

# In Case You Missed It: Roby 'shows off' 187th in push for F-35

U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-Ala.) hosted the Chairwoman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee in Montgomery on Sunday, July 23, 2017 for visits to the area’s military installations.

Representative Kay Granger (R-Texas), who chairs the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, will tour the 187th Fighter Wing at Dannelly Field and Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base. Roby serves on the Subcommittee, which is responsible for crafting legislation to fund the military.

“I frequently brag on the amazing military installations we have here in Alabama, including Fort Rucker in the Wiregrass and Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery. And, of course, I have been constantly talking up the great work of the 187th Fighter Wing as we have pursued this unique opportunity with the F-35,” Roby said.

Representative  
Kay Grange  
(R-Texas)  
House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Defense



*The F-35 Lightning II is a 5th Generation fighter*

## The Multi-variant, Multirole 5th Generation Fighter

The F-35 Lightning II is a 5th Generation fighter, combining advanced stealth with fighter speed and agility, fully fused sensor information, network-enabled operations and advanced sustainment. Three variants of the F-35 will replace the A-10 and F-16 for the U.S. Air Force, the F/A-18 for the U.S. Navy, the F/A-18 and AV-8B Harrier for the U.S. Marine Corps, and a variety of fighters for at least ten other countries.


The Lightning II is a single-seat, single-engine fighter aircraft designed for many missions with advanced, integrated sensors built into every aircraft. Missions that were traditionally performed by small numbers of specialized aircraft, such as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and electronic attack missions

can now be executed by a squadron of F-35s, bringing new capabilities to many allied forces.

The F-35 is developed, produced, and supported by an international team of leading aerospace companies. As the prime contractor, Lockheed Martin



continues its 100-year history of aircraft research and design with the Lightning II. Principal partners Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems build the center and aft fuselages, respectively. Northrop Grumman also brings its expertise in carrier aircraft and low-observable stealth technology to the F-35 program and supports logistics, sustainment, modeling and simulation and mission planning. BAE Systems contributes a rich heritage of capabilities, including short takeoff and vertical landing experience, advanced lean manufacturing, flight testing and air systems sustainment. Pratt & Whitney builds the F-35's F135 propulsion system, the world's most powerful fighter engine.



# Back To School

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# ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

## DUNKIRK: A REVIEW

*“The trio of timelines can be jarring as you figure out how they all fit, and the fact that there are only a couple of women and no lead actors of color may rub some the wrong way.”*

USA Today Brian Truitt

Last night I had the pleasure of attending the opening night of the movie, *Dunkirk*. In all the years I have been writing for the Gazette, I believe this is my first review. Once this is complete many of you will probably say you know exactly why I don’t write movie reviews but here goes anyway. Before I get started, and really hate to do this (no I don’t), the quote above is from an idiot at USA today in his review of *Dunkirk*. Need I really say anything? Perhaps he

doesn’t realize that there have actually been some historical events where women and people of color really did not play a decisive, integral role in the outcome.

First of all, my overall impression was clearly positive. I do recommend if you are not familiar with Dunkirk, just do a little research beforehand to give you some background because you certainly will not find it in the movie. I have been waiting for this movie since I saw the movie trailer the first time about a year ago. I even rearranged my flying schedule so I could be home in time to see the first showing. When I talked to people about the movie they asked me why I was excited to see it and my answer was, “Germans, Brits, Messerschmitts,



Spitfires and Stukas. ‘Nuf said.” That being said, the movie was excellent. Writer/Director Christopher Nolan did an outstanding job capturing those events in the summer of 1940. Anyone not familiar with the Dunkirk story, and those people are certainly out there, will walk away likely wanting to know more. Those of us who know of Dunkirk and WWII history, will also walk away wanting to have seen more but for different reasons. As with any historical movie, most people are not going to be totally satisfied and I am no exception. Although I did love the movie and will buy it on DVD, there were certain aspects that I did not like or felt were certainly lacking. Because of this, I will split this review into the “Good” and the “Bad.” Understand that bad does not mean awful but simply in my little Jurassic brain, I felt the movie came up short. Also, I will try not to include any spoilers in this review. As a side note, I was very happy to see about 150-200 folks at the first showing Thursday night at 1845 at the New Vision on Chantilly.

### THE GOOD

**1.** The Sound – Let me borrow from modern vernacular – OMG!! Is there an academy award looming? You better believe it. I don’t think I have ever heard a more dynamic and “in your face” sound track. Having fired many different types of weapons in my day to include the German MG-42 machine gun, there is a definite difference in the sound between German and British weapons. This movie captured this spectacularly. The sounds were loud and made you realize you did not want to be on the receiving end of any of it.

**1a.** The Stuka – By far, my biggest take away from the movie. The Stuka, (one of my 5 favorite airplanes of all time), short for “Sturzkampfflugzeug” was a German dive bomber that played an important role in the early days of WWII. It is likely the most recognized weapon of the German Blitzkrieg of 1939-1940. As a dive bomber, this airplane was highly effective and even average pilots had the ability to hit targets with pinpoint accuracy. Without enemy fighter opposition, the Stuka proved to be a highly effective, deadly machine. As an added element to the Stuka’s repertoire, in field conversions, the Germans added sirens to the fixed undercarriage of the airplane. Run by tiny propellers, as the aircraft dove toward the enemy below, these sirens, known as the Trumpets of Jericho, emitted a terrifying scream. The faster and lower the plane came, the louder the siren. It was designed to scare the bejeezus out of men and animals below. There was one actual documented case during the German invasion of Russia a year later that one soldier became so terrified that his hair actually turned white from fear. I have watched hundreds of documentaries, shows and movies showing diving Stukas but let me tell you, this movie actually scared me. For the first time, I actually got the feeling of what it must have felt like to be on the ground

and having one of these airplanes coming at you. Christopher Nolan, you are the man.

**3.** I like the three separate story lines. Just pay attention in the beginning and they do all come together in the end.

**4.** First and foremost, this movie is a rescue movie. That is what Dunkirk was. The movie does not let itself get bogged down into the Battle of France and why these men were there in the first place. This is also a bad thing that I will follow up with later.

**5.** Visually appealing. Yes being a pilot, I loved the aerial scenes. It is clear they had some very good technical advisors who knew a lot about flying Spitfires. The scenes of desperation on boats sinking was also excellent while at the same time horrifyingly sad. The foam on the beach, fear on men’s faces, accurate uniforms and the youth of the men involved all give the movie instant “street creds.”

### THE BAD

**1.** The Air Battles. While visually appealing, the movie does not capture the sheer size of the air battle. While historians disagree on actual losses, the British losses range from 106-177 aircraft and the Germans lost between 135 and 240 aircraft. In the movie we see a total of 3 Spitfires, one Blenheim, about 6 Stukas, one Heinkel-111 and about four Messerschmitt Bf-109s. In the world of CG (computer graphics), this could have been bolstered to show the enormity of the air battle which essentially was the bulk of the Dunkirk fighting.

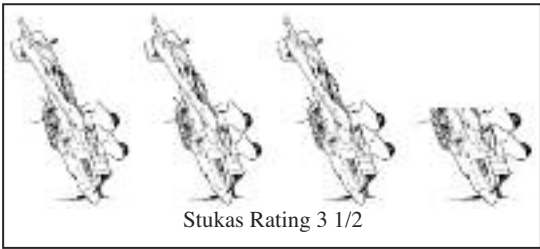
**2.** I won’t go into more detail here but other aviation aspects were not what I would have expected (i.e. aggressive, gut wrenching dogfighting).

**3.** Overall Context. This probably my biggest complaint. The Dunkirk evacuation took place from 27 May though 4 June. A very hectic, deadly 9-day period. The movie leads us to believe that this operation takes place over only a 2-day period. Being a historian, I really did not like this at all. In the nine days, over 338,000 men escaped. At one point one of the characters mentions having 400,000 men on the beach. They maybe had a couple of thousand extras standing on the beach. I have been to airshows that have had 250,000 people and that is impressive. 400,000? That is a lot of people. Again, in the world of CG, have just a couple of shots of 400,000 soldiers on the beach. We have to see that. There really is little or no excuse not to. As the viewer, I need and want to see and feel the enormity of the operation. Lastly, some 860 boats took part of this action. Of these, some 240 were sunk. At the most, at any one time we might see 30, certainly not hundreds. The 1942 Mrs. Miniver with Greer Garson actually does a better job here. Again, scale, context, enormity all scream for CG. When Kenneth Branagh’s character peers over the ocean and sees the tiny boats coming in, filling the screen with several hundred boats would have given us a better idea of what the British civilians did in order to get their men home. The feeling of dread the German spotter had looking out from his bunker at the incoming invasion ships in the movie “The Longest Day” instantly comes to mind. With a similar view, the tears in Branagh’s eyes would have been surely warranted. In general, I walked away knowing that the battle was bigger than what was portrayed and likewise disappointed thinking that most people watching *Dunkirk* will never really understand how big this was in world history.

**4.** Biggest Pet Peeve. People who know me know I love WWII history and WWII movies; especially those based on historical situations. Take this for what it is worth. This is just T8er speaking. If you are going to have a historically based movie, please, at the end, and even the beginning for context if warranted, have something to give the movie true context and value to the audience. Teach me something. As an example, before the credits roll put on a screen something like:

*“During the nine-day period from 27 May to 4 June, 338,226 men, including almost 140,000 French, Polish and Belgian soldiers were rescued from the beaches of Dunkirk. At the height of the rescue on 31 May, over 68,000 men were rescued. In all, more than 860 boats took place in the evacuation, ensuring the British Army remained intact and would survive to fight another day. These men would go on to form the nucleus of the British Army that would go on to help defeat the Germans in North Africa, Italy and in Western Europe. Without this evacuation, British success may likely never have occurred”*

Overall, I loved the movie. Many of my points are probably nit-picky. I do not think many people will walk out of *Dunkirk* being disappointed. Contrary to Brian Truitt’s asinine comments in USA Today. Just be prepared when those Stukas come at you-- AWESOME!! So for my rating, I give this *Dunkirk* 3 ½ diving Stukas out of 5.



Stukas Rating 3 1/2

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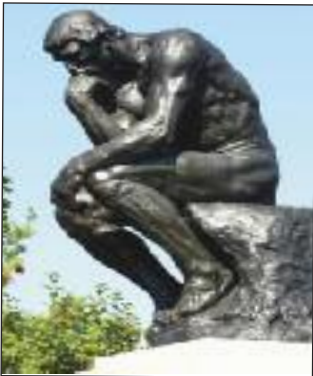


*The views of this editorial are not the express views of The Alabama Gazette.*

John Sophocleus

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# THINK



## Blessed With Many Fathers: in remembrance of Dale Miller, “Mayor of his neighborhood”

Empty screen before me now, heavy hands upon the keyboard, I struggle to type this month’s column... informed hours ago of the death of my father-in-law, **Dale Miller**, via phone from my bride. She immediately flew to Indiana a week ago to be there for his final days of a life well lived after her younger sister completed the onerous task of telling her older sister their father received Last Rites. Since joining the esteemed group of *Alabama Gazette* writers in 2009, I’ve never missed a deadline. I’m certain Dale would not appreciate using his passing as an excuse/reason for failing to write or meet my classes, which he thought much more important than just earning an income. Never really understood the pride he seemed to find in my efforts as writer and teacher, but it sure was comforting. The issue in last month’s column (1 for 30,000 HoR rule) was the source of some of our most compelling conversations these past decades.

I've been abundantly blessed with many fathers. My Heavenly Father I hold most dear, my earthly father, my grandfather, Godfather, founding fathers and of course my father-in-law. The power of our "**Kyrie Eleison**" prayer became very clear saying it with all my being for my earthly father years ago and it was well granted. This simple yet powerful prayer rolling through my mind and spirit these past days attenuates the sadness. Yet another Father (Michael Condos, priest at Annunciation in Montgomery) shepherded me well to find comfort in the powerful Kyrie Eleison “Lord have mercy” prayer when my father was in a coma. Wanting my father to remain in this world was obvious, but clearly not in my control. If He was going to take him, take him peacefully and with minimal suffering; if allowed to remain with us, return him to us well. The added years God is granting allows me to further contemplate the relationship between father(s) and son.

Most important is my Heavenly Father. It is difficult to reconcile - think how Joseph endured witnessing Jesus taking His path to our Heavenly Father. Truly remarkable I’ve never felt any jealousy from my earthly father knowing I hold my Heavenly Father most dear. In fact, my father did well putting me on the path to my Heavenly Father. One of the many lessons he instilled was a quarter from my allowance each week went to support the church, which I think was instilled in him well by his mother, a major force in the “Philoptochos” (friends of the poor) at Annunciation in Baltimore. The circle was unbroken.

My greatest fear meeting the ‘awesome judgement seat of Christ’ is to be found guilty of burying my talents. I don’t know why that yearly gospel compels me more than any other. When I wore a younger man’s clothes this judgement was a source of great fear, but after witnessing man’s judgement of 12 member juries, jurists like Myron Thompson, the 2010 US Supreme Court’s decisions against me, I take comfort in the possibility of a merciful judgement from Jesus who suffered worse than I can imagine. I similarly pray my earthly father doesn’t think I’ve squandered the gifts and efforts he exerted in my life. I was blessed with a good father who earned a son that would become a good man. Sadly, my efforts failed toward finding/making a place worthy of a child.

I have indelible memories of my grandfather. The oldest memory I can conjure in my mind’s eye and ear is Papou Sophocleus singing “Christos Anesti” (Christ is Risen) with me as a young child then picking up his banjo (an accomplished bouzouki player, he traded it for a banjo in transition to being an American) to play delightful Greek folk songs. Shame on me for not learning much Greek, he would sing a song I felt he thought important for me to hear/learn. It evoked names like Aristides, Miltiades and Themistocles which perhaps had something to do with the ten generals at the Battle of Marathon. With a name like Sophocleus, Papou probably expected me to continue to translate and assimilate our Greek culture into America. A quiet child to the frustration of some - it was because I knew I wasn’t even remotely prepared to say a word. At family reunions in Raleigh I would marvel listening to uncles talking seamlessly of parallels between the Peloponnesian War and war between our States. Still trying to live up to that wonderful hope of my grandfather.

As for my Godfather, there’s none better! He took his responsibility of instruction on identifying and following the Holy Spirit seriously. He was always trying to hone my ability to think and solve problems. Spending a week each summer with his family in Ocean City, MD was when he exerted great effort to improve my chess game and talk to me about navigating the snares of this world. I remain amazed at his patience answering my childish questions as we listened to the Watergate hearings and explaining the wrongdoings of those in power. All my fathers stressed not to trust authority as truth, but respect Truth as the ultimate authority which will prevail in the end.

Readers of my columns these past years know the founding fathers have also been patient with their writings trying to instruct me toward understanding the path toward a more perfect union. I’m ashamed to admit how poor my progress has been these past decades. Which brings me back to remembrances of my father-in-law. The child he parented here on earth is the greatest blessing in my life. When others asked how our marriage has continued so well through some difficult times, my reply is simple. We both love something greater than each other - God. I can’t imagine what it was like for a father to see a beautiful angel like the one he shepherded into adulthood leave his dominion. I do know he was looking for someone who also loved God and would take care of this precious soul. I think he understood (as anyone could easily see) his daughter earned someone special in her life. Indeed she deserved a better man than I, but it seemed a ‘thin market’ for good people and shrinking. I’m far too poor a wordsmith to convey what it is like when you’re completely certain of finding the angel you want to take before God to marry and realize you’re not really good enough; the only thing you can do is earn every special moment and try to improve every day.

Hard to admit being this far along in life to finally realize the biggest blessing of all the fathers in my life has been shepherding me to be a better man. Hope my father-in-law found me worthy of his precious daughter, even in the toughest of times. Imagine how strange it is to have a son-in-law teaching for 1/6 of what he’d earn continuing in his former job? When the federal government was in the process of wrongfully taking our home - he was down to Alabama **a.s.a.p.!** Wish I could’ve sheltered my family from federal despotism better. After being made homeless for almost a year and living on a friend’s property, Dale didn’t quibble on why someone making \$25k/year refused to settle for a large amount of money because we wanted the courts to continue ruling correctly (as the US Supreme Court did in 2005) so others wouldn’t suffer as we did. When an issue of well-defined right and wrong my father-in-law was uncompromising.

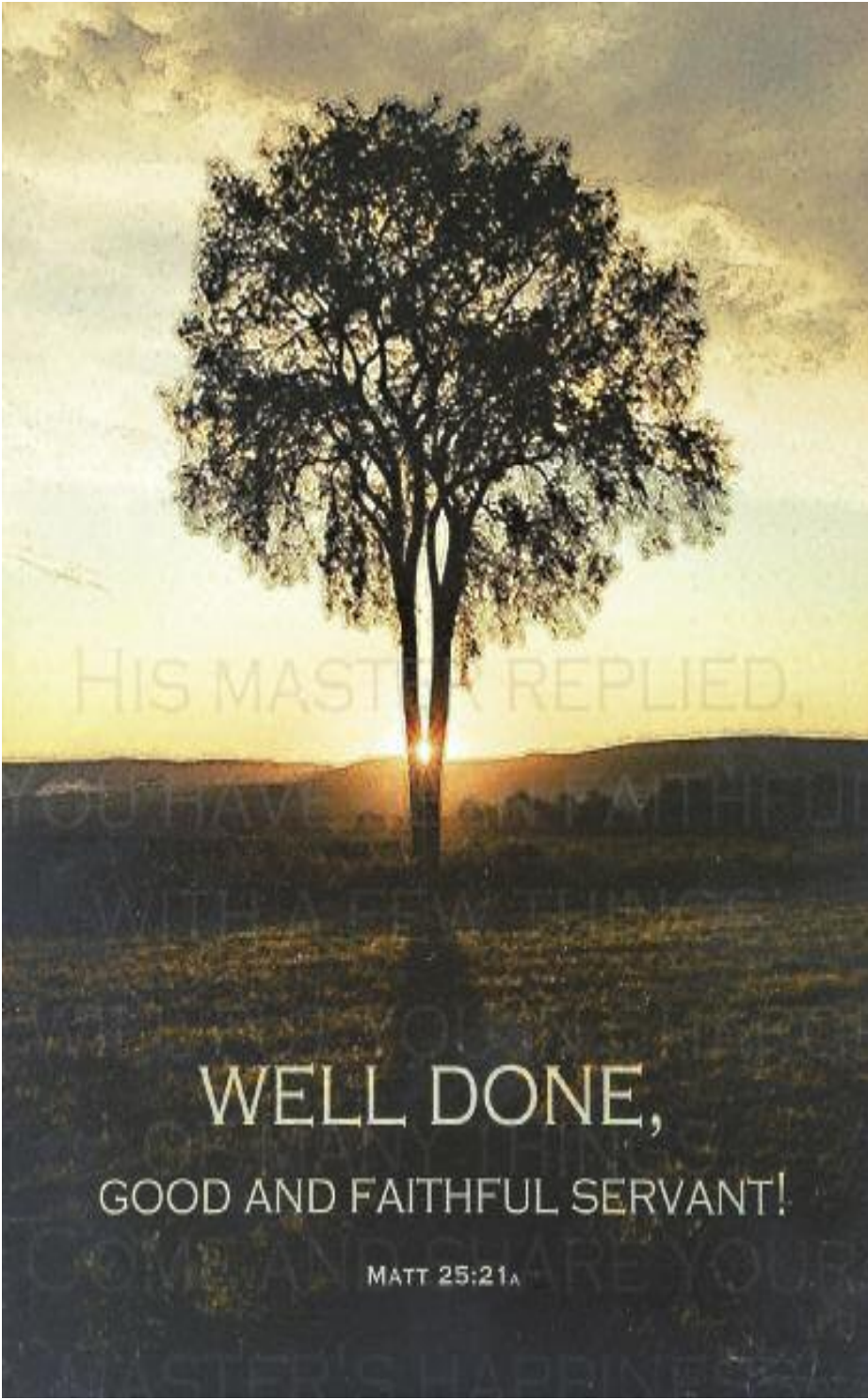
Dale’s common sense attitude which morphed into effective action was most admirable. He had the most delightful laugh, whenever we’d visit I’d hope Seinfeld was on just so I could revel in hearing his laughter. One of my favorite

moments discussing what the federal highway bureaucrats were saying and what they were doing, prompted his wonderful laugh to say, “*well John, with most people when it is all said and done; more is SAID than is done.*” He seemed to know when I needed a little break from the 13 year fight at the same time confirmation I wasn’t being unreasonable under the circumstances. When I was on the Parish Council having problems with getting and keeping a priest, it was like talking to an old seasoned veteran with all his past efforts sustaining his church through the toughest times. I pray to do a fraction as well offering sagacity to others expecting it from me in my senior years. Also hope I can keep my good humour and Spirit when BOTH son-in-laws (**NOT** devotes of Mr. Lincoln) turn Abe’s bust facing the wall when he’s not looking to be discovered later...

Of all the memories folks have shared these past difficult days, “*Dale is a one of a kind person. He is considered MAYOR of his neighborhood. He has watched over my mom and her husband for years. He is a good man, friend, husband, father and grandfather. God Bless him,*” is my favorite. Simple, accurate and to the point. Mayor of his neighborhood indeed! The Dale Millers of this world are what make a town special and thwart the demons and tyranny waiting to prey upon it. He was a Christian activist, in other words with Dale more is DONE than is said. No one was going to be mistreated where he could see it; no one truly needy was going to go hungry, cold or without shelter. It is said to judge a society on how it treats their lowest and most vulnerable individuals - Mayor Miller made sure his neighborhood would be well judged. Historians noted the politburo in Rome hated then feared the Christians as they were held in higher regard than those in authority because the general population realized who truly cared about them. Similarly, no one (including those in authority) wanted to be on the wrong side of Dale in HIS neighborhood.

The George Bailey character (played by James Stewart) in “*It’s a Wonderful Life*” gets to see how different Bedford Falls would be without his being born. I wouldn’t want to see a world with even one less Dale Miller in it. There are and have been many towns of Brazil’s characteristics on US Route 40 just outside major cities across the nation. Some get sucked in by the quick buck of a developer and shady politicians to experience the short-run euphoria of unsustainable growth inevitably followed by the cancer which slowly eats away at the town. Others, like Dale, dig in who aren’t easily duped and carry through the tough times to make something good last in hopes the **next** generation will do the same for themselves and their posterity. Can’t help but recall some text from **Matthew 25:21** - “*Well done, good and faithful servant: enter into the joy of thy Lord.*”

I delighted in telling my father in law of the first time I took his daughter to my church where the choir was singing a beautiful repetition of “Kyrie Eleison” prompting her to say, “I didn’t know they sang Latin in the Greek church.” So I don’t think my good catholic father-in-law would take any offense in my closing with the traditional Greek orthodox saying, "Eonia Imnemi" - may Dale's



memory be eternal through Christ he held so dear. He was a strong man in mind, body and Spirit. We've lost one of the most steadfast, relentless advocates for the Holy Spirit I've ever known. What better thing can one leave to those they hold dear than a life well lived and sound forecast they'll be kindly welcomed and mercifully received before the judgement of our Saviour Jesus Christ? I ask all - esp. those who've also enjoyed the blessing of having this good man in their lives -- to say a prayer for my father-in-law and all our fathers who served our Heavenly Father well with a full heart. I know Dale will be dearly missed by parishioners at Annunciation Catholic Church (Brazil, IN) he held so dear.





UNITED STATES  
REPRESENTATIVE

MARTHA  
ROBY

ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



*Martha Roby represents Alabama's 2nd Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama with her husband, Riley and her two children.*

# Roby to Senate: ‘Roll up your sleeves’ and get health care done

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-Ala.) today, Friday, July 28th, expressed her strong disappointment with the Senate’s failure to pass an Obamacare repeal bill, saying Senate Republicans should keep working to reach an agreement.

Earlier this year, House Republicans overcame legislative obstacles to pass



a bill repealing and replacing Obamacare. Appearing on local Alabama morning

shows Friday, Roby said Senate Republicans should not allow initial setbacks to cause them to abandon their efforts.

*“I was extremely disappointed that Senate Republicans couldn’t get the votes on Obamacare repeal, especially considering they passed it easily just two years ago,” Roby said. “Look, we did it in the House. It wasn’t easy. We had to pull a bill and start over and then move forward. But, we got it done. We came together and got it done to keep our promise to the American people.*

*“It’s not time to ‘move on.’ It’s time for them to focus even harder on getting this done. They need to stay in Washington, roll up their sleeves, figure out what’s next, and keep this promise to the American people.”*

Each of Alabama’s Republican Representatives and Senators supported Obamacare repeal efforts.

Roby also answered questions about Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who told **Fox News** on Thursday he would be remaining on the job as long as it was appropriate.

*“I haven’t been privy to the conversations between the President and Attorney General Sessions. I certainly hope that these tensions will pass. Jeff Sessions is man of high integrity and character. He is exactly who we need to be Attorney General of the United States right now. He has done more in the last six months to crack down on illegal immigration than we’ve seen in the last eight years,” Roby said. “We need Jeff Sessions right where he is.”*

## Headway in the House, Setback in the Senate

**One of Congress’ most fundamental responsibilities is providing for the essential functions of our government, such as equipping our military with the tools they need, making sure veterans have access to services, and securing our borders. I’m proud to report that the House has taken action to ensure that these key national priorities are fully funded.**

Our House appropriations package that passed on Thursday restores critical funding for the military, and I am especially pleased it includes a much deserved pay raise for all military personnel. The bill also provides important resources for Alabama-based installations and projects like Army Aviation at Fort Rucker, Cyber Security at Maxwell Air Force Base, the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) built in Mobile, and the missiles built in Troy, among others.

With this bill, we are also delivering on our promise to enhance border security by beginning to fund the construction of a border wall. Our country has to get serious about cracking down on illegal immigration, and that starts with securing the border. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has been instrumental in finally beginning to address our illegal immigration problem. He’s done more to combat this in six months than the previous administration did in eight years. Attorney General Sessions is exactly who our country needs right now, and I hope his work continues.

I was recently asked why Congress would appropriate funds for the border wall when the President has said Mexico would pay for it. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I believe it is our responsibility to budget for

national priorities, and securing the border has been a top priority for me personally since I was first elected to Congress. If the President can find a way to have Mexico pay for the border wall, that would be great, but I do not think we should wait to get started. We desperately need bigger, stronger, and smarter barriers along our southern border, and that’s why we are starting to fund construction now.

I’m pleased that the House could finish out the month of July on a high note by funding these important priorities, and I wish I could say the same for the Senate. As you know, their efforts to repeal Obamacare fell short early Friday morning. I was extremely disappointed that Senate Republicans fell short of the votes for repeal, especially considering they easily passed a repeal bill two years ago.

There are indications that the Senate intends to move on to other items and abandon the work to repeal Obamacare, but I wholeheartedly disagree with that course of action. There is no “moving on” for the millions of Americans, including many Alabamians, being crushed by Obamacare. The skyrocketing costs and shrinking choices caused by this deeply flawed law aren’t going away on their own.

Our work to repeal Obamacare in the House was successful, but it wasn’t easy. We faced multiple setbacks and had to go back to the drawing board a few times, but in the end, House Republicans came together to advance a bill that puts us on a path toward a health care system that lowers costs, increases access, and isn’t run by the government. Senate Republicans should not surrender now that they’re facing their own obstacles. They should stay in Washington, roll up their sleeves, and find a way to get the job done.

For seven years we have promised we would do away with Obamacare. We have come too far and worked too hard to give up now.



## 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.*

***www.steveflowers.us***



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

There is a proven theory espoused by political scholars that has prevailed in southern political history for decades. The premier political scholar, Dr. V. O. Key, first illustrated this repetitious theme that has weaved its way through the southern electorate. He called it “*Friends and Neighbors*” politics. It is not a complicated hypothesis. It simply means that southerners tend to vote for someone from their neck of the woods. It is a truism in all southern states. However, it is most pronounced in the Heart of Dixie.

This friends and neighbors vote comes to light in open races for governor and U.S. senator. Folks in Alabama will consistently vote for someone from their county or surrounding counties or region of the state overwhelmingly.

I tell my university southern politics students that this tendency is so pervasive and tenacious that Alabama voters will vote for someone from their neck of the woods even if they know he is a crook or a drunk. They are probably thinking, “*I know ole Joe is a crook and a drunk, but by gosh he’s our drunk or crook.*”

The earliest and best illustration of Alabama’s “Friends and Neighbors” occurred in the 1946 governor’s race. Big Jim Folsom was born and raised in Coffee County in the wiregrass area of the state. At about age 30, he moved to Cullman, sold insurance, and worked for the WPA getting lots of folks’ jobs. In that 1946 race, he ran against the Probate Judge of Calhoun County. Big Jim beat Judge Boozer because he had two home regions. He ran overwhelmingly in both the Wiregrass and North Central Alabama.

On election night in 2010, I was sitting on the set of a Montgomery television station doing election commentary and analysis. As I perused and studied the county-by-county returns, I broke into a smile that bordered on a laugh. When I saw what was happening, it was obvious that friends and neighbors politics still persists in Alabama.

Dr. Robert Bentley was carrying Tuscaloosa and the surrounding counties of Fayette, Lamar, Pickens and Bibb so overwhelmingly that I saw that the hometown vote was going to propel him past Tim James and Bradley Byrne and into the governor’s office.

He ran like a scalded dog through Tuscaloosa where he had been a popular

medical doctor for 30 years and there are a good many votes in Tuscaloosa. Bentley won because of “Friends and Neighbors” politics.

How will “Friends and Neighbors” play out to the advantage of the potential candidates for this year's open U.S. senate race and next years open governor’s race?

It is early and all the horses are not in the race yet for governor. If Kay Ivey runs, she’s been around Montgomery so long that she is thought of as a professional politician who has camped out in the Capitol City for decades. There are so few Republican votes in her native Wilcox County that she can’t reap any hometown advantage.

Just the opposite for Huntsville mayor, Tommy Battle. He is well known and liked in the Rocket City. If he is the only major candidate from the Tennessee Valley and it’s a large field, that North Alabama vote might land him in the runoff.

Mobile and Baldwin counties have a long history of supporting one of their own. There are a lot of votes down there. Agriculture Commissioner, John McMillan, has been around Montgomery for a while, but he has deep roots in Baldwin County, which is now one of the most populous Republican counties in the state.

What about the current ongoing open U.S. Senate race: The two frontrunners, Roy Moore and Luther Strange, are thought of as statewide candidates. Although Moore will carry Etowah and Strange will carry Mountain Brook, this race illustrates and reflects more of a class ideological struggle that is playing out in the national as well as state Republican Party. It’s the evangelical Christian/Donald Trump/George Wallace voter versus the Wall Street business big mules.

Moore believes he can out religious anyone. It is Moses with the Hebrew children of North Alabama versus the Philistine Mountain Brook giant. The two tribes in the Republican Party will collide with the battlefield being around the Black Warrior River.

August 2, 2017





**Ronald A. Holtsford**

# I Am Considering Becoming A Lawyer. What Is The Pathway to That?

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



Aside from the lawyer jokes, being an attorney is a noble profession. In all professions you have the occasional bad seed even though law schools and Bar associations attempt to weed them out. And many lawyer jokes focus not on the misdeeds of the few but on one of the rules of ethics. The Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.3, Comment in part says, “A lawyer should act with commitment and dedication to the interests of the client and with zeal in advocacy upon the client's behalf. “ It may be a zeal for the advocacy of a client when an attorney seeks the best result for that client and may to the layperson appear to be an ethical violation or misconduct. Certainly there have been situations where attorneys have overstepped their boundaries in the solicitation of clients.

To become an attorney, it is not necessary to follow a pre-law major in college. For instance, an English major or minor may be very useful since lawyers do a tremendous amount of writing. Taking speech classes can help to prepare a future lawyer whether they later become a litigator or transactional attorney that finds they on occasion must appear before a judge. Any classes that help with critical or spatial thinking are a plus and certainly the sciences are useful.

Once you have decided you want to attend law school you must first take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The more prestigious law schools require higher LSAT scores. Coupled with your LSAT score and your undergraduate grades you may then start to look at law schools that you might wish to apply to. There are three ABA accredited law schools (University of Alabama, Cumberland School of Law at Samford University and Jones School of Law at Faulkner University) in Alabama and two that are unaccredited (Birmingham School of Law and Miles College School of Law). The three accredited allow graduates to sit for the Bar examination in any state, but the unaccredited allow graduates to only sit for the Alabama Bar examination. In addition to the Bar examination each new law student must submit paperwork to the state bar and each new lawyer must have also passed the ethics examination.

Law school is interesting and let’s face it made up of a group of high achievers you’re not the only one. When my eldest nephew began his law school journey several years back the Dean’s comments on the first day regarding the class was that many of the students had already achieved graduate degrees or spoke multiple languages or had already started their own business. Initially following his undergraduate graduation my nephew competed against these, graduating from law school and passing his Bar examination on his first attempt. He has now been practicing the last few years along with the other 18,120 Alabama lawyers (almost 19% practice out-of-state).

Each law school is slightly different. There will be required classes such as legal research, ethics and maybe torts and contracts but many are elective and allow law students to pursue areas of interest that can be developed after Bar admission. I definitely found my first year of law school as the toughest and

wondered at times why I was putting myself through all of it. While higher intelligence is a great asset in law school, a closer to average student can persevere if they are willing to work really hard. I had to work really hard! The three years of law school passes quickly and before you know it you have been a lawyer many times over the time spent in your formal education.

One lawyer told me while I was still a student that half of your education is after you graduate law school and that is pretty much true. There are so many areas that you can pursue in law and each that you undertake you are expected to know the applicable law or have access to it. The town lawyer that does a little of everything is expected to be as proficient as a big city estate planning attorney when it comes to writing a Will and that is true for all areas that he or she may practice in. Attorneys have required continuing legal education each year so attorneys have a wide variety of educational classes that they can attend and learn from the best in those specific specialties.

When you finally complete law school the Bar examination becomes your next obstacle to a legal career. The bar examination consists of three areas utilizing a performance section (not on my examination many years ago), an essay section and a multiple-choice section (also referred to as multistate). It’s two days as my attorney brother says that you can recall more law than the three prior years and probably subsequent years.

Hopefully, even before you take the bar examination you have either landed a good job (conditioned on passing the exam) or have a lot of good leads. If you have not been blessed with the funds to get you through there may be large student loans that now need to be repaid and may include undergraduate loans as well so I hope you have realistically looked at your chances for landing a good legal job with pay that will allow you to live and repay any loans.

God has richly blessed my life and I try to focus on the skills that He has given me in serving others. If this is your calling I hope that you too have prayerfully considered how you can use this for a higher calling.

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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## TRUMP’S BETRAYAL

**John Martin**

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

While campaigning for office, Donald Trump, like any respectable candidate, promised to defend the people’s right to keep and bear arms along with the remainder of the United States Constitution. And, during his inauguration this past January 20, he formally swore to uphold that same Constitution.

But then, early this past month (July), Trump made a dirty deal with the Chicago Police Department to continue an oppressive drive begun by Barack Obama to confiscate “illegal” guns and ammunition and prosecute their owners. Trump announced that he was sending ATF agents to aid the Chicago Crime Gun Strike Force.

Illinois, and especially Chicago, already have some of the most draconian anti-gun laws in the country, and confiscation has been heavily enforced for many years. A 2014 police report stated that the Chicago police grabbed 7,624 firearms in 2012 alone—more seizures per capita than New York City and Los Angeles.

“Illegal” guns can be very loosely defined. Short barrels, folding stocks, and magazine capacities of over ten rounds are often prohibited. A gun with a military appearance can be an “assault rifle.” Possession of a few grams of marijuana or some other “controlled substance” renders a person unable to legally possess any type of firearm, and he is thus rendered defenseless against the hordes of thugs that populate much of Chicago. And finally, people who live anywhere in Illinois cannot own or possess any guns or ammunition without first obtaining a Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card.

It is no secret that Chicago is one of the most crime infested cities in America and is the unsavory home of thousands of “Bad, Bad Leroy Browns.” These thugs prosper because they know that nearly all of the local people have no

weapons for self-defense and are unable to resist their criminal activities. They also know that the police are largely ineffective since they are outnumbered and also spend much of their time and resources enforcing the anti-gun laws and traffic violations. Criminals don’t worry about violating the gun laws themselves; they’re violating the laws anyway, and if they do happen to get caught and end up in prison, they at least get the satisfaction of shooting some innocent unarmed bystanders and a cop or two on the way.

It is also no secret that the police can’t even begin to be everywhere. It is utterly impossible. The vast majority of crime fighting is up to the people. For crime fighting to be effective, the people’s right to be armed must be upheld.

We have ample statistics to prove that cities and states that allow generous gun ownership and use have the lowest crime rates. We also know that the highest crime rates are in those areas with the strictest anti-gun laws, and the stricter the enforcement, the greater the crime.

Heavily militarized SWAT teams are not the answer to protect us from violent criminals. These are often more of a menace than an asset. They can even be deadly.

The ATF should never be allowed to interfere into state and local matters. Instead, it should be severely downsized and greatly limited in its scope. Eliminating it altogether would be an even better idea, since it is largely an American terrorist organization. Never forget the massacres they executed onto Randy Weaver’s family and the Branch Davidians.

Back in October, 2016, Trump debated Hillary Clinton in Chicago on gun control. He boldly stood against her on “assault weapons” and large magazines and also announced his support for a national right to carry. He insisted that gun control would not stop violent crime. “In Chicago, which has the toughest gun laws in the United States, probably you could say by far, they have more gun violence than any other city.”

Back then, Trump declared, “I am a very strong supporter of the Second Amendment.” But now, less than a year later, here he is sending in ATF thugs to disarm the innocent potential victims of Chicago’s criminal empire.

Is this an isolated case, or does Trump have plans for gun confiscation in other places? Does anybody understand what could make Trump morph from a patriot into a turncoat?

For more information, check out this article:  
[https://lewrockwell.com/2017/07/no\\_author/trump-sends-gun-confiscators/](https://lewrockwell.com/2017/07/no_author/trump-sends-gun-confiscators/)

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**Steve Long**

# Woods & Waters with Steve



## PINE TREES CAN BE A GREAT MANAGEMENT TOOL

I find that the most interesting things in the outdoors are the unexpected surprises. Those bits of knowledge you come across that you just plain weren't expecting. Ever since I started working with QDMA (Quality Deer Management Association), I've confirmed a lot of the things I already knew, but I've discovered a heap more of things I didn't! Today, I want to talk about trees. Pine trees, to be exact.

*A properly manage pine plantation is beneficial for all the wildlife*

I recently came across an article put out by Stephanie Mallory of Great Days Outdoors Magazine, and I want to share some of that paradigm-shifting

knowledge with all of y'all. Some of you may not have a warm place in your heart for the mighty pine, as they're not the number one source of food for deer, but you can take heart knowing that they are #2. Deer will occasionally munch on some young, green pine cones, the needles, even the twigs. Heck, even turkeys rely on a good stand of pines for habitat. There are also more than a few other kinds of critters that rely solely on pine trees for habitat, and without proper care we could lose them, Eastern Rattlesnakes and all.

Of course, there's more to it than just hunting. Pines are serious business in Alabama, as they're used in furniture, wood pulp, land management, construction, and all sorts of other stuff. Of the pines in Alabama, there are 6 different varieties of Southern Yellow Pine, including longleaf, loblolly, slash, shortleaf, Virginia, and spruce. Longleaf is the state's official tree, as it turns out.

Now, I'm not talking about pine plantations, as some of you might be thinking of. Those aren't terribly great for animal habitat, but if done right, pines are wonderful for natural habitat. As pines grow, they start out thick and numerous. So thick that people can't really go through them, but that doesn't stop deer. It gives them a nice space to lose a predator on their tail. Pines also like a good burning; it helps clear out the underbrush and weaker trees. Deer can't work with 10 foot tall trees, after all, so keeping the low growth closer to the ground helps them and other critters out a great deal.

Naturally, the best setup you can have is a mosaic of pines and hardwoods, but if given the opportunity or choice, you should settle for what grows best in the soil you have available. Some trees do better with soil that has higher moisture content, while others, like a lot of pines, do well with dry and sandy soil. There are always exceptions, but it pays to plan ahead for the long term.

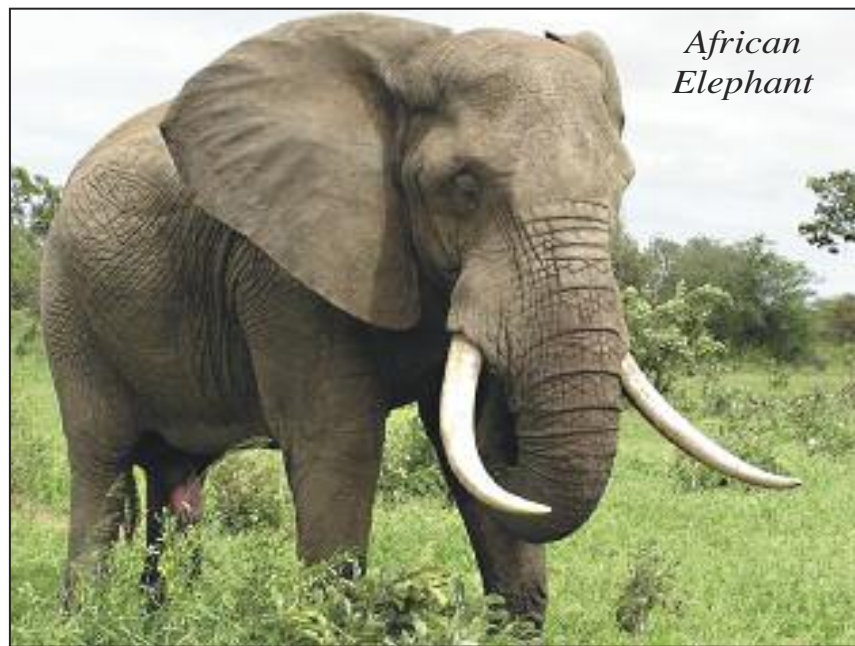
There's a whole lot of information about forestry and the different applications it has online, with the article written by Stephanie being a prime example. And as always, if you're interested in setting up a prescribed burn, always plan ahead, take every safety precaution, and consult with a local burn expert. You also will need a burn permit, which you can find more information for at <http://www.forestry.alabama.gov>. Fire is serious business, and just like using firearms, should always be respected and handled with great care.

Summer's still hot, with plenty of rain to keep it muggy. QDMA's got me hitting the road, visiting all sorts of fine folks and learning more and more about excellent management practices. I hope the rest of you are getting some good work in this summer, because before you know it, deer season will be back again, in full swing. So get out there, check out those trees, don't play with fire, and go get'em!

# Kritter Korner

## Elephants

Elephants are the largest land animals on Earth and are also known to be extremely intelligent. They have characteristic long noses, or trunks; large, floppy ears; and wide, thick legs. A group of elephants is called a herd. The herd is led by a matriarch, which is the oldest female. Females, as well as young and old

*African Elephant*

elephants, stick together in a herd. Adult males tend to wander. Elephants also have certain rules. For example, when they are meeting each other, they expect the other elephant to extend its trunk in greeting. The matriarch will often teach young elephants in her herd how to act properly.

Male elephants are called bulls and females are called cows. After mating, the

*Asian Elephant*

cow will be pregnant for around 22 months. When the baby elephant is finally born, it can weigh around 200 lbs and stand about 3 feet tall. A baby elephant is called a calf. As the calf grows, it will gain 2 to 3 lbs. every day until its first

birthday. By the time they are 2 or 3 years old, calves are ready to be weaned. Male calves will wander off on their own, while females will stay with their mothers. When they are 13 to 20 years old, they will be mature enough to have their own young. Elephants live 30 to 70 years in the wild. Those elephants that do have a good environment to live in can do so for 50 to 70 years. Many of the very old elephants die due to their teeth grinding away over the years. Then they starve to death as they aren't able to chew food anymore.

Elephants are known to form very strong emotional bonds. They are excellent with their offspring and they seem to get along in their herds for the most part. They have been seen displaying signs of distress and sorrow when one in their herd is injured or that it has died. The typical size of a herd is about 20. Elephants are in danger though of surviving in the wild due to the destruction of their natural habitat. This is a major concern as we don't want to see these wonderful creatures being destroyed. Many of them live in zoos or they are part of circus acts. Since they are gentle for the most part, smart, and can move heavy items you will often find elephants helping to put up the tent at the circus. They are also used in many countries to carry logs and other heavy items.

*Elephant family*

There are two species of elephants remaining in the world – the African and the Asian. They range in color from light to dark gray, with the most distinct features being their huge ears and tusks. These tusks though have resulted in the deaths of thousands of elephants though. That is because they are made from ivory. Even though it is now illegal to trade or sell ivory it continues to be profitable on the black market. These beautiful majestic animals are a family for life, they never leave each other. It is our responsibility to protect the animals. Elephants are being poached for their tusks illegally we must do something to stop this, studies show in 10 years they will be extinct because of man.

## Ron's Kritter Kids (wildlife education) *Wildlife education & wildlife rescue*

Wildlife education & wildlife rescue is a program to educate as many people as possible about wildlife indigenous to Alabama and the repercussions that occur when we build and take away their homes.

### TOURS AVAILABLE

Please call: 334-301-5131/334-301-5128 • No daily hours available.

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**Ron VanHerwyn**





Ed Jones  
Football Writer

In the era of “million dollar coaches”, a lot is given and a lot is expected. In the SEC the average salaries, benefits and bonuses of coaches is around \$5,000,000.00 PER YEAR. With a maximum of the 15 games it takes to play for the national championship, this works out to an approximate \$420,000.00 PER MONTH. Most of us looking at this page have never been fortunate, or good enough to be worth that much to our employer. I know a few bankers that have earned that much, maybe a few lawyers, maybe a few doctors. The President of the United States makes less in one year than one of these coaches make in one month.

Now let’s put this in perspective. Who is more important to your six year old son or daughter, your football coach or his or her first grade teacher as to what really matters in life. Are we really paying attention?

In my old age I have abandoned the quest for happiness. Today, I only want serenity. Money can buy you happiness for a while but it can not buy the serenity that you really want but you don’t realize it. Happiness to Alabama fans is a national championship. Happiness to Auburn fans is a win over Alabama so that the Tide does not win the national championship. However, that happiness is short lived when Alabama loses the opening game to Florida State, or Auburn loses it second game to Clemson. Serenity is when it really doesn’t matter very much who wins. You enjoy the moment or agonize in the moment, you go to bed, you wake up to the same sun that shined on you the day before. That may be simplistic and hard to achieve but it is true. Unfortunately, I am not completely cured. I have not gotten over Auburn’s loss to Florida State in the 2013 national championship game, nor have I gotten over Alabama’s collapse in the national championship game with Clemson last year. Had both teams run 14 more seconds off the clock, Auburn and Alabama would have been national champions in 2013 and 2016. But, my perspective is much better. It really does not affect ME! “The Sun Also Rises”.

Ole Miss fans were gearing up for a “bowl less”, mediocre season following the 5-7 record last year in **Coach Hugh Freeze’s** fifth year at the helm. Freeze is a Mississippi native who has been very popular with the fans during his first four seasons (7-6, 8-5, 9-4, 10-3). Interling the 2016 season, Freeze was the only active SEC coach with two wins over **Nick Saban’s** Alabama squad. He graduated from Southern Mississippi in 1993. His high school record was good enough to get him an NAIA head coaching job where he went 20-5 in 2008 and 2009. This landed him at Division I Arkansas State in 2011. By winning the Sun Belt Conference that year Ole Miss decided to kick Houston Nutt down the street and hire this impressive Christian man to lead the Rebels out of mediocrity and raise the bar on team morality. It was a messy dismissal of Coach Houston Nutt in 2011 that has come back to haunt Ole Miss and Hugh Freeze. Nutt filed a law suit his year claiming that Ole Miss and Hugh Freeze were blaming most of the NCAA problems facing Ole Miss on him. During the investigation into the facts of the case, Houston Nutt’s lawyer discovered unauthorized telephone calls on the phone assigned to Coach Freeze. By now most people are aware of the alleged salacious calls initiated by Freeze. We will leave the details to the results of the lawsuit.

However, the Ole Miss administration did not wait very long to act. They encouraged and accepted the resignation of Coach Hugh Freeze one day after these allegations were made public. **Matt Luke**, assistant coach and former offensive lineman at Ole Miss was immediately named interim head coach.

Hugh Freeze is not a monster or a predator. He is probably a nice man who became stupid during moments of weakness. We have all been tempted and sometimes done improper things as a result. I don’t know the man. I do think I know the coach. From the beginning it was my observation that Freeze was just another 8-4 coach, and if that was alright with Ole Miss, it was alright with me. His recruiting happened to be better than expected. The recruiting process under Freeze has also caught the attention of the NCAA. Heavy penalties will be forthcoming. Freeze would have been fired after the 2017 season anyway.

After big wins, I have heard Coach Freeze tell the interviewer, “God has really been good to us.” I have not heard him talk about God after a loss. Maybe he has. But, if you wear your Christianity on your sleeve, be careful where you take your shirt off.

Another coach that has lost favor with his fan base is **Kevin Sumlin** at Texas A&M. When he was hired after excellent seasons at the University of Houston, the “Aggies” broke the bank to get him and upped the ante after his first season when he beat Auburn and Alabama on the road. However, during their Cotton Bowl game with Oklahoma, a chink in the armor was exposed. Oklahoma waxed A&M 41-13. Still an 11-2 record started A&M fans believing that they would be the big dog in the Western Division of the SEC. However, Coach Sumlin’s teams don’t play defense as a rule. Sumlin’s record for the last three years is 8-5 after faltering in the last part of each season. Those Texas oil men who write the checks will not pay for another 8-5 collapse again.

Beware of successful coaches that play the kind of schedule that Houston plays; UTSA, Arizona, Rice, Texas Tech, Temple, SMU, Tulsa, Memphis, East Carolina, USF, Tulane, and Navy. The University of Texas fell for the same trick. They hired another successful Houston coach, **Tom Herman**. He is probably better than Sumlin because he “kisses” each player before every game.

**Bret Bielema** was a very respected coach at Wisconsin. Evidently he thought that it would be easier to beat up on these southern boys than play Purdue, Northwestern, Indiana, Rutgers, Maryland, Illinois, Minnesota, Penn State, Michigan, Iowa, Michigan State, Nebraska and Ohio State. How is that working out? At Wisconsin, Bielema’s record was 68-24. In four years under Bielema, Arkansas is 25-26. (3-9, 7-6, 8-5, 7-6). Strangely the fan base at Arkansas just love Coach Bielema. He is interesting. He is amusing. He is not pretentious. He is accessible. He is big. He is overweight. He is wrong. At Wisconsin, he recruited huge offensive and defensive linemen who could just overpower opposing teams with their weight and strength. That worked well in the Big Ten. But the heat in Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida and Alabama in September and October is not comfortable for 350 lb. offensive linemen. My theory is to not schedule Arkansas in November or December. His lard tail linemen can last for almost 60 minutes in cold weather. They only last 40 minutes in early fall.

Coach Bret Bielema is a likable bear of a man. He seems to be able to get

# 1ST COACH TO FALL FREEZE OUT AT OLE MISS

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

along with anybody. That’s a good trait to have when you are looking for a job. He may be doing just that with another 7-6 season. Maybe the Big Ten?

It is not unreasonable to expect one third of the SEC coaches that were coaching at the start of 2016 to be gone by the end of 2017. Don’t feel sorry for them. They have been grossly overpaid long enough to live comfortably for the rest of their lives off of earned interest on the money that they didn’t need.

Two coaches are in questionable positions going into th 2017 season; **Gus Malzahn** of Auburn and **Butch Jones** of Tennessee. Both have had some success but their fans are not that interested in some success. They want excellence and championships.

Coach Butch Jones at Tennessee is a cat of a different color from Malzahn. Even with moderate success and growth each year in the win column, people at Tennessee just really don’t like Butch Jones. He has recruited well. He has won some big games, ie. the Georgia game last year and the Florida game last year. But, he lost to South Carolina and Vanderbilt. This type of inconsistency has plagued Jones from the beginning. He also has hurt himself by talking about what a good team he will have each year and then not delivering. It is an unusual situation. But, with an overall record of 30-21 at Tennessee and two nine win season in 2015, and 2016, Butch Jones is in trouble with the Volunteer fans. Ten wins may bail him out of the Knoxville dog house but he will have to win at least two games from Florida, Georgia, Alabama and LSU and not lose to anybody else. It is



Kevin Sumlin



Bret Bielema



Butch Jones

my opinion that Tennessee will have a different coach in 2018.

Coach Gus Malzahn is in an unusual situation at Auburn. He can never really satisfy the die hard Auburn fans. In his first year he took Auburn to the national championship game, and would have won save thirteen seconds on the way to 12-2 season. Auburn has never won twelve games before. It will be difficult to do again in the tough Western Division of the SEC. It has taken me ten years, but I am now in favor of Auburn moving to the Eastern Conference. It just makes sense geographically and philosophically.

Malzahn has a losing record in the SEC even though his overall record at Auburn is 35-18. Some good high school football players have gotten on the “Gus Bus” in the last three years. Auburn has the best talent top to bottom than I have ever seen since the Pat Sullivan era in 1969-1971. What Gus does with this talent will either prop him up for a while or kick the stool out from under him. Another 8-5 season will only work for Malzahn if two of those wins are over Georgia and Alabama.

With the replacement of **Rhett Lashlee** in favor of **Chip Lindsey** as offensive coordinator, Malzahn finally made a big league decision. It may save him from the criticism that he has had to endure in the last two years.

Strangely, the Florida base is not exactly overwhelmed by **Coach Jim McElwain**. He has only won the Eastern Division of the SEC in his first two seasons in Gainesville with 10 win seasons. Some think the defense has been the reason, and that **Coach Will Muschamp** left that defense to McElwain. Georgia and Tennessee will challenge the Gators once again this year. Muschamp’s defensive imprint will not cast its shadow on Florida this year. From now on it is all McElwain. The quarterback problems that McElwain has had should be eliminated this year. If the Gators can play the same quality defense, they will be tough to beat.

All of the other coaches in the SEC are in good positions with their administration, with their alumni and with their fans. It will be Alabama, LSU and Auburn again in the West; Florida, Georgia and Tennessee in the East.

*Tee it up boys!!*





# The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

## How much Do you Know about your American Heritage?

The American History Quiz below is a sampling of questions used for citizenship in early America.

When my father's ancestors fled France due to the persecution of the French Huguenots, they were searching for religious liberty and knew enough about America to know that this was the place to find it. They understood that in coming here, there were privileges, but also duties and obligations in becoming Americans.

The Department of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services helped hundreds of thousands of immigrants to become "*American citizens*." These immigrants were tutored and expected to be able to answer core questions about American History and what their responsibility would be in becoming "*American*."

Just imagine their fascination with their new country, especially the new form of government and the society that a Constitutional Republic would secure.

Our freedom has been sustained by four crucial divinely inspired documents: **The Declaration of Independence, The U. S. Constitution, The Bill of Rights, and The Emancipation Proclamation.**

These documents were based on the Judeo-Christian faith in practice. This faith rested on a Bible that is infallible, and truly, the Word of God.

It would be interesting to have many readers of *The Gazette* take this sampling of the questions which was asked to the incoming immigrants for many, many decades. Some questions appear so simple, and some not so.

## American History Quiz

1. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?
2. Why did the Pilgrims come to America?
3. Who helped the Pilgrims in America?
4. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by the American colonists?
5. What is the Fourth of July?
6. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
7. Who was the main writer of the **Declaration of Independence**?
8. What was the basic belief of the Declaration of Independence?
9. From whom did the United States gain independence as a result of the Revolutionary War?
10. Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death" ?
11. What were the names of the thirteen original states?
12. What were these 13 states of the United States called?
13. What are the colors of the American flag?
14. What do the stripes on the flag mean?
15. What do the stars on the flag mean?

16. What is the National Anthem of the United States called?
17. Who wrote the National Anthem of the U.S.?
18. Which president is called the “Father of his country”?
19. What is the executive branch of our government?
20. In what month do we vote for the president?
21. In what month is the new president inaugurated?
22. For how long do we elect this president?
23. How many terms is the president allowed to serve?
24. Who is the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Military?
25. Who is the President of the U.S.?
26. Who is the Vice President of the U.S.?
27. According to the Constitution, a person must meet certain requirements to be eligible to become president. Name one of these requirements.
28. Who elects the president of the United States?
29. What special group advises the president?
30. What is the Constitution?
31. What do we call a "change" in the Constitution?
32. What are the first ten amendments to the Constitution called?
33. What is the most important "right" granted to a U.S. Citizen?
34. How many branches are there in the government?
35. What are the branches of our government called?
36. Who makes the laws in the United States?
37. What is the “Congress”?
38. For how long do we elect a member of the House of Representatives?
39. For how long do we elect a member of the U.S. Senate?
40. What is the Judicial branch of our government?
41. What is the highest court in the United States?
42. What are the duties of the Supreme Court?
43. Who selects the Supreme Court justices?
44. What is the chief executive of state government called?
45. What is the chief executive of a city called?
46. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
47. What is the "White House"?
48. What type of government do we have in the U.S.?

*Please see answers on page 4C*



Marcia Chambliss

## The Chambliss Commentary

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

## Revisiting “People Control”

In our fallen world, there is certainly no shortage of heartbreaking stories, yet the one that will not leave my mind right now is one from the United Kingdom pertaining to the medical and legal issues facing the 11-month old infant Charlie Gard and his parents.

As a parent and a grandparent, I grieve with these parents for the shattered dreams for their child due to the diagnosis of his very rare genetic condition and apparent terminal prognosis for his life. Based on all I have read, Charlie’s condition is extremely complicated and his doctors in Great Britain offer little hope for viable treatment, thus recommending that current life-support treatment be removed and that little Charlie be allowed to “die with dignity” in the hospital. His parents disagreed and appealed to the legal courts to prevent the hospital from ending his current treatment which includes a ventilator and feeding tube. Due to the structure of the public healthcare system in Britain, the courts ruled in favor of the hospital and the now the plight of Charlie Gard has become international news.

In making its case to the courts, the Great Ormond Street Hospital stated: ***“Although Charlie’s parents have parental responsibility, overriding control is by law vested in the court exercising its independent and objective judgment in the child’s best interests.” [Emphasis mine]***

As Americans who are currently dealing with the administrative nightmare and escalating costs of our own healthcare system known now as Obamacare, that statement should scare the life out of each and every one of us.

The difficult decisions facing this young couple pertaining to the future of their son are ones that no parent ever wants to experience, but regardless of the hard choices that they make regarding Charlie’s care, those decisions in a free society should be theirs and theirs alone to make, not handed down from the legal system or an administrative state.

Like many of you, I’ve had to face those decisions resulting from a terminal cancer prognosis for a spouse, and they are without a doubt the hardest choices I’ve ever had to make for a loved one. Tough decisions had to be made as to the alternatives of additional invasive and experimental treatment, and how that treatment would impact his quality of life. While none of the choices would

provide even a glimmer of hope for a cure, which choice was best for him and our family? Through it all, I sought the counsel of his doctors as well as spiritual guidance for the decisions I had to make, but never was I faced with the threat of my government removing those choices from me or making them for me. But that’s where Charlie Gard’s parents find themselves, and as Obamacare continues to grow and expand, I fear that’s the predicament Americans will soon face.

In our September 2013 issue, I wrote a piece titled ***People Control*** that explained why I was so opposed to big government, whether imposed by those on the right or the left of the political spectrum. As I’ve watched the spectacle going on in Washington, DC these days with the failure of the GOP-controlled Congress to fulfill campaign promises of the past seven years as it relates to healthcare, it occurred to me that their promises had far more to do with “people control” of our votes and the resultant power of winning office than the desire to actually solve the serious issues of our healthcare system. How else can I view the continued hesitancy to correct the disaster of Obamacare even as premiums continue to skyrocket and providers exit the markets? We’re reminded almost daily of the inefficiencies and lack of quality care our veterans face with the VA (government) system, so why would those we elect think that a path towards a government-run healthcare structure for all would be in the best interests of our citizens and our nation?

Charlie Gard’s case certainly isn’t the first time that courts have entered into medical decisions, nor will his be the last, but this one is raising international alarm because courts have now deemed that a healthcare system supersedes God-given parental rights - the rights of the parents to take their baby elsewhere for experimental treatment, or even home to die in peace.

Is this possibly a glimpse of the healthcare system awaiting America?

Bilefsky, Dan and Chan, Sewell. “Dispute Over British Baby’s Fate Draws In Pope and U.S. President.” The New York Times, Web July 3, 2017.

*Marcia Chambliss has been involved in grassroots conservative politics since 2009 and has contributed opinion articles pertaining to politics and cultural issues to The Alabama Gazette since 2010.*



# Montgomery County Law

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
*www.montgomerysheriff.com*

**Sheriff Derrick Cunningham**



**Chief Deputy  
Kevin J. Murphy**

## Corporal Kofee Anderson National DARE Officer of the Year

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office would like to congratulate **Corporal Kofee Anderson** on receiving **National Dare Officer of the Year**. Sheriff Cunningham was quoted as saying, "with all the negative going on in our city and county as it relates to our youth, whether it be bad decisions or choices; it is great to see national recognition for one of our finest. Dare America just recognized Corporal Kofee Anderson at their national conference". Sheriff Cunningham would like to reiterate that through good communication between law enforcement and our youth, good daily decisions and positive interactions, it does pay off as Corporal Anderson has demonstrated. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office would like to congratulate Corporal Anderson on making a difference in the community with our youth!



*Keep up the good work, Corporal Anderson!*

## Medication Disposal



On Friday, March 17, 2017, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office unveiled their new drug collection unit they received as part of CVS Health's Medication Disposal for Safer Communities Grant Program. The new unit will be located at the Administrative Office of the Sheriff, at 100 South Lawrence (2nd floor lobby) and will provide residents with a safe and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired medication, including controlled substances.

The new drug disposal unit will help to reduce the amount of unneeded medicine in residents' homes and decrease the potential for prescription drug abuse, which has soared in recent years, especially among teenagers. More than 70 percent of teenagers say it is easy to get prescription drugs from their parents' medicine cabinets, according to a Partnership for Drug-Free Kids study. Proper drug disposal also helps to prevent the contamination of local landfills and water supplies from unused medication.

## Firearms Familiarization Course

Sign up NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Course scheduled for **Saturday, August 12th**, and learn how to protect yourself! We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world.



The class is held at our newly dedicated Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and lasts most of the day and is **FREE** to Montgomery County citizens! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

### Course Requirements:

- Montgomery County Citizen
- Obtain a Montgomery County Pistol Permit (prior to the course date)
- Complete an Application for the Course

**Pistol Permit Questions? 334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337**

**Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?**  
**LisaCrenshaw@mc-ala.org • 334.832.1339**

**Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you do not bring children to this class.**

~~~~~

## Sheriff's Office APP

We are getting a lot of positive feedback from our new Sheriff's Office APP! In case you missed last month's article, here it is again...

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a new phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County Sheriff"

### OR

- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

You should be all set to receive the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office push notifications!

~~~~~

## Senior Fishing Rodeo



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office invites all seniors (55 and over) to grab their fishing rods, bait and tackle and join us for our annual Senior Fishing Rodeo.



**Tuesday, September 12, 2017  
6:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**

**Montgomery County Ponds, Highway 231 South (Troy highway)  
Across from Meriwether Road**

~~~~~

## Special Note from Sheriff Cunningham

Don't forget August is "Back to School" month for Montgomery County students! Please be mindful of school zones and children crossing the street. Sheriff Cunningham wants all our youth to be safe as they are our future!

*Thank you for your continued support of the  
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!*



AUTAUGA COUNTY



# Autauga County Law

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
***www.autaugasheriff.org***

162 W 4th St, Prattville, AL  
**(334) 361-2500**



**Sheriff Joe Sedinger**



## Town Hall Meeting Jones Community Center

There was a Town Hall Meeting held at the Jones Community Center on July 17, 2017. About 35 residents from the area were in attendance. There were hot dogs, chips and drinks served to all that attended. We would like to thank the ladies of the Jones Community who provided desserts and tea for everyone. We would like to thank all the speakers who came out and spoke with the residents: Secretary of State John Merrill, Circuit Court Judge Bill Lewis, District Court Judge Joy Booth, District 88

Representative Paul Beckman, Circuit Clerk Debra Hill, Probate Judge AL Booth, Revenue Commissioner Kathy Evans and Sheriff Joe Sedinger. The meeting was held to inform the citizens of what all the offices do and services offered. There was a time after each speaker for the public to ask questions or voice concerns.



*Welcome by  
Mrs. Melba Chandler*



*Sheriff Joe Sedinger*



*Secretary of State John Merrill*



*Probate Judge Al Booth*



*House District 88 Representative  
Paul Beckman*



*Circuit Court Judge Bill Lewis*



*District Court Judge Joy Booth*



*Circuit Clerk Debra Hill*



The next Town Hall Meeting will be held at the Marbury High School Cafeteria on August 14, 2017 beginning at 6pm.

# TOWN HALL MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting.  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2017**  
**Marbury High School Cafeteria**  
**6 pm - 9 pm**

Come out to a Town Hall Meeting to speak with your local elected officials. Please come out and meet with representatives from the following public offices; Sheriff Joe Seding, Revenue Commissioner Kath Evans, County Probate Judge Al Booth, District Court Judge Joy Booth, circuit Clerk Debra Hill, and Circuit Court Judge Bill Lewis. After a short presentation from each office, you will have an opportunity to ask questions or voice your concerns.

Hotdogs, chips and drinks will be provided for all who attend.



**VOICE YOUR CONCERNS!**

# TOWN HALL MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend a Town Hall Meeting.  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2017**  
**Autaugaville Fire Department**  
**6 pm - 9 pm**

Come out to a Town Hall Meeting to speak with your local elected officials. Please come out and meet with representatives from the following public offices; Sheriff Joe Seding, Revenue Commissioner Kath Evans, County Probate Judge Al Booth, District Court Judge Joy Booth, circuit Clerk Debra Hill, and Circuit Court Judge Bill Lewis. After a short presentation from each office, you will have an opportunity to ask questions or voice your concerns.

Hotdogs, chips and drinks will be provided for all who attend.



**VOICE YOUR CONCERNS!**



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johnnie@medac4u.com  
 www.Medac4u.com



*"Every cell in your body functions like a car; it has its own engine. You can put the best gasoline (food) in, and the best oil (vitamins/minerals); but if you throw sand (chemical toxins & heavy metals) into the motor, the first two don't matter. At MEDAC, PC, we focus on helping to get the sand out of your motor. We also help with the food and the oil so that your motor can hum and run in the optimal way it was designed."*



## Prattville Football Schedule



|                                                                                               |       |                                                                                 |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 8/25                                                                                          | 7:00p | 10/6                                                                            | 7:00p |
| @ Wetumpka<br>(Wetumpka, AL)<br>Location: Wetumpka High School                                |       | Smiths Station<br>(Smiths, AL)*<br>Location: Prattville High School             |       |
| 9/1                                                                                           | 7:00p | 10/20                                                                           | 7:00p |
| Stanhope Elmore<br>(Millbrook, AL)<br>Location: Prattville High School<br><i>Rivalry Game</i> |       | @ Jefferson Davis<br>(Montgomery, AL)*<br>Location: Jefferson Davis High School |       |
| 9/8                                                                                           | 7:00p | 10/27                                                                           | 7:00p |
| @ Enterprise<br>(Enterprise, AL)*<br>Location: Enterprise High School                         |       | @ Central<br>(Phenix City, AL)*<br>Location: Central High School                |       |
| 9/15                                                                                          | 7:00p | 11/3                                                                            | 7:00p |
| Auburn<br>(Auburn, AL)*<br>Location: Prattville High School                                   |       | Lanier<br>(Montgomery, AL)<br>Location: Prattville High School                  |       |
| 9/22                                                                                          | 7:00p |                                                                                 |       |
| Lee<br>(Montgomery, AL)*<br>Location: Prattville High School                                  |       |                                                                                 |       |

**Schedule Legend**  
 Region Game = \*  
 Playoff Game= \*\*



**WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!**

**ART, Poetry, Music & COFFEE**



**Sunday, August 6, 2017**

**2 to 5 PM at Doster Community Center**

**Music** by Karren Pell and the Old Alabama Town Revue Crue, Abigail Douglas, and a tribute to the George Brothers Band

**ART** by Prattauga Art Guild Members

**Readings** by Ed George, Stephen Bray, and Jaqueline Trimble

**COFFEE** Bar Provided by Popwell Automotive

(Coffee & Sweets available for a small donation to the PAG.)



**Admission is FREE**

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# Gazette Seniors...

Dr. John Bitter, Editor  
Senior Section

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

You may be over  
the hill if... you still believe  
that in our Democracy the  
power rests with the people.

## From irascibility to serene

For those of us who number our life spans in a multiple of decades we've witnessed an interesting range of adjectives used to describe our Congress, from irascibility to serene. For the current Congress, albeit in its infancy, the appropriate adjective seems to be irascible: “easily provoked to anger,” and “very irritable.” These fit quite well. In fact, this may be the worst Congress in our history as it relates to trampling our nation's raison d'etre into dust.

At the other end of the spectrum of definition is another adjective: serene. Some 36 years ago, Americans enjoyed the serene presidency of Ronald Reagan, which gave us a relatively peaceful, untroubled eight years, despite some of the headline grabbing events that took place during his terms as President of the United States. Where President Reagan stood toe-to-toe with the Soviet Union over the Berlin Wall, President Donald Trump is under suspicion by the Democrats of being in some sort of sinister, unproven, league with the Soviets; one of the most sinister of the league of transgressions manufactured by the Democrats.

All the while the population is treated to a disturbing list of other manufactured sins said to being perpetrated by the President and his cronies.

After the dust has settled in the wake of the presidential elections, America had returned to “business as usual” and went about its business; which has ranged from being involved in a number of wars, depressions, and recessions, to periods of peace and serenity. In most seniors' memory, never has the United States been more disunited and troubled as it is today.

On the other hand, we recently saw the Democrats defeat the Republicans 11 – 2 in the game which followed the infamous ballpark shooting. They did this without name calling and invective, but in a sportsmanlike manner which was once typical of most of America.

But this true American sportsmanship display experienced a short shelf life. By the following morning representatives of one of the political parties was spreading vitriol with abandon.

So much for the spirit of American sportsmanship; it was back to name calling. The founding fathers must be turning in their graves.

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## In my book...

By Dr. John Bitter

When watching television programs in which celebrities are being interviewed, practically every one of them peppers his or her appearance with sentences which begin with the words: “In my book...”

But, in reality, about the only actual writing that was done by the celebrity was writing a check to the ghost writer who actually did the recently published literary work, so writes Margaret Hartman in a recent issue of New York magazine.

As youngsters, little did we know that The Three Musketeers and The Count of Monte Cristo, were not written by Alexander Dumas; they were ghost written.

Likewise, the famous James Bond thrillers, were actually written by someone other than Ian Fleming.

The Hardy Boys series most youngsters enjoyed were ghost written, as was the Nancy Drew series.

Tom Clancy, Robert Ludlum, Alan Greenspan, Sarah Palin, Ronald Reagan, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Hillary Clinton, and many former presidents, with the exception of Jimmy Carter, and Barack Obama, have all had someone else do the actual writing of their memoirs. They've just pocketed the royalties and taken the credit.

So, the next time you watch some celebrity on TV open every other paragraph with the words: “In my book I wrote...,” take it with a grain of salt; it's mostly an ego trip, or a sales pitch; or both.

Stay Cool!!



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

By Kyle’ D. McKinney  
kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov.  
(334) 479-1242--Cell  
(334) 272-7630--Fax

## YOUR RETIREMENT PLANNING STARTS WITH SOCIAL SECURITY



Right now is the perfect time to start planning for a secure, comfortable retirement. And you can count on Social Security to help you begin the process.

First, we encourage you to set up an online my Social Security account so you can verify your lifetime earnings record and make sure you get credit for all of your contributions to the Social Security system through the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) payroll taxes. If you haven’t set up your personal my Social Security account yet, you can do so at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

Then, you can use your earnings history and our online retirement estimators and calculators to get a glimpse of what your Social Security retirement future looks like. You’ll find important details such as your retirement age, life expectancy, and estimates of how much you may receive in future retirement benefits from Social Security.

As you look ahead to ensuring a secure, comfortable future for you and your family, it’s important to keep in mind that Social Security replaces about 40 percent of your pre-retirement income, on average. So, a responsible retirement plan includes planning for more than Social Security.

Here are some more things you can do now to build your financial security:

- ✓ **Contribute to pension plans offered by your employers;**
- ✓ **Maintain and grow savings accounts; and**
- ✓ **Open and regularly contribute to an individual retirement fund.**

These steps — combined with your Social Security benefits — will go a long way toward ensuring a comfortable quality of life for you and your loved ones in the future.

If you don’t already have a retirement account, you can start one today by visiting [www.myra.gov](http://www.myra.gov). Developed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, myRA offers those without an employer-sponsored retirement plan an affordable and secure way to save for later in life.

As you plan for a financially secure future, please keep in mind that our Retirement Estimator and benefit calculators provide you with estimates — not guarantees. We can’t provide your actual benefit amount until you apply



for benefits.

Our estimates may differ from your actual benefit amount if your future earnings increase or decrease, if laws governing benefit amounts change, if you’ve served in the military, or if you’ve had jobs in which you did not pay Social Security taxes.

Social Security is with you throughout life’s journey, from your first paycheck to receiving your first retirement deposit in your bank account. And, as our nation’s most successful anti-poverty program, we’ll continue to provide you and millions of other Americans with financial protections to ensure a secure tomorrow.

To learn more about our programs, please visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

Kylle’ McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at [kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov](mailto:kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov).



# Community Lifestyles

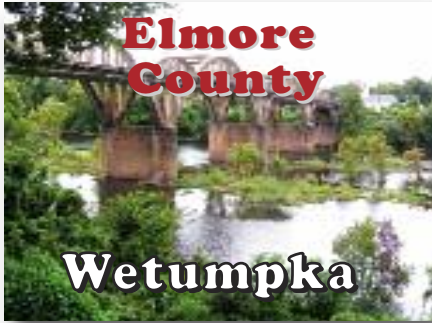
We are proud to announce that The Alabama Gazette is also being delivered in parts of Crenshaw, Butler, Pike, Lee and Talladega Counties. If you cannot find the Gazette in your area, please check out our website: [www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)



Cities, Towns and Communities:  
Pike Road, Cecil, Mathews, Pine Level, Grady, Ramer, Lapine, Snowdown, Pintlala, Hope Hull and Catoma



Surrounding Town and Communities:  
Autaugaville, Billingsley, Booth, Marbury, Pine Level, Independence, Statesville, Jones and Vida



Surrounding Town and Communities:  
Millbrook, Coosada, Elmore, Eclectic, Tallassee, Titus, Santuck, Slapout, Rockford, Deatsville, Kent, Red Hill, Weoka and Robinson Springs



Surrounding Town and Communities:  
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## VOTE AUGUST 15th U. S. SENATE

### Pike Road News

#### New Superintendent for Pike Road School System

The school board officially voted for Dr. Chuck Ledbetter to fill the Superintendent's position. Before coming to Pike Road he served as the superintendent of Dothan City Schools. He was the only finalist out of a group of eight candidates for the position.

Pike Road began searching for a new superintendent after Suzanne Freeman announced her retirement.

Ledbetter took over on June 1st. He is looking forward to an exiting year for the Pike Road School System.

### PIKE ROAD FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT

The Pike Road Fire Department has received a grant of \$225,000 to replace an aging fire apparatus. The grant is from the Department of Homeland Security and a local match. The funds will be used to replace one of the two fire tankers that Pike Road Fire Department currently operates with a new pumper/tanker. "We are extremely grateful to everyone that had a part in helping us to secure this grant money so we can ensure we are providing services with up-to-date and capable equipment, both for our members' safety as well as that of our citizens." said Pike Road Fire Department Chief Matt Missildine.

David Hughes, Captain  
email: 106@pikeroadfire.com  
334-651-2512  
[www.pikeroadfire.com](http://www.pikeroadfire.com)

Pike Road Fire Department  
3427 Wallahatchie Road  
Pike Road, Alabama 36064

REPUBLICAN

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Joseph F. Breault  
Randy Brinson  
Mo Brooks  
Dom Gentile  
Mary Maxwell  
Roy S. Moore  
Bryan Peeples  
Trip Pittman  
Luther Strange

DEMOCRAT

Will Boyd  
Vann Caldwell  
Jason E. Fisher  
Michael Hansen  
Doug Jones  
Robert Kennedy, Jr.  
Brian McGee  
Charles Nana

## Good Bye Summer!!

### From the Desk of Troy King

When I was Attorney General, I believed that the highest compliment someone could pay me was to vote for me.

Now I know better. The highest compliment anyone can give a lawyer is when they choose that lawyer to handle their case. I know that your case is not just another case to you. Instead, it is the most important case in the world and that is how we approach every case here at my office. Whatever brought you here, thanks for stopping by. Please take a look around. If you came here because you need a lawyer, I would be honored to represent you.

If you just want to catch up, feel free to drop me a line at [Troy@troykinglaw.com](mailto:Troy@troykinglaw.com). I always love to hear from old friends. If we have never met, please take time to say hello.

At the Law Office of Troy King, we are continuing the work I did as Attorney General - we stand up for those who need a defender and we fight for those who feel pushed around. We are still doing what I know best.

In other words, we are still protecting you!

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Church, Lowndesboro  
Chairman,  
Board of Registrars,  
Lowndes County*

the shelves and the refrigerated sections for something exotic to turn into a meal. I can while away an afternoon going up and down every aisle of that store!

I cannot complain about the rain too much. It has been a wet enough summer that my fruit trees and my pepper plants are doing well. In addition, the fruit and vegetables at the farmer’s markets and my neighbor’s gardens look good this year. We have starting canning black cherries and I think figs and peaches will be next. With all of the peppers that my two plants are producing, I need to find new combinations of fruit with peppers and for vegetables with peppers. I am like an alchemist in his lab when it comes to my peppers. I try different mixtures of spices, herbs, and peppers to produce a meat rub, a jelly or jam or a marinade. Having several shelves with jars of War Eagle Pepper Jelly and Screaming Eagle Pepper Jelly, I need to expand my inventory.

My usual pepper jelly has been a combination of some fruit, such as peaches, figs, and strawberries, or some vegetables, string beans or cucumbers with jalapeno and habanero peppers. This year after nurturing two pepper plants in my office over the winter, I have two healthy and beautiful pepper plants. One of the plants has already produced about 30 peppers with more coming. The other plant is a bit slower but has about 30 peppers on it that will be ready to pick in a couple of weeks. I have to wear vinyl gloves pick them because the prolific plant is a **Carolina Reaper** and the other is a **Ghost Pepper** plant. I am not 100 percent sure of the types of peppers, but from pictures and from where I got them, if they are not the hottest peppers they are in the top ten of the world. I will use them if I figure out a way to cut and clean the seeds out of the peppers



*David Spooners Carolina Reaper*

and drinking party, with the emphasis on drinking. Since there is so little to eat in a crayfish, the partygoers tend to drink too much. They wear funny pointed hat and bibs, sing traditional songs or rounds, and celebrate the end of summer. When the winter days have almost 6 hours of light, celebrating summer seems like a fun thing to do.

The crayfish are boiled with dill as the main seasoning. Stores have matching sets of crayfish party gear, such as place mats, bibs, and napkins and special knives to cut open the crayfish. There are even paper lanterns and crayfish string lights. There are games, trivia contests, and plenty of schnapps to consume. The usual dinner will also have savory pies, salads, bread and cheese, as well as a dessert of ice cream, cheesecake, or fruit pies. The crayfish could be served with boiled new potatoes, broccoli, stewed mushrooms. I have never been to a Low Country Boil when everyone was wearing pointed hats and cute bibs, and the crawdads served meticulously arranged on platters. What counts is that you are having fun and enjoying the food and the company. You can check on YOU TUBE to see some funny videos.

One of the many things that I enjoy about the South is going to a grocery store. Now if you know me then you know that I love going to grocery stores anywhere and anytime. Going to a Southern grocery store is where you will find: WICKLES, voted Alabama’s best food product on AL.com, Barber’s Buttermilk, White Lily Flour, Conecuh sausage, and Grapico. Do not forget Red Diamond coffee, Golden Flake chips and Dale’s seasoning. At our house, the rolls are Sister Schubert’s. We are blessed with having a choice of three mayonnaises: BAMA, Blue Plate, and DUKE’S. I saw a sign once that said to think globally, drink locally. Well, I think you should, Think the South, Eat Alabama.

Go to your garden, the farmers market, or your neighbor’s garden (with their permission) and pick up some of this summer’s crop of local vegetables. Make yourself a delicious vegetable soup. Yes, even during the summer a warm bowl of soup at lunch or with a light dinner is very relaxing. This recipe is adapted from a recipe from the Mayo Clinic so it is also healthy. Substitutions can be made for the vegetables depending on the availability and your preference. Other recipes that are designated as summer soups have green beans, field peas, and butter beans that are seasoned with thyme, basil, and freshly grated parmesan. These ingredients will give the soup a more Southern taste. The addition of cumin and cilantro to the Mayo Clinic recipe gives it a Southwestern flair. Of course, you can add some hatch chilies or jalapenos to kick it up a bit. Grated lemon zest is in many recipes, to reduce the need for salt and it just adds to the overall flavor of whatever you add lemon zest to. However, be sure you rinse and clean your lemons as you would any other fruit or vegetable that you are going to eat, especially if you are eating it raw. Practice your knife skills and your patience by making tomato concasse. A skill you learn in chef’s training. Any good firm tomato will do. And there are plenty of online videos showing how to do this.

After sampling some of the summer vegetables, the summer fruits can be

# Southern Cuisine

The windows are rattling, the thunder is booming in the background, and the rain is as thick as fog right across the street. Any minute now and it will cross the street.

It just did and I wish it had not.

The wind is coming from a different direction than from the usual west. When the rain comes from the south, as it is now, the sunroom ceiling leaks. I have to move my chair and then lay towels on the floor to soak up the drips. I live in a home that is 187 years old, and I expect it to leak somewhere. Another interruption as I try to write recipes, search for ideas in my 350 plus cookbooks and scan through the myriad of web sites devoted to food from everywhere and with every ingredient imagined. I even have GOOGLE post a section on its home page, called Culinary Inspiration. When the weather is bad, I cannot go to one of my favorite grocery stores, Capital Market on East South Blvd., and scour the



your next treat. If have noticed this about me, besides my love for chilies and grocery shopping, I love figs. They are higher in dietary fiber than most fruit and contain protein, are low salt and fat. They have a fair amount of calcium and iron as well as vitamin A, C, and B complex. They are high energy, with 91 percent of their calories coming from quickly utilized natural sugars. I like to eat them freshly picked from my tree.

A meal of a soup and salad is ideal in the summer and adding a cold meat such as sliced chicken or ham will give you a complete meal. I added some cold rotisserie chicken to this salad. Once you have the ingredients prepped, you can plate up each salad as you go and can add the amount of dressing, as you want.

## SUMMER VEGETABLE SOUP

### INGREDIENTS

- 1   tablespoon olive oil
- 1   sweet yellow onion, chopped (about 1 cup)
- 3   cloves garlic, chopped
- 4   plum (Roma) tomatoes, Concasse (peeled and seeded, then diced)
- 1   tablespoon chopped fresh oregano or 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1   teaspoon ground cumin
- 4   cups no salt added vegetable stock or broth
- 1   bay leaf
- 1   carrot, peeled, halved lengthwise, and thinly sliced crosswise with your knife at an

angle to produce half-moons that are somewhat longer than the width of the carrot (about 1 cup)

- 1   yellow or any color or a mix of colored bell peppers, seeded and diced (about 1 cup)
- 1   zucchini, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced crosswise (about 1 cup)
- 1   tablespoon grated lemon zest
- 2   tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro (fresh coriander)
- 1¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼   teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

### DIRECTIONS

- 1.   In a large saucepan, heat the olive oil over medium heat.
- 2.   Add the onion and sauté until soft and translucent, about 4 minutes.
- 3.   Add the garlic and sauté for 30 seconds; do not let the garlic brown
- 4.   Add the tomatoes, oregano, cumin, and sauté until the tomatoes are softened, about 4 minutes.
- 5.   Add the stock and bay leaf and bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium low and bring to a simmer.
- 6.   Add the carrot and bell pepper and cook for 2 minutes.
- 7.   Add the zucchini and simmer until the vegetables are tender, about 3 minutes longer.
- 8.   Stir in the lemon zest and cilantro.
- 9.   Season with the salt and pepper to taste.
- 10.   Discard the bay leaf.

Ladle into individual bowls or mugs and serve immediately. Count how many times someone comments of the neatly cut tomatoes and carrots in the soup. Serves eight.

A couple of articles back, I wrote about kitchen gadgets and appliances. One of the items discussed was a food mill. A food mill is great for creamy mashed potatoes and a seedless, skinless tomato sauce. Another article told what to do with all of your tomatoes your garden produced. The article on tomatoes left it up to you just how much time you wanted to spend reducing your tomatoes from tomato chunks to tomato paste. With a food mill, you can greatly reduce the time it takes to turn fresh tomatoes into a main dish.

To make a ready to use sauce, pre-heat oven to 350 degrees and take a tomato shark and remove the stem end of 2 to 3 pounds of tomatoes. Lay them on a rimmed baking pan or dish and bake the tomatoes for about 50 minutes. Watch them; you want to cook them until they are soft. Take the pan out of the oven and smash the tomatoes to release the pulp

*Continued on page 3C*

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# Southern Cuisine *Continued from page 2C*

Return to oven for about another hour but every once in a while get a spatula and scrape the pan and mix up the tomatoes. You want a thick mass that looks like strawberry jam.

## GRAPE AND FRESH FIG SALAD with ROTISSERIE CHICKEN

### INGREDIENTS

Any arugula, escarole, iceberg, leaf lettuce, mesclun, frisee, and spinach blend you like  
8 to 10 fresh figs, depending on size and appetite, washed and cut lengthwise  
8 to 10 ounces of seedless grapes washed and cut in half  
½ cup chopped pecans slightly toasted

One cold, skinned rotisserie chicken, cut boneless breast and /or thigh meat into long strips enough for four servings  
Salt and pepper to taste

### For Dressing:

1 tablespoon red wine vinegar  
2 tablespoons orange juice  
½ teaspoon Dijon mustard  
3 tablespoons olive oil

**Comment:** My favorite dressing for this salad is champagne vinaigrette, like Pear Champagne vinaigrette or even a KRAFT Red Wine that does not contain high fructose corn syrup or try BRIANNA's Homestyle Poppy Seed Dressing. I like a sweet dressing on fruit salads.

### DIRECTIONS

1. Place small mound of greens on a cold salad plate.
2. Arrange the figs and grapes on the greens.
3. Place strips of chicken like wagon wheel spokes on the greens
4. Mix the dressing ingredients or use purchased dressing and drizzle over salad
5. Sprinkle pecans over the top

Serves four.

Remove from oven and scrape tomatoes from pan into your food mill. You should have about a cup of sauce and your kitchen will smell like an Italian restaurant. Depending what you are going to use the sauce for, you may want to add a pinch of sugar, due to the acidic tomatoes. The sauce will keep for about a month frozen, and less than a week refrigerated.

Last Sunday, a dish that was prepared for our Dinner on the Grounds, was at first glance a typical spaghetti pasta and meat sauce. However, it turned out being spaghetti squash. The squash baked up perfectly for a casserole and the layer of cheese melted on top hit the spot. The dish would be perfect to use your freshly made tomato sauce. I usually sample just about every dish that is prepared for the meal, and when I find one I really like I find out who prepared it. I found him and after some discussion, I found out he had some more spaghetti squash in his garden and he may be persuaded to part with some. Well, not an hour after getting back home, he showed up with two squashes and we were able to come up with a trade of jars of jelly for his squash. What a country!

I am sure that most of my readers know what is "Dinner on the Grounds". However, just in case some non-Southern readers are scratching their heads and wondering why people would eat the evening meal on the ground, I will explain. First, it is not dinner nor on the ground. Well, it is dinner as Southerners call the meal served on Sunday after church. Any other noon meal is called lunch. My family calls the evening meal supper. The ground part of the meal may have come from the old days when it was too hot to sit inside the parish hall with no air conditioning. So, the congregation would set up tables on the church grounds and have their meal under the shade of the majestic trees that dotted the grounds.

I think of it as an all-you-can-eat-smorgasbord of Southern home cooked delicacies. There will be Funeral Food worthy casseroles, meat-flavored vegetables, and homemade desserts. Salads made from every plant and from every garden, breads loaded with butter and deviled eggs that will be consumed early. In addition, if there is only one serving left in a dish you want to try, take it. If you do not the person next in line will scarf it up in a heartbeat. There are books, blogs and memoirs written about the rules and etiquette of Dinner on the Ground, but if you do nothing else, at least compliment the maker of your favorite dish, and ask for the recipe. Make a Southern home cook proud.

I have had several people comment to the fact, that I do not spend enough time writing about or having recipes for desserts. While I was working in commercial kitchens, my job was hot prep banquet chef. We had a pastry chef to take care of the desserts. I would always sample the ware but never made it myself.

I like simple desserts with an assortment of whole fresh fruits left whole for smaller fruits or cut in big pieces, and a light glaze or sauce pour over. And a sprig of mint and a piece of dark chocolate used as a garnish. Go to your farmers market for your favorite fruits (try nectarines, plums, fresh figs, cherries and grapes), go to the grocery store, and find your favorite gelatin dessert. Look on some of the gelatin boxes for recipe ideas you may want to try later on. Cut the fruit in pieces that will show off the color and texture of the fruit. Mix up your gelatin as per instructions on package and pour it into single serving dessert cups. Start cooling it a bit before you add pieces of your fruits. Do not be afraid to let some of the fruit stick out of the gelatin. Serve when the gelatin is set and garnish with fresh mint or a drizzle of crème de mint. Serve with a crisp cookie.



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Judge  
Peggy Givhan

I heard some neighborhood children talking about school books and school uniforms and thought, "where has the summer gone"? Really. When the school bells ring, the summer is technically over and so early. And what do our flower beds tell us about their state of affairs? Most are mature with tall zinnias, cleome, phlox, cosmos and salvias in large drifts, just begging to be cut for flower arrangements. If there have been any deaths, all we need to do is re-sow the zinnia, cosmos and cleome; fill in with new annuals such as begonias, ageratum, and petunias. You may also want to leave a few areas for chrysanthemums which should be coming onto the market the end of this month. It goes without saying that the new plants need extra water and fertilizer. Because of the heat, I would apply a timed released fertilizer or use a liquid fertilizer. It would be very easy to burn the roots if the fertilizer is a commercial grade or is not watered in really well.

One of the tasks that needs to be completed this month is trimming or pruning hydrangeas which have just finished blooming. If the shrub had gotten over sized, prune back by no more than one third. Any dead stalks or diseased plant materials should be removed from the site in order to keep the plants healthy. Pruning can rejuvenate the garden by helping straggly and leggy plants with a new burst of growth. Flowers such as geraniums, petunias, impatiens, begonias, marigolds, blue salvia, coleus, and most summer annuals and perennials need this summer hair cut. The benefits will be seen within a couple of weeks with new growth, and more blooms. All these plants should receive a good dose of fertilizer as set out in the first paragraph and they will march onto the Fall stage with vim and vigor.

All gardens can benefit from a regular spraying program. Aphids on canna lilies and crape myrtles are easily controlled with insecticidal soap which can be bought through nurseries, and other garden centers. If one controls aphids, then one controls sooty mildew which is a filmy thick black substance found on the front and back of leaves. Also mealy bugs and whiteflies cause this sooty mildew. If the soap does not do the trick, there are insecticides, such as Neem, for this purpose. Spider mites are another pest which plague some gardens and wreck havoc with ornamentals, the foliage on plants and on vegetables. The tell tale signs are yellowing leaves, tiny yellow or red spots and fatigued lack luster plants. Also an indication of an infestation is a light webbing on the underside of the leaves. To rid your garden of these, one can purchase a miticide, but with continued use, the spider mites frequently become resistant. To thwart their resistance, use different agents at intervals, and use a hard spray of cold water to help control the infestation. Roses are particularly vulnerable to spider mites. Bulbs can be infected with bulb mites and leave the bulb stunted, deformed with sickly and disfigured flowers. Unfortunately, all diseased bulbs must be destroyed along with the soil surrounding the infected bulb. Do not plant new healthy bulbs in soil that was infested with bulb mites.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--COREOPSIS

Coreopsis is a great example of a native American wildflower that has been brought off the streets and highways into the home gardens for years. The daisy like blooms have been cherished by gardeners with their blooms of many colors. The most common bear yellow flower heads, which is a perennial with a long bloom cycle. After one wave of bloom, shear it back and a new flush of blooms spring forward. They bloom from early June through July or later and require full sun. Once established, coreopsis is extremely drought resistant and will not thrive if the soil is constantly moist. Another maintenance plus is that they do not need constant fertilizer and one application in the spring will be enough for the year. Bring a bunch of coreopsis into the home for a cheerful flower arrangement.



GOOD GARDENING

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The Education Station...

How much Do you Know  
about your American Heritage?

Continued from page 8A

Answers to the American History Quiz

1. The Mayflower

2. For religious freedom

3. The American Indians, especially Samoset and Squanto

4. Thanksgiving

5. Independence Day

6. July 4th, 1776

7. Thomas Jefferson

8. That all men are created equal

9. Great Britain

10. Patrick Henry

11. New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut,  
New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia,  
North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia

12. Colonies

13. Red, white, and blue

14. The thirteen colonies

15. One for each state in the Union.

16. "The Star-Spangled Banner"

17. Francis Scott Key

18. George Washington

19. The president, the vice-president, the cabinet, and the departments  
under the cabinet members

20. November

21. January

22. A four year term

23. Two four year terms, but he can serve up to two years of a  
predecessor's term,

24. The president of the United States

25. Donald Trump

26. Michael Richard Pence

27. a. Be a natural born citizen  
b. Be at least 35 years old  
c. Have lived in the U. S. for at least 14 years

28. The Electoral College

29. The Cabinet

30. The supreme law of the land

31. An amendment to the Constitution

32. The Bill of Rights

33. The right to vote

34. Three branches of government

35. Legislative, judicial, and executive

36. The Legislative branch

37. The Legislative branch, that makes laws, and has power to declare war

38. For 2 years

39. For 6 years

40. The Supreme Court and the lower courts

41. The Supreme Court

42. To interpret the Constitutionality of laws

43. The President selects them and the Senate votes to approve or reject  
the selection

44. The Governor of the State

45. The Mayor of the City

46. It freed the slaves

47. The residence of the U.S. President

48. A constitutional Republic



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## THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL  
Pastor,  
Eastern Hills Baptist Church  
Montgomery, Alabama

### Teamwork

The subject of this article reminds me of that night in the summer of 1969 I sat with awe watching that grainy picture on a small television screen of Buzz Aldrin and Neal Armstrong landing on the moon. I am sure you remember with me those famous words, “*That’s one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind.*”

We tend to revere special people for their accomplishments, especially heroes like Armstrong and Aldrin. However, they would never have made it to the moon by independence. Neither would we have eradicated typhoid, small pox or polio without cooperative effort. No championship sports team ever succeeded without teamwork. They got to the moon, stamped out those diseases or made it onto the champion’s stage only through the teamwork of thousands whose names we will never know. The secret of their success was interdependence.

Likewise, the secret of a successful church or any efforts in God’s work is everyone holding hands for the same cause. While written long before the church age, the Old Testament sage was on target when he wrote that well known verse, “*As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.*” **Proverbs 27:17.**

Teamwork may be the most undervalued commodity of the church’s role in the world today. For far too many, church has become something to attend like a club you joined or an organization whose purpose is to meet your needs, not the other way around. Churches build buildings and hire ministers to do much of the work which the Bible describes as those things designed for individuals to accomplish. Ministers I know without question have a servant heart. Yet we must also remember the Bible teaches that one of the primary tasks of ministers is “equipping the saints” to be servants.

As Christians we are part of a team. Paul described the teamwork in a variety of ways. We described it as a race we are running together. He also compared the church to the work of a body. All the parts of our bodies function for the good of the whole, not for themselves. He reminds us the hands can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” He helps us to see that when one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are blessed.

“The Apostle Paul was a very gifted individual. He was a leader, a scholar, an influential man. But in his letters he mentions over 100 people by name. He viewed his ministry as teamwork. He viewed their help as a “partnership” (**Philippians 1:5**). He associated with all social classes: he traveled with a trained physician, he ministered to those in Caesar’s household, but he also share ministry with a slave who most likely had run away.”

The noted Christian researcher, George Barna, wrote, “Had the church relied upon a single, incredibly gifted, magnetic individual...the church would surely have collapsed. What the disciples discovered was that none of them had the complete package of gifts, abilities, and insights necessary to facilitate the growth of the Christian church, but each had a very significant and defined role to play in that revolutionary undertaking.” So the church must be about the business today of teamwork.

As Christians we are not only a part of a team, we must support our team. A man who worked on the railroad years ago recalled his experience. He said, “When I worked for a company repairing railroad track, one of the jobs we had to do was haul track. We would get six guys and pair up two by two by two to pick up and carry these long pieces of iron. I don’t know what they weighed, but they were heavy. However, we had one man on the crew named Slim. I could tell you stories about Slim but let’s just say he could spot the break truck a mile away. The last thing you wanted was to be paired up with Slim. He never carried his share of the weight. If you dropped your arm, Slim would go even lower.”

# Soul Searching

What would it be like to be paired up in God’s work with a partner like Slim? Maybe we should make sure our reputation in the Lord’s work did not end up like Slim.

Not only are we on a team and should support our team, as Christians we also have a role in cheering on our team. I love watching how teammates on the sidelines get into the game jumping up and down while shouting encouragement to their mates on the field. In a sense, that is what I think we ought to be doing for one another as Christians.

We live in a world of curses, insults, ridicule, put-downs. We hear it wherever we go. But in the church, we need to be lifting each other up! Affirm the positives you see in their lives, encourage them in ministry and spur them on to godly living. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “The strong are not always vigorous; the wise not always ready; the brave not always courageous; the joyous not always happy.” Sometimes we look around and assume everyone is a stronger Christian than I am and wouldn’t gain any blessing from me.” But that’s not true.

Everyone loves encouragement. Pats on the back, expressions of gratitude, smiles on faces are what will keep people active in God’s work. I heard of a church that had a “three minute rule.” After the service, everyone is to spend three minutes greeting others around them - welcoming visitors, building new friendships, getting to know others better that they don’t have a good friendship with , and then after those three minutes, they can go on to greeting their friends and catching up about their week. Remember, while you are getting sharpened by the iron of others, you are doing the same for them in return.

A missionary used to recite the following poem as he visited churches.

*Three things the Master hath to do, and we who serve Him here below  
And long to see His kingdom come, can pray, and give, and go.  
He needs them all, the open hand, the willing feet, the asking heart,  
To work together and to weave the threefold cord that shall not part.  
Nor shall the giver count his gift as greater than the worker's deed,  
Nor he in turn his service boast above the prayers that voice the need.  
Not all can go; not all can give to arm the others for the fray;  
But young or old, or rich or poor or strong or weak - we all can pray.*

Fellow believers, I hope you see yourself as part of a team, that you are viewed by others as one who supports the team and that you are faithful to cheer on your team in advancing the Kingdom of our Lord.

### Come & join us on



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**10:15 AM**



## Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks



### BACK TO SCHOOL

**Where has the summer gone?** Area schools open their doors again soon, to the chagrin of many students and to the delight of many parents. It was always a depressing time for me as a child when the more relaxed summer schedule was done!

Christians go to school, too, for the New Testament calls us “disciples.” This word has two meanings: to follow and to learn. As someone noted, the followers of Christ are branded on their ears and feet, for we hear his voice and we follow him.

Jesus, the master teacher, invites us to learn from him. He said, “*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me*” (**Matthew 11:29**).

How do we learn in the school of Christ?

First, God through his Holy Spirit equips some to teach the Bible (**Ephesians 4:11**). This is a significant gift because teachers impact our lives.

I had some very good Bible teachers as a child and teenager. These were laypeople in our church who loved the scripture and taught us to love it, too. I had good teachers at Samford University, too, where I majored in religion.

The late Dr. W.T. Edwards challenged us to apply ourselves and learn.

We’d complain, “Dr. Edwards, this material is over our head.”

“Lift you head!” he’d always reply.

I had good teachers at Southern Seminary in Louisville, too, including Drs. Dale Moody, Frank Staggs and Lewis Drummond.

The pastor is a teacher and we should value time we spend hearing the Bible taught from the pulpit. Sometimes people get a bit nervous when high noon approaches and the service isn’t done. My family sat in the Atlanta Braves stadium some years ago. When the tied game went into the 10th inning the announcer said, “Free baseball!” When your pastor goes past twelve you ought to think “free church!”

We also have several fine Christian radio stations in our area so we can access good Bible teaching while relaxing at home or driving.

A second way we learn is by studying the scriptures ourselves. Luke said of the Berean church that they “*searched the scriptures daily*” (**Acts 17:11**). There’s no magic plan to personal Bible study. The most important principle is to have a daily appointment and do it.

And the final way we learn is through fellowship with Christ.

“*Abide in me,*” Jesus said (**John 15:4**). Just as we invite Christ into our lives to bring salvation, we invite him every morning to walk with us that day.

Fellowship with Christ teaches us more about him.

Dr. Sigurd Bryan at Samford once said that the school of Christ never graduates a class, for we continue to learn until we die. Expenses go on even when you’re not there.

Enjoy your trip, but don’t take a vacation from God. We need him and his church-- even in the summertime.

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

## Eastmont - Mike Northcutt 30th Anniversary



**Sunday, July 2, 2017, was a special Sunday in the life of Eastmont Baptist Church for a number of reasons.** The church celebrated its 50th anniversary of its relocation from its previous downtown location when it was formerly known as Second Baptist. Generations of members were in attendance as the church reflected on 50 years of God’s faithfulness. The church also celebrated an additional milestone that day. For thirty of the 50 years of its existence, Eastmont has been led by her pastor, **Rev. Mike Northcutt.**

“Brother Mike,” as he is lovingly referred to by his church family, and his family joined Eastmont in June, 1987. Serving one church for 30 years allows a pastor the opportunity to experience the joys and sorrows of life with multiple generations of families. During his tenure, Bro. Mike and his wife, Connie, have raised their two children and have welcomed the addition of a son- and daughter-in-law as well as five grandchildren who all call Eastmont their church family.

To honor the occasion, church members were asked to write personal cards expressing their love and gratitude to the Northcutts for their faithful years of ministry. In addition, the church arranged and funded a vacation for Mike and Connie.





Patricia Killough

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

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

# Home Town Community News

## August Birthdays



- |                                     |                             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Cindy Bolton                      | 14 Darlene Fuller Davis     |
| Ty Bolton                           | Jill McCain                 |
| Heide Doran                         | Patsy Norman (65th)         |
| 2 Nichole Lansdon Gibson (43rd)     | Ricky Webster (68th)        |
| Chloe Taylor Jordan                 | 15 Connie Mainor (54th)     |
| George McCurdy                      | Claudia Adams (95th)        |
| Moe Parker                          | Earl Russell (67th)         |
| Sheryl Schall                       | 16 Billy Betts (68th)       |
| Tim Schall                          | 17 Tyler Schoknecht         |
| Rhonda Tatum                        | Max Webb                    |
| 3 Frances Byrd                      | 18 Doris Talley Matthews    |
| Lisa Wooten                         | Joan McDewitt (75th)        |
| 4 Harry Baker                       | 19 Carl Boyd (63rd)         |
| Chuck Bolton                        | Shannon Grant               |
| Harris Bolton                       | 20 Sydney Mills             |
| Linda Hix                           | 21 Lorraine Hall            |
| Eveline & Ernestine Trafford (67th) | Paula Jones (63rd)          |
| 5 Chuck Gambrell                    | Madison Boyd Williams (9th) |
| 6 Chase Cumbie                      | 22 Tom Garlington           |
| Luke Davis                          | Rhett Tucker                |
| Tony Drake                          | 23 Lamar Higgins            |
| Joshua Jones (32nd)                 | Lindsey Woodall Brown       |
| Gerald H. Thompson (90th)           | 24 Terri Gulsby             |
| 7 Anna Louise Moseley               | Lori McGough                |
| Bill Ratliff                        | Mary Iva Sellers            |
| 8 Mallory Hitson                    | Preston Webb                |
| 9 Audrey Alison                     | 25 Ray Scott (84th)         |
| Nell Crowe (89th)                   | Loyd Smilie (88th)          |
| Perry Mason (58th)                  | 27 Angie Herndon            |
| Don White                           | 28 Bill Hix                 |
| Doris Williams (90th)               | 29 Charlie Blount           |
| 10 Hilda Furlow (91st)              | Jimmy Grant (63rd)          |
| 11 Wayne Roy (70th)                 | Glenn Fuller (82nd)         |
| Shawn Terrell                       | Diane McLaney               |
| 12 Trisston Burrows                 | Paul Reynolds               |
| 13 Bobby Boyd (57th)                | 30 Imogene Bryan            |
| Barry Ehrlich                       | 31 Winnie Barton            |
| Maxine Scroggins                    | Chloe Mills                 |
|                                     | Sallie Rhodes               |



*l-r: Skip Mainor with daughter Shelby Mason holding Davis Mason and Trace Mason standing*

Skip Mainor was 60 years young on July 6th, 2017. His wife Connie surprised him with a party at La Zona Rosa restaurant on Zelda Road. A large number of family members were in attendance.

## Birthday Surprise!!



Sara Ellis

Sara celebrated her 80th birthday on July 22, 2017 with a party at Rhonda & Foy Tatum's home in Pike Road. Her children, Rhonda Tatum (Foy), Wade Ellis (Kim) and Cris Ellis gave the surprise party. Her grandchildren are, Jeremy Dickinson (Stacy), Taylor Ellis, Parker Ellis (Brittany), Clint Ellis, Cody Ellis, Christi Wilkins & Jayme Teague (Clay). Great grands; Matthew & Luke Dickinson, Railee & Parker Kate Ellis, Cayman Wilkins, Olivia and William Teague!



In addition to family members there were many friends celebrating Sara's 80th. A few of her grandchildren and great grandchildren!

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Mike & Laura Lane            | 19 Jason & Shawn Adams            |
| 4 Frances & Ted Watts          | Rob & Minerva Tate (31st)         |
| 5 Michael & Jackie Moseley     | 21 David & Elizabeth Miller       |
| 7 Todd & Nikki Windham         | 22 Johnny & Betsy Walker          |
| Zach & Magan Grambling (7th)   | 24 Frank & Aileen Kovacic         |
| Charlie & Debbie Moore         | 25 Bill & Jane Grubbs             |
| 8 Leroy & Ina Goodin (71st)    | Mr. & Mrs. John Carter (71st)     |
| L.B. & Bessie Wynn (75th)      | 27 Johnny & Regina Johnson (33rd) |
| Turpin & Angie Ashurst         | Tommy & Barbara Ratliff (29th)    |
| 11 Mack & Susan Terrell        | 28 Karl & Brenda Stegall (52nd)   |
| 13 David & Julie Livingston    | 29 Mike & Deborah Kirk            |
| Tim & Cherie Meadows (23rd)    | Bill & Sharlotte Younkin          |
| 16 Leon & Pearl McClain (59th) | David & Suzanne Webb              |
| Terri & Michael Taylor (31st)  | 30 Randy & Mae Bishop             |
| 18 Earl & Theresa Henderson    | Ralph & Murray Norman             |

## Sympathy to the families of...

Livingston, Jr., William "Bill" Frank (85) .....died June 24, 2017  
Ross, Daniel Earl (49) .....died June 30, 2017  
Boyd, Grace Moseley (71) .....died July 1, 2017  
Harris, Sr., George Allen (84) .....died July 8, 2017  
Squire, Walter "Scooter" Clarence (63) .....died July 10, 2017  
Hall, Marion Lurline Schrieber (97) .....died July 14, 2017  
Hinson, Alice Halstead (78) .....died July 16, 2017  
Butler, Albert Sim (66) .....died July 20, 2017

## 70th Class Reunion



*Seated l-r: Kate Stubbs Campbell, Sara Law Boyd, Teddy Paludan and Reba Paludan  
standing: Loyd Smilie, Mary Emma Smilie, Voncile Walton Talley and Ed Scrushy*

Six graduates out of a class of 28 attended the Ramer High School Class of 1947 reunion.

The reunion was held on July 29, 2017 at Snowdoun Volunteer Fire Department. The event was catered by Patricia Boyd Killough





# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



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*Women of Montgomery Embracing and Nurturing Hope of Prevention and Eradication of Breast Cancer*

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*Signature Luncheon*

**Monday, October 2, 2017**  
**11:30 am**  
 doors open at 11:00 am


**Embassy Suites Hotel Montgomery**  
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**TICKETS \$35**

**"Faces of Hope"**  
 Speaker: Ronda Walker  
 Montgomery County Commissioner  
 Breast Cancer Survivor

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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SCAN FOR APPT.



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

## Trisston's Tidbits...

By: Trisston Wright Burrows  
[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

### "Pursue Your Victory"

God told Joshua to cross over the Jordan River and to go possess the land. The word "possess" means "to drive out the previous tenants". This implies action.

Jesus tells us in **Matthew 11:12**, *"The kingdom of Heaven suffers violence, but the violent take it by force."*

Indeed, it is time to be aggressive and energetic when it comes to letting go of the past and pressing

forward to the abundant life God has in store for you. It's time to rise up and boldly go after your victory! It's time to develop a warrior mentality and proactively pursue the happiness, health, and peace the God has promised in His Word.

*"This one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind, I press on towards the mark..."*  
**Philippians 3:13-14**



It's time to stop dwelling on past mistakes and failures. It's time to press forward and never look back. As you set your focus on the Word of God and His promises, you will discover His abundance of joy, peace, and prosperity in every area of your life!

Many Blessings!

**2017 Meeting Schedule**



*Breast Cancer Support Group Meetings*

**Tuesday, August 8th**  
**#Godiswritingmystory**  
 Presented by Katie Griffiths, Breast Cancer Survivor

**CONTACT US! (334) 220-4599**  
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## Tears and Laughter:

By Amanda Walker

### If Your Town Is Not Painting Rocks, Your Community Is Missing Out On The Fun

Often times in downtown Camden, there is no one out. The sidewalks are empty and so are the streets, except for the occasional car passing through.

Of course there are other times when it is busy. Early in the day when people are out running errands and working, and especially at the first of the month. On parade days the sidewalks will be crowded, and again when Santa rolls in on a firetruck during the annual Christmas in Camden festival.

And sometimes the courthouse square looks like a farmer's market with people milling around. You can't pick up a bushel of purple hull peas and a couple pounds of shrimp fresh from the gulf for supper when you bail out of most courthouses. But in Wilcox, you can get tomatoes and local honey too. Camden is protective of its farmers. Anyone visiting, or anyone who is lost and finds themselves at the junction of Claiborne Street and Highway 265, is encouraged to stop and thump the watermelons. But often there are just vacant parking spaces and silence under the shade of the old pecan tree.

That was until these last few days when things have started to change. I parked on Claiborne Street beside the Veteran's Monument Park Friday and immediately a truck pulled in and parallel parked behind me. A young girl jumped out of the passenger side door. She was grinning and started running. I watched her grab a painted rock like it was a baton in a relay race. All in one movement she swooped up the rock and headed back to the truck.

Her mom was smiling as she pulled away, and in seeing them happy I noticed

that I was smiling too. I was clutching three painted rocks and had intentionally waited for them to drive away before I got out of the car so as to not give away the locations. I was about to hide one at the Veteran's Monument and the others across Broad Street at the courthouse and library.

I had seen different articles and news features about the Kindness Rocks Project. I know Andalusia is rocking and Prattville is participating as well as Monroeville. Several towns are, but I thought little of it really...because I live in Camden.

Specifically, I live about eight miles out from Camden in Canton Bend – which adheres to the Alabama River and connects to Possum Bend on one end and Millers Ferry on the other – but we all have Camden addresses.

The creative rock project initially began in Memphis, Tennessee. While the process of painting the rocks as well as finding the rocks can be an introspective process, the goal was simply to inspire others – both through the art on the rock and through the random act of kindness. Anyone who finds a rock is encouraged to share a picture on Facebook, then keep it or hide it again.

The local Alabama Camden Rocks page started on July 5. Within days sidewalks were filled with those young and young at heart. I've never witnessed anything so simple and positive bring a community together so quickly.

Neighbors have gathered kids together to paint rocks, along with church youth groups. Even during summer break a crowd of students got together to paint and hide rocks. Creative adults – some hesitant at first thinking they were too old to play – have joined in on the fun too. Toddlers, guided by their mothers and grandmothers holding their chubby hand, have in the other their own creation to hide in exchange for a find.

There have been painted turtles and puppies and lady bugs. There have been signs, scriptures and emojis along with messages and symbols of hope. Several posts of found rocks say, "This made my day!" Or, "I needed to see this today."

Kindness, it turns out, is contagious. And it can bring joy to the emptiest of places.

Amanda Walker is a blogger and contributor with *The Alabama Gazette*, *AL.com*, *The Thomasville Times*, *West Alabama Watchman*, and *Wilcox Progressive Era*. Contact her at [Walkerworld77@msn.com](mailto:Walkerworld77@msn.com) or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.





## The Financial Corner

*By Buddy Hicks*

Wealth Management Group, LLC  
334-440-6379  
bhicks@wmgadvisers.net

### HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE CARED FOR?

Do you have anyone in your family who has been affected by Alzheimer's, Dementia, a stroke or who has suffered an accident that has left them in a position to have to receive 24 hour care? If so, do you know how they paid for it? In a lot of cases, these individuals or their family members had to pay for that care out of pocket. And because those resources are often very limited, they end up having to move in with other family members like their children or siblings and those family members become the care givers by helping with everything from feeding and dressing to bathing and toileting. Now I don't know about you, but I'd rather not put my spouse or child in a position to have to care for me in that way. The cost for this care can be as high as \$200 day. That's around \$6000 a month and over \$70,000 a year. WOW! Even as I type this, those numbers hit pretty hard. There are not too many people I know that can foot that bill for even one year much less long term. So, without having those resources, how do you know that you will be properly cared for? You might feel like you are ok because you have your retirement account that has been building up for years or you have long term disability with the company you work for. Just remember that your retirement account is there to replace your income when you retire and your disability is there to replace a portion of your income should you not be able to work. But long term care is an additional cost on top of your other living expenses. A viable option to look at is to transfer that risk.

If your house burned down today, how would you replace it? If you wrecked your car, how would you pay to repair or replace it? Most likely, you have transferred that risk to an insurance company that would pay to replace your house or car. The same holds true for long term care. You can acquire insurance to cover the cost of your long term care. Now, just like auto insurance or homeowners insurance, you may never have the need arise. You may never have an auto accident and so you never file a claim or you may live in your house for 30 years and never file a claim. You may die without ever needing any long term care. But, are you willing to take that risk with your care?

If you feel like there is even just a 1% chance that you will require long term care at some point in your life, then it begs the question, how do you want to be cared for? Do you want to rely on family members to pay for or provide that care or do you want to plan so that you can get the care you need without being a burden on your family?

Make time today to talk with a professional who can help you determine the proper amount of coverage you would need that works with your budget. You may feel like it would cost too much to get all of the coverage you would need, but even if you get what you can afford now and add to it later, you are in better shape than without any at all.

*Buddy Hicks is a Financial Advisor with Wealth Management Group LLC an affiliate firm of Securian Financial Services and has over 18 years of experience in the financial services business. He is Life and Health Insurance licensed and FINRA registered with his Series 7 and Series 66 which allows him to be an Investment Advisor and Registered Representative of and offer securities and investment advisory services through Securian Financial Services Inc, member FINRA / SIPC. He is an Alumnus of Troy University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Finance. He takes a process approach with all of his clients to help determine their goals and then works with them to put a strategy in place to help reach those goals. An area of importance of Buddy's is his ability to intuitively listen to his clients so that he can fully understand their current situation and what their future needs are.*

*Life insurance products contain fees, such as mortality and expense charges (which may increase over time), and may contain restrictions, such as surrender periods.*

*Tracking 1845992 DOFU 0717*

### Brown Retires From Sabel After 42 Years

A college friendship lead to a long career for Phillip Brown who semi-retired as Vice-President and Chief Financial Office of Sabel Steel in June 2017.

Brown met Keith Sabel, owner of Sabel Steel in Montgomery, while the two were students at Huntingdon College in the 1968. Following graduation Brown went to work with a local CPA firm for a short while before beginning his 42-year tenure with Sabel Steel.

Over the years Brown has been an integral part in the Sabel Steel family business, which now holds the honor of being the oldest operating company in Montgomery. (Sabel Steel begin operation in 1856, it is celebrating its 161 anniversary this year.) In addition its' local headquartered office, Sabel Steel has branch offices in Mobile, Dothan, and Woodstock, Alabama and Newnan, Georgia and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Brown said, "Taking on new things over the years has lead success." He added, "Keeping our staff on the cutting edge of technology has helped in many areas." Sabel Steel has its own technology department which according the Brown is unusual for a company Sabel's size. "And of course hiring good people has been one of the major keys to our success," Brown said.

Brown's wife, Elizabeth Via Brown is a retired journalist. Their son, Hunter, is an art director for movies and TV shows in Los Angeles, California.

On July 17, 2017, Brown was given a retirement luncheon. During the celebration, Keith Sabel, owner and president of Sabel Steel presented Brown with the beautiful antique gold pocket watch. Sabel thanked Brown for his years of friendship and dedication to the company. He praised Brown for outstanding work that over the years has been monetarily valuable to the company.

Brown has plans to catch up on some of his "home projects" and do a little traveling, along with volunteer church work.

He will not become a stranger to the staff of Sabel Steel, because he will continue to work two to three days a week. "Sable has been good to me," Brown said, " And a strong part of the community."



*Elizabeth Via and Phillip Brown*



## Commissioners Corner, PSC

Commissioner Chris "Chip" Beeker, Jr.

### A Lifeline for the Lifeline

A lot of songs, movies, and television shows have been about the trucking industry. That is because, as Merle Haggard sang in his hit song "Movin' On," "the white line is the lifeline to the nation." Our economy would crumble if truck and taxi companies were not moving goods and people over our roads. A lot of people may not know that the Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC) helps those companies that help Alabama's economy and people.

One way the PSC supports the safety of those travelling on Alabama roads is by keeping records that show that intrastate carriers maintain proper insurance. Transportation companies that operate only in Alabama must prove to the PSC that they have enough insurance. Making sure that these companies are sufficiently insured gives everyone peace of mind.

Household goods movers also have to file tariffs with the PSC. The PSC then makes sure that the companies are following those rates by conducting audits. If an audit reveals that a company has charged a customer too much money, the PSC will order them to refund it. Not only does the PSC regulate trucking companies, we also supervise taxis and companies who drive patients to a non-emergency medical appointment. The PSC doesn't regulate all taxi companies, just the ones that move people from one city to another. For example, if a taxi company drives people only in the city of Montgomery, the PSC does not oversee it. If, however, a taxi company drives people from Montgomery to Birmingham, the PSC would oversee it. The medical transport companies we oversee take people to their doctors. Many may not be aware of this service but it is a wonderful asset for those who do not have the ability to drive themselves and don't have friends or family members who can drive them to their doctors' offices. Thankfully, there are companies who are there to help them make their appointments.

Sometimes a transportation company will challenge another company's right to operate in a certain area. When that happens, our legal division conducts a hearing that is a lot like a trial. An Administrative Law Judge or hearing officer will preside over the hearing, witnesses will testify under oath, and evidence is presented. Staff who work on transportation issues usually attend these hearings. After the hearing, the judge or officer will decide whether to recommend that the company be allowed to operate. I, and my fellow commissioners, will then vote on whether to accept that recommendation.

I recognize that "the white line is the lifeline to the nation" and more importantly, to our great state of Alabama. I am proud of what the PSC does for the transportation industry in Alabama and to serve with those who also recognize the importance of the transportation industry within our state. Because I recognize how important the transportation sector is to Alabama, I will continue to work on behalf of those who move goods and people across our roads.



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blessings, others  
come in your  
life as lessons.