



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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How Has CORONAVIRUS AFFECTED ALABAMA POLITICS?



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

As we end the first half of 2020, there is no doubt that the Coronavirus is the story of the year. The Coronavirus saga of 2020 and its devastation of the nation's and state's economic well-being may be the story of the decade.

How has the Coronavirus affected Alabama politics? The answer is negligibly, if at all. The Republican Primary runoff to hold the Junior U.S. Senate seat was postponed by the virus epidemic. It is set for July 14, which is right around the corner. The race between Tommy Tuberville and Jeff Sessions should be close and interesting.

The virus delay did affect this race in one regard; if the vote had been held on March 31, as planned, Coach Tuberville had the advantage and the momentum. The almost four-month delay might have stymied that train. To what degree we will not know until the votes are counted in three weeks. Tuberville's campaign has been totally based on his being loyal to Donald Trump.

Both Sessions and Tuberville were given a golden opportunity to use the four-month hiatus to do some good old-fashioned one-on-one campaigning, if only by phone. If one of them did, it could make the difference. We will soon see. People still like to be asked personally for their vote.

The next elections will not be until 2022. It will be a big year. It is a gubernatorial year, and there might very well be an open U.S. Senate Seat. Senator Richard Shelby will be 88. It would be a blessing beyond measure if he ran again. However, at that age he might choose to retire. Governor Kay Ivey will be 78 in 2022. She will more than likely not run for a second term.

One development that has occurred during the virus saga is that Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth has made it clear that he will be running for governor in 2022. If it were not apparent before, it is obvious now. He inserted himself into the Coronavirus episode. In many instances he appeared to usurp the center stage from Governor Ivey.

The young Lt. Governor first urged aggressive public health response, differing from Governor Ivey's. She made a comment about his out of nowhere position. She then forgave him and gave him a position on one of her many meaningless task force bodies.

Ainsworth then changed courses and tweeted that the state's businesses should reopen prior to the Governor's recommended date. She seemed neither undeterred nor miffed by his second assertion of his policy position. Having been around Alabama politics a lot longer than Ainsworth, she may be savvy enough to know that she is giving him just enough rope to hang himself.

Kay cut her political teeth campaigning for Lurleen Wallace for Governor in 1966. That was 15 years before Ainsworth was born in 1981. I doubt he knows of a similar scenario that played out 50 years ago where a Lt. Governor got too big for his britches and overtly tried to play Governor.

George Wallace had won his second term as Governor in 1970. If you count Lurleen's 1966 victory, it would be his third straight gubernatorial victory. He was running for President in 1972 and was gunned down by a crazed assassin in a Maryland parking lot. He was near death from the multiple wounds and had to be hospitalized in Maryland for three to four months. It was a miracle he survived.

Another young Lt. Governor Jere Beasley had been elected to the post in 1970, primarily because the Wallace people had supported him. Beasley seemed to insert himself overtly as governor during Wallace's bedridden absence. The Governor's people actually had to fly him back home from his recovery for a day so that he could remain governor.

Folks never seemed to forgive Beasley for this ambitious assertion of power. In his next race for reelection as lieutenant governor, Beasley trailed Charles Woods in the first primary and barely won the runoff. Four years later, in the monumental 1978 Governor's race – which Fob James ultimately won – Lt. Governor Jere Beasley finished in fifth place, even though he spent the most money.

Speaking of money, losing the 1978 Governor's race was the best thing that ever happened to Jere Beasley. He began practicing law in Montgomery and became one of the most prominent plaintiff lawyers in America. He and his wife, Sarah, have had a much happier and more prosperous life out of politics.



**Ronald A.
Holtsford**

SINCE BIRMINGHAM REMOVED THE CONFEDERATE STATUE CAN THE STATE FINE THE CITY?

Not only can the State of Alabama, through the Attorney General, sue the city of Birmingham, but also they have. The 2017 Alabama Preservation Memorial Act was used when its former mayor had plywood sheets placed around the monument. The mayor said that the \$25,000 fine was less than the price of civil unrest.

But now with the killing of George Floyd, splinter groups of ANTIFA and anarchists have wrongfully attached themselves to disrupt the rightful and peaceful protestors that want their voices heard and changes made. When the protests headed to Linn Park in Birmingham, the current mayor, under cover of darkness, had the Confederate statue removed. On 2 June, Attorney General Steve Marshall, who is tasked with upholding law on behalf of the State, sued Birmingham for \$25,000 and other damages as the Court sees fit. The statue resides on public land and has done so for more than the statutory forty years. Though the city administration is to the contrary, I imagine that the city will seek to mitigate their wrongful action by claiming the removal was to protect the statue from harm, since statutes in other states (including that of Christopher Columbus) have been torn down and damaged. In the same vein, it was the decision of the city of Mobile to remove the C.S.A. Admiral Semmes statue, which has been on public property for 120 years. The media reports that the city of Mobile has agreed to pay the \$25,000 fine without court order. I am not familiar whether there are any defendants in the removal of Montgomery's Robert E. Lee statue.

For several years, there have been those that have wanted to remove all reminders of the Confederacy. One hundred fifty-five years removed can cause apathy even among the descendants of Confederate soldiers, but I'm not sure how you try to make the average American forget about 600,000 military deaths, with almost all occurring on American soil. How do reasonably curious people forget about the misery and property damage that occurred during the War and continued for years afterwards in a reconstructed South, where property damage included burned homes, farms and whole cities? And if you think the whole War Between the States was only about the horrible institution of slavery, then you had the same history teachers that most of us had and have not looked further for the whole truth. Since income tax did not exist in 1861, much of the money

raised to fund the Federal government came from the tariffs associated with the sale of cotton to foreigners. What government could let their cash cow go? Horace Greely received a letter from Abraham Lincoln in August 1862 that said,

"...To the policy I 'seem to be pursuing' as you say, I have not meant to leave any one in doubt.

"I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored; the nearer the Union will be 'the Union as it was.' If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that. What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union; and what I forbear, I forbear because I do not believe it would help to save the Union. I shall do less whenever I shall believe what I am doing hurts the cause, and I shall do more whenever I shall believe doing more will help the cause. I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors; and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views."

It seems Mr. Lincoln did not really care about slaves as much as people believe until he adopted the "new view" he believed he needed to gain the support of abolitionists. A few short months later, in 1863, Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This gained the support of the abolitionists, and the first black Union soldiers joined the ranks in 1863.

The monuments and holidays honoring the Confederacy are important to many people all around the country, including myself. Out of my ten great-great or great-great-great grandfathers that fought for the South, one died of disease the day after his 40th birthday, some were injured or wounded, and a couple were captured near the end of the War. Certainly none of them profited from the war. The same month that Mr. Lincoln wrote Mr. Greely, one of my elderly grandfathers wrote a letter to his brother.



The name of American, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism."

-George Washington



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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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IS IT TIME TO CRACK SOME SKULLS?

**Hard times create strong men
Strong men create good times.
Good times create weak men
Weak men create hard times.**

Unknown

How true. And by the way, we are currently cruising full speed in the fourth zone right now; a world run by weak, self-serving, socialist/communist/fascist charlatans hell-bent on dismantling our great republic. Anybody who thinks ANTIFA is actually “anti-fascist,” go take a history class at your local college and get back to me. By now, everybody reading this Robservation has heard of the newly created Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone (CHAZ) [a.k.a. the Capitol Hill Organized Protest (CHOP)] recently set up in downtown Seattle, Washington. In the year 2020, it is hard to believe that the feckless and totally spineless mayor of Seattle, one Jenny Durkan, has allowed people to enter her city and not only peacefully protest the unlawful killing of George Floyd but also set up an armed camp in her city, a camp created and run by lawless cretins who are expanding their power daily. It has come to the point where at least two people who have been shot in “Chazistan” have died because first responders were not allowed to enter and render aid.

Now people, we are not talking about some third world country, well maybe we are, but this is still inside the United States of America. At what point in our history did it become not only fashionable but also legal for an armed force to enter a US territory, take it over by force and then not be allowed to take it back? Even one police precinct in the area was abandoned because of the possibility of conflict. These people, consisting of BLM and ANTIFA members, as well as others, have even appointed, or rather allowed, a one Raz Simone to be their so-called warlord. You can easily find videos of him walking the streets carrying an AR-15 style weapon, making demands and enforcing his brand of reality.

One of the first things these cretins did was to erect a wall to prevent people from entering “their country.” The irony here is unmistakable. Then, they started and continue to brutalize anyone in their zone if they do not believe they belong there. It is amazing to me how so many people, once entrusted with power, immediately choose to abuse it. Not to mention, their precious warlord is now rightfully in the hotseat for some of his shameful anti-LGBT comments in the past that he, of course, denies he ever made. <https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/matt-margolis/2020/06/13/residents-of-seattles-chaz-complain-they-took-our-rights-away-as-violent-crime-goes-unchecked-n526369>.

Within Chazistan, lawlessness is clearly the name of the game. Why would anyone even begin to think otherwise? This six-block area was taken under force by a group of insurrectionists who have no understanding of what they are truly doing. Or perhaps the little commies do indeed know. It is amazing to see how their brains clearly do not work within the realm of logic or reason. I read where one Chopisgrad resident reported that he had all of his “stuff” stolen from his tent to include \$400 cash and a Mac laptop. The responses he got from his caring people ranged from, “Consider it an unplanned donation” and that maybe it was a case of another resident needing it more than he did. <https://pjmedia.com/news-and-politics/stephen-green/2020/06/18/chop-cheers-unplanned-donation-scam-as-cuomo-says-some-people-shouldnt-have-police-n548224>. This is a new level of idiocy. If someone breaks into my house and steals everything I own and worked for, should I look at it as an “unplanned donation” to someone who clearly needed my stuff more than me? I don’t think so.

The sickening truth is that life inside Mayor Durkan’s CHAZ/CHOP is a cesspool of crime to include assaults, murders, rapes and robberies. People who are “not wanted” are thrown out without any due process and too often beat up to boot. Just watch the video of a Christian street preacher physically abused because he dared to venture into their exclusion zone. <http://hard-noxandfriends.com/2020/06/14/privileged-white-thugs-in-chaz-beat-christian-preacher-durkan-calls-it-a-summer-of-love/>. According to a report, 911 calls for several types of violent crimes sharply increased, and in a news interview, Seattle Police Chief Carmen Best confirmed this by stating, “Our calls for service have more than tripled. These are responses to emergency calls: rapes, robberies, and all sorts of violent acts have been occurring in the area that we’re not able to get to.”

Photo by c&rdunn, www.flickr.com



<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/seattle-mayor-defends-lawless-chaz-region-as-police-chief-warns-of-rapes-robberies-in-the-area/ar-BB15oVE7>

<https://nationalfile.com/police-911-calls-for-violent-and-sex-crimes-triples-in-seattle-autonomous-zone/>

<https://www.lifezette.com/2020/06/seattle-police-chief-reveals-rapes-and-robberies-are-happening-in-the-chaz-cops-arent-able-to-respond/>

Even a hapless Uber driver was held at gunpoint by two young punks, mocking him for being an old white guy, and told to get out of the area. <https://www.theblaze.com/glenn-radio/crime-in-chaz->. But the more pressing question here is when does the Federal Government make its statement and put an end to this insanity? We need to look at this for what it is: an armed takeover of an American city, pure and simple. If they were from another country, the word invasion would be used, and our response would (hopefully) be much different. But now that these are “innocent” American kids doing this, we falter and weakly decide to do nothing. I don’t know about a lot of you out there, but when I entered the Air Force, and several times thereafter, I gladly took an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Although different in some respects to our military oath of office, every police officer out there has likewise sworn to uphold the Constitution. Right now, they are not doing so. Peaceful protests are indeed guaranteed by the Constitution, but armed takeovers of a city? I couldn’t find that clause in my pocket Constitution.

I saw where one person had the perfect solution to the CHAZ/CHOP in Seattle. Build a wall around the area with signs saying, “You are now entering the USA.” Then, patrol that wall, and do not let anyone out of the CHAZ/CHOP without requisite documents, an official CHAZ passport and medical clearances. And without any approved trade agreements in place with the USA, nothing can enter; no food, no water, no clothing, zip. Let them fend for themselves for as long as they want. If they are armed and try to force entry into the USA, bye-bye. This has got to stop. I saw the perfect meme the other day. It said, “You remember when they told us we could not spank our children? Well, they are adults now.” Perfect. The crime of participation trophies has come to fruition.

My friend, I will call him “Bob,” waxed poetically the other day much better than I ever could. This is what he wrote: “Went to bed last evening watching anarchist burning another city and toppling statues in town squares. The twilight is coming fast because of the rot from within our Republic...Sadly, we are being manipulated to the point of a national psychosis that will get only worse. The average citizen is being played as a pawn in a game where the loss of the Republic is becoming a reality. When you expunge our history to sow seeds of chaos and feed an insurgency (yes, an insurgency, I said. Insurgency, no other word to describe it. Brilliantly executed, well-funded and adaptive, very well-orchestrated), that turmoil [created] does not permit dialog and civil discourse on any issue, especially the ones that were cherry picked to promote this anarchy. It is going to be our downfall. Our elected officials are so ‘woke’ and polarized to the point the country and all that the Republic stood for is being driven off the cliff...and the Left has the accelerator, smashed to the floor board as the petulant kids in the back seat (the MSM) are screaming “Faster, Daddy!!! Faster!!!” The mother in the passenger seat (you the citizen) is clenching her armrest in silence as the Cadillac heads for the edge...Fear for the future...”

But as Americans, we should not feel left out of this insanity. In Germany, they have similar problems of their own. Through the continued use of finely-tuned and weaponized Holocaust guilt, the Germans seem unwilling to doing anything to maintain their society that may appear racist to the outside world while the true racist refugees run amok, rioting in their streets. In Stuttgart, while 400-500 youths rioted in their Alternative for Germany (AfD) zones by their MigrAntifa group, in a suburb of the city of Duisberg, Arab clans have threatened to kill German police if they dare enter their own No-Go zones and in strict defiance of German law, have stated that they only follow Sharia Law. It should be interesting to watch when the Germans finally wake up and say, “Enough!” I will have my popcorn ready.

This has already extended beyond what I expected to write because I was initially going to write about the removal of statues around the country. I have written on it before, and I do not like it, but this is for a later *Robservation*. Just let me repeat the words I read from Alan West. He said, “History is not there for you to like or dislike, it is there for you to learn from.” It has become clear that way too many people, dare I say many of them quite stupid, have absolutely no idea what they stand for or who many of the statues represent. The fact that the statue memorializing the 54th Massachusetts’ Regiment was defaced by BLM protesters is evidence of this. Why? Uh, these were black soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Whether Abe Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Francis Scott Key, Charlotte’s WWII monument, Navy Seal and Medal of Honor Winner Lt. Michael Murphy’s plaque, and yes, I am going to say this, General Robert E. Lee, or Winston Churchill in England, Atlanta’s Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, people are fixated on erasing history; good or bad. Their apparent focus is the destruction of anything historical at all cost. Prove me wrong.

In my current book, I touch on this with the fact that the Royal Air Force Bomber Command memorial in Green Park, London saluting the 125,000 airmen (73,814 who either died, were injured or became prisoners of war) who fought against Nazism and the stature of Bomber Command’s leader, Sir Arthur Harris, both continue to be protested and desecrated because of the bombings of German cities in World War II. The question of course becomes, at what point do we stop? Whose history are we going to allow to remain as opposed to whose history are we going to erase from our collective consciousness? Why does the General Lee statue have to come down while evil slave-trader Elihu Yale’s statue and his university’s name remains intact? Because he was not Southern? In 2006, I wrote how the student leadership at the University of Washington denied a statue of Greg “Pappy” Boyington of “Baa Baa Black Sheep” fame.

Why? Because as the most successful Marine fighter pilot in World War II, he killed too many Japanese pilots. Yes, those same pilots trying to kill him. More on this later. But for your fun, just Google something like “List of Statues” taken down or targeted and you might be surprised. Or probably not. More on this later. I have had enough for one day.

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<https://www.infowars.com/cnn-compiles-list-of-unforgivable-statues-place-names-suggesting-they-should-be-changed-or-removed/>



John W. Giles

Coach Tuberville has gained some momentum in the U.S. Senate race over what I refer to as the “Trump Factor.” He has hit what seems to be a high water mark in the polls, which is currently not enough for him to win. It is apparent that Tuberville’s overwhelming support comes from the President’s perceptions over Sessions, certainly not over his coaching resume. After knowing and working with Jeff Sessions for 27 years, I have strongly disagreed with the President’s ill-calibrated notions over Sessions, which can be reduced to “Three Questions” that I hope to answer.

I trust you know that one can be 100% supportive of the President’s re-election and disagree with him on tone, tactics or execution. No one is perfect or right 100% of the time. Most, if not all, of my friends are uncomfortable to some degree with his high turnover of personnel and how he reduces to name calling, particularly over someone who is unequivocally loyal, but somehow for whatever reason has fallen out of his grace. This environment and style of leadership makes one feel like they have to pick sides. Not so, right is right and wrong is wrong. Here are his questions to Sessions.

“If you knew you were going to recuse, then why did you accept my nomination as U.S. Attorney General (AG)?” Sessions has published a letter on this subject, and I have had several conversations with Senator Sessions over this topic. The President asked Jeff to be AG; he accepted, and during the Senate Judiciary Confirmation Hearing, he was cross-examined by the Democrats if he knew or ever met these Russian operatives. As a U.S. Senator, you meet in passing thousands of people in your line of duty. This does not mean you endorse or embrace their occupation and mission, but it is a courtesy. This was the first time Sessions was implicated in the well-choreographed chaos being hatched on the administration. After accepting the President’s nomination and confirmation, Sessions had no clue at this time about the schemes of the socialist driven Democrats.

“Why did you recuse, you should have stayed in there and fought for me?”

TRUMP’S THREE QUESTIONS

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I have written articles on this subject before. I truly think the President’s perceptive role of the Department of Justice (DOJ) was to be his personal defensive law firm, which is not their statutory mandate. After the Senate confirmed Sessions as AG, he found out after being on the job that there was an investigation underway into the Trump Campaign. It was, as we all know, later confirmed a blown out of proportion myth that Russians were coordinating with the Trump Campaign. The DOJ Ethical–Regulatory Standards, which were already in place, precluded Sessions from legally moving ahead in charge of the investigation, because of his visible and undeniably defined role in the 2016 Trump Campaign. For Sessions to ignore the law would have set the President up to be in a shark-bait feeding frenzy and a liberal unrelenting media driven meteor shower. Sessions had only two choices: obey the law or disobey the law. I have known Session for 27 years, and I can tell you from experience that he will abstain from even the appearance of all evil, anything questionable, unethical or unlawful. A.G. Bill Barr, Former Reagan A.G. Ed Meese, Rudy Giuliani, Lindsey Graham, Champ Lyons Former Associate Justice Alabama Supreme Court and many others have stated publicly that Sessions followed the law to recuse. As a side note, Sessions, from day one, advised the President to fire Comey. Trump decided against Sessions’ recommendation until months later; Sessions was right about Comey all along.

“Why didn’t you pick up the phone and call me, before I found out in the media?” I have talked to a person who directly reports to the President, and they tell me this was his number one frustration over the recusal. Stay with me for one minute and think this through. Sessions knew he had to legally follow the law and recuse, so that decision was made. If he had picked up the phone and consulted with the President before the recusal, knowing Trump would want him to stay put, it would still be a breach in ethical conduct from a sitting AG. Think about high crimes and misdemeanors for a moment. If the President was being complicit in an attempt to circumvent the law, Nancy, Adam Schiff and company would have successfully impeached this great President. Actually, truth be told, Sessions was looking out for the President by not making the phone call. Remember Ukraine; all calls are recorded. Sessions, after his recusal, sent a letter of resignation to the President; Trump hand wrote a note on the letter, “Not Accepted – Make America Great Again,” and sent it back to Sessions’ desk.

There is Trump’s side and Sessions’ side of this story, find what is right and DO NOT MOVE!

John W. Giles is not MOVING, I am voting for Trump and Sessions 2020!



John Martin

One of America’s greatest tragedies was what many of us call the “Civil War,” also known as “The War Between the States,” “The Great Rebellion,” “The War of Northern Oppression,” and “The War for Southern Independence.” It was the bloodiest war ever fought on American soil by more than an order of magnitude. We suffered an estimated 620,000 to 750,000 (revised) casualties from combat, starvation, disease, and injuries.

In many ways, this war was like the American Revolution—a war of independence. For years, the Northern states had imposed tariffs, blockades and other sanctions that strangled the South’s economy. Finally, in 1860-61, thirteen Southern states said, “Enough is enough,” seceded one by one, and created their own nation, the Confederate States of America. Their goal was independence, not control or even influence over the remaining states.

From 1861 until 1865, under Lincoln’s authority, the North invaded the South—killing, burning, looting and pillaging. The “damn Yankees” burned and destroyed cities, farms, homes and crops along with bridges, railroads, warehouses, and any military targets. Much of the South became a smoldering ruin.

Like in any war, the South had its heroes who fought valiantly to save their lives, property, and independence. Many of these people are very familiar to nearly everybody—Robert E Lee, Jefferson Davis, Stonewall Jackson, Nathan Bedford Forrest, Braxton Bragg, John Hood, P. G. T. Beauregard, and many others.

Once the South had endured the turmoil of reconstruction and was able to rebuild, Confederate veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy began erecting monuments to these heroes in the early part of the 20th century.

Today, these monuments have stood for about a century, and during that time, the American people respected them and the people they enshrined.

But in recent years, some groups of people have spawned hatred for the Confederacy and the Southern heroes. “Those people owned slaves. Those people stood for slavery. Those people were evil...”

Sadly, we cannot erase history, but we can learn from it. Back in the 1700s, when America was founded, slavery was the norm in most of the world. Nearly half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were slave owners. Some of them wanted to make all of America a slave-free nation. That would have been wonderful. Unfortunately, they were in the minority and were out-voted. In the end, we had to settle for a mix of free states and slave states.

During our last two or three decades, certain radical people have demanded “reparations” from people whose ancestors might have owned slaves to be given to others whose ancestors might have been slaves. That is utter nonsense. We would have a tough time proving whose ancestors owned slaves and whose ancestors were slaves. It doesn’t matter anyway. There are no living slave owners, and there are no living slaves.

During this same time, many radicals have been doing vandalism to our Confederate monuments and making more and more demands to take them down.

In 2017, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu ordered the removal of four large monuments from public display in the city. At considerable expense to the local taxpayers, they were taken down, packed in crates, and shipped to parts unknown.

OUR CONFEDERATE HERITAGE

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

Former Memphis Mayor A. C. Wharton wants the statue of Nathan Bedford Forrest, along with the graves of Forrest and his wife, removed from the city park.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam promised to remove statues of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson from Richmond’s Monument Avenue.

Retired Gen. David Petraeus wants army bases bearing the names of Confederate generals (Benning, Bragg and Hood) to be renamed. He said Robert E. Lee, who is everywhere at West Point, was a U. S. soldier who “committed treason.”

Nancy Pelosi wants 11 Confederate statues removed from the U. S. Capitol.

And now, right after the unfortunate choking death of George Floyd by the police in Minnesota, Confederate monuments in places across the nation have suffered vandalism—everything from sprayed on graffiti to being knocked down and carried away.

On June 9, at the University of Alabama’s Gorgas Library, workers removed plaques that commemorate UA students who served in the Confederate Army and members of the student cadet corps who fought James H. Wilson’s raiders, who burned and destroyed the university.

In Tuskegee, vandals spray-painted graffiti onto the monument in the park in the center of town. Mayor Tony Haygood ordered that it be wrapped and later removed.

In Montgomery, “The Cradle of the Confederacy,” the statue of Robert E. Lee in front of Lee High School has been removed after being vandalized. Mayor Steven Reed is now asking that it not only be permanently removed, but that Lee, Jefferson Davis, and Sidney Lanier High Schools be re-named. Wait a minute. Sidney Lanier wasn’t a Confederate general; he was just a poet. But he did fight for the Confederacy as a private for a short time, until he was captured and spent most of his time as a POW in a muddy Union prison camp.

We MUST get over the hatred of our Confederate veterans. They were not Nazis. They were not evil. Most did not own slaves. Most were common people fighting for their lives, families and property. They bravely fought invaders in America’s most bitter war. Their monuments deserve to be protected and honored.

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START MONTH

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

John Sophocleus

THINK

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PART ONE: FOR THIS REASON I TAKE A KNEE... (EPHESIANS 3:14)



In his prayer for the Ephesians, Paul doesn't want them to be afraid, deterred or faint by the tribulations he is enduring. My paternal grandmother lived in Ephesus until forcedly removed at the Burning of Smyrna; tribulation is a common happenstance in our human, yet not so humane travails through history. The cause/reason (two most used words I've found) Paul knelt unto the Heavenly Father of his Lord, Jesus Christ, was to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, which is anchored in God's Truth and Love. I find this Truth and Love in shorter supply than PPE and federal fiat currency these past months. If only there was as much concern and effort to bailout our nation's troubled soul as we've observed to re-inflate our bubbled command economy.

The reason I take a knee for my black brothers and sisters in Christ is to keep my soul intact and humbly ask God's forgiveness for not being a better evangelist/example to promote His Truth and Love. As many readers know, I'm Greek orthodox; we have no excuse...our Spiritual leader (Archbishop Iakovos) was a contemporary of Martin Luther King and supporter of MLK's peaceful, Christ-like efforts, including the Selma march to Montgomery. There's no doubt Iakovos was concerned for his faithful (esp. Annunciation Church in Montgomery) but knew there were times True Christians must suffer tribulation in Spiritual combat with evil and tyranny.

I can recall my single digit years as an Altar boy at Annunciation (in Baltimore) taking a knee each Sunday in prayer. As you may imagine, few to no blacks attended my church, but fortunately my good Southern momma had no rub in her pure heart, singing with her mostly black Gospel group [All God's Children], where I met some of the finest folks I know. Growing up in a middle class neighborhood, I had plenty of black classmates through all my school years to be around plenty of good kindred spirits of colour. How my prayers have changed and evolved into the 'back nine' of life. It took far too long to recognize what a terrible burden is put upon a person or group when using false claims of caring to cloak avarice. The Gospel of John makes this sort of 'Judas rhetoric' clear, feigning concern for the poor that oil should've been sold to increase revenue Judas administered/collected. Judas skimmed from this revenue stream. Easy to understand a skimmer trying to go undetected would prefer a 'fuller money box' to one which allowed a handsome sum like 300 denarii go unsold, given Judas's avarice.

So I ask readers to understand why (as always making no claim to speak or write for others) I take a 'Black Lives Matter' knee. The time is long overdue to take the burden of lies and hate off the backs of our black brothers and sisters and their posterity and let God's Truth and Love prevail. This is not to say God's Truth is always comforting; it can be harsh. This is not to say God's Love is always gentle; it can be abrupt. I have no doubt the righteous anger Jesus displayed to the money changers was absolutely correct and done out of Love. George Floyd was brutally murdered for allegedly passing a \$20 counterfeit piece of paper. I will not go into the history of why the Constitution wrote COIN money to protect citizens like Mr. Floyd from theft via fiat money and federal reserve notes, but I do think Jesus calls me to have the same righteous anger at today's money changers. Furthermore, I know God's New Covenant. Would I get some short-run feel-good moment by seeing a knee on the neck of politburo members who've counterfeited much larger sums? Sadly yes, but Jesus teaches me to rebuke these sinners, not take the path of Barabbas and suffocate them to death. This would make me no better than the government looters and murderers responsible for the mess we're in.

I was recently reminded of quote about President Trump's hero which seems timely: "I supported President Lincoln. I believed his war policy would be the only way to save the country, but I see my mistake. I visited Washington a few weeks ago, and I saw the corruption of the present administration – and so long as Abraham Lincoln and his Cabinet are in power, so long will war continue. And for what? For the preservation of the Constitution and the Union? No, but for the sake of politicians and government contractors." – J.P. Morgan, American financier and banker, 1864.

So at risk of getting more 'nastygrams' than usual – esp. from those who keep sending me hate mail asserting the federal govt. created the States – I would like to provide some text to help remove this burden of Judas rhetoric. Most agree Massachusetts was the first colony to legalize slavery. Some colonies later asked the Crown to abolish slavery in their geo-political unit, but England refused, as it was such an important input for their mercantilist ends. During the American Revolution, as England grew more desperate, they promised emancipation to slaves who would fight for the Crown once the Yankee traitors (Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, Washington, et al) were beaten. Southern colonies provided supplies and relief to Northern ports suffering the British blockade, only to suffer the federal navy engaged in this same act of war upon them [1861-5] for wanting to maintain their independence won under the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union in 1783. Crispus Attucks and other blacks who fought for independence were not duped by the British; similarly there were blacks (along with Hispanics, Jews, etc.) who fought for keeping their independence in the Confederacy.

When seceding from the Articles to form a more perfect union under the Constitution, Jefferson, et al types wanted to immediately abolish the importation of slaves authorized to the federal govt. to address while States continued progress toward more emancipation legislation. Northern shipping interests would not exit the Articles under these terms with so much to gain in their shipping interests. The compromise was that slave importation couldn't be abolished for at least 20 years [1808] to provide sufficient adjustment time to this abolition. Indeed, slave importation was abolished in the U.S. 1808; the Confederate Constitution (strikingly similar to the U.S. Constitution) immediately abolished slave importation. I'll leave it to the reader why this magnificent bicentennial event was not celebrated in 2008 as well as why Northern States did not want all population (esp. slaves and Indians) counted for representative purposes, knowing tax bills would originate in the House where results unrepresentative to population/economic activity could be used to transfer wealth in their favour. This proffers the 'Trail of Tears' (little wonder why the 'Five Civilized Tribes' fought for the Confederacy after suffering so much federal abuse) and unrest over redistributive tariffs.

The stage for war between the States was set with the Tariff of Abominations [1828] average dutiable rate of 61 percent, but cooler heads prevailed during the Nullification crisis, where 'Compromise Tariffs' lowered import taxes to more reasonable rates. By 1857, the rate had returned to the 'benchmark' of 20 percent. This was far too competitive for industrial/manufacturing interests. Enter Mr. Lincoln and the newly formed Republican Party who makes it clear they want to return the tariff to 1828 levels. Once elected, States dominated by agriculture convened constitutional conventions to peacefully exit the federal coalition, beginning with South Carolina in December 1860. It was unclear what the mid-Atlantic southern States would do; Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and even North Carolina seemed comfortable with being a peaceful buffer between the North and what R. E. Lee called the 'cotton States.' The Compromise of 1790 placing DC just south of the Mason-Dixon Line is fodder for another column.

Some hoped cooler heads would again prevail with the Confederacy at a 10% tariff and the North with a 47% tariff; shipping (now in the steam era) was less costly to gravitate toward more competitive areas. When obvious manufacturing interests would not achieve their wealth transfers politically, some

couldn't believe Northern States would commit treason against the mid-Atlantic States to accomplish their desired transfers militarily. When Lincoln implicitly commits treason calling for 75,000 federal troops to engage in undeclared war against States (some still in the Union), it is clear peace is unlikely unless Lincoln is impeached and removed or disciplined in some other manner. It is painful to read R. E. Lee's letters agonizing over the decision to continue fighting in the federal blue (the prestigious position of commanding all the federal soldiers was no small temptation) and commit treason or hold to his oath to God and country fighting to defend Virginia.

Maryland is where first blood/explicit treason occurred on April 19, 1861 in Baltimore – Patriot's Day if you like irony. The same state revered for standing up to tyranny with the 'shot heard round the world' (in contrast to being the first colony to legalize slavery) was the state (6th Mass.) to enter another state (uninvited) and assemble as part of their army issued 20 rounds each and murdered several civilians. It makes me sick to hear Nancy Pelosi call those who defended themselves from military aggression of this sort traitors, esp. since she grew up not far from the marker in Baltimore where this shameful event happened. Hard to imagine it is ignorance, instead of willful rhetoric. I'm sure her current play for even more federal power would not want to address 49 percent of blacks in MD were free in 1860. It is more important for Pelosi and other Trumpocrats to keep the Kabuki Theatre at full volume (at least until November) so the only ones who show to the polls will waste their votes on duopoly party candidates. Stunning to hear a pure authoritarian like John Bolton (at least when it comes to his understanding of federal hegemony over states) say he will be writing in his favorite big govt. neo-con on the November 2020 ballot and will not vote for Trump again or Biden.

This 1860s history doesn't align with 'Lincoln and the Republicans freed all the slaves' myths. God forbid we admit 49 percent of blacks in a slave state like Maryland freed themselves or were free without govt. mandate. How many know the dual proclamations on emancipation? The first said if Confederate States returned to the Union they could keep their slaves. Lincoln wanted these States to still be able to generate revenue for his hegemonic ends. If they did not return to the Union, any slave in a State/area not under federal control would be free January 1863. Those who've read economic history on when the blockade was forecasted to be broken in Charleston understand Lincoln's reason for the date. Four States exempted from the 1863 proclamation abolished slavery before the end of the war: Maryland (1864), Missouri (1865), Tennessee (1865), and even unconstitutional West Virginia (1865). Delaware and Kentucky didn't abolish slavery until December 1865, when the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified. Much ink is spilled about how despised the fugitive slave laws were up North – AMEN! Imagine if those who truly cared about ending slavery more quickly and peacefully carried the day. Abolitionists' sound argument to let the slave States leave/secede so States in the Union would no longer be compelled to return fugitive slaves was much more compelling than Lincoln and the Republicans' interest in more govt. revenue and wealth transfers over freedom.

As for the Thirteenth Amendment, the preceding version (a.k.a. Corwin Amendment) was to allow slavery 'in perpetuity,' which Southern States balked on because slavery was the rhetoric, not the issue. First, most legal minds knew nothing could be put 'in perpetuity' when another amendment can later remove it (think Prohibition). Second, this would've bought time on keeping slaves (which Lincoln already made clear he didn't care about) but still kept redistributive tariffs in place. Even as slavery continued to fade away, the agricultural States would still be under 'British mercantilism' where the Republicans replaced British hegemony. Even the slaves who were taken out before the end of the war/reconstruction had 20 or less years to endure; many cite the lion's share of former Confederates (Confederados) went to Brazil, which abolished slavery in 1885 without war, death and destruction or using emancipation as an excuse/cover for desired wealth transfers. That twenty years again...the Biblical wisdom of Jubilee is fodder for yet another column.

In full disclosure, I wrote the forward to John Taylor's book *Union at All Costs*. For those who want to seriously understand 'Judas rhetoric' associated with war between the States in modern America, please read it carefully. The Native-Americans/Indians were no strangers to conflict of this sort prior to British mercantilism. It will give you a more informed disdain for Nancy Pelosi-types bantering about treason and our current president who likes to hide behind a Bible and evoke another 'law and order' President who privately scoffed God and religion while using it to advance his ends.

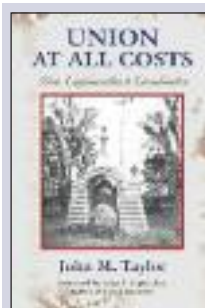
I asked author John Taylor to give me some quotes from his book as examples/illustrations:

On August 22, 1862, Lincoln wrote to Horace Greeley: *My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that...What I do about slavery, and the colored race, I do because I believe it helps to save the Union... [from Matthew Pinsker's, House Divided Project ' Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania].*

As another example, unlike many of the abolitionists, Lincoln maintained a strong desire to relocate blacks to other parts of the world. On October 16, 1854, in Peoria, Ill., he commented: "My first impulse would be to free all the slaves, and send them to Liberia, to their own native land." [from Robert Morgan's "The 'Great Emancipator' and the Issue of Race – Abraham Lincoln's Program of Resettlement," Institute for Historical Review, 2013-2016]

According to Union Secretary of State Seward, part of the reasoning "against the extension of slavery had always really been concern for the welfare of the white man, and not an unnatural sympathy for the Negro." Horace Greeley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, echoed this sentiment by saying, "All the unoccupied territory...shall be preserved for the benefit of the White Caucasian race – a thing which cannot be except by the exclusion of slavery." [from Thomas J. DiLorenzo's "The Economics of Slavery," LewRockwell.com,]

I bring this part one to a close with a promise of more quotes on tariff revenue in the Spirit of further understanding it as 'Judas rhetoric' to cloak avarice. Don't ever be afraid or ashamed to take a righteous knee before God. Remember Romans 14:11 & 12, for it is written, *"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God."* So each of us shall give account of himself to God.



Please see the next page for the inaugural article from my friend, John M. Taylor ...

*Delighted to introduce John M. Taylor (a.k.a. Johnny) as an Alabama Gazette writer. We first met circa 1993 after my lecture on U.S. tariff history, which triggered contractions, crises and wars, then we continued to exchange facts and perspectives, discovering we're kindred spirits. Over years of regular contact and improving each other's works, I was honoured Johnny asked me to pen the Foreword to his book, *Union At All Costs*, referenced in my column this month. Humbly proud of his Southern ancestry, Taylor defends it with vigorous documentation on par with the best academics I've been blessed to interact with these past three decades.*



By Daniel Sutter

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

WILL THINGS EVER CHANGE?

The killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin ignited nationwide protests. While we advise jurors to withhold judgment until presentation of all the evidence, video of the incident seems definitive. Mr. Floyd joins a much-too-long list of minority victims of police violence. Justice may be served in Minneapolis. The four officers involved were fired the next day, and Mr. Chauvin charged with second-degree murder. Does this render the protests moot? Not necessarily. Mr. Chauvin was not charged with first-degree murder, and the charges could be reduced when attention focuses elsewhere.

I am something of an anomaly, a law-and-order libertarian. I have great respect for police because of the injustice of crime. When someone takes your belongings – whether milk money or a car – we naturally feel the injustice. Bullies and criminals violate the social peace. The police respond to our calls for help. Bullies and criminals terrify many of us, but not the police.

Police use of excessive force is a danger for all Americans. Minorities, however, have far more such encounters. Jason Riley is a member of the Wall Street Journal’s editorial board guest. In Please Stop Helping Us, Mr. Riley details his encounters with the police as a law-abiding youth, often for nothing more than “driving while black.” He observes, “Was I profiled based on negative stereotypes about young black men? Almost certainly. But then everyone profiles based on limited knowledge, including me.”

I have never faced such discrimination nor experienced the ensuing reactions. Mr. Riley did not let profiling poison his life view, and this is admirable. I also appreciate that some young men will show resentment, which might provoke police wrath. Minorities bear the brunt of police mistakes, like Breonna Taylor, killed in a botched police raid this March.

We should hold police officers to an extremely high standard because they can use deadly force. We should also remember how police officers experience encounters with us. Ninety-nine point nine percent of traffic stops will be routine, but an officer never knows when a confrontation might occur.

Minimizing inevitable tragic accidents provides a first place for change. Yale law professor Stephen Carter tells his first-year students to never push for a law they would not want people killed to enforce. Mr. Floyd was apprehended for spending a counterfeit \$20; Eric Garner was killed in 2014 while evading New York’s cigarette taxes. We should not criminalize so many things.

I believe that the Derek Chauvins are a miniscule fraction of police officers. We lack institutional controls on misbehavior. Police officers have a common interest in disciplining their bad apples, but this rarely happens.

Misbehavior is likely tolerated because police officers, like fire fighters or soldiers, depend on each other in matters of life-and-death. I have never served in such positions and may not appreciate this need to trust colleagues. Nevertheless, bad apples abuse toleration; Mr. Chauvin ruined the other officers’ lives in addition to ending Mr. Floyd’s life.

Police unions vigorously defend and enforce privacy rules shielding rogue officers. A retired New York Police commander wrote that, “The unions, at least in New York City, outright just protect, protect, protect the cops.” Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison cites the Minneapolis police union as contributing to the department’s problems.

Asset forfeiture laws and militarization also contribute. Police departments can seize and keep cars, money and other property from people not convicted of crimes, often minorities unable to contest seizure. For decades, police departments have received surplus military equipment. Militarization and policing for profit must make officers feel like part of an army of occupation, not public servants.

Law enforcement is a noble profession when the police “protect and serve” citizens. Police should get the benefit of the doubt when using force, but this is only possible if departments fire miscreant officers.

Some encouraging incidents have occurred this past week. In Genesee County, Michigan, Sheriff Chris Swanson took off his riot gear and walked and talked with protestors. The cycle of violence will never end if police and citizens view each other as adversaries.



By Perry O. Hooper, Jr.



Republican State Executive Committee
Former State Representative

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

WE MUST SUPPORT LAW AND ORDER

I feel like I am in the middle of a bad dream. Across our great country, spineless elected officials are turning our streets and neighborhoods over to angry mobs of looters and thieves. At this writing, in Seattle, unbelievably led by members of the City Council, 6 city blocks, including a police precinct, have been turned over to armed members of the anarchist group Antifa. Exact statistics are unknown, but there currently seems to be between 300-400 full-time squatters who have taken up residence in the so-called Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone. When you enter the zone, signs greet you reading “Property of the People” and “Leaving the USA.” The police have been ordered to stand idly by while residents and business owners are harassed and threatened. Anyone who speaks out against these anarchists is labelled a racist or worse.

Democrat politicians in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and New York have embraced the calls to divert funding away from policing. Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) calls the police a “cancer.”

According to FBI statistics, the number of unarmed African Americans shot and killed by police officers in all of 2019 was 10. These same statistics show that 89 law enforcement officers were killed in line-of-duty incidents in 2019.

Ninety-nine-point-ninety-nine percent of the thousands of law enforcement professionals in this country are good, honorable people who put their life on the line every day to protect and serve complete strangers like you and me.

It is just plain wrong to define the thousands of police officers in this country

by one or two bad actors. The policeman that killed George Flynn must be prosecuted to the maximum extent of the law. We cannot, however, paint our men and women in blue as many in the Democratic party and their allies in the media have, as thugs and criminals.

The new narrative is to believe the accused against the police. In New York City the justice system has turned a blind eye to attacks on the police. The police now have resorted to suing attackers in civil court as they are not being held criminally liable. Criminal behavior is justified by today’s norms because of past injustices.

Everybody has a right to protest, but the right stops where my property line begins. Your right to protest does not give you a right to incite a riot. You have no right to loot and destroy public and private because you are mad. You certainly do not have the right to threaten someone with bodily harm because they hold different political views. We must support the rule of law or our country will disintegrate into chaos.

To quote Ronald: “We must reject the idea that every time a law’s broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions.”

When you get a chance and see a Police Officer, please do as I do and give them a thumbs up and a big “Thank You.” The local police are our country’s backbone and guarantor of our civil society. We must always remain vigilant and support people’s right to protest peacefully while not giving into the demands of angry mobs.



The Alabama Gazette welcomes its newest contributor: John M. Taylor.

THE CONFEDERATE STATES DID NOT COMMIT TREASON

Married (Susan) with two sons and two grandchildren, most know me by my nickname “Johnny.” After graduating from Benjamin Russell High School in Alexander City and then attending Central Alabama Community College, I earned a B.S. in Transportation from Auburn University. During most of my college years, I worked at Russell Corporation then upon graduation, the majority of my career was spent there in various management positions. After our department was eliminated due to the 2008 recession, I held a few different jobs before I wound up working at Adelia M. Russell Library in Alex City in 2013, where I am now Assistant Director. In the process, I earned an MLIS from the University of Alabama.

I have written for “Lake Martin Living” and have been published in local newspapers, newsletters, etc. I also edited local and State newsletters (SCV) for about nineteen years. Beginning in 2010, while between jobs, I decided to use my previous writings combined with new material and put it all together in a book entitled Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation. John Sophocleus, a friend since about 1993, was very helpful with this endeavor and wrote the Foreword. It covers a plethora of topics, including history, economics, transportation, tariffs, etc. As something of a Jeffersonian book, it focuses quite a bit on the concept of government by consent. Published in 2017, the book can be found online at: <https://booklocker.com/books/8983.html> and <https://www.amazon.com/UNION-ALL-COSTS-Confederation-Consolidation/dp/1634916468>.

Recent articles in various publications and comments from a few historically illiterate politicians have floated around lately regarding the nature of the Original American Republic. There are occasional tidbits of truth intertwined with misinformation. Rather than dissect all of the issues, I will concentrate on one blatantly false accusation concerning treason.

The Thirteen Original Colonies seceded from the British Empire, eventually winning their independence. In 1783, the Treaty of Paris was signed between Great Britain and the colonies: “the said United States, viz., New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free sovereign and independent states...” (Avalon Project, Yale University) This Treaty describes the actual sovereigns—the States.

The States created the first federal constitution, the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union; it was ratified in 1781. Primarily due to Federalist efforts to strengthen the central government, the States seceded from this so-called perpetual union and the U.S. Constitution became official on March 4, 1789, after nine States ratified it. It was not until 1792 that all thirteen States agreed to be part of the U.S. Constitution. The Union was created as a voluntary compact (even Nationalist Alexander Hamilton called it a compact)—not a Soviet-styled forced Union. Three States (Virginia, New York, and Rhode Island) joined under the proviso that they could leave this compact if it was in their best interests to do so.

In 1846, echoing Jeffersonian principles, Jefferson Davis stated that the federal government “is the creature of the States; as such it could have no inherent power, all it possesses was delegated by the States.” Those enumerated powers are found in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. If the States did not have sovereign power, they would have had no authority to delegate powers to the federal government.

When Lincoln was elected in 1860 with 39.8 percent of the vote, the agricultural States of the South realized what had transpired: the point man for the industrialists had been elected to implement the Radical Republican agenda. This included a national bank, protective tariffs, and internal improvements (corporate welfare), all of which would be primarily financed by the import

dependent Southern States. At that time, import duties made up over 90 percent of government revenue. In his First Inaugural Address (March 4, 1861), Lincoln told the world the only reason the North would invade was to take control of the forts to “collect duties and imposts.” Everyone should read it.

The Southern States realized the threat but chose not to go down the nullification avenue prescribed by Thomas Jefferson and used by South Carolina’s John C. Calhoun in the 1830s over discriminatory import tariffs. They instead chose to either meet in their respective legislatures or hold popular votes to determine whether or not to remain in the Union. Alabama’s vote was 61 to leave and 39 to stay.

Following the lead of their Revolutionary ancestors, the Southern States elected to govern themselves. The last four States—Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Tennessee—left the Union after Lincoln’s call for 75,000 troops to invade the seceded States. That was seen as treasonous and a violation of the voluntary nature of these united States. The Southern States made their decisions based on the concept of government by consent (see The Declaration of Independence). There is nothing treasonous about voluntarily leaving a voluntary Union.

After the war, Jefferson Davis virtually begged for a “treason” trial to let the courts decide if the Union is consensual or forced. Noted New York attorney Charles O’Connor (an Irish Catholic) enthusiastically volunteered to represent Davis. On the Union side, U.S. Chief Justice Salmon Chase warned: “If you bring these leaders to trial, it will condemn the North, for by the Constitution, secession is not rebellion...His (Jeff Davis’) capture was a mistake. His trial will be a greater one. We cannot convict him of treason.” (The Long Surrender, Burke Davis) Echoing Chase, German-born philosopher Franz Lieber (Lieber Code) said: “Davis will not be found guilty...and we shall stand there completely beaten.” (Davis)

Relative to slavery, remaining in the Union was the best way to protect it, a fact noted by Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison and Confederate VP Alexander Stephens. The monuments and statues represent Southerners who fought for independence, which included literal defense of their homes. Their fight represented the very basis of pre-Orwellian America.

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



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NEW FEATURE IN 'MY SOCIAL SECURITY' PUTS YOU IN CONTROL

The future can be uncertain. However, Social Security's new Advance Designation program can help put you in control of your benefits if a time comes when you need a representative payee to help manage your money. Advance Designation enables you to identify up to three people, in priority order, whom you would like to serve as your potential representative payee.

The following people may choose an Advance Designation:

- Adults applying for benefits who do not have a representative payee.
- Adult beneficiaries or recipients who do not have a representative payee.
- Emancipated minors applying for benefits who do not have a representative payee.
- Emancipated minor beneficiaries or recipients who do not have a representative payee.

If you fall into one of the above categories, you may provide and update Advance Designation information when you:



- File a claim for benefits online.
- Use the application available in your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.
- Call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

You may also change your Advance Designation(s), including the priority order, at any time while you are still capable of making your own decisions. In the event that you can no longer make your own decisions, you and your family will have peace of mind knowing you already chose someone you trust to manage your benefits.

Applying for Medicare Online

You can apply for Medicare online even if you are not ready to start your retirement benefits. Applying online can take less than 10 minutes. There are no forms to sign, and we usually require no documentation. We'll process your application and contact you if we need more information.

Visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare to apply for Medicare and find other important information. If you're eligible for Medicare at age 65, your initial enrollment period begins three months before your 65th birthday and ends three months after that birthday.

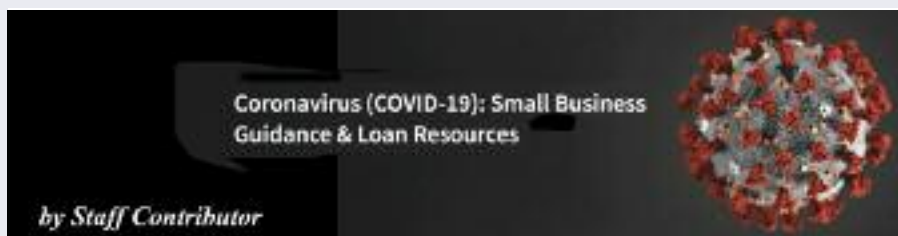


Some Medicare beneficiaries may qualify for Extra Help with their Medicare prescription drug plan costs. To qualify for Extra Help, a person must be receiving Medicare, have limited resources and income, and reside in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia. Read www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10508.pdf for more information on *Extra Help*.

Medicare also offers many online services where you can find out:

- What does Medicare cover? www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers
- Where do I find forms for filing a Medicare appeal? www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/how-do-i-file-an-appeal
- Where do I let someone speak with Medicare on my behalf? www.medicare.gov/claims-appeals/file-an-appeal/can-someone-file-an-appeal-for-me.
- What do Medicare health and prescription drug plans in my area cost, and what services do they offer? www.medicare.gov/plan-compare
- Which doctors, health care providers, and suppliers participate in Medicare? www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/find-compare-doctors-hospitals-other-providers
- Where can I find out more about a Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D) and enroll? www.medicare.gov/drug-coverage-part-d/how-to-get-prescription-drug-coverage
- Where can I find a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy in my area? www.medicare.gov/medigap-supplemental-insurance-plans

Important Clarifications on the PPP Flexibility Act



As we enter into the summer months, it appears the COVID-19 virus might be with us for a while longer. In an effort to reduce its impact, Congress and the President agreed to help the American public with the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). As with most of the stimulus legislation that has passed, there continues to be guidance and clarification released from the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Department of the Treasury. Here are some key updates to understand in the Act:

- PPP borrowers who received loans prior to June 5 have the option to extend the 8-week period to 24 weeks.
- Borrowers who receive loans June 5 or later have a covered period of 24 weeks after the loan proceeds are received.
- The 75% payroll expenditure requirement was reduced to 60%. This is good news for borrowers because the loan amount is based on 10 weeks of payroll, so borrowers may have a good chance of meeting the 60% requirement with the covered period extended to 24 weeks.
- Payroll caps for loan forgiveness have been increased:
- For owner-employees and self-employed individuals:
 - ◆ 8 weeks - \$15,385
 - ◆ 24 weeks - \$20,833
- For non-owners:
 - ◆ 8 weeks - \$15,385
 - ◆ 24 weeks - \$46,154
- Non-cash compensation has also been updated
- It is anticipated that banks will not begin processing loan forgiveness applications until mid-July at the earliest; some banks won't be processing until late August.
- Loan payments are deferred until the SBA determines the amount of loan forgiveness and remits that information to the lender. The initial deferral period was 6 months. Keep in mind that if a borrower doesn't apply for forgiveness within 10 months after the last day of the covered period, payments will be required at that 10th month.

	Eligible?	
	Health Ins.	Retirement
Self-employed (Schedule C/F)	no	no
General Partner	no	no
S corp owner-employee	no	yes (but included in cap)
C corp owner-employee	yes (but included in cap)	yes (but included in cap)

The SBA has indicated further updates may be forthcoming soon. Go to its website at <https://www.sba.gov/> for the latest developments relating to COVID-19.

Coronavirus-Related Medicare Scam Alert

Since older Americans are particularly vulnerable to Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to remind Medicare beneficiaries to be vigilant and take precautions to avoid falling victim to healthcare fraud during this pandemic. We're warning Medicare beneficiaries that scammers may try to use this pandemic to steal their Medicare number, banking information, or other personal data.



Unfortunately, scammers take advantage of the most vulnerable people during times of uncertainty and change. You must protect yourself by making sure you only give your Medicare number to your doctor, pharmacist, hospital, health insurer, or other trusted healthcare provider.

If someone calls you on the phone, saying they're from Medicare, and asks for your Medicare number or other personal information – just hang up. Medicare representatives will never:

- Call beneficiaries to ask for or to "verify" Medicare numbers.
- Call to sell you anything.
- Promise you things if you give them a Medicare number.
- Visit you at your home.
- Call you to enroll you in a Medicare program over the phone, unless you called us first.

Medicare cards no longer have Social Security numbers on them to reduce fraud and protect beneficiaries from identity theft. Even with this change, you should guard your Medicare card like you would a credit card. Be sure to check your Medicare claim summaries for errors and questionable bills.

If you suspect Medicare fraud, please report it by calling Medicare's toll-free customer service center at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). You can also visit Medicare online at www.medicare.gov/forms-help-resources/help-fight-medicare-fraud.

Important Update to my Social Security's Representative Payee Portal

Millions of Americans who get monthly Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits need help managing their money and may need a representative payee. A representative payee is a person or an organization we appoint to receive the Social Security or SSI benefits for beneficiaries who can't manage or direct the management of their benefits.

Representative payees must know the beneficiary's needs to decide the best use of benefits for care and well-being. To help with this responsibility, representative payees can now get, save, email, and print a benefit verification letter for the person they represent using their own my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. There is no need to visit or call a field office.

Many representative payees are also responsible for completing an annual form to account for the benefit payments received. To complete this process, representative payees can either fill out the form and return it to Social Security or conveniently go online at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/rep-payee.html to file the report. It is important to know that a state Protection and Advocacy agency may contact the representative payee to review the receipts and records of income and expenses.

Visit www.ssa.gov/payee if you have questions about Representative Payees.



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

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

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Sunrise Rotary Holds Shower for Salvation Army Kitchen

Over 30 members of the Sunrise Rotary Club gathered in downtown Montgomery at Rotary Park the morning of June 12, to drink coffee and eat sausage biscuits. But they were not there to eat breakfast. They were there to change lives. The club held a shower for the Montgomery Salvation Army to donate kitchen utensils to its canteen for the homeless.

After the usual prayer, recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and Rotary Four-way Test, Sunrise Rotary president Neil Hughes gathered the club around a table piled high with Amazon boxes. Club members Kathy Freyman and Glenn Crumpton opened the packages one by one. Among the almost forty items received were pots, pans, cutting boards, chef’s knives, colanders, oven mitts, measuring cups, a crock pot and a commercial coffee maker.



Lt. Bryan Farrington helps set-up for the morning.

“I am flat-out blown away,” said Salvation Army Corps officer Lt. Bryan Farrington, who is also a member of Sunrise Rotary. “Last year wasn’t a good fundraising year for us, and we made the conscious decision to put faith over finances. We made the sacrifice to do without some of the things we needed, not lay any of our people off, and just trust that God would provide.

“Today, the Sunrise Rotary Club has really been the hand of God,” he smiled, “by providing us with things we didn’t have in our kitchens so that we could better serve our people.”

The shower originated in a breakfast the Rotary club cooked and served in the Salvation Army’s



President Neal Hughs unloading breakfast for our outdoor meeting.

canteen in January. Several members of the club noted that much of the kitchen equipment wasn’t in good shape.

“I noticed that a lot of the cooking utensils were few and far between,” said Sunrise Rotary Club member Tom Mann, “and a lot of them were broken and inadequate. I just commented that we could help them out and get commercial kitchen equipment in order to help those folks who needed help.”

Acting on this suggestion, club president Neil Hughes asked Lt. Farrington to post a Wish List on Amazon and left it up to individual club members to choose what to buy. All the items on the list were purchased.

Hughes wasn’t surprised by the reaction of the club. “One aspect of our work as Rotarians is to be servants in action,” he said. “All of us as Rotarians came together and bought the materials requested by Lt. Farrington. We’re pleased to participate in his dream and see this happen for the Salvation Army.”

One person who particularly appreciates the new kitchen utensils is Salvation Army chef Gwen Davis. “Our old pots and pans weren’t level,” she stated. “With better equipment, we’ll be able to cook the food evenly. It’s just a joyful thing knowing I’ll be able to cook whatever our clients need.”



Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, Sunrise Rotary has not been able to meet regularly since April. As a result, they had Zoom meetings rather than gathering in the Commerce Café every Friday morning.

Left: Lt. Tonya Farrington and Lt. Bryan Farrington with Salvation Army chef Gwen Davis.

Continued on page 6B

Montgomery Rotary Club Distributes Masks

Rotary is the world's oldest and most important service organization with over 1,200,000 members in more than 30,000 clubs spread throughout 180 countries. Montgomery has four active Rotary clubs seeking to serve the community. For a few local examples, we help MACOA provide Meals on Wheels, recently we built the Rotary downtown dog park, we planted trees around Montgomery including Oak Park, and we delivered dictionaries to third grade students all around Montgomery. Our Montgomery clubs are part of District 6880, led by current District Governor Skip Dotherow, of the Montgomery Sunrise Club. The area covers from cities as far north as Clanton down to Mobile, Fairhope and Dothan. Through the generosity of these Rotarians, local communities are able to provide services and structures and supplies to those in need. District 6880 built a house in Lee County last year for a family displaced as a result of the March 2019 deadly tornado. On June 25, we donated over 1,000 masks to Capitol Hills Health Center to assist caregivers during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Rotary’s motto is “Service Above Self.” We attempt to live that motto every day by following a simple 4-Way Test: is it the TRUTH, is it FAIR to all CONCERNED, will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS, and is it BENEFICIAL to ALL concerned.

Our worldwide presence enables us to do incredible good, such as Rotary provides clean water to those without it, feeds the hungry, battles crippling, debilitating and disfiguring diseases and helps people learn to read and write so they can compete in the modern workplace.

Rotarians come from all walks of life, including education, business, vocational, health and sports just to name a few. All aspire to the highest ethical standards in their vocations and who not only help those in need in their own communities but who also seek to advance the cause of peace, understanding and goodwill worldwide through scholarships, youth and adult exchanges and humanitarian projects."

If you are interested in joining this active, productive and fun organization, contact our Rotary office at office@montgomeryrotaryclub.com.

For more Rotary Club contributions, see page 6B.



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County, Alabama Sheriff's Office

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

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



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

Our office is back open Monday-Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Our website www.MontgomerySheriff.com is a great source of information, as well as our app! If you haven’t downloaded our app, please search your app store for “Montgomery County AL Sheriff” and download it today. Our app is user-friendly and an easy way to inquire about current inmates in the Detention Facility, find out if someone has an active warrant, as well as learn about various programs we offer at our agency.

Detention Facility Visitation

Currently, our Detention Facility is closed for person-to-person visitation; however, video visitation is allowed. Additionally, inmates will still have access to the phone system to call their loved ones. As you know, we are doing everything possible to make sure that our inmate population as well as our employees are safe and to minimize exposure to as least as possible.

Community Relations Events

Sheriff Cunningham has decided to postpone the following Community Relations events this year due to Coronavirus:

- Citizens Academy (postponed until later in 2020)
- Youth Fishing Rodeo
- Show and Tell Camp (postponed until 2021)
- Firearms Familiarization Course (postponed until later in the year)

Social Media Search
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Norman P. Mitchell ~ Tony Mitchell



Murders in Montgomery City & Montgomery County for 2020

Montgomery is on pace to have the most reported homicides on record. Figures as far back as 1973 indicate 1975 was a peak year with 58 homicides. 47 homicides occurred in 2018 and 39 in 2017. The year 2013 saw a total of 50, but other years fluctuate mostly in the 30-40 range.

Below is a list of the reported incidents by the Montgomery Police Department or the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department identifying the location of murders by gunfire or other methods. For the list to the beginning of the year, please see the June issue of the *Alabama Gazette* online.


- Mar 1 Eastern Bypass and Vaughan Rd (result of running a red light- manslaughter) - not shown in June's issue.
- Jun 9 200 blk of Garden Home Circle
- Jun 11 1100 blk of Victor Tulane Circle
- Jun 19 Elmore Cty Hospital (murder occurred in Mtgy but officials disputed jurisdiction)
- Jun 20 1500 blk N Decatur St
- Jun 29 5800 Oakleigh Rd near Regency Prk

Total for 2020 so far thru Jun **37**

Total for 2019, 45 victims

Sources: www.gunviolencearchive.org
www.crimemapping.com
www.montgomeryadvertiser.com

Murder stats provided by Alabama Gazette staff and are from the listed Sources.



“THE PEOPLE’S PAPER”


THE ALABAMA


Gazette

1B

Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore, Crenshaw, Tallapoosa, Pike and Surrounding Counties

Community Lifestyles







Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor

St. James United Methodist Church
9045 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL

Soul Searching

TAKING A STAND MEANS NOT BEING SILENT

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stated the following truth: “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter most.”

In the midst of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, my family lived in Mobile, Ala. where my Dad was serving as the Senior Pastor at St. Marks United Methodist Church. The black leaders of the Civil Rights movement in Mobile requested to hold a peaceful rally and a march in support of voting rights and other issues of equality. The Mayor of Mobile, George McNally, who went to our church, met with the black leadership and my father who accompanied them to request the event. The Mayor was a good man but was very concerned about an outbreak of violence in those very tense days in the South. There were already city and state curfews and other restrictions in place in those days to help keep the peace. Though the Mayor was reluctant to allow the rally and the march, he told my dad that he would only grant permission for the rally and the march if my father helped them, participated in the rally, and marched with them. Perhaps, the Mayor believed that if some of the white clergy participated along with the black clergy and leadership, there might be less chance of violence from the KKK and some other white supremacists who might be opposed to the peaceful gathering. The KKK was very active during this time.

Though my dad was a strong and outspoken advocate for Civil Rights during this time, I remember he was particularly concerned about this event happening in Mobile. Perhaps there had been specific threats made by the KKK or some other groups about this proposed rally and march. (I was just a kid and wouldn’t have known the details or fully understood the dangers.)

However, he put his own concerns for safety aside and agreed to do it. The rally and the march ended up being very successful and peaceful despite some protests and hecklers from the other side. I remember being very proud of him for having the courage to take a stand for what was right and risk losing church members and some friends in the process...which he did.

Soon after that event, the Mobile Register, for some strange reason, printed all the names of all the white pastors in the Mobile area who had signed a petition supporting Civil Rights for Blacks. They printed their home addresses and home phone numbers too. For several years after that we received harassing phone calls at our home, and often strangers would park across the street from our house and sometimes follow us at night. I remember my mom being afraid of the KKK and other white supremacist groups.

In recent weeks, the racial tension in our country has flared up yet again with the death of George Floyd. Peaceful protests and some violent riots have been the result. Calls for police reform and for our legislators to deal with systemic racism have resounded on the airways. Christian leaders and others have sought to address these issues through healthy conversations, prayer gatherings, and peaceful rallies. Personally, I have been apart of several different events, Race Relations Summits and prayer gatherings. Pastor Ken Austin and I did a message together one Sunday recently where we had a conversation about how we, as Christ followers, can be the change (view it at sjlife.com). Together, all of us will need to continue to come together for more conversations as we seek to take actions that help us move forward as a country and as a state.

My Dad was a great example to me, and I have never forgotten his legacy of standing up for others and not keeping silent about what is right! I pray that I will always be willing to take that stand and not be silent about the things that matter most!



saint james church



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Contemporary Service

9:30 am

live.sjlife.com & facebook.com/sjlifechurch

11:00 am

live.sjlife.com

On-Demand

vimeo.com/sjlife OR sjlife.com

Traditional Service

8:00 am

live.sjlife.com & facebook.com/sjlifechurch

11:00 am & On-Demand

vimeo.com/sjlife OR sjlife.com

12:15 pm

live.sjlife.com

www.lifeonwheelsalabama.com



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Pastor Tim Meadows Retires after 25 Years in the Ministry

A drive-by Retirement Party was held on Sunday, June 21st for Pastor Tim Meadows of Woodland United Methodist Church at Pike Road, Ala.



After 9 years at UMC, Pastor Tim has retired for medical reasons. Their sons, Seth and Walker, along with his wife, Cheri, were there with Pastor Tim to greet the many church members who came by to wish them well. He and Cheri, will reside in Wetumpka, Ala.



RETIRED UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT (See a Pastor for Details)



Honoring Our Heroes

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Dear Ms. Grant:
I just read the absolutely outstanding article about me in your Gazette. Dr. Simmons not only painted a wonderful summary of my life but she also got everything correct. I will share your outstanding Gazette with family and friends around the country. Please express my heart-felt appreciation to Martha for our outstanding work.
Warmest regards, Pete Land (May 2020 issue)

Col. Joseph Edward Boyett, Jr.: 84

Col. Joseph E. Boyett Jr. served 25 years in the United States Air Force in military logistics. As an operations research scientist, he created models to understand cause and effect relationships between support systems and weapon systems and to discover ways to improve combat capability. His studies led to changes in support systems that were confirmed by improvements in cost, schedule and performance. He received the following medals: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Commendation Medal.



Boyett was born August 31, 1935, in Nashville, GA to Joseph Edward Boyett Sr. and Susie Mae Folsom-Boyett. He was reared near Lakeland, GA and graduated from Lanier County High School in 1953.

Boyett graduated from the University of Georgia with a B.S. Degree in Forestry, which is now Environmental Science, and worked for the Georgia Department of Forestry before entering the U. S. Air Force. Although he had dreamed of flying since 1941 as a farm boy near Moody Air Force Base (AFB) GA, he was not physically qualified and instead began work in military logistics, including maintenance, supply, transportation, procurement, and planning.

Boyett's service began when he completed training at Francis E. Warren AFB in WY, followed by deployment to Kadena Air Base Okinawa for three and one-half years. This was followed by assignment to George AFB in CA for three years where he was the Transportation Squadron Commander. He completed a Master's Degree in Finance at the University of Colorado and was then reassigned to the Military Airlift Command Headquarters at Scott AFB in IL.

Boyett demonstrated an ability to solve logistic problems that led to significant improvements in mission performance. In 1968, Boyett was deployed for one year to Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, which was attacked during Tet II, and several aircraft were destroyed. He returned to the University of Colorado where he earned a Ph.D. in Operations Research in 1972. His dissertation was on scheduling theoretical concepts incorporated today in Artificial Intelligence. He also completed doctoral courses in economics and finance. Boyett served as professor in the School of Systems and Logistics at Wright-Paterson AFB in OH, 1972-1976. Boyett was then assigned to the Pentagon but located at Gunter AFB in AL, where he created the research core of the new Air Force Logistics Management Center. The new agency was assigned personnel with little or no research experience to discover new and evolving technology to improve Air Force logistics. In 1981, he was reassigned to the Air War College as Director of Military Research where he retired that same year.

His research led to government use of "Performance Based Management," lifetime warranted hand tools, air cargo planning systems, earned value management for software projects, and other improvements in military logistics. He was an advocate of integrating theories of "reliability, maintainability, inventory, and scheduling" with "general systems" into a unified military logistics model. Boyett was active in the Military Operations Research Society and other research groups.

Boyett continued teaching at two Alabama universities. First, he served as a professor of Industrial Operations Management in the School of Business of Auburn University's main campus followed by working as Dean of Computer & Information, Science, and Mathematics at Troy University, Montgomery, AL. He then became an independent IT and Logistics Consultant 1997-2012. Since then, he has written on artificial intelligence and its opportunities in military logistics. Today, Boyett enjoys reading philosophy and studying genetics, especially DNA, within the Boyett and Folsom families.

He and his first wife, Faye Joyce Stone, were together 47 years before she passed away; they had three children and four grandchildren. He and his second wife, Carol Ann Pressley, were together 10 years before she passed away.

Boyett reflects upon his service in the military saying, "It meant everything to me. While working out in the gym at Maxwell AFB, I talk to many people, from Pearl Harbor survivors to newbies. I tell them they are going to miss their comrades when they retire, especially working with people who understand and practice 'ethics and integrity'."

James Robert Phillips: Vietnam War Medic, 80

James Robert Phillips served 25.5 years in the U.S. Army with four tours during three years as a medic with the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam. Wearing the special head gear, the Green Beret, this soldier earned the following awards and medals: National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, Army



Commendation Medal with "V" Device (2d OLC), Good Conduct Medal (8th Award), Vietnam Service Medal (One Silver Star), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, Unit Citation with Palm, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal, Unit Citation, Presidential Citation, Republic of Vietnam Jump Wings, Overseas Service Bars (3), Army Service Ribbon, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (Advanced Level), Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), Combat Medical Badge, Master Parachutist Badge. Although he was wounded by shrapnel, he refused to accept the Purple Heart because he had witnessed the more serious life-threatening wounds of other soldiers, and he wished to continue treating others.

Phillips was born November 27, 1939, in Amelia Court House, VA, to his parents, Garfield and Julia Phillips. He was reared in Yonkers, NY, where he graduated from Commerce High School in 1958. He completed all requirements except for internship for a degree in elementary education from Elizabeth City State Teachers College (Elizabeth City State University) because of the necessity of returning home to assist his mother in taking care of his siblings following the death of his father. For the next two years, he worked in a variety of labor-intensive jobs, including cleaning restrooms.

Phillips' military career began in 1964 with his volunteering to serve in the U. S. Army in the Airborne. He completed Basic Training at Ft. Dix, NJ, with advanced individual training at Ft. Gordon, GA, followed by Jump-School for six weeks of paratrooper training at Ft. Benning, GA. While there, he was asked to train in Special Forces. He then trained at Ft. Bragg, NC, for the Special Forces, and he was chosen to serve in the medical corps and completed 52 weeks to graduate and earn the Green Beret. From a class of 90 soldiers, he was one of 14 who graduated, and during that time, the Vietnam War evolved. Before he knew it, he was one of the Special Forces headed to Vietnam to serve with the 5th Special Forces Group working with the Montagnards.

The CIA determined that there were 75,000 people living in the central highlands of Vietnam. These people were the Montagnards, known as the "people of the mountains", a primitive, neutral people who could be trained and turned into supporting the South Vietnam government. These people still hunted with spears and crossbows, and they wanted to be left alone and to continue with their culture. Viet Cong death squads began assassinating even some of the Montagnards, and they became disenchanted with the North's cause.

Phillips served with the 5th Special Forces Group headquartered at Nha Trang. The 5th SFG(A) is one of the most decorated active duty U. S. Army Special Forces Groups in the U. S. Army. There were 200 teams of Green Berets whose mission was to equip, organize and lead these indigenous tribesmen to war against the Viet Cong. The Green Berets differed from the typical soldiers, as they were tasked with turning indigenous tribesmen into modern mercenaries. As a Green Beret medic, Phillips ran a small dispensary where he trained Montagnards in first aid, delivered babies and took care of the sick. As a Green Beret, he ate what the Montagnards ate including roasted chicken, rice, rodents, lizards, snakes and bats and slept in their huts.

The United States Army Special Forces, colloquially known as the Green Berets due to their distinctive service headgear, are a special operations force

of the United States Army that is designed to deploy and execute nine doctrinal missions: unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, direct action, counter-insurgency, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, information operations, counterproliferation of weapon of mass destruction, and security force assistance via seven geographically focused groups: The first two emphasize language, cultural, and training skills in working with foreign troops. Other duties include combat search and rescue (CSAR), counter-narcotics, hostage rescue, humanitarian assistance, humanitarian demining, information operations, peacekeeping, psychological operations, and manhunts; other components of the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) or other U.S. government activities may also specialize in these secondary areas.

Phillips served four tours with the Special Forces during three years with Special Forces Operational Detachment (A) in Dak Pek, Vietnam, working with the Montagnards. As a medic, he treated wounded American soldiers, often saving their lives until they could be medevaced to the Defense Services Hospital. He also treated Montagnard soldiers and their families and villagers from the 18 villages surrounding the camps. After leaving Vietnam, Phillips attended the Defense Language School in Arlington, VA, where he studied Spanish for four months. His next Special Forces deployment was to the Panama Canal with the 8th Special Forces Group for four years during the time of the conflict between Honduras and San Salvador. He then went to Ft. Devens, MA, serving with Special Forces in Europe for eight years. His last overseas assignment was in Germany as 1st Sergeant of a medical company followed by NCOC of Mental Health for the 3rd Armored Division. Phillips' last duty station was at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, IN, where he served as chief medic at the Hawley Army Hospital retiring there in 1989.

Using the G.I. Bill, Phillips received a B.S. Degree in Psychology from Butler University in 1992 and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Purdue University-Indiana University at Indianapolis, IN, in 1994. He returned to Hawley Army Hospital at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, where he worked for three years as Chief of Social Work Services. He then worked in defense, finance and accounting in Indianapolis for 12 years, retiring in 2007 after completing 15 years of civil service.

Since his second retirement, Phillips has enjoyed volunteer service to veterans and being with his family. Phillips worked as a veterans' service officer within veterans' service organizations such as Vietnam Veterans of America in Indianapolis for ten years. Phillips and his wife, Reba, have been married 16 years, and they have lived in Montgomery, AL since 2016. They enjoy traveling and spending time with their blended family of seven children and 11 grandchildren. He has continued voluntarily assisting veterans from all branches of the U.S. military.

Phillips reflects upon his life saying, "Being in the military changed my life completely. I can say that I am who I am today because of where I came from, not just the Special Forces, but also my family. My father urged me to be the best that I could. My mother was always behind me in everything. When I joined the Army, the Vietnam War was going on. My first assignment was with the Montagnards. I had not seen such devoted people and not just because we saved their lives. They were downtrodden, homeless and pushed into the mountains. There were times in my life when I should have been dead, but God had a purpose for me. Today, I tell my soldiers, 'you are not alone. There is help out there.'"

Phillips likes to be addressed as "Doc," which is a result of his Vietnam War service as a medic. He truly possesses a servant's heart, exemplified by his military service as a medic, his university-level education and in psychology and social work followed by employment in social services and in volunteering as a counselor to America's veterans recovering from their war-time experiences.

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



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William L. Carl: 85

William L. Carl served in the United States Air Force for 28 years. He received the following awards and medals: Meritorious Service Medal with One Device, Air Force Commendation Medal with Three Devices, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with Six Devices, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship, Ribbon with One Device, NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon with One Device, Good Conduct Medal (Army), Air Force Longevity Service Award with Six Devices and National Service Medal.



Carl was born February 17, 1935, in Elmira, NY to his parents, Frank F. Carl, Sr. and Hazel I. Carl. He graduated from Corning Northside High School after which he worked driving trucks and farming. In 1957, at age 22, he volunteered to serve in the U. S. Air Force. He completed Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in San Antonio, TX. He was trained and assigned to work as clerk-typist, which he did at his first four duty stations. At Eglin AFB, FL, he worked in preparation of classified files for one year. He was deployed to Kusan, Korea, for one year followed by assignment to Sheppard AFB, TX, and then to Offutt AFB, NE. He changed his Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) to

refueling aircraft and was sent to Sheppard AFB, TX for training in refueling aircraft and to Castle AFB, CA for flight training in refueling aircraft. His first assignment was to Grand Forks AFB, ND, to work with aircraft fueling of the KC-135 aircraft with the 905th Refueling Squadron. Carl was deployed to Nakhon Phanom Air Base, Thailand, during 1967-1968 for one year where he trained and worked in maintenance on the A-26 fighter-bomber, which had eight 50-caliber guns. He returned to Sheppard AFB, followed by deployment to Vietnam, for which he volunteered. For six months, he worked in training the South Vietnamese in quality control maintenance of the Huey-18 helicopter. After another assignment to Sheppard AFB, he was deployed again to Korea in 1970-1972, where he worked as a weights-and-balance technician in the maintenance of helicopters. Carl's next assignments were to Homestead AFB, FL and to Hurlbert Field, FL, where he was a supervisor of helicopter maintenance. He returned to Kusan, Korea, where he worked in quality control of helicopter maintenance. He was then sent to Castle AFB, CA, followed by another deployment to Korea. He had four different tours in Korea for a total eight years there. His last assignment was at Maxwell AFB, AL, in quality control, where he retired in 1985 at the rank of E-8. After military retirement, Carl was employed for 17.5 years in contract work doing the same kind of quality control with all kinds of aircraft as a civilian employee.

Carl and his wife, Gloria, had two sons. He and his second wife, Kyong, have been married 46 years, and they had two sons and six grandchildren. Carl's hobby is recycling and selling scrap metal to junkyards. He serves as a caretaker at a hunting camp in Autauga County, AL. He enjoys taking things apart. Several years ago, he suffered an anaphylaxis shock from being bitten by fire ants while at the hunting camps, and Carl states that he visualized standing at the Pearly Gates of Heaven before recovering. This experience resulted in his abstinence from drinking alcohol. He is happy to report that he is a recovering alcoholic, not having had a drink since November 1986. On the third Thursday of each month, he enjoys meeting with veterans at Trinity Baptist Church where they have fellowship and engage in prayer support.

Carl's conclusions about his military service are: "I was proud to serve, and I got to meet so many people, especially generals who appreciated what I did." He began as a clerk typist then worked as a boom operator in-flight on the KC-135 refueling other planes, followed by aircraft maintenance in quality control.

The Story of the Declaration of Independence

This story, written by Bobbie Ames, first appeared in the July 2012 issue of the *Alabama Gazette* and has been included in the author's recent book, **Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage**.

"The story of the Declaration is a part of the story of a national legacy, but to understand it, it is necessary to understand as well its makers, the world they lived in, the conditions which produced them, the confidence which encouraged them, the indignities which humiliated them, the obstacles which confronted them, the ingenuity which helped them, the faith which sustained them, the victory which came to them. It is, in other words, a part, a very signal part of a civilization and a period, from which, unlike his Britannic Majesty, it makes no claim to separation. On the contrary, unsurpassed as it is, it takes its rightful place in the literature of democracy. For its primacy, is a primacy which derives from the experience which evoked it. It is imperishable because that experience is remembered."

We are quoting David C. Means, Assistant Librarian of the Library of Congress in the publication, "The Story of A Document," Washington, 1950.

The Declaration was signed on August 2, 1776, and filed in the office of the Secretary of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. The parchment was rolled up and rested undisturbed except when it was brought out to be signed by other delegates. When Congress, in order to avoid the British, was reconvened in Baltimore, the document was transported in a light wagon where it remained until safe to return to Philadelphia. It found temporary lodging in a number of locations, the courthouse at York, Pennsylvania, Annapolis, Maryland, Trenton, New Jersey, and New York's City Hall. When the First Congress convened under the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration was given in to the custody of the Secretary of State, returning to Philadelphia. President John Adams directed its move to the Federal City in the District of Columbia in 1800. In the summer of 1814, the threat of unfriendly British caused Secretary of State, James Monroe, to order its evacuation. It was stored in the home of a Reverend. Mr. Littlejohn, at Leesburg, Virginia, for several weeks.

Then it was safely returned to the District of Columbia.

By 1823, it was announced that a prominent engraver, Mr. William J. Stone, has for three years worked on and now completed a facsimile of the Original Declaration of Independence. now in the archives of the government, "that it is executed with the greatest exactness and fidelity; and that the Department of State has become the purchaser of the plate." This enabled American citizens to have their own copies of this, America's Birth Certificate, and also protected the original from unnecessary exposure. What school child of any generation would not recognize this parchment?

Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, in 1841, ordered various articles, including the Declaration, transferred to the National Gallery. Unfortunately, the Declaration along with Washington's Commission as Commander in Chief, hung on the wall for viewing, and both were exposed to "the chill of winter and the heat of summer."

The Declaration went back to Philadelphia for the One Hundredth Anniversary, celebrated with a national exhibition. A grandson of Richard Henry Lee spoke on the occasion. The Philadelphia Press described the document as "age dimmed." At this time, in August, 1876, Congress adopted a Joint Resolution that a commission, consisting of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and the Librarian of Congress, be empowered to find the means to restore the writing of the original manuscript and the signatures.

Throughout the years, the care and preservation of the historical documents of our history have been a primary concern for the Chief of Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. The papers of George Washington, of James Madison, of Thomas Jefferson, of Alexander Hamilton, and of Benjamin Franklin, were transferred from the Department of State to the Library of Congress in 1903. They are the focus of a legacy, unlike any other nation has ever enjoyed, a legacy of Christian self-government.

In the building housing these Archives, the Declaration has a permanent home, much like a "shrine." Designed by Francis Bacon (brother of Henry Bacon,

architect of the Lincoln Memorial), the site is on the second floor of the Great Hall. Into New York black marble is inscribed, "The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States." Surrounding the entire shrine is a solid white balustrade of Italian marble, suggesting the chancel rail before an altar, which from the outside would provide a clear view of the charters.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the documents were removed and safely deposited at Fort Knox, until all danger had passed. Hundreds of thousands of citizens gaze at the parchment annually. Some have understanding of their significance, and many do not. Jefferson wrote about the greatest gift of all, Liberty. We are created by the Creator, and we are all born with certain unalienable rights given to us by the Creator, that among these are the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This "right" of liberty will result in all manner of inequalities as we live our individual lives. The ones who work the hardest usually get ahead, the ones who are frugal try to avoid perpetual indebtedness. Those individuals who are good stewards of these rights are blessed by the One who gave these rights.

Patrick Henry gave careful warnings; "Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel, for nothing will preserve it but downright force."

In Jefferson's last letter to James Madison, fifty years after they met, he wrote,... "it has been a great solace to me, to believe that you are engaged in vindicating to posterity the course we have pursued for preserving to them, in all their purity, the blessings of self-government, which we had assisted in acquiring for them (the People).

Madison responded, "You cannot look back on the long period of our private friendship and political harmony, with more affecting recollections than I do.....and I indulge a confidence that sufficient evidence will find its way to another generation, to ensure, after we are gone, whatever of justice may be withheld whilst we are here."

The Declaration was not written as a legal document, Praise the Lord. Jefferson was not a lawyer, nor was Washington or Franklin. The Declaration was an outpouring from the heart of Jefferson. In this First Inaugural, he said it this way, "Sometimes it is said that a man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the form of kings to govern him?" Jefferson laid the foundation by declaring, "We hold these truths to be self-evident." This parchment is our anchor, our foundation, of what we believe about ourselves and about sustaining our inalienable rights.

The closeness of Jefferson and Madison was certainly a factor in Madison's design of the Constitution. The Declaration would spell out the philosophy of who we are as a people, as defined by our Creator. The Constitution defines how we can govern ourselves with the checks and balances to protect us from abuse, from tyranny.

On this July Fourth, on Independence Day, I hope that you will reread the Declaration of Independence and ponder this experiment upon the theory of human rights. When John Quincy Adams took office as President of the United States, he began his inaugural by stating, "I appear my fellow citizens, in your presence and in that of heaven, to bind myself by the solemnities of religious obligation to the faithful performance of the duties allotted to me in the station to which I have been called....to secure the blessings of liberty to the people of this Union in their successive generations." Writing a letter to his son, he gave this advice, "You should adopt certain rules and principles for the government of your conduct and temper. It is in the Bible that you must learn them." John Adams, the father, wrote "truth, liberty, justice, and benevolence are the everlasting basis of law and government, and if these could be removed, the superstructure is overthrown, of course."

The founders of this nation were grounded and rooted in the Bible as the source of Truth. They did not look to the government for their identity. Revisionists have rewritten America's History for public education and the majority of the Media world, but modern Christian scholars, such as David Barton, are helping to rebuild the foundations of America's Christian History, which is our true History. The parchment, so treasured throughout our history, will continue to be a living document if we claim it, and live by its principles.

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

William C. Stewart: July 5

William C. Allison: July 9

Raymond Keel: July 9

Sylvester Cannon: July 15

Jesse C. Perkins: July 18

Perron Lowe: July 21

Alex George: July 24

Robert S. Kohn: July 28



Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage

With the gracious forcefulness of a true Southern lady, **Bobbie Ames** confronts us with our current societal dilemma, traces its development, reminds us of our compelling history at God's Hand, and leads us toward the solution to the recovery of America's great heritage. This overview of four hundred years of American spiritual struggle and victory should grace every home and educational institution, to read and re-read for decades to come.

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



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

Our economy depends on cash flow. Our farmers, ranchers and other small businesses need as much help as we can afford. Buy local and help your fellow Alabamians. Also, don't forget to donate to your local food bank whenever possible!



This was my opening for last month’s article, “Here we are, still not knowing what is going to happen next. As I said in my last article, let’s look positively; let’s look at the bright side. Hopefully by the time you read this, people will be out and about, even if they are leery of what lurks ahead.” Things haven’t changed much since then. Ree Drummond has a line she quotes at the beginning of each episode of her show, **The Pioneer Woman**: “Here’s what’s happening on the ranch.” I am not going to tell you what’s happening in the world, but I will share some of the things that are happening at The Cottage.

My goal every month is to inform you about food. How to prepare it, how to serve it, and where to find the ingredients you need for the meals. I will throw in some tips and hints, and items you need to help you be a better cook. I use my collection of about 500 to 600 cookbooks, thousands of digital and printed recipes and (what was missing at the start of my career) the Internet at my fingertips, to find recipes that are pertinent to the topic of my articles. My profession as a chef started in Texas and I retired here in Alabama. These two states influenced me and drew me to the type of recipes and styles of cooking of the Southwest and the South. The differences between the two have kind of blurred, with each one adding to the other’s style. Living in Europe and Asia from the first grade to the ninth grade also influenced what I like to cook and eat.

A topic that is timely this month has to do with what is plentiful from home gardens and from farmer’s markets. I also found the best recipes for fresh produce from Cook’s Country. Tomatoes are taking up most of my time in the

garden. I can pick about twenty-five cherry tomatoes everyday. I have seen unshucked corn in the stores. Though it is not a common item in home gardens, there are a few homes near me that have large enough gardens for corn. A relative in Childersburg has a large garden and has produced potatoes and corn. I vacuum-packed the corn and canned the potatoes, which lasted me for over a year. Cucumbers are plentiful, but the best ones, Hot House cucumbers, are a bit pricey. Zucchini is another home garden favorite. At least to some home gardeners! It is so easy to grow that I read somewhere that August 8th is Sneak Some Zucchini onto your Neighbor’s Porch Day. I think it come from *The Old Farmer’s Almanac*.

So in this month’s recipes, I will use produce from my garden and from my front porch!

I tried a new recipe for zucchini last week. The picture I saw made me want to try it. This was only the second meal my wife and I threw away. I looked for other zucchini recipes, but I did not want rosemary or sage in the recipe. I wanted to taste the zucchini. I also did not want to bake it. My kitchen is hot enough without the oven on. I found many recipes using cherry tomatoes and zucchini, where the only difference was the method. I settled on using the recipe from *Cook’s Country* because the zucchini tasted like zucchini and was not over-cooked and mushy. I did add a few more cherry tomatoes than called for; I had to use them somewhere!

BRAISED ZUCCHINI

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 zucchini (≈ 8 oz ea), qtrtr lengthwise & cut crosswise into 2-in pieces (see notes)
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup water
- 2 sprigs of fresh basil
- 2 garlic cloves, sliced thin
- Salt & pepper
- ¼ tsp red pepper flakes
- 3 oz (¼ cup) cherry tomatoes, halved
- Lemon wedges



Yield: 4 servings

METHOD:

- Bring zucchini, oil, water, basil, garlic, 1 tsp salt, ¼ tsp pepper & the pepper flakes to boil in 12-in nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Then reduce heat to medium, cover & simmer until zucchini is fork-tender ≈ 8 min. Stir mixture w/rubber spatula every 2 min.
- Gently stir in tomatoes & cook uncovered until tomatoes are just softened, ≈ 2 min. Discard basil sprigs. Transfer to serving platter & serve w/lemon wedges.

Notes: Larger zucchini will be less flavorful and mealy. Do not cut too small or in chunks or they will overcook.

The next recipe gives you two options on how to prep the corn for a corn-and-cucumber salad. You can take whole ears of corn and grill them until you have some tasty char on the corn, and then cut it off the cob or cut the fresh corn from the cob and cook it in a skillet at medium-high heat with a little olive oil and salt until kernels are browned and soft. I prefer the grill method. Higher heat than a pan and it is easier to turn the cobs than to make sure all the corn in the pan is browned and not overcooked. You also have two options with the cucumbers. An English (or Hot House cucumber), which has small seeds, less water or an American cucumber, which is seedy and thick,-skinned and usually coated with wax. There is also a big difference in price, with the American cucumber being cheaper. This recipe will use the grilled corn method but the American cucumbers.

ROASTED CORN & TOMATO CUCUMBER SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 ears of corn on cob until grilled
- 5 Tbsp lime juice (2-3 limes)
- ¼ cup sour cream
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
- ½ red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 American cucumber, peeled, then halved lengthwise & seeds scooped out then sliced thin. (English cucumbers just halve lengthwise & slice thin)
- ¼ cup feta cheese crumbles



Yield: 4-6 servings

Choice: Either ¼ cup fresh basil leaves torn, or one jalapeno, stemmed, halved, seeded & sliced thin with cilantro leaves.

METHOD:

- Heat an outdoor grill to med heat. To roast corn, rub shucked ears with ½ tsp olive oil, reserving remaining oil to dress salad. Place corn on grill & cook, turning often, until corn is slightly charred & still crisp, 8 to 10 min. Remove from heat & cool briefly.
- Cut kernels off cob & place in large bowl. (Two cobs of corn should yield 1½ to 2 cups of kernels.)
- Combine oil, lime juice & sour cream, add to corn then add cucumber, tomatoes & red onion, then jalapeno or basil. Toss, transfer to serving platter & top w/feta.

I introduced a recipe for Hasselback Sweet Potatoes a while back. Now with so many tomatoes why not try Hasselback Tomatoes. The trick is to cut a slice off of the long side of the tomato. Not a thick slice, but enough so when you turn the tomato on that cut, the tomato will not roll. Also remove the core where the tomato was connected to the plant. The easiest way is with a "tomato shark", you know, it looks like a small spoon with teeth. If you don't have one, get one. In the mean time use a paring knife and try not to cut yourself. This recipe works if you have plum or Italian tomatoes, not round tomatoes.

HASSELBACK TOMATOES

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 large plum tomatoes
- 1/3 pound shredded Italian cheese blend, your choice (a blend of hard cheeses could take longer to melt. See note in preparation.
- 2 oz basil pesto
- 1/3 cup pure olive oil
- ½ cup Panko bread crumbs
- 3 Tbsp butter, melted
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- To taste salt and pepper (tomatoes require a fair amount of salt)



Yield: 4-8 servings

METHOD:

- Preheat broiler, making sure rack is at least 3 inches from heat source.
 - Slice each tomato very thinly on one side so it’s able to sit up on wire rack on foil-lined baking pan without rolling. Now thinly slice each tomato crosswise w/serrated knife into ¼-in slices without cutting all the way down. Leave 1/3 inch of the bottom intact.
 - Add cheeses, pesto, olive oil, and salt and pepper in a bowl and mix thoroughly. While separating each slice, carefully stuff w/equal amounts of cheese mixture.
 - In small bowl, mix Panko w/melted butter & garlic. Sprinkle over each stuffed tomato.
 - Place tomatoes on broiler rack & cook for about 3 min, checking often, or until top is nicely browned. Turn off broiler & allow tomatoes to continue cooking in residual heat in oven from broiler for at least 5 min, or until hot throughout, not allowing tomatoes to get too soft.
- Notes:** After trying this recipe I feel the tomatoes should be in the oven first then under the broiler. The oven doesn’t have enough residual heat to melt the cheese. Cook in the oven first at about 325° for maybe 10 minutes. This will heat the cheeses. Check the Panko & when it is starting to brown you can put the tomatoes under the broiler for further browning if desired.
- Remove from oven and serve immediately.

A vegetable garden in the beginning looks so promising and then little by little it grows nothing but vegetables; nothing, nothing but vegetables!

Enjoy!

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Stan Hurst
Associate Sports Writer

and left us, still wondering what the prospects are for any sports season of any kind to take place. Eventually in June, Dixie Youth Baseball returned along with some travel baseball and softball teams playing tournaments again. This is wonderful for our kids, and hopefully our communities COVID-19 numbers will improve so they may continue.



Photo by Ulrik De Wachter/FreelImages.com

for baseball fans. Additionally, there will be no cross-continental games. The East plays in the East and the West plays in the West. Interestingly enough, the Yankees and Red Sox will play each other 10 games out of the 60-game season. The designated hitter rule will apply to both American League as well as National League teams. As MLB states, this has been proclaimed “to protect pitchers from batting, a skill they have little time to practice.” Extra inning games will have a new twist as well. In the event of an extra inning game, the team batting will have a runner placed on second base, to prevent extended extra innings. Both visitors and the home team will have this opportunity.

I truly have no illusions that the “best” teams will make it to the playoffs, but it should make for good TV ratings. Talk about the importance of every game, well now we sure have it. It’s hard to wrap your head around. I’ve processed the season this way: The 60-game schedule is like a giant series of pool play that travel ball uses to parse out the weak teams and have the finals and World Series used as the championship round of play.

Players on the lineup will be in the dugout, additional players including pitchers, will sit in the stands and follow proper social distancing. Players will not be allowed to celebrate, no high-fives, no hugs; and no chewing tobacco! Only chewing gum will be allowed, however, no mention of sunflower seeds. The players will be compensated via proration based on the 60 games, that translates into 33 percent of their agreed upon salaries. There will be bonuses for post-season play. It’s important to note the Players Union did not agree with this proposal. The Players Union lobbied for 80 games, but since no actual agreement could be reconciled, the players simply told the owners: tell us when and where and we will be there. It’s important to note that the majority of Major League Baseball owners preferred the season be cancelled this year.

The Baseball season is well underway in Japan and South Korea, with no fans in the stands, rather pictures of fans in the stadium as reported last month. I’ve not heard that mentioned from MLB, however, why not.

NASCAR continues to have races and recently admitted 700 or so fans at the recent Talladega Race. This motorsport, once impervious to political and social wrangling, found its self mired in a very messy business at Talladega, and so much has been reported about it, we can decide for ourselves about the facts. I find myself surprised that I like NASCAR much less without fans present and just can’t get interested in watching it. Perhaps if they would allow Hyundai to field a competitive car I’d be more likely to watch it. A writer with much more



From Pigskins to Rawhides



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

Say it Ain’t so, Joe!

provenance than I, recently lamented that NASCAR died when Dale Earnhardt was killed in an accident at Daytona. Perhaps it didn’t die that day, but it has been in noticeable decline since.

The NFL is rolling ahead with plans for a full slate of games, including pre-season and a 17-game regular season schedule. While I admire its tenacity and confidence, it seems unrealistic at the time of this writing that what the NFL is proposing will actually come to fruition. The NFL does have a fan-screening process in place as the fans enter the stadiums, and a strong COVID-19 protocol for players who become infected. I’m persuaded this will become much more complicated as the season unfolds. I am by no means a health expert, however at the moment, common sense tells me this is going to become, and is becoming, a very difficult task to accomplish. Fraught with complex tentacles and issues that might well cause a halt or, at the very least, a radical adjustment to the NFL season plans.

The NCAA football season is more complicated than the NFL can imagine. There is not a solid plan in place; it’s for all intents and purposes, a wait-and-see process. I fear we will bewail the NCAA football season for it likely will be nothing short of a sport we love but can hardly recognize. While I’m a “cup-half-full” guy, with great optimism, if the prevailing COVID-19 situation does not get measurably better, we need to prepare ourselves that our favorite spectator sport will not materialize. It’s conceivable to me that the season could start and then we might see a pause in the games. I think that’s a reasonable expectation. And if it does pause, what then? I’m simply dealing with the facts as I see them. No conspiracy theories, just the facts. It seems unlikely the games could be played in our current environment. Eight weeks is a long time and we could experience a miraculous improvement, I sure hope so. But look at the situation on the date you read this article. And just imagine we have the same situation as we currently do in eight or nine weeks and ask yourself; can you really see 80-plus-thousand fans in a stadium watching a football game for three hours?

I sure hope I’m wrong.



Photo by Photo by Ned Horton/FreelImages.com



Photo from freerangestock.com

Next time.



Judge Peggy Givhan

find the right plant and then we are bending, squatting and stooping while planting. And let’s not leave out one of my favorites: weeding. Whether we decide to hand-pull weeds or use a hoe, great work out. When we are outside this time of year, we are exposed to sunlight, which in turn helps us get adequate vitamin D. There was a study in 2006 that gardening activities reduce the risk of dementia by over 30% in future years. Of all hobbies, gardening has been found to lower stress and promote better moods. It helps combat loneliness when there are fewer opportunities for socialization as in today’s Covid-19 environment. And if you are a vegetable gardener, much joy is had when tomatoes, green beans and squash are picked and eaten from one’s own garden. Remember that there are many veggies which can be grown in pots, such as tomatoes, bell peppers, bush green beans and more. So let’s get outside and get those gloved hands in the dirt.



Photo by Kelvin Silburn,FreeImages

PLANT OF THE MONTH Mimosa (Albizia julibrissin)

Mimosa trees with scented fuzzy pink-and-white blooms are the last flowering trees that bloom in early June and through the summer months. Some people hate this tree because of the ugly seedpods, and its profligate ability to reproduce. I term this a messy tree, since one suddenly has thousands of seedlings. Also, just after several years when the tree has matured, it dies. Mimosa trees hail from Asia and the Middle East. Their flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds. I have one outside my kitchen window and have

enjoyed the flowery show over the years. A couple of weeks ago, the bloom heads dropped to the ground and I then noticed that the leaves curled, turned yellow and have been dropping. A little research discovered that there is a disease that is decimating these trees. I have found by Googling Mimosa Diseases, that it is a soil borne fungus known as Mimosa or Fusarium wilt which has become entrenched throughout much of Mimosa’s range, restricting the trees in some areas, and actually threatening the survival of Mimosas in others. Bye, bye Mimosa tree.

How America will be celebrating the Fourth of July will be anyone’s guess. Perhaps no fireworks, but we need to get into a Patriotic spirit. Our homes can symbolize our sentiments through flying American flags, or posting smaller ones out front in prominent places. I have seen bunting hung from porches, and flag wreaths on front doors. However, the ultimate symbol would be a red, white and blue flowerbed. I have done this in the past, but in today’s world, it would have special meaning. For instance, red dragon wing begonias, white vinca or white impatiens, and blue ageratum would look smashing. One can also carry out this theme with pot gardens. Begonias, vinca, impatiens and ageratum or really any blue flower can be bought locally.



Photo by Julia Freeman-Woolpert,FreeImages

HAPPY FOURTH of JULY and GOOD GARDENING.

Montgomery Rotary Club presents donation to Faulkner University's Pre-K Program

Members of the Montgomery Rotary Club presented a generous donation to Faulkner University's Pre-K program to provide students this fall with new books.

The check for \$500 was presented by Montgomery Rotary Club members to Faulkner Pre-K lead teacher Mila Stevens and director of the Faulkner University Pre-K program, Dr. Leslie Cowell on June 26.

For more than 100 years, the Montgomery Rotary Club has supported community projects large and small. When they were asked to help the students at Faulkner's Pre-K classrooms, they immediately agreed.

“Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy,” said Graham L. Champion, President of the Montgomery Rotary Club. *“One of Rotary International’s six goals is supporting education.”* We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults. Supporting these classrooms that are a vital part of Alabama’s award winning First Class Pre-K program compliments our Club’s efforts in supporting education which also includes delivering a dictionary each year to every third grade student in public schools in Montgomery County. We appreciate the opportunity to be a small part in the support of this great program.”

Faulkner University's Pre-K which began in 2018, is the site for two of Alabama's First Class Pre-K program classrooms in an effort to increase enrollment of four-year-olds statewide. Both classrooms accommodate a total of 32 children.

“We want to thank the Montgomery Rotary Club for their generosity and willingness to help our Pre-K students,” said Cowell. “Being able to offer a Pre-K program to this area of the city is a perfect opportunity to serve the community where the need is so great. Especially during this time, whenever you have the community comes together for our children, it’s a beautiful thing.”

Faulkner University's Dean of the College of Education, Leslie Cowell Ph.D., applied for the state grants to provide Pre-K classrooms in Montgomery and was approved for two classrooms.

Tuition is free and families must live in Alabama.



Pictured left to right: Montgomery Rotary Club President, Graham Champion presents a check to Mila Stevens and Dr. Leslie Cowell along with several members of the Montgomery Rotary Club in attendance."


Contact: Rebecca Burylo, public relations manager at 334-386-7489 or rburylo@faulkner.edu

College, COVID-19, and Me

by Beth Thomas, Alabama Gazette Intern



Beth Thomas

A portrait of Beth Thomas, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a red patterned top. She is smiling slightly and looking down. The photo is framed with a thin black border.

Beth Thomas

As I sat with my friends in the campus library in mid-March at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, we heard a rumor that changed the rest of our semester: school was closing, and we were all going home. Of course, it was a rumor, and we immediately began asking professors if they had heard anything. They gave similar answers: “I heard something about it, but nothing is confirmed. If I hear anything, I’ll let you know.” Then, within a blink of an eye, not only were classes all going online, but everyone had to leave campus due to Coronavirus. and to paraphrase administration: “Don’t expect to come back for at least a month.”


I said goodbye to my friends, packed all of my essentials, and drove home as quickly as possible. The change wasn't incredibly difficult for me, as most of my work was already done on my computer anyway. The most challenging issue was groupwork, but with programs like *Google Docs* and *GroupMe*, I was able to overcome any initial problems.

What was most difficult for me was keeping in touch with all my friends. I value my small circle of fellow students, and I enjoy talking with them between classes or getting lunch together under the excuse of “doing homework,” even though we all know we were just going to talk instead and procrastinate as a group. Who cares about literature theory when we can talk about how awful our teams were at communicating? We texted regularly, sometimes about schoolwork and other times to just keep in touch. I really struggled with the lack of face-to-face communication. Texting and calling my friends is nice; I’m able to check in on them and make sure they’re all okay, especially as we’re well into our fourth month of social distancing and quarantine. I miss seeing them, though. There’s just something about looking at someone in the eyes while you’re talking, which I miss.

With the fall semester coming ever closer, the school has every hope of opening for in-person classes. However, the looming possibility that classes will still be online provides an interesting situation for me. On the one hand, being able to stay at home and not drive back and forth to campus all the time avoids many of the expenses college can bring. On the other hand, I value my independence and the experiences that college provides to me. Chatting with my friends and discussions with my professors were an integral part of my day. I miss that along with lunch with classmates, and meeting up with people for a quick break or to do fun things, which was a big stress reliever.

This year will be my senior year of college, and it is supposed to provide the foundation for me to jump into my career. My school provides multiple opportunities for students to make connections with companies and find jobs, but if those events aren't being held, where does that leave me? How am I to make those connections over the Internet, when there is still something important about meeting someone face-to-face and making a good impression? I was fortunate and blessed enough to receive this internship with the *Alabama Gazette* during this difficult time, when many of my friends are struggling to find openings at all. It gives me a chance to learn things that my professors can't teach me: real-world experience. If I'm unable to return to campus in person, I'm grateful that I will still be able to learn things in this position, where I am free to ask questions just as readily in the classroom.

I've always loved school and learning, and college has provided me so many opportunities to learn and grow as a person, but I've discovered through this experience that school truly holds a very important place in my heart. The connections I make with my classmates and professors are invaluable, and all that I have learned have given me a new perspective of the world, I wouldn't have otherwise gotten in my small corner of the world. This time is uncertain, and news seems to change in the blink of an eye, but I can say with certainty that I want to return to campus in the fall, if only to get those experiences back. If it comes to light that the fall semester will also be online, I can't say that I won't be disappointed, but I will accept this course of life as it comes. All I can do, is do the best with what I have and learn as much as I can while I'm here.





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

Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Buddy & Janet Boyd ~ 60th Anniversary!



Buddy & Janet Boyd celebrated their 60th Anniversary on June 5th with their children: Tracie (Setzer), Bruce and Lee Boyd.



Due to the Pandemic, the family enjoyed lunch and cake, along with a surprise of hearts and bunnies in the front yard provided by **Flamingo A Friend**.



Billie Ann and William Davis Celebrated their 50th Anniversary on Saturday, June 13, 2020, at the Venue at the Runway in Luverne, Ala, which is owned by their daughter and son-in-law, Shannon and Daryl McGough. The event was catered by Debbie Kemsel of Montgomery, with decorations by Sheryl Nelson of Honoraville. The ferns were on loan from Jean's Gardens & Grocery in Brantley. The couple were happy to share this occasion with other friends and family, including their daughter Bridget Worthington.

It's a Girl!



A drive-by Baby Shower honoring **Shelby Mason & welcoming Elizabeth (Libby) Gail** was held on Sunday, June 14th at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Greg Waller. Guests drove through a beautifully decorated yard to the front of the house to drop off

gifts and received curbside treats and favors. The Shower was given by Janet Coggins, Jennifer Brown, Delicia Fuller & Melissa Sinor.



Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Bob & Liz Morris | 19 Don & Nancy Rabren |
| 3 Everett & Alice Cole (50th) | 20 Spears & Carrie Rhodes |
| Dennis & Karen Weber | 21 Justin & Bethany Mims |
| 7 April & Hugh Smith, III (12th) | Shannon & Cindy K. Miles |
| 8 Bill & Charlotte Gaston | 26 Blake & Amanda Wise |
| 10 Fred & Jeanette Waldo (60th) | 28 Archie & Charlotte Mote (64th) |
| 12 Dorothy & Glenn Fuller (62nd) | 31 Zachery & Jennifer Gibbs |
| 16 Laird & Sarah Bone | |

July Birthdays



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Alan Moore
Butch (Mary) Moseley
Linda Foxworth | 14 Annie Bouchard
Miriam Head (90th)
Lansdon O'Mailia |
| 2 Ralph Davis
Lexie Turnipseed
George Pugh
Voncille Talley | 15 Joan Collier
Farley Pugh
Summer Rice
Paige Stringer |
| 4 Audrey Grant
Peggy Hubbard
David Johnson
Lynn McKinley
Cindy Smith | 16 Charlie Lamar
Sherry Tucker |
| 5 Ann Emory Harris
Kathy Ingram
Joyce Todd | 18 Linda Carleton
Ann Marie Dean
Laurie Smilie Sanders (93rd)
Sharon K. Walker |
| 6 Vicki Davis
Skip Mainor
Glenn Stringer
Amber Wooten | 19 Mary Lamar
Emma Ruthe Walker |
| 7 Knox Crowe
Carolyn Grant
Willie B. Jackson
Taylor Mills
Brian Mosley
Greg Mosley
Cindy Young
Betty Vann | 20 Tony Mitchell |
| 8 Mickie Ann Boyd
Helen Dibole
Fred Setzer | 22 Freddie Strength (71st)
Vangie Walmsley |
| 9 Joe Douglas
Katherine Kirk
Kathryn Ann Sikes (7th)
Doris Wallace (91st)
Irene Woodham | 23 Alana Jones Breedlove
Helen Broadway
Zachery Dibole
Matthew Grant
Rusty Moseley
Jim Scott |
| 10 Jeffery Horton
Pam Stewart
Al Webb | 24 Barbara Garrett |
| 11 Abby Boyd
Luke Frady
Ann Green Tucker
James Tucker
Trenton Windham | 25 Sara Boyd (92nd)
Ashley Corbin
Rod Nowakowski
Becky Windham
Brantley Woodall
Ty Woodall |
| 12 Cary Dean
Bonnie Williams | 26 Jason Adams
Judy Mann
Stacy Dickinson |
| 13 Jeremy Dickinson
Stacey Nestor | 27 Jimmy Norman (62nd) |
| | 28 Arnold Fuller
Melanie Higgins |
| | 29 Hilda Glover |
| | 30 Shawn O'Mailia
Emory Tucker
Ronnie Wallace |
| | 31 Brenda Davis
Meloney Gwin
Caroline Vocino
Marie Hudson
Stephanie Randall |

Belated Happy Anniversary to Kathy & Monty Gordon
~ June 26 they celebrated their 49th!

Randy & Donna Gernenz Celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on July 18, 2020!

Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Johnson, Charles Milton, "Mr. Pop" (86)	June 1
Motisi, Ellen C. (96)	June 2
Polizos, Kiki Hiras (87)	June 2
Price, John G. (91)	June 2
Wade, Richard Lee (70)	June 2
Duggar, Dr. Roger Sherman	June 3
Hawk, John Dee (83)	June 4
Strickland, Jr., Charles "Joe" (66)	June 4
Kornosky, Ronald John (82)	June 5
Payne, Barry Lee (61)	June 5
Thomas, Sr., James Edwin (94)	June 5
Anderson, Harry Alanson (90)	June 6
Hannon, Mildred Dimple (90)	June 7
Birtley, Sr., Thomas Owen (86)	June 12
Hicks, Floyd Glenn (95)	June 13
Huffman, Joe Lee (84)	June 13
James, Dr. Walter Thomas "Tommy" (76)	June 14
Thornton, Peggy Ann (79)	June 14
Hall, Mary P. Brannon (101)	June 20
Kennedy, Dorothy M., "Ms. Dot" (86)	June 21
Strickland, Robert "Bobby" Lee (72)	June 23

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Larry Owens	June 8
Buford Gray	June 8
Billy Calloway	June 8
Barry Wingard	June 9
Carolyn Graham	June 9
Debra Wilson	June 9
Betty Wyatt Mullins	June 10
Patricia Smith	June 11
Brandon Harmon	June 13
George Ewing	June 14
Donna Dodd	June 17
Edwin Wallace	June 21
Deborah DuBose	June 26
Patsy Wingard	June 27
Henderson Bass	June 27
Gloria Smith	June 27

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Tears and Laughter: Purple Martin People

By Amanda Walker

Even before daybreak, you can hear them singing their happy songs from inside their swinging gourds: the purple martin song. It is their season. They return every year from their winter homes in South America to raise their young. They fly the same instinctual path across the Gulf of Mexico, arriving in the South in early February.

There are two types of people—those who don't know or notice, and those who have proclaimed themselves to be landlords of the purple martin.

It is a tradition between humans and birds that started with Native Americans. They discovered—perhaps by accident—that purple martins would nest in gourds they would hang from the bare branches of young trees.

Back then, purple martins would also nest in hollowed-out tree holes and rock crevices, but years later, a New York businessman thought it would be a clever idea to bring every bird ever mentioned by Shakespeare to the United States. In Henry IV, "Part One," the starling is mentioned, and in 1890, a hundred starlings were released in Central Park. It was unknown at the time, but the starling is an invasive species. They are also an enemy of the purple martin. They nest in the same habitats. Starlings are aggressive and will kill baby martins. They will fight adult birds. Over time, this caused martins to become fully dependent upon humans to provide their nests.

Purple martins seem to like people as much as people enjoy having them. Being near houses keeps them safer from predators like snakes and hawks. Colonies will even locate in the middle of towns or business districts. And for some people, being near purple martins just seems to keep them happy. It wouldn't sound like spring without them.

Purple martin people don't mind the work it takes to keep gourds and houses in the air for the birds. Like being a landlord of property, purple martin landlords have to keep the birdhouses and gourds maintained. Gourds have to be taken down after each season. Old nesting material has to be removed, and they have to be washed with a bleach solution. Some people keep their gourds freshly painted white. White gourds will be a touch cooler than natural gourds, and houses are said to be even cooler than white gourds. Some landlords add patios to their gourds, along with extra perches. Personally, I think some people may go as far as putting out tiny guest towels and mints for them. The birds return to the same colony they were raised, often the same gourd.

People who love them welcome them. They watch and wait for their arrival. There is a competition within this subculture to see who can be the first to spot the first scouts of the season. But that is the only competition, and even it is friendly. People who grow gourds and love martins will often give gourds or seeds to anyone willing to put up a pole. They know that if there ever comes a time when people stop going to the effort to put up and maintain gourds, there will come a time when purple martins cease to be.

Purple martins like wide-open spaces. They spend their days soaring and darting, collecting insects within their wings. And in the evening, after the sun has set, they return to their nests. Landlords wait in the afternoons to watch this daily event, to hear the purple martin song.

By late summer, just as suddenly they appear, they will be gone. In their absence, there is stillness. There is silence where there used to be song, and the only thing that keeps a heart from breaking is the assurance of their certain return.

Amanda Walker is a contributor with *AL.com*, *The Selma Times Journal*, *Thomasville Times*, *West Alabama Watchman*, and *Alabama Gazette*. Contact her at walkerworld77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.

Photo by cbgrfx123, www.flickr.com



Trisston's Tidbits ... "Real Freedom"

*By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com*

*Ms. Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005*

The Gospel is about walking in freedom. That's why, early in His ministry Jesus quoted Isaiah's Old Testament prophecy that *He had been sent to "set free those who are oppressed"* (Luke 4:18). Jesus made clear that this freedom begins with our relationship with Him.

Many Believers (and non-Believers) quote Jesus as saying, *"You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* But we can forget that there was a condition to this freedom. *Jesus said this only is available to those who "continue in My Word," to those who are "truly disciples of Mine"* (John 8:31-32).

The Old Testament stresses this same principle. We read how the Psalmist could walk in freedom because he had "devoted myself to your commandments," basing his life on God's Word.

Many in the world think that freedom means doing whatever they want. But the Bible urges us to remember that freedom begins with a loving, obedient relationship with God. He is our Creator, and He knows us better than we know ourselves. He desires to bless us physically, financially, and spiritually. He wants to enrich our lives in every way and free us from all fears and worries.

We only experience real freedom after we make Jesus our Lord, devote ourselves to God's Word, and are filled with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to direct our lives.

Today, remember that "the truth will make you free." You don't have to be dominated by sin or bad habits, worry or fear. Make Jesus your Lord. Renew your commitment to base your life on God's Word. This is His plan to give you real freedom, real victory, and real peace. You can be confident and secure, guided by His wisdom.

Many Blessings & Happy 4th of July!



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