forth...being social. And then one day we had to grow up and be adults.

Before long young people today will probably learn they have to do the same. Life is much better living it than watching it from the sideline.

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>.



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Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"A Prayer of Blessings"

"For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly" – Psalm 84:11

In 433 A.D., history tells us that St. Patrick was praying for God's divine protection in his work and ministry in Ireland while facing powerful enemies. He wrote this prayer called St. Patrick's Breastplate, which is still widely known and recited today.

God soon opened the door for him to share Christ with the Irish King Laoghaire and his subjects and allowed him to be a part of bringing them out of paganism's dark hold to the saving power of Jesus Christ. St. Patrick was a man who knew much about darkness, hardship, and enemy territory. He had spent years in slavery after being kidnapped by pirates at age 16. And it was in those years that he later tells how he learned about the Mighty power of God's Presence and prayer.

The life of St. Patrick is such an example to us still today, that even in the darkest of times, God's Sovereignty shines over His people. He can't help but to come to our aid. He can't help but to bless us and let His favor surround our lives. Because He's a good and loving God. And nothing escapes His notice. He watches over all and we can trust that our lives and circumstances are held securely in His hands.



Credit: www.freeimages.com

Prayer of St. Patrick:

"As I arise today,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.
Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
Amen."

Many Blessings!



By Gary Miller

OUTDOOR Truths

What's in Your Live Well?

The bass fishing tournaments are getting ready to start with a vengeance. Once they begin, each weekend will offer another opportunity to fish for money. All bass tournaments have pretty much the same rules. Two fishermen, one boat, and the five biggest fish by weight, win. Some men will literally come to blows in pursuing first prize. And first prize can be worth lots of money, even in the smaller tournaments. As I have said before, these types of events touch both the competitive and outdoorsy side of men. It's enough fun to fish but add in beating somebody in the process and winning cash to do it, makes it an addictive potion. Most of the time, each team will spend the first few hours on the water just trying to catch any size fish. The immediate goal is to get five fish in the boat. After (or if) that is accomplished, the goal changes. Now it's time to cull the smaller ones that are already in the live well, for bigger replacements. Remember, it's the five heaviest fish. Sometimes the technique changes just for the purpose of perhaps catching less fish, but bigger ones. Again, the lesser ones get tossed back in when a better quality one is caught. And there are occasions when some good fish are thrown back because a great one is caught.

Our life is somewhat like these bass tournaments. We know we only have room for so many things in our live-well. Each one of these can be of little or great importance. Our life's pursuit and God's desire for us is to constantly add something that has a greater value than what we already have. What we have to remember, however, is sometimes we must get rid of something, which is of great worth in order to add something else that is priceless. This decision always comes with a mixed sense of both loss and excitement. As we mature, we understand it just has to be that way. It's just like that exercise shirt you once wore that said, "No Pain. No Gain." This is so true. But never forget, what you give up now will not seem so great a sacrifice when you get to the weigh-in. These types of sacrifices will always put you in the money.



Source: blog.fishidy.com

The Alabama Gazette welcomes Gary Miller to its wonderful arsenal of columnists. Gary Miller is an outdoor writer, author, and speaker. He has served as a Pro Staff member for several hunting companies including Dead End Game Calls, PSE Archery, Schiek Sports, and Alpen Optics. When he is not writing or speaking, you'll find him in a tree stand, a turkey blind, or on the river. He has written 4 books; *Outdoor Truths*, *Hunting and Fishing for Answers Volumes I, II, and III* and *Devotions from a Hunting, Fishing, and Sports Father, to His Son*. The *Outdoor Truths* series are a compilation of the articles he has written over time. He is married to Teresa, and they have three children and five grandchildren.





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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.

Patricia Killough
Community Editor

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Jean Bennett
Davis Abbott Mason (4th)
Brett O'Neal
Donna Ross | 15 George Handey
Sandy Stephans Rogers
Betty Lossman
David Hancock |
| 2 Amie Dean
Bill Oates
Norma Renfro | 16 Lisa Gordan Hester |
| 3 Dorothy Fuller (84th)
Frank Reynolds | 18 William Watters Box
George McKinley (75th)
Robert Singleton
Jacque Takacs
Kayla Woodall |
| 4 Todd Cole
Russ Russell | 19 Charlotte Crane
Keisha Glasscock |
| 5 Glen Yost | 20 Connie Crowe |
| 6 Gayle Bosworth
Marjorie Wright | 21 Hannah Yost
Murlyne Clements
Dorothy Lasaine
Phillip Reeves (71st) |
| 7 Everett Cole
Laura Lane
Tony Law
Michael Carroll
Brad Wallace | 22 Kentston Whigham (9th) |
| 8 Frances Ard
Linda Clayton
David Ehrlich | 23 Ben Garrett
Laura Hudson
Morgan James
Brandy Landreau
Dawn Lane
Lallage Neil |
| 9 Grace Neighbors (95th)
Courtney Whigham | 24 Robert Adams
Zenias Mims |
| 10 Jane Grubbs
Paula Lansdon
Cory Smith
Jeanne Villar
Michael Weldon | 25 Deborah Cox
Hunter Hannon
Wanda Madison |
| 11 Dr. John Bitter
Glenn Harper | 26 Ruby Macon |
| 12 Angie Ferreira | 27 Renee Grant
Cynthia Harper
Wendy Powell |
| 13 Linda Richardson
Samantha Jane Rice (11th) | 29 Delicia Fuller |
| 14 Brian Takacs
Dana Webster (67th) | 31 Carlie Corbin |

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

Mann, Alvin DeLaney "Poppy" (73)	Jan. 11
Christenberry, Sara Steele Hunt (92)	Jan. 29
McNeal, Mae "Janelle" Maness (79)	Jan. 29
Beesley, Eddie Jacob (72)	Jan. 31
Forst, Joan Hosp	Jan. 31
Jackson, Marsha (79)	Jan. 31
Guy, Frances Sherman "Bebe" (93)	Feb. 4
Weitman, Anne Mae (84)	Feb. 5
Crapps, Mary Lucy Furlow (73)	Feb. 6
Minor, Lynn Reed (73)	Feb. 6
Johnson, Solomon W. "Johnny/Buddy" (89)	Feb. 7
Sessions, Carey Vance (65)	Feb. 7
Trussell, Phillip V. (78)	Feb. 7
Blevins, Dorothy Gyene Glass (88)	Feb. 8
Downey, Modean Lett Daughtery (87)	Feb. 9
Cook, Oneta Shackelford (103)	Feb. 10
Nevins, Guy Randall (72)	Feb. 11
Adams, CCI, Helen E. Matthews (79)	Feb. 12
Tomlinson, III, Bartley "Bart" Eugene (60)	Feb. 12
Goodwyn, Jean Elizabeth Fleming (91)	Feb. 14
Gwathney, Elizabeth Hutto (86)	Feb. 15
Poundstone, III, Robert Emmett (73)	Feb. 17
McLendon, Jennifer Ellen (73)	Feb. 20
Mathews, Doris Talley (92)	Feb. 21
Wilson, Marshall Author (74)	Feb. 21
Aronov, Teri Helen (73)	Feb. 22
Lamar, Dr. Woodward Durham (99)	Feb. 24
Smith, Randall Joseph (61)	Feb. 27



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Happy Anniversary

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|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Ed & Dot Truitt (69th) | 18 George & Lynn McKinley |
| 5 Frank & Helen Ralph | 21 Craig & Mindy Trotter (12th) |
| 7 Bobby & Myra Mills | 23 Paul & Cynthia Harper |
| Jim & Barbara Garrett | 25 Tim & Nicole Sansom |
| 9 Fred & Connie Crowe | 26 Elvin & Cam Stanton |
| Steve & Sonja Campbell (48th) | 27 Al & Conni Barnett
Mike & Cindy Smith |
| 10 Willard & Joyce Haines (70th) | 29 Bill & Vickie Gulsby |
| 14 Nicholas & Sally Corley | |
| 15 Jim & Linda Richardson | |

Happy Belated Birthday!

Elaine Landry (88) ~ February 19th



Women of Hope is a group of caring and compassionate individuals who desire to help educate, promote awareness, and provide hope for individuals and families coping with and dealing with the affects of breast cancer.

Visit: www.thewomenofhope.org

WOMEN OF HOPE is a non-profit Foundation for Breast Cancer Support and is classified by the U. S. Department of the Treasury as a 501 (c)(3) organization under the code of the Internal Revenue Service.

A Heart for the Homeless

Eastern Hills Baptist Church Homeless Mat Ministry

There is a group of ladies from **Eastern Hills Baptist Church** in Montgomery, Alabama, who have a heart for the homeless in our community. These women use donated recycled plastic bags and weave them into soft, waterproof, durable sleeping mats. Within each mat, they roll a twin blanket, a small pillow, socks, hat and gloves, rain poncho, a bag of hygiene products and a Bible with a salvation track enclosed.

Every Tuesday and Thursday the ladies meet at **Dalraida United Methodist Church** for the mat-weaving workshop from 10 am to noon. Others in the community are welcome to come and meet these women and certainly join in their efforts to help the homeless.

To-date, the group has made 155 mats. It takes 2,005 bags to make one mat, and they are so grateful for all the donations received. The items rolled into the mats are donated, as well.

Patrick Aiken, with Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless has been most helpful to help in distributing the mats. These mats have been given to Mercy House, Reality and Truth Ministries', River City Church and to the Salvation Army.



Should you have any questions, or if you would like to participate or donate, please contact **Karla Smilie Groves**, Coordinator for Homeless Sleeping Mat Ministry Group;

Karlasmilie626@gmail.com or 334-324-4732

Facebook page: **Homeless Sleeping Mat Ministry**

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John Agnew Wilson	Feb. 20
Lewis Henry Williams	Feb. 20
Edward DeFoye Tilley	Feb. 20
Barbara Cheryl Parker Worley	Feb. 19
Ray Johnson	Feb. 18
Jean Jones Webb	Feb. 18
George H. Spigner	Feb. 18
Peggy Murchison	Feb. 18
Cecil Rhodes	Feb. 17
Syble Gayle Fitzgerald	Feb. 16
Donna Gray Davis	Feb. 13
Sonja Carol Legg	Feb. 13
Johnny Franklin Wright	Feb. 12
Richard Kyle Berkstresser	Feb. 12
Annabelle Souza	Feb. 11
Carl "Carson" Davis	Feb. 10
Ollie Mae Dandridge	Feb. 10
Thelma Crawford Johnson	Feb. 10
Scott Jason Givens	Feb. 7
Betty Ruth Weathers	Feb. 7
Rev. Donald S. Young	Feb. 6
Charles Lee "Charlie" Pinson	Feb. 6
Karen C. Connell	Feb. 3
Louie Donald Wilson	Feb. 2
Marcus Cody Adair	Feb. 1



Southern Cuisine

Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef

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

The recipes chosen for this issue were determined by the weather and age.. Last night was the coldest for the year. It is only February, so colder days could come back at anytime. Besides the weather, I wanted to continue

with my theme of finding older recipes that I have ignored or how to prepare them has been lost. With all of the premade meals you can find in grocery stores and with the partial opening of restaurants, it is very easy to have a meal and not have to prepare it. And just the freedom from government-mandated restrictions on where you can eat and socialize has made it easier to leave your home and go out and enjoy life.

I have commented before on the savings you will have by preparing your own meals at home. Yes, it is nice to get out and try new tastes at the new restaurants that have opened but I actually had sticker shock when I looked at the price of a meal at a restaurant. There are valid reasons for the sticker shock. Restaurants have had a hard time the past couple of years. Mandates have limited the number of patrons they can seat. Inflation and cost of labor has increased. People have been scared to go out on the town.

If you have not dined at some of the new restaurants that have opened, you have missed out.

I have eaten at four new restaurants and I have not been disappointed. Yes the meals were more expensive than what I was use to, but the meals themselves were different from what they were before.

So even though I do and will go out to eat many times in the future I am changing what I originally was going to write about. I found two ways to cook a dish that has always been a favorite of mine. Living in Texas for a number of years, Chili has been a go to meal when my refrigerator was full of leftovers from meals past. Each recipe can be called a chili recipe, but there are more renditions of chili recipes as there are renditions of tuna salad sandwiches, hamburgers and vodka drinks. So here are two renditions of chili. One is a cream base and is thick warm and filling. The other is a broth base and is good with a jalapeno cheese cornbread. Either recipe can be tweaked to spice them up. Just add your favorite hot sauce to make it as spicy as you can stand. Also add some Hatch green chilies. Or the next time you stop at BUC-EES on your way to the coast, pick up a bottle of their wide selections of hot sauces they carry. When I shop in Montgomery, I always try to stop at the Capitol Market on the southern bypass and pick up a jar of INCA'S FOOD Aji Amarillo yellow paste.

The first recipe is from LANA'S COOKING website with a few tweaks.

Creamy White Chicken Chili

A rich, creamy white chili packed with tender pieces of chicken and white beans. *Servings: 10*

INGREDIENTS:

9 chicken thighs, cooked, bones removed & chopped, skin on
½ cup butter divided
2 large onions chopped
¼ cup all-purpose flour
¾ cup chicken broth
2 cups half and half
1 tsp Tabasco
1½ tsp chili powder
1tsp ground cumin
2 tsp salt
½ tsp pepper
16 oz canned white beans (great northern or cannellini), drained
8 oz canned, chopped mild green chilies drained
1½ cups grated Monterey Jack cheese
1 cup milk
½ cup sour cream



METHOD:

1. Cook thighs and remove bones. Cut into medium chunks.
2. In a large pot or Dutch oven, cook the onion in half of the butter until softened. Remove from the pot and set aside.
3. In the same pot, melt remaining 6 Tbsp of butter over moderately low heat and whisk in the flour.
4. Cook, whisking constantly, for about three minutes.
5. Stir in the onion.
6. Gradually add the broth then the half and half, whisking the whole time.
7. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes, or until thickened. (It will be nicely and obviously thick.)
8. Stir in all other ingredients.
9. Cook over moderately low heat, stirring occasionally for 20 minutes.
10. Add sour cream.
11. Serve with the usual chili garnishes – cilantro, cheese, jalapenos, etc.

My wife, Anne, made up this recipe. It is a broth type chili. There is no dairy in the recipe if you substitute the butter in the recipe for oil or margarine.

ANNE'S Chicken Chili

INGREDIENTS:

9 cooked chicken thighs with the bones removed & then chopped into medium chunks
4 cups chicken stock
2 – 15-oz cans white beans (cannellini or great northern, drained & rinsed)
2 – 4.5-oz cans diced green chilis
3 cloves garlic chopped saute before adding
1 medium onion chopped saute before adding
2 tsp cumin
14-oz can yellow corn, drained
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp cayenne pepper



METHOD:

1. Put all ingredients in a slow cooker or pot on stove.
2. Cook until hot for serving.

Garnish: *small bunch fresh cilantro for garnish & fresh lime cut in wedges*

Serve with the same cornbread as with the previous recipe, or with my favorite, saltine crackers.



With all the spice in the chili recipes, a sweet dessert works well. This recipe was first published in 2001, I not sure it was first published in *Southern Living*, but I found this recipe in the magazine in 2021. It is a sheet cake recipe and takes some effort to mix it altogether. And you can use any frosting you seem fit. Sprinkle the remaining pecans on top.

Fresh Apple Cake

INGREDIENTS:

1½ cups chopped pecans, divided
1 stick butter, melted
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 cups flour
2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt
4 large Granny Smith apples, peeled & cut into wedges
Cream Cheese Frosting



METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Bake pecans in a single layer in a shallow pan 5 to 7 minutes or until lightly toasted and fragrant, stirring halfway through.
3. Combine butter, sugar, eggs, and vanilla extract in a large bowl until blended.
4. Combine flour, salt, cinnamon, baking soda and butter mixture, stirring until blended.
5. Stir in apples and 1 cup pecans.
6. Spread thick batter into a lightly greased 13- x 9-inch pan.
7. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.
8. Remove from oven when a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean.
9. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack for 30-45 minutes.
10. Spread frosting (your choice) on cake and sprinkle with remaining pecans.

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~ Julia Childs