

THE GAZETTE IS “THE VOICE OF REASON”!



The signing of the constitution took place on September 17, 1787, at the Pennsylvania State House (now called Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.



The Preamble To The United States Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Are we closer today to  
TERRORIST ATTACKS...  
taking into account our  
CURRENT IMMIGRATION CRISIS?  
WE ARE ALLOWING ILLEGAL ALIENS  
TO IMMERSE INTO OUR  
SOCIETY WITH NO VETTING.

The September 11 attacks (often referred to as 9/11) were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda against the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. The attacks resulted in 2,977 fatalities, over 25,000 injuries, and substantial long-term health consequences, in addition to at least \$10 billion in... [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_11_attacks)

DRONES BRING NEW  
TERROR ATTACK FEARS

On July 16, 2024 a would-be presidential assassin grazed former President Donald J. Trump with a shot fired from a long rifle. Sadly, there is a long history of guns being used in political violence and terrorism. The new element was that the shooter scouted the whole scene hours earlier with a drone to analyze defenses, the terrain, and pick his location. What if he had used an armed drone to launch his attack? In the war in Ukraine both sides are using drones to kill people, trucks, artillery pieces, bunkers, aircraft, naval vessels, and even tanks. This developing technology brings new fears of what drones could potentially do in the wrong hands.

Drones have the ability to enable terrorists to conduct multiple attacks nearly simultaneously and the attacker does not have to ever be present at the scene of the attack so a terror attack would not necessarily be suicidal. Drones provide a terrorist with standoff capability and present a new challenge for law enforcement.

Since the early 2000s, the use of airborne drones by private individuals in a variety of fields has become commonplace.

Al-Qaeda has already attempted an attack in Pakistan using multiple drones but that was stopped by local law enforcement and ISIS used drones in its military operations in Iraq and Syria. Two Russian military bases in Syria were attacked by drone swarms in 2018 and Houthi rebels in Yemen have used Iranian made drones earlier this year to attack international shipping in the Red Sea and has even used them in attacks on the U.S. Navy.

A terror attack using drones on a political rally, an inauguration, or a civilian mass casualty event like an NFL stadium is a growing real concern for Homeland Security and law enforcement.

Brandon Moseley



State of Alabama POW MIA Recognition Day Ceremony. The Gold Star Wives, Families and Children will be honored guests at the Annual Remembrance Ceremony on Saturday, September 21, 2024 on the south lawn of the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, AL.

The public is invited to attend this event. The Ceremony will begin at 10:30 with the arrival of motorcycle clubs from the VFW, the American Legion and other veterans' organizations. The POW MIA flag will be raised on the flagpole at the Capitol. The

National League of POW MIA Families' sole purpose is to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War.

Dr. Martha Poole Simmons- Our Hero  
“A life that is dedicated to serving others.”

Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

The Alabama Gazette wants to honor Martha for the many years of service to our veterans. She has spent countless hours interviewing, showing special attention, writing stories of the many great Veterans in our area that have served in so many of our American conflicts and wars.



  
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the USA





## INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE With Steve Flowers

*Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at: <https://steveflowers.us/>*

### Alabama Politics has been affected by Presidential Assassination Attempts

America has a long history of presidential assassinations and assassination attempts.

The two most notable, as well as history changing, were the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President, and John F. Kennedy, our 35th President.

I remember vividly the sad and poignant saga of John F. Kennedy's assassination. It was a tragic event. The scenes are indelibly planted into the memories of those of us who are old enough to remember. A short time later his brother, Robert F. Kennedy, was assassinated while running for president. The 1960's was a tumultuous decade.

In recent decades, President Ronald Reagan was shot and recovered without any complications. Presidents Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush were attacked. Closer to home, our own Governor George C. Wallace was mortally shot during a presidential foray, but remarkably survived, although he was left paralyzed.

Governor Wallace was in the middle of his third term as Governor of our state. He was known as the most ardent segregationist in the nation. He had parlayed this notoriety into becoming a national presidential candidate. He was garnering large and fervent fiery crowds on the campaign trail. He was speaking at a rally in a parking lot in Laurel, Maryland, in May of 1972, when a crazed gunman named Arthur Bremer shot him several times and pierced numerous vital organs. Most people would not have survived. He was hospitalized in Maryland for over

a month with it being touch and go as to whether he would live or die. He barely survived, but it left him a paraplegic. He was confined to a wheelchair and in constant pain for the rest of his life.

This year's July 13th assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump, and the assassination attempt on George Wallace were very similar. They both were helped immensely, politically, by the bullets. Trump was leading in the polls due to the obvious cognitive decline of Joe Biden. However, Trump's resilience and quick defiant response was iconic. It has made him a martyr among Republicans.

The assassination attempt on Wallace also saved his political life and politics was his life. Wallace was not going to become the Democratic nominee in 1972, much less win the presidency. He was on a Don Quixote endeavor. However, being Governor of Alabama was his life and the bullets that riddled his body saved his political life.

Wallace had been elected Governor for his first term in 1962. He had ridden the race issue to his lifelong dream. He had won with the race issue. Big Jim Folsom was soft on the race issue and would not demagogue or race bait. Wallace was at the height of his popularity in 1966 and wanted a second term. However, the Alabama Constitution prohibited him from succeeding himself, so he ran his wife, Lurleen, in his stead. She won overwhelmingly. Wallace was actually Governor. Lurleen succumbed to cancer in 1968, and Lt. Governor Albert Brewer ascended to Governor for two years.

Wallace and Brewer clashed in the most titanic and bitter governor's race in Alabama political history in 1970. In that race, Brewer led Wallace in the first primary, largely due to a gigantic Black voter turnout. Black Alabamians had just been given the right to vote by the 1965 Voting Rights Act and they were taking advantage of that right.

Wallace came back with the most overt, racist campaign ads in American history, and edged Brewer out and captured the Governor's office for a third time. Wallace had been bitten by the presidential bug and ran in 1968. He was constantly out of state and not tending to being Governor. Brewer had wounded him with a slogan, "Alabama needs a full-time Governor." Wallace had pleaded with Alabamians in the 1970 runoff. He went to every city and hamlet in the state and swore that, "if you elect me Governor, I will never again leave the state and will stay home and be a full-time Governor." After his razor thin, come-from-behind, race baiting, "Full-time Governor" promising win, the next day he was on a plane to Wisconsin running for President.

Alabamians did not like this overt demagogic lie. He was not going to win the Governor's race in 1974. Brewer and newcomers, Attorney General Bill Baxley and Lt. Governor Jere Beasley, were all planning to run in 1974. One of them would have beaten Wallace. However, after the bullet wounds in Maryland, sympathy for Wallace was too great. The three Bs had to wait until 1978. The assassin's bullets severely ruined and limited Wallace's life, but saved his political life.



Rob Tate

## Robservations...

### YOU CAN VOTE YOURSELF INTO SOCIALISM— But ...YOU HAVE TO SHOOT YOUR WAY OUT!

There is one thing I think I have been able to do fairly well since I first started writing these Robservations for the Gazette in 2015. 174 columns later, this is probably my first or maybe second "rant." But this political season has me shaking my head and realizing as usual that stressing over things I cannot control is counter-productive and that in the end, my source is God and God alone.

Nevertheless, we all live in this fallen world and I still find myself looking at the enemy because I still want to be able to speak factually about topics. The whole "Sun Tzu art of war – knowing your enemy" thing. Years of military training has sort of engrained that into me. But I have a friend who posted something on Facebook that I initially responded to but then took it down. It was not because I disagreed with him but I thoroughly agreed; almost 100%. I just felt that since I do not know many of his friends, I decided to follow Else's lead and "let it go."

But now that I am here with "my peeps," I decided to discuss certain things that I am thinking about concerning the upcoming election.

1. I am not a forever Trumper. Not even close. I cannot say that I actually like the man. Many of us don't. There are many times when he opens his mouth or pushes the buttons to squeeze out a tweet and I blush in embarrassment. (Yes, Black guys can blush). I want to jump through the television set, take his device and crush it. I am sure that more than one advisor has told him to lay off with the stupid social media attacks and act, you know, presidential. Hmmm, imagine that? I get it. You hate certain people, but you know what, you do not have to remind us everyday that you hate them or what you think of them.

Churchill once wrote, "If you stop to throw stones at every dog that barks at you, you will never get where you are going." I wish he shared that level of sophistication, restraint and dare I say, class? But it seems as though he cannot help himself. It is who he is and what he is. Some might say he is a bully but I see it as a guy who simply cannot stop himself and once is attacked, he is going to hit back until the opposition is crushed. In the political world, that can be both an advantage or a hindrance.

Now, all this being said, when I look at policies alone, not the personality, I am left with one decision. And no, this is not intended to be an endorsement for Donald Trump. That is not my place. All I am saying is that there is more to a presidential candidate than mean tweets and a sometimes-caustic personality. Policies and platforms are most important to me.

2. I am a Never, Never, Not Ever, Kamala Harris supporter. I find it funny how arguably the most disliked, incompetent and ineffectual vice-president in American history is now the face of hope within the Democratic Party. A friend of mine said that he only hopes that if she wins, that she surrounds herself with good advisors.

I told him that would never happen. Look, Harris is an ultra-left-wing stooge who was once voted the most liberal senator in the country. She is an unapologetic socialist with an agenda that will mirror or even exceed that of her current boss. Harris and those like her have an agenda to fulfill so why would she surround herself with good advisors who have the welfare of this entire country in mind? She won't. She can't.

Let's just look at how she got to where she is right now. Was she voted in? Did she win in the primaries? No. Nobody voted for her. After Biden was forced out, uhhh, actually what he himself has implied, she was installed as a successor. Some 80 million Democratic voters were just disenfranchised (a word the left loves using) and are now forced to eat the Harris poop sandwich being shoved down their throats. But amazingly, few people seem to care. Definitely not enough to say anything. For many Americans, this is just a political version of American idol where popularity is the sole criteria for many who are voting. For many, the sole fact that she is a woman of color is THE ONLY reason they have for voting for her. I have heard people talking. And let's be honest, can anybody give a really good reason for voting for Harris? A reason other than you hate Trump, at least it is not Trump, or orange man bad?

Just the other day, Harris said that she wants to give all first-time house buyers \$25,000 for their down payment. Okay, so who in the heck is going to pay for this? Of course, that means us. Remember, there is no such thing as government funded. We fund it. She talks about getting rid of private health insurance and having state run insurance. That is pretty sickening socialist stuff to me. Guaranteed members of government will have their private insurance. That is how socialism works. The elite will still have their private insurance and amenities others won't. "Let them eat cake." In the words of Vladimir

Lenin, the goal of socialism is communism. When these people say such egregious things, I actually take their word for it. When they first started touting student loan forgiveness, I took them at their word while some people told me, "Rob, it will never happen." I have never been an, "I told you so person" but... When the democrats called for and continue to call for defunding the police, I take them at their word. When Iran says they want to destroy Israel, I believe that is what they wish they could do. When Harris' vice-president nominee, Herr stolen valor Tim Walz said that he would invest in a company that would make ladders so illegals could climb over any wall along our border, I believe him. Even if he would not build the ladders, it exposes the wretched darkness in his soul that he would rather support invaders from other countries than American citizens. When Hitler called his shots in Mein Kampf, the world ignored him and where did that get us?

Harris as president will certainly continue with the policies and mistakes laid down before her by both Obama and Biden. They have a goal and as Obama once said, that goal is to radically transform America (to alter, convert, or to make a thorough or dramatic change in the form, appearance, or character of something). And people, you never radically transform something you love but something you hate. If you truly love your spouse, do you really want to radically transform that person? Harris will most certainly surround herself with sock puppet ideologues who believe in the same thing. Why wouldn't she?

What is amazing to me is how blindly people are jumping on the bandwagon for someone they were not allowed to even vote for. And when they did vote for her back in 2020, nobody voted for her and she was booted out of the primaries early in the show. "But we need her to save democracy!" Nothing cries "democracy" like bypassing the votes of millions of people. Nothing cries democracy like avoiding the press for over a month as your party's nominee and refusing to answer basic questions on what your policies are going to be. Nothing cries democracy like wanting non-citizens voting in our elections.

How willingly some Americans are embracing socialism/ communism is both scary and sad. A poll that can be found on [campusreform.org](https://campusreform.org) states that 70 percent of Millennials say they will likely vote for a socialist and 36 percent said they approve of communism. 22 Percent also said that "society would be better if all private property was abolished" while 45 percent of Gen Z and Millennials think higher education should be free. They may one day get their wish. But always be careful what you ask for. Like Harris' promise of government price controls on things like food and gas. Has she ever read history? It has been said that those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it. The caveat? Those who ignore history are planning to repeat it. Does the 20th Century of communist and socialist history tell these people anything? It might if they aggressively taught it in our schools. Yet like goosestepping, hobnailed, jackboot wearing lemmings, many seem willing to freely step in line right off the cliff their own destruction.

***The 2024 election is fast approaching,  
all I am saying is be careful what you ask for.***

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***PS – Okay, here is a little nugget I want to throw out and I will address this topic at a later date. There is not a day that goes by without me reading about somebody being raped. Normally there are dozens. Rainn.org states that there are sexual assaults every 68 seconds in America. 15% of the victims are ages 12-17, while 54% are between 18-34. Those 35-64 make up 28% while 3% are 65 and older.***

I hate rape. There are few crimes that I detest more. What rape does to the psyche of the man, woman, girl, or boy is unimaginable. I saw an article this morning where some kid raped a high school girl and beat her up so badly that she is now unable to walk, swallow or do anything for herself. Her life is gone. Her parents are now her full time care takers. Rape victims carry these scars around for the rest of their lives. Often, the perp walks away with nothing more than the satisfaction of his crime, unencumbered with any remorse and often nothing more than a proverbial slap on the wrist. Some young girls, so brutalized and damaged, can never have children of their own. Many victims, burdened with what happened, opt for suicide. Unfortunately, rape seems to be the crime of choice now for many people including many illegals invading our country. ***It must stop!!***

My point. I think it is time for the law makers in this country to consider rape as a capital offense. Sorry, but I believe this. At a minimum, punishment should be life with no chance of parole. It doesn't matter if the victim is a girl or boy, man or woman. You rape someone, you have forfeited your life. Until we as a nation decide that this crime is as horrific as it is, rapes will continue. They will. I cannot understand why we take such a light hearted view of rape. I will not.

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





Ronald A. Holtsford

## Do I understand that Alabama Medicaid now attempts to recover from decedent estates?

**Yes, that is correct.** It is however conditioned on certain criteria and in my view will cause some changes in estate planning and in debt collection by creditors.

Whenever an estate is opened in an Alabama probate court, the named personal representative whether appointed for a testate (having a Will), intestate (no Will) estate or the person initiating the settlement of a Small Estate (with or without a Will where the probate assets are limited by law), must file a specific document with Alabama Medicaid and file an affidavit of notice along with a copy of the Medicaid document with the Probate Court. This document must be filed regardless of whether the deceased person did or did not use Alabama Medicaid. Alabama Medicaid has thirty days in which to respond.

And it's not just confined to Alabama Medicaid in general. The criteria is that the deceased must have received Medicaid at or after age fifty-five (55) and/or that the Medicaid assistance was in long term or nursing home care and/ or while receiving Medicaid assistance a special needs trust was used. The age constraint means that even though someone may require Alabama Medicaid for instance in a nursing home prior to age fifty-five (55), it's only the Medicaid usage from age fifty-five and later (if used for that long) that is countable towards recovery.

If Alabama Medicaid finds the deceased in their files, then they will determine how much Medicaid paid for services at or after age 55. Medicaid waiver programs are not countable. It will be interesting as this fleshes out since it only became effective a few years ago for estates filed after September 1st, 2019. For starters a Medicaid recipient can have no more than two thousand dollars in assets. However, at application and throughout the assistance there are exempt items such as an automobile and rented land worth no more than six thousand dollars. Certainly after death there is no need for those items and I would think they would be eligible assets that would have to be sold for recovery. When an institutionalized spouse leaves a spouse living in the marital home, it is an exempt asset as long as that spouse remains in the home. There is a cap on the value of the home of over a half million dollars. I would guess that after both spouses have died, assuming the last to die is in the marital home then half of the home value is probably available for recovery. A self settled special needs trust already has the requirement that Alabama Medicaid have a payback provision up to the amount expended on the person, but a third party settled special needs trust for the Medicaid recipient should not have a payback provision and instead has contingent

beneficiaries. I have to wonder if there is any push to try and access those assets. There are some unknowns and Alabama State Bar members affected by this are working now to understand the exact implications of this program.

Though there are differing camps on estate planning, I generally favor a Will over a Trust because of the Trust cost to the client, the fact that assets such as vehicles, bank accounts, investments and the home must be placed in the Trust and that a Pour Over Will is done in case there are assets that need a legal transfer and are not a part of the Trust for some reason. The use of Trusts or other instruments that circumvent probate, may become more important. Though I have not yet noted it, a certain segment of my estate planning clientele will need further discussion on what to do.

This law also places Alabama Medicaid, sixth in the line of things that must be paid before creditors are paid. Some of the items that precede Medicaid recovery include the cost of burial, estate administration, taxes of employees, etc. The thing to consider is that some 75-80% of Alabama nursing home residents are on Medicaid with an average stay of about two years. The cost rises each year, with Alabama Medicaid paying a part of the more than \$6,000 per month per resident. With Medicaid recovering whatever may be left, I would assume that creditors generally have little recourse for those individuals since one assumes that whatever part of the estate may be available for debts (remember that family members have no personal responsibility for debts of a decedent) may be completely "taken" by Medicaid. This is not derogatory towards Medicaid and I understand that the program must be run as a tight ship and I also understand that individuals must bear personal responsibility in their care during life. I have no details but I wonder if creditors have tightened up credit limits or become more selective on whom they extend credit to if they feel there is a lesser chance of repayment.

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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## Be an Informed Voter!



Know the issues! – Know the Candidates! – Know Where Your Voting Precinct is *before* November 5th!  
Take pride in being an **American Citizen**. It is a privilege and responsibility of **VOTE!**



John Martin

## MOMMAS, Don't Let Your BABIES Grow Up to be SHYSTERS

*This is a true story.*



On February 12, 2019, at the UPS hub in Fulton County, Georgia, a UPS semi was leaving via a three lane exit that curved to the right. The driver decided to stop there for a while in the right lane to update his log or whatever, straddling the center lane line and thus blocking the right lane plus half of the center lane.

Another semi from I-Ship (not real name) was right behind him and steered to the far left side of the left lane to get around the UPS truck. In spite of caution as he went around the curve, the back end of his trailer drifted a bit into the center lane and clipped the left headlight from the hood of the UPS truck.

The impact was less than 3 mph, and the damage was minimal, consisting of the headlight assembly and a small portion of the fiberglass hood. **The UPS driver was NOT injured.**

The UPS driver called one of his buddies in the local police department, who quickly ruled the I-Ship driver at fault. He then filed a claim against I-Ship's insurance company.

Not all insurance companies pay claims in full, but I-Ship's insurance went all of the way to set things right. Instead of a simple repair, it provided a BRAND NEW hood and headlight assembly that cost \$6500. It paid for every bit of the damage in FULL.

The case was settled, or so I-Ship's CEO thought. Twenty three months later, he received a notice from his insurance company that it had been slammed with a **\$350,000 lawsuit—for WHAT?**

Somehow, the UPS driver had decided he could cash in his little fender bender for a quick fortune. He had called Georgia's Queen of Torts, **Glenda Mitchell**, a female version of ambulance-chaser Alexander Shunnarah, to file a frivolous lawsuit for, as yet unidentified "damages." What damages? Did he suffer a \$350,000 hospital bill from a 3 mph impact on a fiberglass hood?

Apparently, I-Ship's insurance had paid the \$350,000 without any contest. **WHY?** It was obviously frivolous. WHO made the judgment, and for what? WHO decided on \$350,000? WHY was there NO contest? Was I-Ship's insurance able to get a constitutionally guaranteed jury trial? If not, why not? Can anyone even imagine a verdict to pay \$350,000 for NO damages?

After paying the claim, I-Ship's insurance dropped its coverage, like most do after being whacked with a huge claim—legitimate or otherwise.

And because our legal system continues to corrupt itself in this manner, shysters everywhere rake in huge fortunes from the miseries of innocent victims. Read their billboards. Watch their TV commercials. The proof is right there.

Much of the United States is notorious for insanely huge lawsuits for frivolous or even imaginary damages. In a country as civilized as ours, these are among the most shameful crimes anyone can commit. Yet they remain technically legal. They happen over and over—thousands of times. They can devastate the livelihoods of multitudes of totally honest, innocent people who end up in unfortunate accidents, even minor ones. Don't forget, these are accidents, NOT willful malice.

What can we do to **STOP this LEGALIZED MASS EXTORTION?**  
**Does anyone even care?**

How can we gain a fair and honest legal system? For example, let's look at Japan. Some years ago, a plane crashed in its mountains, killing over 100 people. In our country, the ambulance chasers would be swarming everywhere, and with our "justice" would be raking in millions of dollars. But ethics are different in Japan. From that entire planeload of over 100 tragic deaths, there was not even one lawsuit. Japanese people, including lawyers, understand that accidents happen and have enough ethics not to profiteer from them. In Japan, tort lawyers would be obligated to seek more ethical careers.

Of course, I am not talking about all lawyers. We need defense lawyers to protect people from unreasonable prosecution and abuse from various government agencies. And we need lawyers to help people with contracts and other legal matters. But tort lawyers need serious reform. Settlements must be held within the boundaries of reason. Professional extortionists must be stamped out.

To pass on this urgently needed public message, I have decided to do it with a song. I hereby donate all rights to copy, publish, perform, record, distribute, broadcast, and otherwise use it to the **PUBLIC DOMAIN**—with **NO** copyright restrictions—to keep people aware of our corrupt tort system.

Everybody is hereby encouraged to record it and post it on YouTube, Instagram, Tik Tok, Facebook, and whatever media he likes. Perform it in public rallies. Broadcast it on radio and TV.

Make CDs, DVDs, tapes, and vinyl records. If you want to sell them on the internet and at flea markets, be my guest.

## Mommas, Don't Let your Babies Grow Up to be Shysters

Shysters are merchants of misery never to trust  
With slick advertising they gather their clients of lust

Big fancy billboards and TV commercials...  
and hefty commissions and fees  
They track down their victims and hijack their assets.  
Soon they are down on their knees

Mommas, don't let your babies grow up to be shysters  
Don't let 'em sue people and steal all their stuff  
Let 'em drive trucks and be cowboys and such

Mommas, don't let your babies grow up to be shysters  
They usurp the law in a devious way  
Don't you believe what they say

Shysters like senile old judges and gullible juries  
Wealthy defendants who cannot put up a good fight

Running for offices, twisting our system...  
And scheming things all day and night

They lose all their ethics to max out their profits...  
And never will treat people right

Mommas, don't let your babies grow up to be shysters  
Don't let 'em sue people and steal all their stuff  
Let 'em drive trucks and be cowboys and such

Mommas, don't let your babies grow up to be shysters  
They usurp the law in a devious way  
Don't you believe what they say

Mommas, don't let your babies grow up to be shysters  
Don't let 'em sue people and steal all their stuff  
Let 'em drive trucks and be cowboys and such (fade)

### SOURCE:

**1: Testimony from a friend.** *Name withheld to protect the innocent.*

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Col John Eidsmoe

But way back in the early 1950s, in Whittier Elementary School of Sioux City, Iowa, I sat in fourth grade under Miss Mildred Terhune, the strictest and best teacher I ever endured.

When she wasn’t disciplining me for whatever mischief I could concoct, she taught me the Bible (this was before Abington Township v. Schempp of 1963, not that she would have cared). She taught me American history. And she taught me the Constitution.

The Constitution, she said, establishes three branches of government. One branch (Congress) passes laws. Another branch (the President) enforces laws. And the third branch (the Court) interprets laws. When I wasn’t off daydreaming in Eidsmoeland, I listened, and sometimes I understood.

When a similar lesson came up in the schools of Pennsylvania and Delaware, Joe Biden must have been playing hooky. So was Kamala Harris – or maybe she had been sent to the principal’s office for excessive cackling. They seem not to have learned that administrative agencies under the Executive Branch of Article II are not to engage in legislation. They may with strict limitations adopt regulations for applying laws, but they may not pass laws; that is the responsibility of Congress.

Biden/Harris (and I use both names because Kamala Harris cannot evade responsibility for the Biden record, much as she would like to) and their Radical Left allies have, as of July 2, 2024, signed 139 executive orders, 190 presidential memoranda, 629 proclamations, and 129 notices. While the number of executive orders is fewer than those signed by President Trump, many of Biden’s orders expand federal power while Trump’s orders deregulated the economy and limited federal power. Furthermore, many of Biden’s presidential memoranda are really executive orders under the guise of memoranda, issued as memoranda so the Administration does not have to meet the legal requirements for adoption of an executive order, such as pre-publication and public comment. In so doing, these regulations violate the basic constitutional principle of separation of powers.

On no less than five occasions, the U.S. Supreme Court has struck down the Biden/Harris Administration’s regulations as usurping the authority of Congress:

(1) National Federation of Independent Business v. OSHA (2022). Biden and Harris wanted to force all Americans to undergo COVID-19 vaccination whether they wanted it or not and whether they needed it or not. It is questionable whether Congress has the authority to impose vaccination, but in any event, Congress chose not to do so. So Biden/Harris ordered the Secretary of Labor to adopt a regulation through the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) requiring all employers with 100 or more employees “to ensure their workforces are fully vaccinated or show a negative test at least once a week.” This would have affected about 84,500,000 employees. The National Federation of Independent Business challenged this regulation in court.

The Supreme Court ruled that OSHA had been created by a 1970 Act of Congress, and therefore OSHA had only the powers delegated to that agency by Congress. Congress had delegated to OSHA the power to regulate “work-related dangers,” but COVID was not a danger specifically related to work. Therefore Biden/Harris and OSHA exceeded their authority by adopting this regulation. The Court therefore held that the mandatory vaccination rule was invalid.  
*Note: This issue in this case is not whether COVID vaccination is good or bad, effective or ineffective. The issue is whether an unelected administrative agency may force vaccination. The Court held that it may not.*

(2) Next, in West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency (2022), the Supreme Court struck down portions of the EPA “Clean Power Plan” (adopted by the Obama Administration but defended by the Biden/Harris Administration) that mandated emissions reduction technology and, in some instances, shifting to solar and wind power. West Virginia and other States challenged this regulation in court, and the Supreme Court held that Congress had not delegated power to the EPA to promulgate or enforce regulations that impose such sweeping changes in power production. Because the EPA had exceeded the authority delegated to it by Congress, those regulations were held to be invalid.

Note again: The issue is not whether emissions controls or shifts to solar and wind power are good or bad. The issue, rather, is who has constitutional authority to mandate such changes. If any branch of government has this authority, it is Congress, and Congress has not delegated this authority to the EPA.

(3) The following year, the Court again slapped the hands of Biden/Harris in Biden v. Nebraska (2023). In a brazen attempt to buy votes, Biden/Harris adopted

## ALL I REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION, I LEARNED IN FOURTH GRADE

Well, maybe that’s an exaggeration. I learned a lot teaching and practicing law, but my law student experience consisted mostly of left-wing theories I’ve had to unlearn.

## Foundation for Moral Law

One Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104.  
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a student loan forgiveness plan. But once again, the Supreme Court invalidated the plan, noting that Congress had created the student loan program and had not authorized the Department of Education to forgive or modify loans except as provided in the Act. Because the Biden/Harris loan forgiveness program exceeded authority delegated to the executive branch by Congress, the program was held to be invalid.

Again: The issue is not whether student loan forgiveness is a good or bad idea. Many complained about the unfairness of requiring the taxpayers as a whole, many of whom could not afford to go to college and others of whom had already repaid their loans, should be required to subsidize these privileged few by paying their loans for them. The issue, rather, is who has authority to adopt a student loan forgiveness program – Congress, or the Biden/Harris Administration? Again, that is the authority of Congress.

However, Biden defied the Supreme Court with a slightly modified plan that will cost the taxpayers at least \$870 billion. That plan, too, has recently been struck down by the Eighth Circuit, but the same day the Circuit made its decision, Biden/Harris announced another loan forgiveness program. We’ll see where that goes.

(4). In Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo (2024), the Court dealt another blow to the Biden/Harris Administration, holding that courts rather than administrative agencies must interpret federal laws. Over the past century, administrative law has grown exponentially, with OSHA courts, tax courts, and other “courts” established by administrative agencies that operate under the Executive Branch rather than under the Judicial Branch. In its 1984 Chevron U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. the Supreme Court boosted the power of administrative agencies, holding that courts must give deference to an administrative agency’s interpretation of an ambiguity in the law. This means that when an individual or a business challenges an administrative agency in court, the agency usually wins. But in Loper the Court overruled the Chevron deference doctrine and held that administrative agencies are no longer entitled to such deference. Rather, courts must give more consideration to arguments raised by those challenging administrative interpretations.

*Again: The issue is, who interprets the law – administrative agencies, or courts? The Constitution, Article III Sec. 2, says that is the duty of the courts. The Supreme Court agrees.*

(5) Most recently, in the companion cases Department of Education v. Louisiana and Cardona v. Tennessee (2024), the Court has once again ruled that Congress, not the President or his agencies, has the authority to adopt laws. In 1972 Congress enacted Title IX, an education statute that prohibits sex discrimination in schools that receive federal funds. But the Biden Administration has adopted administrative regulations that essentially rewrite Title IX. The new rule redefines sex discrimination to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and sexual identification. This means public schools must allow biological males to dress and undress and shower in girls’ facilities, and much more.

Several states challenged this rule, saying it misinterprets Title IX which forbade sex discrimination relating to biological males and females, not those who self-identify with a different gender. Five federal district court judges ruled in favor of the states and enjoined enforcement of the Biden/Harris rule. And now, the Supreme Court has upheld their injunctions, saying Biden/Harris have failed to demonstrate that they have authority to change a law adopted by Congress.  
*Note: Congress, not the President, makes laws. President Biden and Vice-President Harris, what part of Article I do you not understand?*

I’m not just splitting hairs. The separation of powers into legislative, executive, and judicial branches is essential to maintaining our constitutional system of limited government. Once one branch succeeds in usurping authority granted to a different branch, we are well on the path toward dictatorship. Biden/Harris, not Trump/Vance, are the real threats to democracy.

Back home in Sioux City, Whittier Elementary School closed a few years ago, and the old building is now used for apartments. Miss Terhune, God bless her, has gone home to be with the Lord. But the principles of government she taught us remain, because they are enshrined in the United States Constitution. There are three branches of government. Congress passes laws. The President does not. Nor does the Court.

Thankfully, the majority on the Supreme Court seem to understand that – at least for now. But who will appoint and confirm the next Supreme Court Justices?

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## Joy to the World or Joy to the Left Kamala’s Economic Nonsense Unveiled!

Remember that old Three Dog Night hit, “Joy to the World”? You know, the one

with the ridiculous lyrics about a bullfrog named Jeremiah? It’s a catchy tune, but let’s be honest, the lyrics are complete nonsense. It’s hard to believe that song became a hit, but hey, it was the 70s, a time when people were looking for anything to take their minds off the mess that the country was in brought on by Jimmy Carter’s economic policies. Fast forward to today, and we’re seeing a similar kind of nonsense being peddled by the left and their lapdogs in the media, but this time, it’s far more dangerous. The mainstream media can’t seem to stop talking about the “joy” surrounding Kamala Harris’s presidential campaign. They gush over her every move, painting a picture of endless optimism and success. But just like the song the “joy” they’re selling is based on nothing but pure fantasy. What they won’t tell you is that Harris’s newly unveiled economic policies are a disaster waiting to happen, filled with the same kind of nonsense that has led nations to ruin throughout history.

Vice President Kamala Harris, in her socialist foray into economic policy, has unveiled a plan that is every bit as nonsensical as those lyrics about a bullfrog bringing joy to the world. Only this time, instead of harmless nonsense, we’re talking about policies that threaten to bring misery and despair to the American people.

Harris’s plan? Soviet-style price controls that would bring a smile to Stalin’s face on all grocery items and virtual government takeover of the housing market. The very same policies that have led to economic disaster time and time again are now being touted as the solution to the problems actually caused by the Biden Harris Administration. And the mainstream media, predictably, is falling in line, singing the praises of these disastrous ideas as if they were the second coming of FDR. As former major Democrat donor billionaire investor Bill Ackman so succinctly stated: Kamala Harris’s economic plan is to increase demand with subsidies and to reduce supply with price controls, and to do so in the first 100 days



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of her administration. Who is her economic adviser? Will he or she at least explain how this is supposed to work without massive inflation? Even the liberal Washington Post has trashed the plan, advising Kamala that “when your opponent calls you a ‘communist,’ maybe don’t propose price controls.”

But let’s get real. Price controls have never worked, and they never will. Just look at Venezuela, where government-imposed price controls led to rampant shortages, a collapsed economy, and millions of people fleeing their country in search of a better life. In the 70s US price controls on gasoline brought rationing and two-hour lines. Or take a look all the way back at ancient Rome, where Diocletian’s price edicts led to widespread economic chaos and was a major cause of the fall of the Roman Empire. Price controls for centuries have not brought prosperity; they have brought misery.

And what about Harris’s plans for the housing market? This is nothing short of a disaster in the making. The federal government, under Harris’s plan, would throw money at the housing market, driving up prices and making it even harder for ordinary Americans to afford a home. It’s the same failed strategy the government has used in higher education—pouring money into the system, which only serves to drive up costs, leaving students buried in debt and colleges raking in the profits.

Harris’s economic policies are not just nonsense—they’re dangerous to our very existence as a country. They will lead to more government control, less freedom, and more misery for the American people. It’s time to wake up and realize that the “joy” Harris and the Democrats are promising is nothing more than a bullfrog’s fantasy. If we let them have their way, the only thing we’ll be singing about is the loss of our economic freedom.

It’s time to reject these socialist fantasies and get back to what made America great: free markets, individual liberty, and limited government. Let’s not be fooled by catchy tunes or catchy slogans. The stakes are too high, and the consequences of failure are too great.





John Sophocleus

## Rigged Elections: Primary Coups & General Racketeering

Last month's column closed with 'money mill parasites' driving our political outcomes. When the Republican Party told Trump they wouldn't pay his mounting legal bills (remember, DJT is a big government modern Democrat, currently 'donning' the Red jersey who donated to fellow soviets like Kamala Harris) he made overtures to the Libertarian Party. Money mill parasites don't care how donations are spent, or the outcome as long as they get their cut. Donations with the Biden crime family

at the top of the ticket dropped sharply. Dramatics to re-prime the money mill and keep political Kabuki Theatre in full shriek is the usual formula... staging a close duopoly race until this election cycle's racketeering ends Tuesday, November 5th.

The 'primary coup' is complete with Harris, Trump, et al political masters calling the shots. Alabama taxpayer money, voters' time and effort were all for naught seeing the process and decision cast aside as money mill parasites directed. Some readers recalled <https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2024/03/01/opinion/trump-ballots-primary-corruption-and-general-collusion/2801.html> explaining no shortage of disagreement on what constitutes a 'coup' or 'insurrection' in State cases w.r.t. ballot access for Mr. Trump. State provided primary ballots subsidizing Alabama's soviet parties is nothing new in strongly duopolized Alabama.

Some reports touted recent Trump ballot access decisions historic. Maine's Secretary of State [Shenna Bellows] was the first to remove a presidential candidate from their State's ballot 'unilaterally' (12/29/23 Denver AP report) as a top election official (mis)using the 14th Amendment's Section 3 insurrection clause. Even more vulgar, Maine is one of those States unconstitutionally splitting electoral votes - i.e., just one of Maine's 4 electoral votes may make a difference in razor close Electoral College outcomes. The AP report also noted Maine's "unusual process in which a secretary of state is required to hold a public hearing on challenges to politicians' spots on the ballot and then issue a ruling. Multiple groups of Maine voters, including a bipartisan clutch of former state lawmakers, filed such a challenge, triggering Bellows' decision."

Most Trump ballot access lawsuits were dismissed by courts asserting no authority over party primaries. True in States which do not subsidize party primaries, but Alabama taxpayers provide our primary elections. Effectively 'fund-raisers' for Democrat/Republican Parties, candidates pay their duopolist (usu. a function of the office's salary) for ballot access. Alabamians are not obliged to provide PRIMARY elections as is true with GENERAL elections to satisfy Article 4, Section 4 requirements of the US Constitution guaranteeing our representative republic. Candidate payments to duopoly parties are not remitted to our Alabama Dept. of Treasury to offset expenses of primary elections using government resources; these collections are KEPT by our Blue/Red soviet parties. This anti-competitive wealth transfer is difficult to defeat, write-ins often aren't allowed on primary ballots where any candidate(s) could 'sneak by' and access general election ballots without paying 'protection money' to our political gangs.

While our Secretary of State had no trouble eliminating a general election to install Felon Hubbard's desired replacement, he failed to eliminate clearly ineligible candidates in other races. If our State was not paying for primaries, parties may submit any candidate, legal or illegal; there's no Secretary of State 'oversight' role. The Secretary's office would later remove those determined ineligible on the general election ballot our State is obliged to provide. Voters still may write-in someone ineligible by State law who shall be removed after general elections proffer ineligible winners. Sadly, Secretary Merrill seemed exasperated at times with our corrupt ethics commission who did little to discipline duopoly candidate/party malfeasance.

General election racketeering in our State, with some of the most restrictive ballot access laws in the nation further aids and abets our uncompetitive, unrepresentative results. Will Trump be removed if installed again? - the next rigged, unconstitutional result will certainly install another duopoly thug as the general election winner. Extremely unlikely our State (or any other State) will make a racketeering case upon installing Harris on their general elections ballots by improper process. Rules do not (or selectively) apply to duopoly party thugs. Other readers recalled the September 2022 column on the next step in stealing elections in Alabama via closed primaries [<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2022/09/01/opinion/stealing-elections-in-alabama-next-step-close-primary/2414.html>] being championed by our Blue and Red soviet parties.

If Democrats/Republicans want to determine their general election candidates submitted via convention, election, pin the tail on the Donkey/Elephant, smoke filled room... you get the idea, as a PRIVATE entity on their own purse - great! Pay for your own convention facility, use your own voting machines or rent our public ones at documented cost, buy your own Donkey/Elephant board... then the party as a private entity can decide (degree of open/closed) participation however they please. Once a party takes taxpayer money to purchase the facility, voting machine, smoke blower, etc. then citizens have the right to access/vote in every primary determination they're subsidizing. Can you imagine how different our general election choices may be with this more competitive/reflective result?

No doubt ability to participate in every party's primary provided on the public purse, would increase participation and reduce manipulation via low turnout results. I wanted to vote in BOTH the primaries I paid for this election cycle. None dare dream this sort of political competition/participation being championed by our colluding soviet parties. Don't expect this sort of fidelity to tax-payers and competition from our traditional Republican Party Executive Committee, drunk with the power of supermajority and hegemony.

In fact, one of the most deleterious Red soviets in our State (ALGOP Chairman

John Wahl) used the morass this public servant created by failing to adhere to Alabama Code Section 17 duties to address crossover as the excuse for further closing our primaries. Again, there's no standing as a taxpayer against a party's closed primary by a private entity determining their candidates on their own purse. Sadly the duopoly parties are further stealing elections by closing primaries provided on the public purse and putting the taxpayers on the hook for even greater burden/waste of time and money administering/enforcing/tracking party registrations in States with this anti-competitive impediment in place.

Duopoly convergence as Republicans grow more collusive/anti-competitive in business and politics is noteworthy of our super-majority. The Secretary of State's office once again abdicated their oversight role over political parties which do not follow code/laws w.r.t. candidates ineligible to be placed on ballots at the time; especially when a party takes taxpayer dollars; legislator fidelity belongs to the taxpayer, not party politburo members. If parties are private entities the legislature's job is to secure each citizen's enjoyment of life, liberty and property within that party. Sadly most on Goat Hill are more interested in promoting wealth transfers to specific interest over the general welfare of Alabamians.

No surprise the LPA Chair Gavin Goodman had a different perspective on closed primaries than our duopoly party chairs, providing the following quote. "The Libertarian Party of Alabama has no problem with the ALGOP proposal to go to a 'closed primary system' in Alabama. We believe each party should choose their candidates however they like. What we can not abide is use of taxpayer dollars to fund these closed primaries. If ALGOP wants a closed primary, then pay for it themselves. If they want to take even one red cent of taxpayer money to fund primaries then Alabama citizens have every right to participate fully and we would then call for a fully open primary where every citizen could vote in whatever primary they want." Not to put words in Mr. Goodman's mouth but that means one, both, ALL primaries provided on the public purse.

The set deadline for ALL candidates to be placed on our general election was August 23, 2024. In an unsubsidized election, each candidate must submit uniform payment to be listed on the actual/general election ballot; an amount determined by the marginal expense(s) of placing another candidate printed/counted on ballots in excess of the fixed cost taxpayers are obliged to pay. This would eliminate the waste of candidates collecting and voters signing petitions which bureaucrats must then also waste their resources and time verifying. No doubt our soviet parties will despise disempowering their duopoly and losing this protection of their hyper-gerrymandered political gang turf.

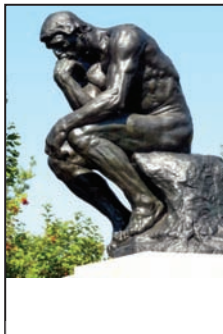
How much was wasted on primaries and run-offs (with even LESS participation) to determine which big govt. candidates are placed on restricted GENERAL election ballots? Clearly State taxpayers are on the hook to pay the fixed cost of general elections; one may take candidates more seriously when they must pay the marginal cost of being on the ballot for their competitive races. Obviously the fee to be on a Statewide ballot would be greater than a countywide race. Alabama Republicrats will never support this sort of cost saving and competition as more voters simply refuse to waste their vote on Harris/Trump types - exactly what the politburo wants.

Any non-duopoly political party wanting access/inclusion on the upcoming Nov. 5th general election ballot printing was required to submit over 51,000 verified signatures. Along with the history of snubbing voters' civil rights, being blocked from ballots, debates, media coverage, etc. a non-duopoly (i.e., NOT Democrat/Republican) candidate must receive 20% of the total Gubernatorial votes cast in a statewide race to retain ballot access. The next highest, last I checked, was Kentucky at 10%. Irony how much worse the Republicans (many former long-time Democrats currently wearing the Red jersey like Reagan, Trump, et al types) have evolved these past decades. It'd be revealing to enumerate how many Republican candidates would've been blocked/not allowed ballot access when Alabama was diehard Blue soviet before passing the current Red super-majority soviet rules. These rules have proven very effective barriers to protect establishment politicians and silence non-duopoly party and independent voices/voters. Those not blinded by the Alabama politburo find it is easy to see/understand how this is aiding and abetting our corrupt status quo.

So once again, many voters across our forced coalition of States will show on Nov. 5th bemoaning the terrible duopoly choices, giving little thought on how political racketeering produced such poor, uncompetitive choices put before them. No doubt Alabama's 9 electoral votes will go to the Red soviet, just as decades ago Alabama electoral votes were certain for the Blue soviets. Don't expect to see many Harris or Trump political ads in Alabama unless there's a miraculous showing of voters polling to vote non-duopoly putting our State in play to get the soviets' ear. If Trump had picked a sound VP like Asa Hutchinson, I'd consider voting Republican. More interesting is listening to fed-up voters who refuse to 'stay on the couch' again. Write-in names from Chase Oliver, Cornell West, Jill Stein to still writing in RFK, Jr. are bantered about. My personal favourite is Ken Jennings for President! Profoundly illustrates a stark difference from the intellect and spirit of Comrades Harris/Trump, where our nation could have someone like Jennings to admire and trust in the White House.

*Postscript: Thanks for all the comments on last month's Ballots v. Bullets column. Pleased so many read to the end and took to heart reporter John Brice's quote on gagging our pharmacists, slowly being strangled out of existence. Keep the letters going to Montgomery - seems this has finally got Gov. Ivey's attention. While you're at it, those who know any lobbyists, tell them you're mad as a hornet on this and will be watching other issues where the ACCA, BCA, et al political thugs are destroying our health and safety in Alabama.*

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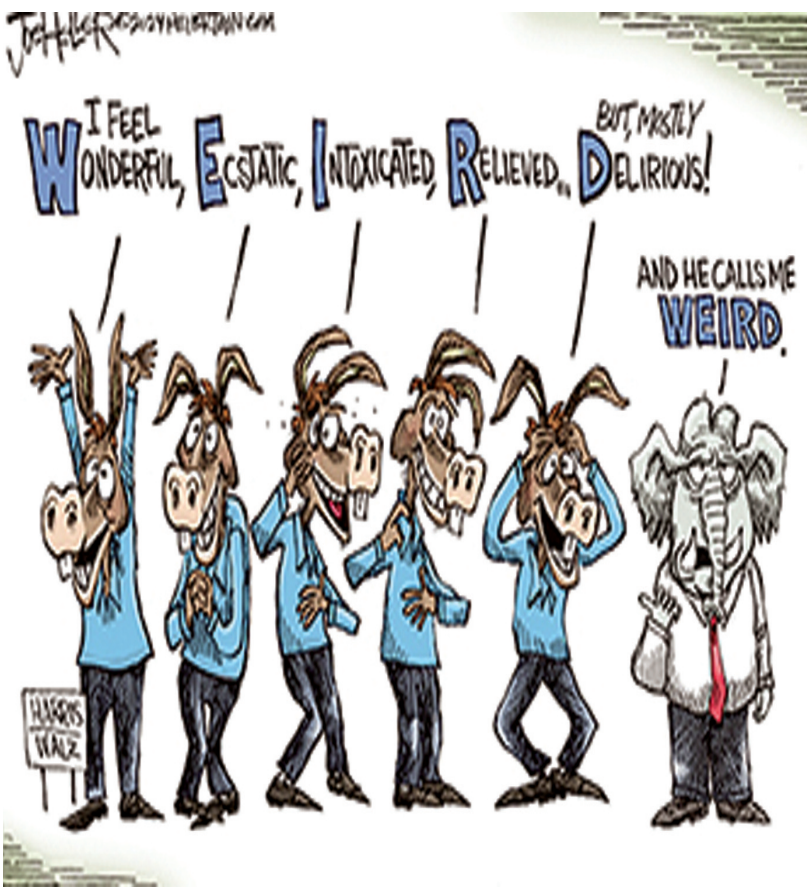
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Justice Will Sellers

As we celebrate the birth of the United States Constitution, Dickinson’s admonition is critical to understanding our Founding Fathers’ thoughts that served as the basis for our constitutional government.

Our Constitution, revered by many, detested by some and imitated worldwide, has stood the test of time. Even with disputes about its meaning and debates about its interpretation, its framework for government still works.

This document was not the product of political scientists or academicians with surveys and samples of how to form a government. Rather, the Constitution was an expression of the colonial experience based on the British structure of government which had enabled the American colonies to develop. Indeed, the constitutional framework was a distillation of the best of the British view of society, rule of law and government, stripped of the dross of monarchy, parliamentary overreach and the elitism of a ruling class.

Our founding fathers had been educated in English schools permeated by practical views of liberty, constitutional government and the common law. From the framework of how the colonies were governed and how colonial society was ordered, there was little innovation; the colonies mirrored the best practices of British society.

Most of the colonists would have been content to remain loyal subjects had Parliament not aggressively attempted to regulate colonial life and enforce impractical legislation on commerce and trade. The mercantile system, for all its economic faults, benefited the mother country by transferring great wealth, but as the cost of maintaining an empire grew, Britain was not content to reap the benefits of trade and sought to impose direct taxation.

The result was to unite what had been 13 separate and distinct colonies, challenge them to consider self-government and foment a revolution that resulted in

## Foundations for Freedom

“Experience must be our only guide. Reason might mislead us.” So said John Dickinson at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, some 237 years ago this month.

independence. And, while achieving independence was celebrated wildly, cooler heads realized that with military victory, the easy part was over and now began the hard part of governing.

From the end of the Revolution until the enactment of the Constitution, great debates resounded throughout the colonies to determine how the states might act in concert, what their inter- relationship would be and how they would trade with other countries.

During all these debates, discussions and decisions, no one proposed a new or innovative system of governance. Rather, they harkened back to the tried and true of the colonial experience and used that as the basis for their Government.

One overriding concern was to clearly define how any new government would work. If there was one problem that stood out, it was that the English Constitution was not written down. Even today, students of government are shocked to learn that the English Constitution is not expressed in words on a page, but it is comprised of various traditions, court rulings and legislation from tensions between Parliament and the Monarchy.

Not having a written constitution was a liability when the colonists argued about their “rights” in the dialogue that created the various misunderstandings with Parliament. What rights did they have? The colonies were formed from separate charters granted by the reigning monarch, but the charters weren’t documents that created or defined rights. From the colonist’s viewpoint, Parliament was a nuisance, but at several thousand miles away, it could do little. And what it could do, the colonists ignored, until they sent troops!

But once the states were in charge, defining government took the English traditions and attempted to express them in a minimal sense as a framework going forward. Initially, most of the constitutional work took place on the state level with each state working to reduce to writing how their government would be organized. This was much easier since the states and their various communities of interest had existed before the Revolution and their institutions of government were already expressed in some form.

The unique challenge was how to create a national government. The Continental Congress had some authority, but Washington’s victory was achieved

despite that body. Articles of Confederation were tried, but these failed miserably to create a cohesive government to produce stability and foster economic growth. The states initially prospered, but having 13 separate taxes, trade restrictions and currency retarded interstate growth, and with no organized national defense and no comprehensive foreign policy, the division of states’ power would limit progress and ultimately liberty.

So, in creating a national government, any number of issues had to be addressed. Resolving disputes between the various states and deciding questions about power in government required an exemplar; an appeal to something to support an idea. The delegates had two choices. They could base their new government on their previous experience and use these patterns and practices to develop a national government, or they could appeal to philosophy and the enlightenment theories of government, rights and liberty.

Dickinson’s expression conveyed his belief that government based on any theoretical notion was unsound. Rather, he suggested that the new government must be based on practical ideas that worked and resolved problems. He did not view the Constitution as a lab experiment in combining various theories to achieve a result; rather, he wanted a form of government to provide a foundation for the states and the people of each state to produce a framework of limited government, expansive liberty and economic prosperity. In short, he did not see the Constitution as giving rights, but as defining rights already enjoyed and which the colonists had previously experienced.

If there was anything unique in our Constitution, it was creating three co- equal branches that would intentionally limit the power of government. The national government was designed to respect rights that already existed, not create ill-defined rights that could never be enforced.

Dickinson’s admonition rings true today. Rather than be guided by theories, academic speculation or international reports, responsible government should look to past experiences and benefit from the tried and true.

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John Taylor

As I referenced in a previous article (August 2020), the word Dixie is generally thought to have originated from the French word “dix,” which referenced a \$10 bank note. It morphed into the land of Dixies. For example, the old TV Show, The Adventures of Jim Bowie, has several episodes where financial transactions are made using Dixies.

After the unsuccessful War for Southern Independence, Southern States were occupied and held under martial law for about a dozen years—the South was severely punished for seeking independence. One version of history contends the Southern States agreed to support Rutherford B. Hayes in return for his removal of the occupation troops. Military subjugation of the South was a catalyst for the Posse Comitatus Act of 1877, which disallowed federal troops from being involved in domestic affairs.

As the South tried to rebuild within Lincoln’s new involuntary union, economic and political abuse continued. Nonetheless, the region was disproportionately represented in the military. Southern soldiers were suitable for the wars instigated by the corporations and bankers but they dare not believe in a voluntary union. Despite the boot heel paced on the South, many strides were made. One was that of perception and sports became a rallying point.

The University of Alabama (UA) has a long legacy of championship football. Beginning with their first team in 1892, UA has taken great pride in athletic endeavors. The stream of good to great coaches includes Xen Scott, Wallace Wade, Frank Thomas, Red Drew, Bear Bryant, Gene Stallings, and Nick Saban. Within that group one of Coach Wade’s teams made a significant impact on Alabama football and Southern football in general.

In the 1920s Southern football was generally considered inferior to other regions of the country. Although it sounds odd today, early powerhouses included Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Army, Navy, as well as traditional powers such as Notre Dame and Southern Cal. Coach Wade’s 1925 Alabama Crimson Tide went 9-0 during a dominating regular season and was chosen to face the powerhouse Washington Huskies in the 1926 Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

The Alabama team was given almost no chance of winning—the cynical Will Rogers labeled the Alabama football team as “Tusca-losers.” Despite the cynicism, support for the team was incredible. On the train ride from Tuscaloosa to the West Coast, fans cheered the team from Southern State to Southern State. As noted by Ted Miller, Alabama, like other Southern teams, was “subjected to regional elitism and snobbery” and “many from the South chose to view the game as a re-enactment of the Civil War, with the team from Seattle representing the

## Dixie’s Football Pride

Yankees and Northern aggression -- historical and geographical accuracy be damned.”

Alabama’s Johnny Mack Brown, “the Dothan Antelope,” pondered how “a bunch of farmers” could compete. The heavily favored Huskies took a 12-0 lead into halftime with their star, George “Wildcat” Wilson, aka the “Purple Tornado,” leading the way. His use of excessive force while tackling Alabama’s Brown (later a movie star) brought on retaliation from Tide players and Wilson was temporarily knocked out of the game.

At halftime, Wallace Wade lamented “and they told me Southern boys would fight.” Accepting the challenge, Alabama dominated the third quarter and came back to take a 20-12 lead with Pooley Hubert scoring the last touchdown. Wilson returned to action and led his Washington team to within a point of Alabama. The “pluck and grit” of the Alabama team swung most of the Pasadena crowd to shift allegiances to the underdog Tide. A game saving tackle by Brown on a Wilson breakaway and a couple of late interceptions sealed Alabama’s 20-19 victory, considered a stunning upset.

Brown remarked Alabama “won the Rose Bowl for the whole South.” At every stop on the train ride back to Tuscaloosa, the team was celebrated with crowds, bands, and congratulatory speeches. Birmingham News sportswriter Clyde Bolton described the results: “The 1926 Rose Bowl was without a doubt the most important game before or since in Southern football history.”

Auburn’s Fight Song references “Power of Dixieland” and mentions Dixie in the alma mater. Georgia’s Fight Song includes “Hail to Georgia, down in Dixie!” Ole Miss’ Fight song references Dixie’s synonym with “the Southland’s pride.”

To this day “most” (certainly not all) SEC fans cheer for their sister schools when playing outside opponents. This goes back to the regional identity of native Southerners, who, by and large, are similar people of a unique culture whether they live in Virginia, Texas or any point in-between.

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**SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS  
ARE SAFER AT HOME**

## CELEBRATING 89 YEARS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

For nearly 90 years, Social Security has provided income protection to millions of retirees, people with disabilities, their dependents, and families who've lost a family member who worked and paid Social Security taxes before they died. In addition to paying benefits, we issue millions of Social Security numbers each year, maintain wage records to make sure workers get the benefits they have earned, and much more. The scope of what we do is enormous, and we are proud to serve the American people. Whether providing service online at [SSA.gov](http://SSA.gov), over the telephone, or in person, our goal is to help you understand your eligibility for benefits and the best way to apply for them.

We also work to make sure our programs, particularly Supplemental Security Income (SSI), remain accessible to you. SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness, and to adults age 65 and older, who have limited income and resources. This year we announced that we are expanding SSI eligibility criteria by:

- Updating the public assistance household definition.
- Removing food from in-kind support and maintenance.
- Expanding rental subsidy nationwide.

Find more information about SSI at [www.ssa.gov/ssi/](http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/).

We are dedicated to protecting the well-being of the people we serve. It is important to us that every person who is eligible for benefits gets them timely and accurately. That is how we help secure today and tomorrow.

To learn more about the history of Social Security, visit [www.ssa.gov/history](http://www.ssa.gov/history). Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it.

## SOCIAL SECURITY INSTALLS NEW KIOSKS TO IMPROVE CUSTOMER CHECK-IN PROCESS

At Social Security we strive to make our services more accessible while maintaining your privacy. We installed new kiosks in most of our local offices to make it easier for you to check in and conduct business with us. The kiosks are private, easy to use without assistance, and provide consistent service to our customers.

Modifications to earlier screens have improved the check-in process, especially for our customers who are blind or have low vision. Each kiosk is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and includes the following features:

- Accessible keypads.
- Audio headphone jacks (complimentary headphones are available upon request).
- Braille instructions for how to use the kiosk and report any accessibility issues.
- Built-in thermal printers and ticket dispensers.
- Enhanced 508-compatible check-in software.
- Touchscreen monitors with privacy filters.

These kiosks are just one more way we're improving the customer service experience in our offices. Last year, we began offering Mobile Check-in Express. It allows customers to use their mobile device to scan a QR code at their local office to check in for scheduled and walk-in appointments.

By turning on their device's location services and mobile notifications, visitors receive:

- An electronic ticket so they know their place in line.
- An alert when an employee is ready to help them.
- Information about their interview location.
- An invitation to participate in our feedback survey.

With our new kiosks and Mobile Check-In Express, our check-in process has never been easier. To learn more about our commitment to accessibility, visit [www.ssa.gov/accessibility](http://www.ssa.gov/accessibility).

## STAY HEALTHY AND INDEPENDENT WITH SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Are you eligible for Social Security retirement benefits or already receiving them? Did you know that you can also receive healthy meals and other nutrition services through the national Senior Nutrition Program? Local meal programs in communities across the country are waiting to serve you.

As we age, we have different needs, different ways we take care of our health, and different nutrients we need to get from our food. But we don't always have enough healthy food or the desire to prepare or eat a meal. Whether you need more food, healthier food, someone to share a meal with, or better eating habits, a meal program can help.

Every day, senior nutrition programs serve almost 1 million meals to people age 60 and older. With home delivery and group meal options, you can get the food you need in a way that works best for you. They can help you avoid missing meals – and save you time and money with less shopping and cooking.

Local programs serve more than food. They also:

- Offer opportunities to connect and socialize. This improves both your mental and physical health.
- Teach you how to create a healthy eating plan. You can learn about healthy food recommendations based on your age, needs, and preferences.
- Connect you with other resources like homemaker services and transportation to help you stay connected and engaged in your community.

It's no surprise that 9 out of 10 participants say they would recommend a senior nutrition program to a friend. We know this service can help create healthy, strong communities where people can thrive at any age.

Find a senior nutrition program in your area and help us spread the word to your loved ones, neighbors, and community. For more information on resources for older adults, please visit [eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx](http://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/Index.aspx).

To learn more about our retirement benefits, please visit [www.ssa.gov/retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/retirement).

*The Senior Nutrition Program is administered by the Administration for Community Living, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

## NATIONAL SAVINGS DAY REMINDS US TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

October 12th is National Savings Day. It serves as an important reminder to plan for your financial future. Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan. We have online tools to help you understand your potential benefits and how they fit into your financial future.

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

**The retirement calculator in your personal **my** Social Security account** allows you to check various benefit estimate scenarios based on the age you plan to retire. You can compare the effect different earnings and retirement start dates could have on your future benefit amount.

Please let friends and family members know how they can prepare for their financial future by signing in to their secure **my** Social Security account. If they don't have an account, they can create one at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

## WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO TELL US ABOUT CHANGES WHEN YOU GET SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

If you receive Social Security, you can help to make sure we pay you the right benefit each month. You can do that by telling us about relationship or other life changes that could affect your eligibility for retirement, survivors, or disability benefits – or the benefit amount.

You and your family may miss out on additional payments you may be due if you don't report changes to us in a timely manner. Or you may be overpaid benefits and have to pay us back.

**What you need to tell us-**  
**To make sure you are paid correctly and receive the payments for which you are eligible, let us know right away if:**

- You get married or divorced.
- Your spouse or former spouse dies.
- You become the parent of a child (including an adopted child).
- The child (or stepchild) who gets benefits on your record gets married.

The child (or stepchild) who gets benefits on your record no longer lives with you. Note: We will need the name and address of the person with whom the child is living.

**How to report changes-**  
**We offer several ways to report changes:**

- Call us at **1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778)**, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Call your local Social Security office.
- Fax, mail, or deliver your updates to your local office.

You can use our office locator at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator) to find your local office.

If you get retirement, survivors, or disability benefits and need to update your address, phone number, or direct deposit, it's easy to make those changes using your personal **my** Social Security account [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Or you can use our automated telephone services at [www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/phone](http://www.ssa.gov/agency/contact/phone).

Get the right check, in the right amount, at the right time, by reporting changes right away! Please share this information with those who need it.

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**Thanks for all your  
support over the years!**

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**Beautiful young people are accidents of nature,  
but beautiful old people are works of art.**

-Eleanor Roosevelt

**In the end, it's not the years in your life that count.  
It's the life in your years.**

-Abraham Lincoln



# Community Lifestyles

**NOTICE!**  
PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE  
AND VIEW THIS ISSUE AND  
UPCOMING ISSUES ALONG  
WITH CURRENT NEWS!  
[www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)

## Honoring Our Heroes



### Martha Poole Simmons inducted into Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

On Sunday, August 20, 2024 veteran Alabama Gazette writer Martha Poole Simmons was formally inducted into the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Simmons was nominated by Carver D.K. Papke. Simmons lives in Montgomery.

From the 2024 Hall of Fame Induction and Awards Ceremony program, “Martha Poole Simmons serves Armed Forces veterans through the American Red Cross and by writing articles for the Alabama Gazette. Simmons has presented at meetings for the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 607, the Townsend Detachment 920 U.S. Marine Corps, the American Legion Post 2, and the U.S. Veterans of Foreign Wars Smith-Wynn Post 2. She also provides Totes of Hope hygiene items.

From December 2016 – September 2022, she volunteered at the Central Alabama Veterans Health Care Outpatient Clinic. Simmons greeted veterans and assisted them in locating their treatment areas. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she organized house drive-by parades for nonagenarian and centenarian veterans Simmons also served as a volunteer at the Crump Senior Center. As President of the Friends of the Crump Center, she led in fundraising to purchase needed items for a new property. She worked to obtain a grant totaling \$25,478,77. The Crump Senior Center, located in Montgomery, provides programs specifically for senior adults. These programs include: meals, exercise, games, tax assistance, and other services. Simmons served as coordinator of weekly bridge sessions from November 2013 – September 2022.”

You can read Simmons work including her “Honoring Our Heroes” pages in the Alabama Gazette monthly printed edition as well as online on our website. [https://www.alabamagazette.com/author/martha\\_poole\\_simmons](https://www.alabamagazette.com/author/martha_poole_simmons)



### WWII Veteran Henry Grady McInnis Celebrates 100th Birthday

The WWII U.S. Navy veteran, Henry Grady McInnis celebrated his 100th birthday August 3, 2024. He was born August 3, 1924 in Peterman, AL, which is in Monroe County. He joined the U.S. Navy at age 18, and he served during WWII until the War was over. He and his wife who passed away in 2000 had one son. He was employed for 40 years at the Social Security office in Montgomery, AL.



For more than 50 years, McGinnis has been a member of the Eastern Hills Baptist Church in Montgomery.

### Veterans September Birthdays

Robert Clifton Fell.....	September	4th
Robert Wesley Marcus.....	September	6th
George A. Hill.....	September	11th
James Earl Jackson.....	September	17th
Lohn Lakeos.....	September	18th
Kent Stephen Kline.....	September	21st
Douglas Spencer Catchings...	September	23rd
Roy Franklin Stephens.....	September	27th
Luther Zeagler Rosser.....	September	30th



We hope all our veterans enjoy reading the Alabama Gazette!

**VETERANS CRISIS LINE -**  
**DIAL 988 then**  
**PRESS 1**  
[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)



Captain Lamont Dewitt Pack

### Master Sergeant James L. Berdeaux: Age 74



Education graduate ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship ribbon, AF Training Ribbon and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

MSgt Berdeaux was born June 26,1950 in Montgomery, AL, to his parents, James E. and Betty J. Berdeaux. Although his family moved often until he reached junior high school, he was educated at Alabama Christian Academy at Montgomery, AL, graduating in May 1968.

MSgt Berdeaux volunteered for military service, and his service began July 17, 1968. He reported to Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, where he completed 12 weeks of Boot Camp. He then completed eight weeks of training at the Security Police School at Lackland. His first duty station was at Minot AFB, North Dakota, where he worked in security for three months. Next, he transferred to Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland, for one year. This was followed by a tour at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, for three months. He then volunteered for service in Vietnam, and he served for 12 months in Southeast Asia. Upon his return from Thailand, he was assigned to MacDill AFB, FL, for five months. He was discharged from military service in May 1972 and then reenlisted January 29, 1973. Using the G.I. Bill, he earned a B.S. Degree in Criminal justice from Troy University in Montgomery, AL in 1976. Upon reentry into the military, he completed seven weeks of training at the Aircraft Control and Early Warning School at Kessler AFB, MS. He then served at Myrtle Beach AFB, SC, for five months as a radar technician. Next, he served at Wheeler AFB, HI, where he identified all aircraft inbound to the islands for

three years. This was followed by service at Eglin AFB, FL, while assigned duties in the Armament Development Test Center. He was discharged in June 1977. In January 1990, MSgt Berdeaux joined the Air Force Reserve in his former AFSC which was Security. He was recalled to active duty in November 2001. Upon reentry into the military, he completed seven weeks of training at the Aircraft Control and Early Warning Radar School at Keesler AFV, MS. He then served at Myrtle Beach, AFB, S.C., for five months as a radar technician. His AFSC changed back to Security, and he served the remainder of his military service at Maxwell AFB, AL, until he retired from all military service September 29, 2002

Following his military service, MSgt Berdeaux was employed as a territorial sales representative with Weaver Paper Company calling on the printing trade and office supply stores. Since 2010, he has been the owner of Berdeaux Sauces. He inherited the recipes from his grandfather, Rufus White, the chef at the Pickwick FBQ Café in downtown Montgomery, AL, during 1900-1949 and owner of three restaurants in Prattville, AL, during the 1940's. MSgt Berdeaux had a taste for the sauce business long before he started selling it. The former Air Force Master Sergeant grew up in the River Region eating barbecue with a homemade sauce cooked up by his grandfather. When he died, he handed down the recipe to his family. MSgt Berdeaux had spent years giving the sauce away in Mason jars to friends old and new. After retiring, he decided to bottle that sauce, and then he used it as a base to create more flavors for different types of food — Vintage Revenge steak sauce, Simply Creole barbecue sauce and Sweet Island cocktail sauce that are chemical free with no preservatives.

MSgt Berdeaux and his wife, Gloria, have been married 46 years, and they have four children. He is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 607 and the VFW Smith-Wayne Pose 96.

MSgt Berdeaux's conclusions about his military service are: “Serving in the military instilled a spirit of patriotism that nothing else could match.”







## Sergeant Robert Clifton Fell: Age 48



Sergeant (Sgt) Robert Clifton Fell served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Helicopter Power Plant Mechanic. He received the following medals, awards, decorations and citations: Rifle Expert, Good Conduct Medal, NATO Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with one star and Letter of Commendation and Meritorious Mast which is given for personal performance that is considered noteworthy or commendable beyond the usual requirements of duty.

Sgt Robert Clifton Fell was born September 4, 1975 in Rocky Mt., North Carolina, to his parents George and Sandy Fell. He was reared there for nine years and then in Fraser, CO, which is best known for thrilled filled sledding and snow-tubing at the Fraser Snow Trail and Colorado Adventure Park. He enjoyed those sports as well as skiing at Winter Park Ski Area and playing basketball. He signed up in the delayed entry program early in his senior year and graduated from Middle Park High School in May 1994. His family has a long history of serving in the military with an uncle and a cousin serving in the US Navy, an uncle serving and retiring in the US Airforce, and one cousin serving in the US Army. His father is a decorated Marine veteran who served in Vietnam.

Sgt Fell enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in Denver, CO, and on September 11, 1994, he stood on those yellow footprints at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, CA. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, Platoon 1050 where he completed 13 weeks of the legendary Marine Corps Boot Camp. There he experienced the physical, mental and moral toughness which are prerequisites to fight among the Marine Corps ranks. He and the other recruits acquired the knowledge, discipline, teamwork and fitness level required of a Marine through physical training, classroom instruction and development of combat skills. The difficulties that this process presents to every recruit are as deliberate as they are legendary, as physical, mental and moral toughness are prerequisites. It is not enough to simply endure. The Marine must prevail.

After graduating from Boot Camp on January 6, 1995, Pvt. Fell was assigned to the 2nd Battalion Hotel Company, 2nd Platoon at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, for combat training. It was there he was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class (PFC) on February 2nd 1995 and learned that his MOS would be 6124, helicopter power plants mechanic. After graduating from combat training at the end of February 1995, he was transferred to the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Millington, TN where he completed his Aviation Machinist's Mate Course. Next, he was transferred to the Naval Air Maintenance Training Group in Mayport, FL, where he trained in maintenance of the T-700-GE-401C, which is the powerplant for the AH-1W Super Cobra engine. There he was awarded a letter of commendation for achieving the highest GPA in his class. He then trained at Marine Base Camp, in the powerplant maintenance of the Pratt & Whitney T-400 turbo twin pack which the engine for the UH-1V Huey. After graduating in August of 1995, he was stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., with MALS-26 (Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron). During his time there, he was deployed twice on U.S. Navy ships to the Mediterranean Sea. He served with the 24th MEU on the USS Saipan LHA 2 which is a Tarawa class amphibious assault ship from June 1996 to December 1996. During that deployment he also served as an aerial observer on the UH-1N Huey and was promoted to Corporal. While docked in Haifa, Israel, Corporal Fell was victorious in his boxing match during the Battalion Landing Team 2/8 "Smoker" on November 24th. On November 1st 1997, he was promoted to Sergeant. He served from January 1998 until June 1998 with the 26th MEU on the USS LHD-1, a United States Navy multipurpose amphibious assault ship and the lead

ship of her class at the time. During this deployment, the 26th MEU served as the Headquarters for the Strategic Reserve Force (SRF) during Exercise Dynamic Response in Bosnia. The SRF was a multinational force made up of forces from the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Romania, Poland and the United States. He also served on the USS Trenton LPD-14 during this deployment in the Black Sea. Sgt. Fell completed his military service September 11, 1998.

After his military service, Sgt Fell used the G.I. Bill and received a Certificate of International Business and a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Economics from the University of Arizona in 2003. His employment after his military service began in leadership working as group manager with Jeld-Wen Windows & Doors in Vista, CA, for several years. He then moved to Georgia to build a house with his father for the next year. From that experience, he chose to work in the construction industry. He was employed by Ryland Homes in Ft. Myers, Florida, as a construction superintendent. Construction was booming during this time, and so were the subprime mortgages. Unwarranted risk-taking and the greed of the financial institutions ultimately led to the housing bubble burst and the Great Recession. He was laid off in October of 2007 but was able to adapt and find work at a small SERVPRO franchise, a cleanup and restoration service. He operated as the estimator and organized the crews to serve homeowners in need. During that time, he led a crew to Birmingham, Alabama in 2011 to assist in cleanup efforts after an EF4 tornado caused massive damage to the western and northern parts of Birmingham. In 2012, he was hired as a assistant manager at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama in Montgomery, AL. From 2012 to 2019, he led teams of 50-120 team members and management in the quality production of Hyundai vehicles. In 2019, he was selected for promotion to manager and was moved to the paint shop. There he led 134 team members and five members of management to produce 500 quality cars per shift.

In 2018, he and his wife had their youngest daughter Isabella who was born with Down Syndrome. This motivated Robert to learn about the fundamental financial management and investing principals so that he could provide for her future. He led a Financial Peace University class at his church and was excited to lead people to a strong financial foundation. This led him to search for an opportunity to do this as a career. He joined Edward Jones in January 2024 and passed his Securities Industry Essentials exam, Series 7. Series 66, and Alabama Insurance exam. Edward Jones bestowed the title of Financial Advisor upon Robert where he builds relationships with his clients and leads them to a strong financial foundation based upon their needs. He can be reached at 334-271-9573 if anyone is interested in a no-obligation conversation.

Sgt. Fell and his wife, Cecilia, have been married nine years, and they have three daughters. His elderly parents live next door and make it their job to spoil his children. They are members of the First Baptist Church of Prattville, Down Syndrome Alabama and Townsend Detachment 920 Marine Corps League. He enjoys spending time in his barn and raising chickens, horses and vegetables on the 10 acres of his home.

Sgt Fell's conclusions about his military service in the U.S. Marine Corps are: "It provided me with a foundation outside of my parents raising me and allowed me to mature. It exposed me to other cultures, not just overseas, but within these great United States. It broadened my horizons more than any college classroom could. I knew if I set my mind to it, then I could do it, and that is what I have done." He would like people to remember him as follower of Christ, a solid friend, a good father, husband and fun to be around.



## Sergeant Seth Edward Maggard: Age 38



Sergeant (Sgt) Seth Edward Maggard served six years in the U.S. Marine Corps. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Combat Photographer. He received the following medals, awards, ribbons and commendations: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (two), Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (three awards), Certificate of Commendation and Meritorious Mast which is given for personal performance that is considered noteworthy or commendable beyond the usual requirements of duty.

Sgt Maggard was born June 18, 1986 in Montgomery, AL, to his parents, Edward and Tracey Maggard. He was reared in Prattville, AL, and he graduated from Prattville High School in May 2005. Sgt Maggard voluntarily signed up to join the U.S. Marine Corps in 2004, and immediately after graduation from high school, he reported for active duty at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parrish Island, S. C. where he completed the rigorous 13 weeks of the Marine Corps Boot Camp, and this was followed by 59 days of Combat Training at Camp Geiger, a base camp within the larger Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune, N.C. Upon completion of Boot Camp and Combat Training, he was selected to serve as a photographer and videographer, and he completed this specialized training at the Defense Information School at Ft. Meade, MD, during December 2005 through May 2006. This training included training in public affairs writing, photography, photojournalism, tv and radio broadcasting, lithographing, broadcast equipment maintenance and various forms of visual information. He was then stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, with the 1st Marine Division from May 2006 until February 2008 where he worked with the newspaper at the base. He was then deployed to Al-Asad Air Base, Iraq, for 15 months where he served in combat as a photographer and videographer. He then returned to Camp Pendleton during March 2009 through August 2009, and while there, he was selected as the Military Photographer of the Year in 2009 for all branches of the U.S. military which was a significant honor. His final assignment was as instructor of the next generation of photographers, videographers and journalists at the Defense Information School at Ft. Meade, MD, from August 2009-July 1, 2011 when he was honorably discharged from military service and became a government civilian with Defense Media Activity. Sgt Maggard has more than 300 published

photos and news articles in mainstream media including the New York Times, L.A. Times, BBC, Al Jazeera, Fox News, Forbes, CNN, RT and several other publications.

After discharge, Sgt Maggard returned to Montgomery, AL, and used the G. I. Bill graduating with a B.S. Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies & Psychology from Auburn University at Montgomery in 2023. He worked as a defense communication specialist with Booze Allen Hamilton, a defense contractor, from 2016-2023, he co-created a virtual reality training from scratch and traveled to 42 countries. Culture and Language Virtual Reality (CLVR) teaches service-members how to interact with other cultures. During this time, he went to Israel, and using his knowledge of artificial intelligence, he created an algorithm, a process or set of rules to be followed in calculations or other problem-solving operations especially by a computer for identifying fake news. He also created a Dashboard, an arts agency that connects artists with space to reimagine experience through human-centered design and experiential events. The office of the Supreme Allied Command used it. While in Europe, he became interested in theater, and his family started acting with the Amelia Earhart Theater Playhouse in Weisbaden, Germany. When he returned to the U.S.A., he continued to participate in theatrical productions in Millbrook and Wetumpka, AL.

He then worked one year with the AL Governor's press office with the AL Department of Revenue during 2024. He has enrolled at Auburn University to obtain a provisional teaching certificate in preparation for earning a degree in Secondary Education to teach English and language arts.

Sgt Maggard and his wife, Merideth, have been married 18 years, and they have three children: Gabe, McKenzie Grace and Walter. They are members of Cains Chapel in Deatsville, AL, where he is involved directing children's drama and singing. He is a member of the Townsend Detachment #920 Marine Corps League and writes its newsletter.

Sgt Maggard's reflections on what serving his country in the U.S. Marines means to him saying: "It is my life and my foundation. It defines who I am. I would not trade it for anything, including combat. I always have the Marine Corps to remind me who I am." He would like people to remember him as someone who is not afraid to be outside the box, to be a good father and to be someone with strong Christian values.



### Beyond a War

**The U.S. premier of "Beyond a War" will be presented Sunday, September 29, at 3:00 p.m. at the Davis Theatre for the Performing Arts, 251 Montgomery Street, Montgomery, AL. Troy University will present the U.S. premier of this powerful documentary short film. The event will also include a special recognition for all veterans.**

*Guest speakers will be:*

- Kent Davis, Commissioner Alabama Veterans Affairs
- Jack McManus, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America
- Capt. Gary Michael Rose (USA – Ret.), Medal of Honor Recipient

The film is produced by Duy Tan University. "Beyond a War" is the moving documentary portrait of university presidents, Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., and Dr. Lê Công Co.

More than 50 years ago, Dr. Hawkins and Dr. Lê Công Co were on opposite sides of the Vietnam War. Dr. Hawkins served as platoon leader in the U.S. Marine Corps, and Dr. Lê Công Co fought against American forces as a member of the Viet Cong.

Today, they lead Troy University and Duy Tan University, respectively, and are working together to ensure a brighter future for students in both the U.S. and Vietnam. "Beyond a War" captures their personal stories of combat and survival during the war and their drive to bring about change through the power of education and international collaboration.





**Dr. Lester Spencer**  
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### 3 Simple Steps To Discover Who God Created You To Be

**Would you take 3 simple steps to discover who God created you to be?**

*Sounds too easy? Maybe. Maybe not. Try taking the steps and see for yourself! I learned these 3 steps and started trying to practice them years ago when I first read a little book by John Maxwell entitled, Think On These Things. I share them now with you.*

#### Step 1: Discover Your Potential

I love the story of a young farm boy whose father raised chickens in the mountains of Colorado. One day the adventuresome boy climbed a high place in the Rockies and found an eagles nest. He took an egg from the eagles nest and brought it back to the farm and put it under a setting hen. The hen sat on the egg until it hatched. So, out came a little eaglet along with the chickens as the nest of eggs hatched. They all started living the “chicken life” together. The eaglet thought he was a chicken as he didn’t have a mirror to tell the difference. He was content living the chicken life.

As the eaglet grew however he felt this strange desire to fly and soar. Every once in a while he would think to himself, “There is more to me than being a chicken.” But he never did anything about it until one day he saw an eagle flying over the chicken yard, and the eaglet said “that’s me....I am like that eagle!”

The eaglet felt the strength in his wings as he stretched them out. He said to himself, “ this little chicken yard is not for me. I was made to fly and soar high up in the blue sky, and I was designed to see the mountain peaks, valleys and rivers. He had never flown, but the power was there within him so he soared to the top of a hill and then into the blue sky. From there he flew to a high mountain peak. He had finally discovered he could fly and soar as he was created to do!

If you are content to hang out in the small fenced in chicken yard, you will miss out on everything you were created to be. If your content to hang out with small minded people, you will limit your thinking. If you live with critical people, you will become critical. If you associate with negative and defeated people, you will end up being a negative and defeated person. If you are content with “living with the chickens”, you will end up a chicken.

One of the greatest days of you life will be when you discover you can fly.... when you discover your potential. You and your talents are not an accident. You’re not a statistic lost in the shuffle of humanity. You are special in God’s eyes and you have distinct gifts and talents. Inside you is enormous potential. Just waiting to be developed and put to use.

#### Step 2: Dedicate Your Potential

*“Your talent is God’s gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.”*  
-Leo Buscaglia

Give to God all you have to offer. Dedicate your talents and your giftedness to the Lord and ask him to use you to your full potential. It is only by God’s grace and with God’s help that you can become all you are meant to be.

The Apostle Paul recognized this when he said, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* -Paul, Philippians 4:13

#### Step 3: Develop Your Potential

God is concerned not only about who you are but also what you can become. In order to develop your potential to it’s fullest capacity, it will be necessary to implement the following things in your daily life:

##### A. Develop a positive self image.

Your actions are a direct result of how you see yourself. It is not an accident that as your self image improves, your performance improves with it. If you believe you have little to offer the world, you will sit and contribute nothing. Practice seeing yourself as God sees you.

##### B. Realize you are responsible for developing your potential.

Work on developing your potential everyday. Read books and articles advising you and encouraging you to grow your potential. Study under and listen to positive people who can help you grow. Realize that God does not judge you nearly as much by what you are as on what you become.

##### C. Get acquainted with others who are reaching their potential.

It is not by chance that winners spend time with other winners. It is a well documented fact that after Roger Bannister broke the 4 minute mile, which most people thought could never be done, within 10 years 336 other men had accomplished the same feat. Why? Because they were exposed to someone who exhibited more potential than many felt they had.

*What is your capacity? What is your potential?*

*I challenge you to get on your knees and ask God to help you to be your best and reach your full potential. Then, get up and discover your potential, dedicate your potential and develop your potential.*

*Now, go out and break a record!*



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Friends,

Old-time sailors would sometimes get the phrase “hold fast” tattooed across their fingers. It was a reminder to stay vigilant in gripping the rigging of the ship. Without grasping the ropes firmly, a sailor could get a ship off course, or be himself swept overboard by wind and waves.

In our own lives, we want to hold fast to our values and vision for who we are and where we’re going, even when hit with the storms of setbacks.\*

*This month for the first time on our mobile units the number of professions of faith since we began - 457, surpassed the number of babies saved - 450.*

**God is in the business of saving us from death - both spiritual and physical. Let's hold fast and not be moved by all that is swirling around us.**

\* <https://www.artofmanliness.com/character/advice/sunday-fireside-hold-fast/>

## Montgomery’s Salvation Army Is Still Serving!

The Montgomery Salvation Army has changed its location and leadership. The organization is housed at 4280 Lomac Street, Montgomery, AL 36104. The phone number is: 334-265-0281.

Instead of being an emergency shelter, the Salvation Army will provide transitional housing for people until they can find an affordable permanent home. The current services provided are:

- Religious Services providing a place of worship and community without discrimination.
- Disaster Response Services which include assisting survivors of natural and man-made disasters to recover and rebuild their lives.
- Social Service programs providing food, clothing and financial assistance
- Casework and Counseling with programs for health care and residential assistance and abuse counseling
- Youth Services with programs for music, athletics, arts, and crafts, camping and family counseling
- Christmas programs in which the famous Red Kettles are a centerpiece to help families and individuals financially at year-end with toys, meals and other assistance
- Veterans Services providing a range of support, gifts, counseling, housing assistance, and comfort to those in need.

The new commander is **Captain Thomas Johnson** for the Montgomery post, and he is new to the area but not new for the needs of neighbors in need. He is originally from Baton Rouge, LA, has been serving the Lord through the Salvation Army for several years and plans to be in Montgomery for a long time hoping to see fewer families living on the streets.

The Salvation Army of Montgomery is currently in a unique situation as it searches to find a permanent home. Although this process has been going on for over two years, it has not stopped serving and won’t stop. It has been faithfully serving the River Region area for over 120 years. Its programs and services look a little different now; however the outcomes and success stories have been greater.

*“You may be down, but you aren’t out!”*



**L-R: Craig Jenkins, the Commander of the Post 2019, Salvation Army, Captain Thomas Johnson, and Martha Simmons representing the American Red Cross.**

These are the words that the Salvation Army tells the folks that walk through its doors each day. It is a hand up and not a handout. Hundreds of families depend on it through the month to survive, and the Salvation Army can continue to make it happen. Salvation Army staff are praying that one of the districts will find it in its heart to look past the past and work alongside it to ultimately help those that tonight will not have a place to lay their heads. It needs another shelter in this community, and folks are depending on it. The staff can’t continue to go to their homes at night while another soul is out on the streets. Captain Johnson says, *“Together we can undo the past and turn this thing around!”*



## Home Town Community News



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY! September

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Joe Boyd (85th)               | Mike (Pete) Moore             |
| 2 John Hannon                   | Mandy Stringer (21st)         |
| 3 Dian Majors                   | 18 Dale Jones                 |
| Leslie Riley                    | 20 Lynn Davis                 |
| 4 Tim Riley                     | 21 Marlee Day Smith (15th)    |
| 5 Glenda Gary                   | 22 Tom Garlington             |
| 6 Ethleen Bazzell (85th)        | 23 Kim Guy                    |
| 7 Tanner Grant                  | Kirksey Jones                 |
| Mary Beth Hughes (3rd)          | 24 Ava Catherine Crowe (16th) |
| Ruby Law (71st)                 | Lynda Maddox                  |
| 9 Madison Lane                  | Chrystal Rahn                 |
| 10 Peggy Chesnut Bamberg (92nd) | R. J. Seevers                 |
| Kenneth Deavers                 | 25 Baxter Moseley (31st)      |
| Terry Dotherow                  | 26 Barbara Mitchell           |
| 11 Traci Weafer                 | 27 Roy Stephens (95th)        |
| 12 Catherine Jane Grubbs (18th) | 29 Elvin Stanton              |
| 13 Donna Mulcahy                | 30 Scott Borders (62nd)       |
| Debbie Partridge (67th)         | Susan Feaga                   |
| 14 Amanda Whitfield (40th)      | Mike Smith                    |
| 15 Shannon Flores (52nd)        |                               |
| 16 Phyllis McCalman             |                               |
| 17 Ashlee Lynch                 |                               |
- Belated Happy Birthday to:  
Gary Partridge..... Aug. 1st*

**Betty Maddox celebrated her birthday on August 17th.**

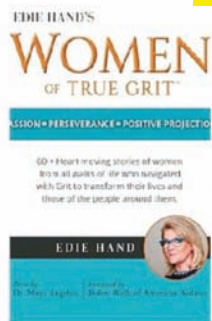


**“Grandy” Carl Boyd (70th- Aug. 19th) and granddaughter Madison Williams (Sweet 16th on Aug. 21st) celebrated their birthdays at The Pub.**



## CONGRATS

**Laura Creel Burke “Woman of True Grit”**



**Congratulations**



**Elizabeth ( Liz) Barker Morris**

**was inducted into the Alabama Health Care Hall of Fame, August 10, 2024.**

## AL DAR Member Receives Recognition from US Department of Defense

A representative from the U.S. Department of Defense presented a Certificate of Appreciation to AL recipient, Sandra Lee Meadows Robertson of Montgomery, AL, on June 28, 2024 at the NASDAR 133rd Continental Congress in Washington, D.C. Meadows is an outstanding AL DAR member. She is a Vietnam era Gold Star wife and is a member of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. Her husband, Major Pierce I. Robertson, was serving in the US Army as a Rotary Wing Aviation Unit Commander, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division at the time of his death on October 9, 1966, in Vietnam. She has been a member of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. since January 1969 when she and another widow started the Wiregrass Chapter at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Since that time, she has held an office in the organization serving as National President, Vice President, President Emeritus, Parliamentarian and Treasurer. She has been involved in many of the organization's committees and presided as chair of the Budget, Legal Compliance. She currently serves as Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rules, and as the newly created Administration Chair. In addition, she serves as Director, representing the SE Region.

Since 1969, Robertson has worked tirelessly to assist surviving spouses with any benefit and medical issues at the Central Alabama Veterans Hospital. Since 2003, she has served on the Central Alabama Veterans Hospital Voluntary Services Committee. In 2022, Robertson was appointed to a three-year term as DAR Deputy for the VA Volunteer Services - Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System (formerly VAVS) – West Campus (Montgomery).

Robertson is also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 911 and Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc. She is a member



**Sandra Lee Meadows Robertson and Patrice Renee Donnelly, the 2021-2024 Regent of the Alabama Society DAR.**

and serves in the Retired Officers Wives Club of Montgomery, Military Officers Association of America, Support Committee Alabama National Cemetery and Marine Corps League #920 Townsend Detachment. Robertson yearly attends the National Veterans Awards Banquet in Birmingham, and on the next day, she drives her vehicle in Birmingham's National Veterans Day Parade representing Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. accompanied by other national officers.

Robertson volunteers at the Alabama Department of Archives and History scanning veteran's military records. Every year, Robertson faithfully participates in Wreaths Across America, the Annual State Capitol Program with Governor Kay Ivey, the POW-MIA Annual Ceremony at the Alabama State Capitol, the Alabama National Cemetery Program presenting Flags and/or wreaths, purchases ceramic poppies in remembrance of her family veterans and attends the Alabama Poppy Project in Prattville.



### Patricia Boyd Killough

**If you have a birthday or anniversary, please email us and we will include your family and friends!**

### The Value of a Woman

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



### Happy Anniversary

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Joe & Jean Douglas            | 18 James & Sarah Glass (13th) |
| 7 Gary & Lyda Crowe             | 21 Tony & Janie Drake         |
| Steve & Paige Stringer          | 24 Larry & Linda Browder      |
| 12 Albert & Brenda Sharpe (4th) | Jimmy & Linda Perdue (55th)   |
| 14 Terry & Tammy Boyd (6th)     | 26 Jose' & Susan Guevara      |
| 16 Skip & Connie Mainor (11th)  | 28 Morgan & Ashley James      |
| 17 Andy & Lori Meadows          |                               |

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

Cunningham, Lady Portis “Porty” - 99 .	Aug. 02
Speake, Cheryl Cobb - 69 .	Aug. 02
Record, Christopher “Jason” - 42 .	Aug. 03
Morris, Peggy Wood - 93 .	Aug. 05
Green, Martha Baxley - 85 .	Aug 07
Greene, Jackie Compere - 87 .	Aug. 08
Hale, Daniel Freeman- 66 .	Aug. 09
Landry, Elaine L. - 90 .	Aug. 10
Leverette, Rev. Joe - 75 .	Aug. 10
Maxwell, Joyce Marie - 81 .	Aug.10
Jones, David Wesley - 68 .	Aug. 12
Smith, Christie Lynn - 50 .	Aug. 12
Hodges Mary Frances - 72 .	Aug. 13
Massey, Lesley Bradford - 70 .	Aug. 13
McGough, Bobbie Jo - 87 .	Aug. 13
Jones III, Dr. John Allen “Big Al”-81 .	Aug. 15
Marshall III, Frederick “Fred” Haskell - 76 .	Aug. 16
Graydon, David Harrison -65 .	Aug. 18
Mathews, Ruby B. “Be” - 86 .	Aug. 20
Martin, Jr., Joseph “Joe” Leon - 73 .	Aug. 20
Finnen, Michael Thomas - 59 .	Aug. 21
Rushton, Rita Frances, - 82.....	Aug. 21
Williams, Beth - 74 .	Aug. 23
Fox, Jr., Donald Bruce - 78 .	Aug. 25
Clements, Marianne Penton - 80 .	Aug. 28
Fowler, Rhocene Cauthen - 99 .	Aug 28
Johnson, Katheen Alicia - 62 .	Aug. 28
Bass, Jerry Wayne - 70 .	Aug 29
Gatlin, Talmadge Grant - 70 .	Aug. 30
Fleming, Dr. David M. - 64 .	Aug 31
Holliday, Mamie Alma - 98 .	Sept. 01
Killough, Brenda Joyce - 81 .	Sept. 01
Cocking, Janice Lillian - 84 .	Sept. 03

### Carl William Edwards

*He was a 99 year-old veteran who served during WWII, the Korean War and later for a total of 20 years including the U. S. Navy, the U.S. Navy Reserve and the U. S. Air Force. He passed away August 28, 2024.*

### Today's Woman

### Trisston's Tidbits:

By:Trisston Wright Burrows

Ms.Wheelchair  
America/Alabama 2005

site.trisstonwrightburrows.com



### “God will Deliver You”

**You want to know the incredible thing about God?**

*Not only does He say that He will deliver us from the hands of our enemies when we are going through a trial, but He will do so and take the riches of our enemies and give them to us. If you're going through a trial right now, you need to hear this message.*

*This comes from Exodus chapter 3. This is where God talks about how He Is going to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Egyptians... where they've been in slavery for hundreds of years. They've been in torment from their enemies, the Egyptians, for hundreds of years.*

*God says, “And I will make the Egyptians favorable towards you, so that way when you leave, you will not leave empty-handed. Every woman is to ask her neighbor and any woman living with her for articles of silver and of gold and of clothing, which you will put on your sons and your daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.” Exodus 3:21*

*And what happened? Not only did God lead the Israelites out of the Egyptians hands and out of the hands of their enemies, but He did so by taking their riches and giving them to the Israelites, and they did not leave empty handed.*

*Friend, I want you to know if you're going through a struggle right now, God is not silent in your struggle. He hears you, He sees you and He is working. He will deliver you on the hands of your enemies. And not only that...when he delivers, He will deliver with abundance. He will deliver you with the riches of your enemies and give them to you.*

**Many Blessings!**



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## Montgomery County Republican Party to Celebrate Grand Opening of New Republican Headquarters

The Montgomery County Republican Party is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its brand-new Republican Headquarters, located at 8189 Vaughn Road, Montgomery AL. The exciting event will take place on Monday, September 9th, 2024, at 6:00 PM. All local supporters and party members are invited to attend this special occasion as we embark on a new chapter in advancing conservative values and engaging with our vibrant community.

The grand opening will feature remarks from key local Republican leaders, party officials, and special guests. Attendees will have the opportunity to network with like-minded individuals, meet party representatives, and learn about upcoming initiatives and volunteer opportunities. The new headquarters will serve as a hub for campaign activities, voter outreach, and community engagement as we gear up for the crucial 2024 election season.

"We are incredibly excited to open this new space where Republicans across Montgomery County can come together, mobilize, and strategize for the future," said Montgomery County Republican Party Chairwoman Connie Grier. "Our goal is to elect Republicans in Montgomery County and build the party's presence here in the city and county."

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy light refreshments, meet fellow supporters, and explore the new headquarters. This event promises to be an energizing start to a season of important work, and we look forward to celebrating with all who believe in building a brighter future for Montgomery County and beyond.

**Republican supporters and community members are welcome!**



**Judge Peggy Givhan**

is Alabama, Auburn, Alabama State, Troy or Huntingdon College, let's cheer our favorite teams on to victory.

There is one job that is a constant for gardening, and that is weed control. I have made it a habit over the years to cut back all dead blossoms or weed blooms before they go to seed. As far as the flowers, I cut them back to save the seed and not to allow the seeds to just sow randomly throughout the beds. And the pesky weeds, the ones which have slipped by my watchful eye, taken out. The old saying goes, "Do not let the weeds go to seed--1 year of seed will be 7 years of weeds." In making observations in the garden, I have noticed that certain plants actually defy encroachment of weeds. These will stop weeds in their tracks. Dianthus forms a thick mat of small flowers and once the plants grow together--no more weeding. Mexican Heather, which can grow in sun or shade, falls in this category. Hosta, a shade loving plant, also has this attribute. The bottom line is: if you have only these plants in your beds, no more weeding for you.



### PLANT OF THE MONTH-- BAPTISIA

Baptisia, also known as False indigo, or wild indigo, is a wonderful perennial which grows into shrub-like proportions. Their colorful pea shaped flower spikes of yellow, blue, cream and white are simply spectacular. The flowers resemble those of lupines and Baptisia can be a substitute for lupines since they struggle in zone 8 because of the heat. These plants are tough, long-lived and low maintenance plants, definitely my kind of plant. They require moist and well drained soil in full sun or part shade. Once established, all species are drought tolerant. However, they are not quite totally trouble free. In the early spring as they are emerging they may need staking. Best propagation would be by seed which usually germinates within 2 weeks. Perhaps it was 40 years ago when I grew Baptisia which came back over a 2--3 years period, and then just forgot about them. Baptisia will be high on my list for next season.

If you want to take a road trip through Alabama, consider visiting the Botanical Gardens of Huntsville, Birmingham and Montgomery, Mobile and Dothan. All will impress you with their beauty and serenity. Although an entrance fee of \$20.00 is charged at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, a \$5.00 fee in Dothan and an \$8.00 fee in Mobile, Birmingham and Montgomery are free. September is a great time of year to get out and commune with nature.



HAPPY LABOR DAY AND GOOD GARDENING.

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[gary@outdoortruths.org](mailto:gary@outdoortruths.org)

## Coyotes

Coyotes are not a friend of any farmer, rancher, or hunter. They are equal opportunity predators. They will pursue your cat or your cattle. They are satisfied with fish or fowl. And they love a young tasty fawn. Needless to say, every opportunity to get rid of one should be taken. The rest of creation will thank you.

There are however some places that make it a sport to hunt these scavengers. Texas is one. I have had a few opportunities to go with those who know how to call in these critters to within rifle or shotgun distance. One of my recent trips was with Chase and Sam, and Ranger. Chase and Sam are the guides. Ranger is a special bred coyote hating dog. He stands watch while Chase and Sam are calling, and when a coyote appears, Ranger begins the chase to act as a live decoy until I can get a shot off. You can tell how much Ranger loves his job. On this recent trip, I was able to get a shot off at our game, and before the yote died, Ranger decides he's going to get a taste of a little coyote meat. So, the fight ensued. Ranger was left with a few bite marks, but all the less for wear and tear. But what I noticed was how this fight didn't leave Ranger wanting less but wanting more. Ranger is not a big dog, and the coyote gave him a little butt-whoopin'. But Ranger came back, got on his guard again, and watched for his next opportunity. And I thought about the price he paid for the thrill of getting in the game.

There's no doubt the safest place is where you can remain intact, and with no bite marks. The safest place is one where surety trumps uncertainty. The safest place is living in the center of the safe confines of comfort. It's where porch dogs live. One person put it this way. "If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much room." And while we may not be called to live a haphazard life, we are called to live by faith. And that means recognizing that sometimes we might come back home with a few wounds, but once you get a taste of the fight, you'll never be satisfied staying on the porch.

*Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 21 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations.*  
[gary@outdoortruths.org](mailto:gary@outdoortruths.org)



**Gary Miller**

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