


**Tuesday  
Oct. 19th**

## Open House Celebrating the 22nd Anniversary of *The Alabama Gazette*

**11:30 am  
~ 1 pm**



### Tuesday, October 19th

~ Make Plans to Join Us ~

*COVID guidelines will be respected for this event.*

*We look forward to seeing you October 19th!*

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## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Women of HOPE

OCTOBER is

## Domestic Violence AWARENESS MONTH





AWARENESS MONTH

### CHILDHOOD CANCER

SEPTEMBER



Childhood Cancer Survivor

## The Purple Pinkie Donut Project



The 48 Rotary Clubs in District 6880 marked historic progress toward a polio-free world urging the community to help end the paralyzing disease by participating in the “Purple Pinkie Day” fund raising effort and recognizing World Polio Day, October 24th.

The Rotary Clubs throughout Montgomery and central and south Alabama will recognize Polio’s Eradication Purple Pinkie Day on Monday, October 18th, 2021, when boxes of pink tipped “Long John” finger shaped donuts will be delivered to Rotary Clubs throughout the District, where they will be organized and then delivered to each purchaser / donor.

Many purchasers of the tasty treats picked up their donuts, while many donated donuts, purchased by Rotarians, will be distributed to local first responders including fire stations, ambulance service, law enforcement, hospital staff, nursing homes and other heroes impacted by COVID 19.

*Recognizing World Polio Day, October 24th*, in a united effort to eradicate polio off the face of the earth, the 48 Rotary Clubs of District 6880 wish to thank each person who supported this very important initiative.






## DINING OUT in THE river region



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# Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

www.steveflowers.us



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

## We Now Have a Very Youthful Federal Judiciary in Alabama

Our senior senator, Richard Shelby, has left an indelible legacy and imprint on our state. Every corner of the state has been the recipient of his prowess at bringing home the bacon to the Heart of Dixie. Every university has enjoyed a largesse of federal dollars. He has made the Huntsville Redstone Arsenal one of the most renowned high technology regions in the nation, not to mention placing the FBI's second home in Huntsville.

Shelby's accomplishments for Alabama would take a book to enumerate. However, what is not universally known is that Senator Richard Shelby has transformed the federal judiciary in Alabama for years to come.

During the entire eight-year presidency of Barack Obama, by nature we had some attrition in our federal judiciary in all three regions, Northern, Middle and Southern Districts. Even though President Obama sought to appoint Democratic judges throughout the state, Senator Shelby and Senator Jeff Sessions thwarted all Democratic appointees and held these cherished and powerful judgeships vacant.

Shelby and Sessions were hopeful that one day there would be a Republican president coupled with a Republican senate majority and they would be able to appoint Republican jurists to the federal bench in Alabama. That happened when Trump became president. Senator Sessions had parted with his senate seat to become attorney general, so that left Senator Shelby to select and get confirmed a host of new, young federal judges in Alabama.

Shelby assigned his loyal and brilliant Chief of Staff, Katie Boyd Britt, the job of vetting potential federal judgeships. She and Shelby chose an outstanding cadre of young, well-educated, extremely qualified, moderately conservative men and women to sit on the federal bench in Alabama. This group is stellar and will be the majority of federal judges for the next 25 to 30 years. This coup of appointing young, conservative, extremely capable judges to the federal bench in Alabama may be one of Senator Richard Shelby's greatest legacies.

Shelby had Andrew Brasher first appointed to the Middle District of Alabama. However, soon thereafter an opening occurred on the Eleventh Circuit and so Shelby had President Trump appoint Brasher to the higher appeals court. Prior to Brasher's appointment to the Middle District, he practiced law with Bradley Arant in Birmingham. He was solicitor general and a law clerk for Judge Bill Pryor. Judge Brasher is a graduate of Samford University and Harvard Law School.

Senator Shelby had President Trump appoint Anna Manasco as a federal judge in the Northern District of Alabama. Judge Manasco, like Judge Brasher, practiced law in Birmingham with Bradley Arant prior to her federal appointment. She graduated with honors from Emory University, prior to earning her law degree from Yale Law School.

Shelby aligned with President Trump to appoint Corey Maze for a seat on the federal bench in the Northern District. Judge Maze was a prosecutor for the State of Alabama Attorney General's office. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Auburn University and a graduate of Georgetown Law.

Senator Shelby had President Trump appoint Liles Burke to a federal judgeship in the Northern District. Burke was an Associate Judge of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals prior to his federal appointment. He obtained his undergraduate and law degree from the University of Alabama.

Annemarie Axon is another Trump and Shelby anointed appointee for the Northern District of Alabama. Judge Axon practiced law in Birmingham prior to her appointment. She, like all of the other Northern District appointees, is extremely well qualified. Axon also obtained her undergraduate and law degree from the University of Alabama.

Austin Huffaker, Jr. of Montgomery was chosen by Shelby and Trump for a federal judgeship in the Middle District. He practiced law in Montgomery prior to his appointment. He has an engineering degree from Vanderbilt and earned his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law.

Also appointed by Shelby and Trump to the Middle District is Emily Marks of Montgomery. Judge Marks practiced law in Montgomery prior to her appointment. She is a graduate of Spring Hill College in Mobile and the University of Alabama School of Law.

Jeffrey Beaverstock was appointed to a federal judgeship in the Southern District. He practiced law in Mobile and is a graduate of the Citadel and the University of Alabama School of Law.

Terry Mooror was appointed by President Trump and confirmed by the senate for the Southern District. He was previously an assistant U.S. Attorney and is a graduate of Huntington College and the University of Alabama School of Law.

This host of federal jurists in Alabama will be one of Senator Richard Shelby's lasting legacies.

BREAKING NEWS

## Prison Infrastructure Bill HB4 Signed into Law by Governor Ivey on Friday, October 1, 2021



Ronald A. Holtsford

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

## What is the Constitutionality President Biden's, Covid-19 vaccination requirement among certain people residing in the United States?



That's a tough question and prone to a rambling answer. Before looking at several points we will pretty much first agree that there may be legitimate, provable exemptions that may be medical or religious. In looking at case law there are numerous Covid-19 related cases that generally deal with a compassionate release from prison where multiple cases of Covid have occurred in prisons. There is a case of a cruise liner requiring proof of vaccination for a very high percentage of its employees and passengers to meet certain regulatory guidelines only to be frustrated by Florida law which went against what the cruise line was trying to follow so as to not lose another year of cruising. The cruise line was successful in gaining injunctive relief.

First to look at an argument for required immunization of certain groups. Consider the required immunization of school children to attend public school. Public school of course is an extension of a governmental entity and accepts payment from governmental agencies. The required immunization of school aged children is not a part of Biden mandates but this is purely an example of required immunization to protect those inoculated and those that come in contact. Under Biden's mandates consider then companies of more than 100 employees that receive governmental payment because of government contracts (though governmental payment is not a requirement). While I don't think we are at war with anyone right now, private companies that manufacture the machinery of war are expected to remain healthy and to be able to have adequate staff to produce what is expected and paid for by the government. Those companies under the mandate have both the ability to require vaccination or routine testing requirements. Another part of Biden's mandates includes the complete vaccination of healthcare providers that receive Medicare and Medicaid. It does not include a provision of routine testing to skirt a vaccination requirement.

The 1905 United States Supreme Court case of Jacobsen v Massachusetts allowed local health authorities to require that all adults receive the smallpox vaccination. This occurred in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Henning Jacobsen was fined \$5.00 for refusing a free but required smallpox vaccination. According to an inflation calculator, \$5.00 is the approximate equivalent in 2021 of just over \$155.00. Justice John Marshall Harlan wrote in the majority opinion, "It is for the legislature, and not for the courts, to determine in the first instance whether vaccination is or is not the best mode for the prevention of smallpox and the protection of the public health." General police powers given to the states is there to require such things to protect the public.

With over 675,000 deaths in the United States alone there is a compelling public interest to take reasonable steps to protect the citizenry, especially the more vulnerable. Aside from the deaths there are mental health effects, higher health care costs, strains on funeral homes, economic impact from the illnesses, time away from work and the deaths of workers. It has caused some children to have only one parent or to become orphans.

On the flip side, individuals argue that it is their body and that they should be able to refuse such a personal and physical invasion. Some argue Constitutionally that the refusal is protected under the First Amendment as a freedom of expression.

Some states are requiring a vaccine passport. In response to Biden's mandates, Gov. Kay Ivey said the following, "Once again, President Biden has missed the mark. His outrageous, overreaching mandates will no doubt be challenged in the courts. Placing more burdens on both employers and employees during a pandemic with the rising inflation rates and lingering labor shortages is totally unacceptable."

"Alabamians have stepped up by rolling up their sleeves to get the covid-19 vaccine, increasing our doses administered significantly in recent weeks. We have done so without mandates from Washington D.C. or Montgomery. I've made it abundantly clear: I support the science and encourage folks taking the vaccine. However, I am absolutely against a government mandate on the vaccine, which is why I signed the vaccine passport ban into law here in Alabama. This is not the role of the government."

In 1922, a Texas case, Zucht v King, was also related to smallpox but in that it was required that school children have the smallpox vaccination. It was challenged by Rosalyn Zucht who said it violated her 14th Amendment due process rights. Again the United States Supreme Court stated that police powers of the state are available to protect the public.

A couple of universities that have mandated vaccines have been challenged or are in the process of being challenged. Thus far courts have ruled that Constitutional rights were not violated and have upheld the rules of the universities. Finally, a couple of other things that may be used by the Federal government is to use its spending power to "encourage through reward" states to mandate vaccinations or even to use the interstate commerce clause since people travel between states. The commerce clause was used in the famous 1960's Ollie's BBQ case where Federal segregation was challenged by the McClung owners from Birmingham but lost at the United States Supreme Court because products used in the restaurant were subject to moving between states to get there and it was ruled that the Federal government therefore had power over such places.

We will see what happens in the courts.

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

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist.

"No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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# ROBSEVATIONS... by Robert Tate

## DEL RIO: A SHORT RAMBLING

Del Rio, Texas. I went to Air Force pilot training there back in 1983. I met my wife there on 8 January, 1984. We have been together ever since. What I see going on there today sickens me. If there is any doubt in anyone’s mind that the Biden administration is over their heads and dare, I say, “worthless,” then I have to say, “Open your eyes.” This administration is the most feckless and dangerous this country has ever seen. EVER! Remember the good ole’ days when we would all say that Jimmy Carter was the worst President? Well, after only nine months in office, that torch has been cleanly snatched away by Biden and Harris.

It is hard for me to put all this into words because it is hard for me to explain how I feel about the downfall of this great republic. In nine short months, Biden has taken us to higher gas prices, from energy independence to begging those people in the Middle East to produce more oil, higher unemployment, the ultra-fiasco in Afghanistan (100% his doing no matter what others try to argue) and now to the daily horrors on our southern border.

Biden and Harris, as leaders are worthless. Yeah, I said it. One will rarely answer questions and the other, is a type of hologram who is not there even when she appears to be there. One Fox News host said that Harris has accomplished the impossible. At the same time, she is “both invisible and unpopular. Like flatulence.” She has been put in charge of the southern border but how often do we see her there? That would be never. Her boss hides in the White House, vacations, dodges questions and has no plan for what is happening. His DHS leader Alejandro Mayorkas, as reported yesterday, said he was surprised at the large numbers of migrants at the border. Really? Let me go to any ghetto in the world, set up a beautiful building and hang signs saying, “Free Food,” “Free Education,” “Free Medical,” and “Free Money” and see how many people come running. In the words of the great American philosopher, Forest Gump, “Stupid is as stupid does.”

Now, in Del Rio, Texas, we have a problem that is going nowhere fast. Although we have an administration that says the border is under control, it is anything but.

According to [www.foxnews.com/opinion/biden-del-rio-cartels-control-security-brandon-judd](https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/biden-del-rio-cartels-control-security-brandon-judd), “For every 1,000 people the Border Patrol was able to process, another 5,000 entered. In a matter of three short days the number of illegal border crossers went from 4,000 to exactly 14,748 at 3:48 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 18. And even more continued arriving.” It is totally insane and completely unsustainable. We know for a fact that many Haitian immigrants are being ferreted to other parts of the country under the cover of darkness while only a small amount, only for show, have been sent back home.

Where the rubber hits the road is the disparity in thought in our country. There is one idiot side whose members argue that all these people deserve a better life and that we need to let them all invade our

country. After all, borders represent some sort of white supremacy and should therefore be ignored. We should let anyone who wants to come to America, come. Those filled with disease, no talents, no skills, no desire to assimilate into American culture but wanting a new life filled with the freebies these political morons want to freely give away.

**Then there are the patriots who understand that “a country without borders is not a country”.**

It will quickly become a mirror of the countries so many of these people come from. Just take a look under the Del Rio bridge and tell me I’m wrong. Most patriots are fully aware of America’s immigration history. Afterall, it is the patriots who actually read and internalize our history. But there is a difference between immigration and invasion. Legal migration and illegal immigration. Those who choose to ignore this truth, well, I can’t help you. Nor do I want to.

I think the incompetent Biden administration has a lot to do here. A lot. By them sending black Haitians back to Haiti, the optics are appalling. Why are you sending back black people but not others? When asked, they had no answer. In my reality? All illegal immigrants, no matter where they are from or what color they are, need to be sent back to where they came. For us, that means dropping most of them back into Mexico and let them fend for themselves there. How about these people fighting for their own country and routing the louts who are keeping them impoverished? What a thought. Personal responsibility, accountability and hard work. It is not America’s responsibility to fight for them to the detriment of our own society. Sorry, deal with it.

Under Biden, we have one of, if not the largest surge of illegal immigrants in our history. If anyone thinks this republic of ours can sustain an unrestrained influx of immigrants, they are fools. We cannot. It seems certain members of our government are so intent on staying in power that they are willing to destroy our country as long as they can acquire more voters “by hook or by crook.” It doesn’t matter to them. Many of these illegal immigrants flooding our country, coming from over 75 different countries, do not have our country’s best interests at heart but only theirs. Heck, on the news today, it was reported two Afghan refugees brought over by sleepy Joe were arrested. One for domestic violence and the other for forced sex with a minor while both men were living on an U.S. Army base. This is only the beginning of this sort of crime wave.

There will be much more on this later but I felt I needed to vent just a little. The bottom line as I see it? Our country, our rules! Nobody, especially the socialist-communists within our government have the right to destroy our way of life through forced illegal immigration and in violation of laws already in place, in order to pursue their fascist-socialist-progressive agendas. Where I come from, there was a time we called these people who try to dismantle our constitution and republic as “Enemies of the State.” You know why? Because they are..

### U. S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION



### MISSION STATEMENT

- Protect the American people, safeguard our borders, and enhance the nation’s economic prosperity.
- ENDURING MISSION PRIORITIES
  - Counter Terrorism – Anticipate, detect and disrupt the threat of terrorists, their weapons and actions to protect the people and economy of the United States.
  - Combat Transnational Crime – Detect, deter and disrupt transnational organized crime that threatens U.S. national and economic security interests at and beyond the border.
  - Secure the Border – Protect the Homeland through the air, land and maritime environments against illegal entry, illicit activity or other threats to uphold national sovereignty and promote national and economic security.
  - Facilitate Lawful Trade and Protect Revenue – Enable fair, competitive and compliant trade and enforce U.S. laws to ensure safety, prosperity and economic security for the American people.
  - Facilitate Lawful Travel – Enhance, enable and transform the travel experience by anticipating, detecting and intercepting threats prior to and at ports of entry.



Perry O. Hooper, Jr.



**Perry O. Hooper Jr.**  
Founder Let the People Speak  
Former Alabama State Representative  
Alabama State Republican Executive Committee  
Alabama Trump Victory Chairman 2016  
Alabama Trump Elector 2016  
Alabama Trump Team Leader 2020

 Republican State Executive Committee  
Former State Representative

Every 9/11 I take a moment, to reflect on that dark day in our history when we were blindsided by terrorists so evil that before this attack it was almost inconceivable what they were willing to do to innocent civilians in the name of Allah. It was also a day of unmatched heroism by the first responders and the beginning of a time of great unity and sacrifice as Americans put aside their differences. We were united in our country’s efforts to track down and punish those responsible for the carnage.

This year however, I was stirred by difference emotions. Sickening and maddening emotions caused by the shadow cast by Joe Bidens incompetence and reckless decisions. His actions made a mockery of 20 years of sacrifices made by our brave men and women in uniform It was also an unbelievable insult to our allies such as the French, British and Australians and the Afghan people who oppose the Taliban and fought alongside us.

Biden calls his exit plan from Afghanistan a strategic withdrawal and unbelievably and arrogantly compliments himself. It was not. It was the first surrender in our country’s history. When you sneak out of your most important base in the middle of the night without informing your allies while leaving behind billions in arms, you show your cowardice. When you flee the country leaving behind America citizens on a schedule set by your enemy, you have surrendered plain and simple. We left the Taliban with hostages, and we have ready started to pay ransom. According to a press release from the State Department we have pledged 64 million in “Humanitarian Aid.” This is just the first ransom installment to the Taliban. The Biden Administration now refers to the barbarians who lead the Taliban as “Professional and Business like.” Their Interior Minister who is their Homeland Security Director has a 10 million dollar reward out for information leading to his arrest or death. This reward will be paid by our FBI. He is a professional; a professional terrorist.

Biden has done more damage to our world standing in 8 months than Obama

## Joe Biden’s Massive 9/11 Failure

did in 8 years. We are now perceived for good reason to be weak and not to be trusted to keep our promises. According to US News and World Report, our top adversary the Chinese sent a film crew to the abandoned Bagram military base to document the aftermath of what the Chinese described as a “hasty withdrawal” and “humiliating defeat.”

To make matters worse, former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley is predicting the base will become a Chinese asset in the not so distant future. A direct slap in our face. Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, said in a recent interview that the terrorist group “will count on Chinese funding to support itself and its new Afghan government.” Al Jazeera reported. “China is our most important partner and represents a fundamental and extraordinary opportunity for us because it is ready to invest and rebuild our country,” Mujahid said.

As President Trump stated on the anniversary of 9/11 “Our Country is far more susceptible to attack by outside terrorist groups than ever before. Our enemies all over the World are inspired by what just happened in Afghanistan. Just nine months ago, the United States was viewed as being strong, and now we are being viewed as weak and stupid. The Taliban has totally retaken Afghanistan—a far more potent position than they had 20 years ago”

On August 31st Joe Biden declared the war in Afghanistan to be over but I agree with Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville who stated in response “Mr. President, the war is not over. The war is over when your enemy accepts defeat. Our enemy, the Taliban, are not defeated. They are emboldened.”

We cannot let the Biden foreign policy fiasco to continue. Thirteen brave American soldiers needlessly gave their lives in the disastrous evacuation at the Kabul airport. In 2022 we must elect a congress that insists on the Reagan/Trump doctrine of peace through strength, or I am afraid many more lives will be lost.

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What can we learn when the autocrat's autocrat allows a form of pluralism that is against type?

This was not the normal behavior for the 17th Century: conquest led to subjugation, which, in turn, led to exploitation. In the short term, this policy created wealth to the conqueror but also seething resentment in the populace seeking an opportunity to throw off the yoke and regain independence.

The leaders of Strasbourg realized that religious war benefitted only arms dealers and morticians; they understood that communities lose when trade is stifled by conflict. Ahead of its time, Strasbourg understood that religious conviction that led to armed conflict was not true religion at all. It thus refused to embrace the fervor of religious belief other provinces co-opted into a misguided rage that demanded acceptance on the pain of death.

Strasbourg stood in stark contrast to this political science. Situated strategically on the Rhine, the city was at a crossroad of trade and economic expansion. It was a free imperial city with a thriving middle class engaged in crafts, trade, and, with its own mint, banking.

As a free city, it had a defensive system adequate to protect against limited conflict, but not strong enough to repel the military juggernaut of Louis XIV. From its structure of government, the city openly encouraged the participation of all faiths and even had a power-sharing arrangement between the Lutherans and Catholics.

While it is true that Calvinists and Jews were not a part of this political structure, it is also true that unlike other locales, they were tolerated and allowed to generally participate in the business of the city under the protection of its laws. Another mitigating factor against sectarian violence was that Martin Bucer,

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proclaimed by some to be the father of ecumenism, had been an influential cleric there. Bucer was the consummate “big tent” protestant, looking for common ground with all faiths and advocating forbearance in a sea of bigotry.

The stability of Strasbourg economically, politically, and culturally created great prosperity for its citizens. It was a thriving medieval community, which made it the crown jewel of the area and an object of conquest for the French king. The value of the city located at the confluence of the Rhine and Ill rivers made it ideal for an outpost on the eastern border of France to serve as an early warning system against invasion.

For years, Louis and his generals coveted the city as an addition to the expanding empire of the Sun King. But rather than pursue siege and armed conflict, Louis wisely engaged in deft diplomacy effectively charming the city but with the threat of force implicit in his affections.

Annexing Strasbourg by negotiation would not only provide an economic benefit but would also serve as an example to other surrounding cities that Louis' ruthless reputation was undeserved, and he was a reasonable despot. This diplomatic approach gave Louis a sphere of influence to neutralize otherwise hostile cities and encourage acceptance, if not allegiance, to his cause.

So, in September 1681, Louis occupied Strasbourg without a shot fired in anger and incorporated the city into his realm. Reaching an acceptable accommodation with the various centers of power in the city was easily accomplished when it was clear that French occupation would not change the law of the land.

Louis did require that the Cathedral of Our Lady be returned to exclusive Catholic worship. Previously, several churches were used by various faiths to worship at alternating times on Sunday. But, while Louis favored his Catholic faith, unlike his other conquests where all other sects were banned and members exiled, he allowed Strasbourg to continue to follow its longstanding tradition of religious toleration.

Strasbourg thus remained faithful to Louis and to the French. While its initial language was primarily German, over time this changed as the city embraced a distinctive French culture. However, from 1871 it was caught between the imperial aims of Germany and France in three wars, changing boundaries by conquest and negotiated settlement until finally after World War II it was re-incorporated into France.

Thanks in large part to Louis' largess, Strasbourg remained a thriving commercial center and also a center for religious tolerance. This tolerance was an unintentional consequence of understanding the importance of commercial interest and the prosperity occasioned by stability in all aspects of city life.

Nation builders, newlyweds and community organizers would do well to follow Louis' example and moderate changes of local customs to advocate acceptance, toleration and freedom of conscience. It is no wonder that when Europe sought a location for its Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg was a logical choice.

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lives.” What does economic freedom mean in practice? “Individuals are economically free when they are permitted to choose for themselves and engage in voluntary transactions as long as they do not harm the person or property of others.” With a high degree of economic freedom “the choices of individuals will decide what and how goods and services are produced.”

The EFW index turns this concept into a measure now applied to 165 countries. The index features five component areas: Size of Government (the levels of taxing and spending); Legal System and Property Rights; Sound Money; Freedom to Trade Internationally; and Regulation, which includes credit and labor markets as well as general business restrictions. Each element is scored from 0 to 10 (10 being more freedom) and the five area scores are averaged to generate a nation's score.

The United States ranks 6th in 2021 (as in 2020) with a score of 8.24 which is a mere 0.02 points lower than last year. Hong Kong and Singapore take the top two spots, with scores of 8.91 and 8.81, with New Zealand, Switzerland, and the Republic of Georgia rounding out the top five. The bottom five nations are Zimbabwe, Algeria, Libya, Sudan and Venezuela in last. Socialist Venezuela is not necessarily the most consistent practitioners of Marxism today as a lack of data keep Cuba and North Korea from being rated.

Looking across the five areas of the index, the U.S. ranks 6th in regulation, 15th in Sound Money, 19th in Property Rights, 52nd in Size of Government, and 64th in International Trade. The Size of Government scores deserve comment. Many European nations have high taxes and spending but otherwise a lot of freedom. For example, Denmark ranks 10th overall despite ranking 150th in size of government. On the other hand, many weak governments tax and spend little while failing to protect property rights; Sudan ranks 7th in the size of government but next to last in overall freedom.

The 2021 EFW rankings use data from 2019 due to lags in compiling statistics and surveys. The rankings consequently are always somewhat backward looking. Two ongoing events will soon shake up the ratings.

The first involves China's crackdown on Hong Kong. Hong Kong has always been rated separately from China (currently 116th), initially because it was a British colony and then because of its Special Administrative Region status. Yet China is now reneging on this deal. Hong Kong's Legal System score should decline precipitously producing a new #1 for the first time in EFW history.

The current report also does not reflect policy responses to the pandemic. To me the freedom to trade internationally is most vulnerable. The pandemic has initiated what some are calling deglobalization. COVID-19 has made international travel and trade seem dangerous in a way it was not before.

Over the past 18 months the international shipment of goods has been disrupted but rarely strictly prohibited. Travel has been more restricted. Quarantine rules and potential travel suspensions raise the cost of visiting suppliers in Malaysia or China. The relevant economic question is whether businesses can maintain global operations without frequent face-to-face interaction.

This likely depends on the oft-predicted “death of distance,” where technology eliminates the need for face-to-face interactions. Yet proponents have been predicting distance’s demise for two decades. The adequacy of distance communications probably depends more on psychology than economics.

Economist Adam Smith identified how the division of labor increases productivity with a bigger market allowing greater division of labor. A global market allows the greatest division possible, to our benefit. Our standard of living depends on the survival of international trade with diminished international travel.

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

**Speak Up and Speak Out ... We Want to Hear from You!**  
Send your comments and letters to: [algazettesubmit@gmail.com](mailto:algazettesubmit@gmail.com)

# Letters To The Editor

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS ON  
ANY ARTICLE PRINTED IN THIS PAPER.**



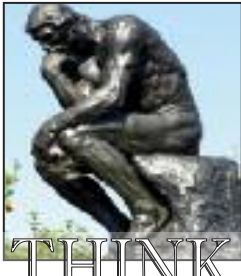


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John Sophocleus

# Tough “Roe” to Hoe



I suspect most *Alabama Gazette* readers share my disdain for (non-defensive) abortion as much as any other premeditated murder. Those who endure my lengthy columns know where I stand on the issue as a legal matter. Apropos to open this 22nd Anniversary issue column with thanks for the honour to be included in this wonderful paper which allows such dissenting views on ‘long standing’ precedents. Problems of this sort persist aided and abetted by jurists (like Chief Justice Roberts installed by big-govt. Republicans) who care more for adhering to precedents instead of fidelity to the letter and Spirit of our Constitution. Wise rulings are driven by logic and reason applied to the originalists’ (to shamelessly evoke Justice Scalia’s nomenclature) text, not the zeitgeist and desired wealth transfers of the moment. This permits deleterious law to persist and generate greater harm - in this case making Roe a much longer, tougher, bloody precedent to hoe...

*Roe v. Wade* is one of DC’s more tangible assaults on State sovereignty. I’m a pragmatist on the issue. If the people of a State want to allow murder in Massachusetts and not in Mississippi, it is NOT a federal offense. The definition and enforcement of murder isn’t authorised to the federal government. I’m not foolish enough to think banning murder will end all the killing (even less so the immediate and tangible murder of a defenseless child inside or just outside a womb posing no threat to the mother) we’ve observed, but I want the freedom to possibly live in a State which doesn’t subsidize murdering one’s own child. If you kill your own child, do it on your own purse. It is not a lot to ask federal judges to ban taking my treasure to subsidize killings I and many others find reprehensible. This is an integral part of securing blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity – born and unborn.

ROE v. WADE (1973)

DIRECTIONS

Read the Case Background and Key Questions. Then analyze Documents A-H. Finally, answer the Key Question in a well-organized essay that incorporates your interpretations of Documents A-H.

Case Background

According to common law tradition carried over in the United States from England, abortion before "quickening" (or when the fetus's movements could be felt) was not a crime. In 1821, Connecticut adopted a portion of Lord Glenborough's Act (1803) and passed the first law banning abortion after quickening. Twenty years later, eight states had such laws. At the time of the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868, 20 states (out of 37) restricted abortion. Generally, abortions after quickening were felonies while those procedures performed before quickening were treated as misdemeanors. Gradually, the legal distinction between pre- and post-quickening abortions began to disappear. By the 1960s, almost every

PERSONAL LIBERTY

US District Court Judge Myron Thompson is no stranger to reinserting the federal govt. into the abortion business. A more recent and notable of Thompson’s opinings was his 2015 Planned Parenthood ruling further assaulting civil rights of citizens who do not wish to subsidize those committing infanticide of their children. Reason Staff Editor Elizabeth Nolan Brown [10/28/15] wrote, “Alabama must restore the contract with Planned Parenthood as a Medicaid provider, at least for now, because Alabama offered no reason whatsoever for the sudden defunding, the state was likely in violation of federal Medicaid law, which requires letting patients see any provider that accepts Medicaid unless the state establishes that they're not qualified. Providers, of course, are not generally obligated to take Medicaid patients, and many don't because of low reimbursement rates. But under federal law, Medicaid patients have ‘freedom of choice’ among qualified Medicaid providers.”

Many still ask why the Hyde amendment (prohibiting use of federal funds for abortion except cases where the mother's life is in danger or pregnancy results from incest/rape) doesn’t apply to this ruling. Hyde addressed a symptom; the source of the problem is unconstitutional federal programs/policies like Medicare/Medicaid imposed by extremists decades ago. In a world of ‘fungibility’ Hyde doesn’t matter. Alabama Medicaid Agency records show \$4,351 (Thompson’s 2015 order stated \$5,600) paid for services to patients at Planned Parenthood's Alabama clinics over the last two years in Mike Cason’s AI.com report; payments were mostly for contraceptive services and did not include abortions.

Some assert Thompson reinforced Jane Doe's right to seek family planning services at qualified providers of choice - which is absurd. Nothing has been done to deny Jane’s right - she (or any private donor who wishes to subsidize Jane) may purchase whatever service and/or provider however they see fit. Thompson’s poor training/understanding of the letter and Spirit of the Constitution fails to protect the civil rights of US citizens in general NOT to subsidize Jane. States as the sovereign unit (who may also authorize local governments to act) may fund/subsidize abortions, fetal tissue, etc. but Alabama

does not. Private expenditure of time and effort may also occur, some follow their conscience to take those who choose killing their child to locales which will perform this service; others follow their conscience to discourage killing and promote adoption, financial help in raising children of mothers often young, inexperienced and of meager means for the task. This ‘freedom of choice’ to devote one’s time, money and effort to the manner of assistance they prefer has been usurped for the modern ‘choice’ movement more interested in imposing their preferred result and have others pay for their desired end. Recent changes in Texas legislation could be more wisely handled under ‘accessory to murder’ statutes; those who find the empowering of private citizens problematic to enforce this matter were noticeably silent when Mondale Act 6th Amendment violations destroyed many lives in trumped-up claims of child abuse/assault without the ability to face one’s accuser.

I’d like to observe those who abhor stealing/taking the property right to one’s body also disapprove murdering squatters or ones refusing rightful eviction from their property. I pray most would also find ‘hired guns’ abhorrent who do it for those too weak or squeamish to commit the murder themselves. It seems those screaming the loudest for rent forgiveness worried about their lives are the same ones screaming to evict ‘squatters’ from their property. Isn’t it just as wrong to force owners of a building to host a squatter without their consent (as the 3rd Amendment asserts) or compensation as forcing a mother to host an unwanted squatter? We have courts, laws, etc. to decide and accomplish this less unilaterally; at one time the church and other private entities played a huge role in reducing abortions and burden of getting unplanned/unwanted lives from others’ body/property humanely. Those who have no problem mandating unwanted injections may be OK with a woman being forced to endure the unwanted injection from a rapist; some find BOTH despicable. Nonetheless, if a govt. mandates an individual(s) suffering either of these forced results, they are obliged to compensate for the consequences...

Myron Thompson has already shown great disregard for individuals’ civil right to property, removing homeowners from property they held legal title to so others could live in their home - i.e., don’t expect any rational relief there. If this Judge were to make the case that the mother and child have rights to life and property in our State, perhaps our so-called ‘great legal minds’ may accomplish something more righteous. How much has our State wasted these past decades in legal challenges hoeing the unconstitutional Roe precedent? Can we at least respect the mother’s and child’s rights enough to provide resources to something (more in keeping with Solomon’s wisdom) which benefit both?

Because Myron Thompson had no regard for their civil rights, property owners never received the allowance for having to accommodate unwanted lives on their property, so it is unlikely this federal judge will care about young (likely of poor means) mothers and unborn children to advance a more tangible public good (reduced murders, offsetting the burden of addressing unwanted births for mother and child) but VERY willing to assert stealing/takings for economic development, increased tax base and other redistributive endeavours our politburo members can extract from, more to their self-interests – e.g., *Kelo case* wrongful takings to redistribute wealth to Pfizer.

At risk of sounding ‘old fashioned’ the Union imposed the first conscription acts understanding if we were to force a person into harm’s way, some compensation applied for the duration. Most States have some provision (however meager) for wrongful incarceration upon discovering one has served prison time foregoing other things they may have accomplished in life. Is conscripting a mother (who doesn’t want to volunteer) for months of foregone opportunity and what may be a hazardous/injurious duty all that different? If they wish to ‘run to Canada’ I know there’s little one can do to stop a draft-dodger if history is any guide. Furthermore, there are few things more admirable than a mother who risks harm and possible death out of love for their child, on par with the serviceman who gives his life or limbs to save a fellow comrade(s) in arms. Can anyone in good conscious force another to such sacrifice and selflessness?

I’ve known good men (and even given testimony in court for some former students) who fought to be a part of their child’s lives. I’ve also consoled men who were devastated their child was killed as they were helpless to stop it. We can make the world a more grim or more joyful place – God’s word is the key to paradise in the long-run. I don’t see His word in the debate much these past several score to limit the killing, plundering, stealing, suffering and wrongful takings. Sad to see so many choosing the easy short-run path and those so effectively increasing their power/wealth (as they lose their souls) benefiting from those following the Roe precedent path.

Our modern Roman potentiates are just as adept in using fear and killing of innocent children as Herod in the attempt to (re)affirm their power and tyranny. Little surprise so many federal judges continue to display such poor intellect and integrity. May God forgive jurists of this sort as they are victims of poor education in the Spirit and the law as were hypocrites exposed in the Gospels writing about those charged with keeping the temple pure and administrators of the law. Irrational to expect the wisdom of Solomon out of jurists like Roberts and Thompson. Foolish perhaps to hope for more jurists who understand the Decalogue well enough to realize (s)he must reconcile thou shall not murder with thou shall not steal. How does a wise man cut that baby in two?

*Postscript: I’d be remiss to close without wishing the Alabama Gazette a very blessed 22nd Anniversary as she remains a courageous “Voice of Reason” in our State to shed Light upon those endeavouring to envelope us in darkness. Honored to be a Gazette writer for over half those years. Again I ask all those who write/tell me they do not agree with me for forgiveness. I do not write seeking agreement, but to provoke thought as charged by the column’s moniker Loretta assigned a dozen years ago. One of the many lessons I’ve learned from Jesus’ teachings is those trying to follow His path to our heavenly Father will often be looked upon poorly by others. Jesus was not looking for agreement from corrupt clergy, nor moneychangers, nor Herod, et al. I’ve read nothing to suggest He expected agreement from Pilate, nor forecasted this procurator would ‘do right’ in the end but nonetheless had to provide the opportunity for Pilate and others to change their path. An integral part of the process is to first THINK about what one may do which will shepherd them towards the path Jesus Christ shown to the world. May God grant the Gazette many more years applying His word advancing the Holy Spirit to address our modern problems with the Wisdom of many ages past.*

DID YOU KNOW?

In the history of these United States, no major political party or presidential candidate ever campaigned on abolishing slavery in the States where it existed. This included the presidential election of 1860 in which Abraham Lincoln was elected president with less than 40% of the popular vote.

The Republican platform of 1860 consisted of 17 Declarations or planks, stating the position of the Party on the issues of the day. The platform did have a plank opposing the extension of slavery into the territories of these United States.

*"We deny the authority of Congress, of a territorial legislature, or any individual to give legal existence to slavery in any territory of the United States." Declaration 8.*

However, that same Republican Party platform affirmed the right of states to control their own internal affairs (state sovereignty) which would have included slavery in those states.

*"That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of states and especially the right of each state to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgement exclusively, is essential to the balance of powers on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric rests." Declaration 4.*







# The Alabama Gazette

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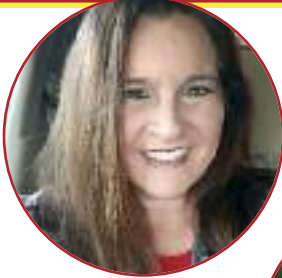


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FROM MILITARY TO FIRST RESPONDERS TO OUR ELDERLY ... WE CARE!



# Honoring Our Heroes

## Dr. Martha Poole Simmons: A Journey of Service

**Lt. Woodward Durham Lamar: Age 98**

Lt. Woodward Durham Lamar served as a pilot in the U.S. Navy for four years of active duty during WWII and served seven years in the Navy Reserve.

Lt. Lamar was born October 31, 1922 in Montgomery, AL, to his parents, Robert Jones Lamar and Mary Yougene Lamar. Lt. Lamar’s four brothers also served during WWII, and one brother was killed in combat when he was flying a B-25. Lt. Lamar was reared in Montgomery and graduated from Lanier High School in 1940. He worked for one year at the AA Seed Company, a fertilizer company, and as a shoe salesman in Montgomery followed by working at a boys’ camp in Fountain, North Carolina. Next, he attended the University of AL for one year.

While working at a defense plant in Detroit, MI, Lt. Lamar joined the U. S. Navy in August 1942 and became a Navy pilot. His flight prep school was in Columbia, S.C., soloed at Rocky Mt., N.C., completed preflight in Athens, GA, and graduated from flight school at the Naval Air Station at Pensacola, FL, receiving his pilot’s wings. One of his instructors at Bronson Field, a Naval Auxilliary Air Station near Pensacola, was Ted Williams, a Marine Corps fighter-pilot who was a famous professional baseball player. He began flying the Stearman PT-17, a two-seater, single engine aircraft for the instructor and the student-pilot. He next flew the SNJ, a single engine advanced trainer aircraft. He then completed training at the torpedo-bomber school and flew the TBF Avenger aircraft. He completed operational training in Miami, FL, followed by training to be catapulted and to land on Naval aircraft carriers in Lake Michigan at the Glenview Naval Air Station in Glenview, IL. After completion of all training to fly with instruments during the day and the night, Lt. Lamar was assigned to Torpedo Squadron Seven at Seaside, Oregon, where training was done in preparation for an invasion of Japan. Lt. Lamar recalls that his pilot training was thorough.

The Japanese surrendered August 15, 1945, and Lt. Lamar never got to fly in combat before WWII ended in the Pacific Theater. He was then sent to Hawaii where he flew the cargo plane, C-47, delivering supplies throughout the Hawaiian Islands for nine months. He was discharged from active military service in 1946 at San Francisco, CA, riding a train back to his hometown of Montgomery, AL, followed by serving in the Naval Reserve.

Using the G.I. Bill, Lt. Lamar graduated from the University of AL with a B.S. and a B.A. Degee in Pre-Med in 1948, and he graduated from the University of AL School of Dentistry in the University of AL in Birmingham, AL in 1952. Dr. Lamar practiced dentistry for 40 years in Montgomery, AL. He ended his service in the Navy Reserve when he finished dental school.

Dr. Lamar and his wife, May Rush, were married 48 years before she passed away, and they had four children, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. After receiving a degree in early childhood education, May started the kindergarten programs at the Montgomery Y.M.C.A.’s. One son, Woodward Lamar, served as a pilot in the AL National Guard flying the F4 Phantom and the F-16 Viper reaching the rank of Colonel. Another son, Claude Lamar, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy serving five years on active duty with the Navy followed by practicing as a pediatrician for 25 years. A daughter, Melissa Lamar, has worked as a social worker in Oregon and Washington. A daughter, May, has been a reporter and is a free-lance writer in Montgomery. Dr. Lamar has served as a deacon of First Baptist Church of Montgomery and as President of the AL Dental Association. He and his wife enjoyed playing golf and often won trophies in mixed doubles in golf tournaments. They even played golf in other countries including Ireland, Scotland and New Zealand. They also fished together often on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico catching pompano. He caught a 550 pound marlin one time that took almost three hours to reel in the huge fish.

Lt. Lamar’s conclusions about his military service are, “We got attacked, and we had to retaliate. I did not feel all that patriotic. It was just something that we had to do. That was all there was to it. I am proud of my service.”



**Lt Col David L. McFarland: Age 80**



David L. McFarland served 27 years in the United States Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code was Navigator-Bombardier.

David L. McFarland was born to Evan McFarland and Sarah McFarland in Louisville, KY in May 1941. His father was a landscape gardener at the time with a thriving business based out of Crestwood, a small village, in rural Oldham County near Louisville. After a contentious divorce, his father was granted custody of David at age five, an older sister and a brother. Evan McFarland then moved his small family to Scott County, Ky. Numerous McFarland families who trace their history back to Scotland settled in the county in the 1700s.

McFarland began his schooling at Newtown School, and he attended several elementary schools until moving to Fayette County where he completed junior high and then graduated sixth out of a class of over 300 at Lafayette Senior High School in 1958. He then enrolled in the University of Kentucky (UK) in Lexington and worked to earn money for each semester’s tuition and books which was then about \$200. His father provided a home and an old car to help him. He graduated from UK in May 1962, and since the school was a land grant school, he enrolled in the mandatory Reserve Officer Training Corps. Luck led him into the Air Force ROTC program and a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant with a Bachelor of Arts in Aerospace Science. He entered active service on July 27, 1962 to train as a navigator (Air Force Service Code 1525Z) at James Connally AFB, Waco, TX. With a high standing in the class, he was able to select his assignment to become a navigator/bombardier at Mather AFB, Sacramento, CA. Finishing the school as second in the class of 20, he requested an assignment to Tactical Air Command. He got his wish and was assigned to Shaw AFB, SC near Sumter, SC. The assignment was to RB-66 aircraft. The aircraft was never used as a bomber, but it served in weather, signals intelligence and photo reconnaissance roles. Although McFarland, known as “Spanky,” flew in each of the roles, he settled into his flying life in the photo reconnaissance version, the RB-66B.

Photographic reconnaissance was perfect for him because of his love of maps. His father was sent to Beaumont, TX to relandscape the Texas home of Pansy Yount, a mountain girl who carried water to the oil drillers. She married Frank Yount, who brought in a free-flowing oil well on the Spindletop salt dome. Yount would become one of the richest oilmen in USA and when he died, his wife became the richest woman in the country. On the way to Texas, McFarland, collected highway maps at every gas station. He found that he could easily relate maps to the places they covered. This skill would be ideal for a photo recce navigator. Years later in the air, he developed an ability to match topographical maps to the earth’s surface. As a 1st lieutenant, he was offered a job as mission planner for the secret U-2 and SR-71 then flying over Russia. The job was normally done by a lieutenant colonel, but he turned it down because he wanted to fly.

After six weeks at Maxwell’s Squadron Officer School, he returned to James Connally AFB to become Flight Check Navigator for the RF-4C Phantom, a new twin engine recce aircraft the USAF developed just in time for the ramping up of the war in SEA. On his first RF-4 mission in the USA, he flew with David “Dutch” Holland who been lured by false radio signals into East Germany flying an RB-66B along with two crew members. They were traded for a communist spy after two weeks. The MiG 19 Soviet Pilot, V.G. Zinoviev visited Holland in hospital and gave him a pack of Marlboro cigarettes.

In April 1964, four RB-66B aircraft and five three-man crews (pilot, navigator and infrared set operator) were sent to Tan Son Nhut AB, on the western edge of Saigon. McFarland’s first operational war mission was in RB-66B, number 418, as was his third over jungle roads to detect heat from North Vietnamese cooking fires and truck engines used along the Ho Chi Minh trail in central Laos. Three days later, he flew the aircraft again on his birthday. Out of over 100 missions over the Vietnams, Laos, and Cambodia, he flew RB-66B number 418 twenty-three times at low level, both day and night during a three-month TDY and a tour in late 1965 followed by six weeks and four at Takhli AB, Thailand in the RB-66C. The missions were to gather electronic intel on enemy Surface-to-Air Missiles in the Hanoi area.

In July of 1966, the war-tested navigator got the news that he was to be in the first class of Weapons Systems Officers (WSO) to fly the RF-4C and train for assignment to Bergstrom AFB, Austin, TX. Because of his war experience, he immediately became a standardization/evaluation officer at the wing level. McFarland established all the low-level training routes covering Texas used both day and night by pilot and WSO students headed to SEA for combat. In late 1969, many crews were alerted for reassignment to Misawa AB. Japan. When he was not called for this new base, he volunteered to go.

The wing was a fighter-bomber unit with two F-4C squadrons and one RF-4C reconnaissance squadron that came from duty in SEA. McFarland again became a wing standardization/evaluation officer for the reconnaissance WSO’s. The tour at Misawa was short. After just six months, punctuated by a 10 ft snow fall, the squadrons left in February 1970. McFarland returned to train reconnaissance crews at Shaw AFB once again. In 1973, Major McFarland was selected to attend Air Command and Staff College (ASFC) as a student for a year. While there, he wrote a paper about the ongoing war in Oman against Yemeni irregulars attempting to take Dhofar province. Iranian RF crews trained at Bergstrom AFB, TX, and flew Phantoms for the Omanis. In the paper, then Major McFarland predicted that US aircrews would fly from Oman in a future war. They did fly during the war when Iraq attacked Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and again in the war to oust Saddam Hussein.

After ASFC in 1974, Major McFarland returned to Shaw AFB and joined the 9th Air Force Inspector General (IG) team. As an inspector, he inspected Air National Guard and Reserve units that in event of mobilization would be assigned to regular USAF operations. He often flew the RF-4C Phantom “recce” aircraft with Captain Randy Wortmann. McFarland had known him since 1968 when



**Veterans love reading *The Gazette*!**  
These service members enjoy reading *The Alabama Gazette*.  
Their articles were published in the September 2021 issue.



**Chaplain Col Rhon Vernon Carleton**  
US Air Force (above)



**Lt Col Jerry Elmer Fossum**  
US Air Force (above)

**If you know of a Veteran who deserves to be honored, please email: [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)**



1st Class Seaman Frederick D. Roberts, Sr.



1st Class Seaman Frederick D. Roberts Sr. served three years in the U. S. Navy during WWII. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Guard at the Commander’s Office at Naval Station Treasure Island, a major Navy departure and receiving point for sailors in the Pacific aboard surface ships and submarines at San Francisco, CA. He served there for one year and four months followed by service in Oahu, Hawaii, where he unloaded wounded military personnel and in the Philippine Islands working in the mess halls until WWII ended.

Roberts was born October 16, 1925 to his parents, Oscar and Mary Roberts in Frisco City, AL. Although he did not graduate from high school, he later received his GED. Roberts was drafted and enlisted in the U.S. Navy completing Basic Training at the Great Lakes Naval Station, IL.



After discharge from military service in 1946 in TN, Roberts worked for Monsanto Industries, an American agrochemical and agricultural biotechnology company, for 28 years and retired in 1985. He and his wife, Geraldine Taylor, were married 64 years, and they had five children, eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Roberts has served as a Deacon at the Shiloh Baptist Church for over 50 years. He has enjoyed farming and making wine. He also enjoys his family and reading the Bible. He counts himself blessed. He mostly enjoyed taking care of his mother and wife during their illnesses. He has been a Master in the Masonic Order of the Eastern Star.

Roberts did not see combat duty during WWII; however he was ready to serve while serving and waiting to be deployed in the Navy at Treasure Island before WWII ended. He states the following about his military service, “It meant a “heap”, a lot, to serve and to go on adventures.” His conclusions about what he would like future generations to remember about him are, “Put God first. Always respect others. Get a good education. My granddad prayed for better days, and it is here. My children, my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren are hardworking just as I prayed for them to be.”

#end#

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McFarland ... Continued from page 1B

Randy was one of the first four second lieutenants picked to pilot the Phantom. Originally, this would be a two-year assignment, but it stretched to six, and he would become Chief of IG Operations at 9th and a Lieutenant Colonel.

Assigned to ACSC as a seminar leader, Lt Col McFarland recognized that the college had no program to teach history of the Air Force. He proposed to bring distinguished people in the United Kingdom, Argentina, Israel, Pakistan, Germany and France, and even the United States and Russia! Lt Col McFarland retired in 1989, but he continued to organize the gathering as a non-paid advisor to select students chosen to coordinate the week-long event as their required thesis.

The war in Kosovo brought a new chapter in the now retired officer’s life. On April 14, 1999, during the war over the Balkans, he saw photos of a convoy of refugees in Kosovo escaping the rampaging Serbian army. The refugees were driven from their homes by a Kosovar Serb, an auxiliary policeman. His name was Milutin Prascevic. One week later, Pascevic was killed by a young Kosovo Liberation Army soldier near Meja village just a mile from where NATO F-16 accidentally bombed a convoy that appeared to be military vehicles. The F-16 pilots were not allowed to fly below 15,000 flight altitude. After lengthy communications with intelligence operators at NATO ground bases, the NATO pilots were cleared to drop bombs. The Serb vehicles had left the convoy and hid in the woods and barns. Sadly, the convoy was now composed of farmers and families on tractors and horse-drawn wagons. Two bombs struck the convoy and a farmhouse wrongly thought to be a Serb command center. That day, war photographer, Goran Tomasevic, an ethnic Serb, featured a young blond Kosovar boy who was totally traumatized and in tears.

After his retirement in August 1989, McFarland saw the photo on a BBC website, and began a search to find the boy. With the help of the UN mission in Kosovo and Voice of America, he located the boy in the tiny village of Pacaj, Kosovo. McFarland made other connections and headed to Kosovo in September 2001 to finally meet the boy. Flying from New York to Germany on September 9th, he drove to visit a friend, who was now a Czech fighter wing commander at Caslov AB. There on TV, he saw the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. From there, McFarland drove to Slovenia, and then flew to Kosovo. With help from a contact there, he made the trip over a very rough dirt road to Pacaj village. There he fulfilled the mission to meet the boy that he called “The Boy in the Yellow Shirt.” Muharrem “Rrem” Alija was then 16 years old. Rrem’s older sister, Filoreta, was one of 33 people killed in the accidental bombing. His two younger sisters and three younger brothers, plus his mother and father survived the attack. Their home was hardly more than a shack and all of the children needed clothes and dental care. McFarland helped all to solve these needs and encouraged Rrem to restart school in the 7th grade. All went on to complete high school in Kosovo. Rrem was an outstanding leader in his class. He helped McFarland to survive treatment for pancreatic cancer during 2008/2009. Their friendship continues to this day...Muharrem Alija is now a US citizen and lives in Georgia. He owns a big-rig truck and trailer and is married, with two small girls. His brothers, sisters and mother all have good lives in Germany, Italy and Kosovo ... Their story continues!

#end#

Montgomery 9/11 Commemoration of the 20th Anniversary

The Montgomery Department of Fire and Rescue held a special commemoration honoring Americans who lost their lives 20 years ago September 11, 2001. Madison Avenue was blocked off in front of the headquarters of the Montgomery Fire and Rescue Department at 19 Madison Avenue. Three large fire trucks were parked at angles, and a huge American flag hung from a tall rescue ladder. As the program began, Dr. Martha Poole Simmons, a volunteer representing the Central-East AL Chapter of the American Red Cross, presented a special certificate from the Central-East AL Chapter of the American Red Cross to Chief Milford Jordan (*photo top right*) expressing appreciation for the services provided by this Department. Benjamin Alpert, the Chaplin for the Montgomery Department of Fire and Rescue, gave the invocation. Mayor Steven Reed spoke and expressed appreciation to those who serve. In the distant background, single tolls of bells from the steeple of Saint John’s



Episcopal Church could be heard. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of those who lost their lives on 9/11/2001 at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania. A fireman struck a large bell for those not only who lost their lives that day but also for the 15 members of the Montgomery department of Fire and Rescue who have perished in the line of duty since the Department was formed in 1898. As each name of the Montgomery fireman was called, a fireman walked up and laid a special fireman’s helmet on a table.

Bottom Right: Dr. Martha Poole Simmons with Chaplin Benjamin Alpert.



Sgt Harold Woodman: Age 90



Sergeant Harold Woodman served two years in the Naval Reserve and three years in the United States Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code was Correspondent Clerk. His medals, awards and decorations included the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Occupational Medal Germany. He served veterans for 30 years assisting them through rehabilitative counseling.

Sgt Woodman was born April 9, 1931 in Montgomery, AL, to his parents, “Sandy” Harold Woodman and Margaret Woodman. He was reared in Montgomery and attended schools there graduating from Sidney Lanier High School in May 1950. While he was in high school, he participated in the Naval Reserve. He worked as a tree trimmer with the AL Power Company for six months, and then he joined the U. S. Air Force February 6, 1951. Sgt Woodman served in Frankfort, Germany, in the intelligence service interviewing German prisoners of war coming from Russia dealing with ascertaining the activities in the cities of Russia during the Cold War. He was discharged from military service September 4, 1954. Sgt Woodman used the G.I. Bill and graduated with a B.S. Degree in Marketing in 1957 from the University of Alabama.



After graduating, he worked for a brief time with City Florist in Montgomery followed by working as a salesman with General Mills throughout Alabama.

Sgt Woodman returned to the University of AL, and in 1966 he graduated with a M.S. Degree in Rehabilitative Counseling, which prepared him to work as a Rehabilitative Counselor. He worked two years with the State of AL and assisted disabled people who had limitations to get the necessary treatments and training for employment. Then for 28 years, he worked for the Veterans Administration in counseling psychology assisting disabled veterans and children of veterans, looking at the veterans’ limitations and placing them in jobs. He administered a variety of tests to determine their aptitudes and interests and helped them in obtaining financial assistance through the Disabled G. I. Bill. Sgt Woodman recalls that he looked forward to going to work each day as most of the veterans had suffered injuries from combat. He retired from all employment in June 1996.

Sgt Woodman who likes to be called “Woody” and his wife Freda have been married 63 years, and they have four children, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Since 1966, both Woody and Freda have been active members of the St. James United Methodist Church of Montgomery. Freda has served in many areas including singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, making prayer shawls for ill or home bound church members or for active duty deployed service men, making baby blankets and also leading a weekly Bible study in their home. Woody has served as a deacon, Superintendent of Education, Sunday School teacher, President of a Sunday School Class and a leader of ushers. Woody has been an avid tennis player for many years playing doubles with the Early Birds at O’Conner Tennis Center, and he has cultivated a vegetable garden also for many years.

Sgt Woodman’s conclusions about what serving in the U. S. Military has meant to him saying, “At that time, we felt like it was an obligation. I fulfilled that obligation. Everybody was expected to go into the service. While serving with an intelligence outfit, I wanted to get to know the German people and their life style.”

#end#

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

**George Brenton Smith**  
October 5

**Jeff Holland**  
October 12

**Raymond Russell Martin**  
October 15

**Carl William Edwards**  
October 16

**Frederick D. Roberts**  
October 16

**Nancy Burtron**  
October 18

**Sophie Ryan**  
October 18

**Ronald Lewis**  
October 19

**Edgar Leslie Smith**  
October 19

**Mark Dierlam**  
October 26

**Judson L. Huett**  
October 26

**Gary Dean Mehlhoff**  
October 26

**Hugh David McCracken**  
October 27

**Romay Catherine Davis**  
October 29

**Woodward Durham Lamar**  
October 31





John M. Taylor

positions at all levels of government, combined with their support of radical and often immoral issues. The dearth of ethical individuals in public life may now be worse than at any other time in the life of the republic.

As a student of American history, I am unaware of any American who surpasses the integrity of Robert Edward Lee. It seems Lee inherited the best qualities of his Saxon, Norman, and Celtic ancestors. Unfortunately, in our era, Lee’s integrity and character have become lightning rods of criticism initiated by individuals of antithetical moral character.

Lee was born January 19, 1807, in Stratford Hall, Virginia, and died October 12, 1870, in Lexington, Virginia. The legendary Lee family includes Lee’s father, Henry ‘Lighthorse Harry’ Lee, a famous Revolutionary War general, his cousins, Francis Lightfoot Lee and Richard Henry Lee (both signers of the Declaration of Independence), and Alexander Spotswood, Lt. Governor of Virginia. Going even further back, through his mother’s family (the Carters), Lee was descended from Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland.

In 1829, Lee graduated second in his class at West Point. He then served loyally for twenty-six years in the U.S. Army. Though an opponent of secession, once Virginia voted to leave the Union he was duty-bound to follow. As peculiar as it may sound in our era, most Southerners thought of their State as their country. They understood the Sovereign States formed the country under compact and created the federal government to handle only specific enumerated duties. The Articles of Confederation spelled out State sovereignty whereas, its replacement, the U.S. Constitution, was ratified with the understanding of this fact.

Although asked by Abe Lincoln and Winfield Scott to command the U.S. Army, Lee could not accept. Lincoln’s request for 75,000 troops from each State to invade the seven seceded States was considered a violation of Article III, Section 3 (Treason) of the U.S. Constitution. No governor or legislature of a seceded State asked for help (Article IV, Section 4, U.S. Constitution). Since the seceding States were simply exercising their right of self-government, there was no valid reason to invade them. Lincoln, a master of sophistry, claimed the seceded States did not literally leave the Union but were merely in “rebellion.” His troop request led Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas to



John W. Giles

“Right.” Wrong answer, let me explain.

In my view, our founding fathers were brilliant, deep thinkers and devout countrymen, who shaped our country on Judeo Christian concepts. In tune and sensitive to the idea of government potentially overstepping its boundaries, James Madison penned the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution, which make up the **Bill of Rights** (<https://billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/bill-of-rights/>). 12 Amendments were sent to the states and 10 of them survived and were finally ratified by all of the states as of December 15, 1791. These were rights protected by the United States to every citizen; guarantying government could not intrude or overstep its authority.

The Bill Of Rights (Ten Amendments) can be summarized as: Freedom of religion, speech and press, Right to own and bear arms, the Housing of soldiers, Protection from unreasonable searches and seizures, Protection of Rights to Life, Liberty, and Property, Rights of accused persons in criminal cases, Rights in civil cases, Excessive bail, fines, and punishments forbidden, other Rights kept by the people and the undelegated powers kept by the states and the people.

Then, there is our God given rights, recognized by the federal government, found in the Declaration of Independence and embodied in the Bill of Rights. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” The state recognized our creator, God gave us these rights. The word inalienable comes from the root word alien or the Latin word alienus, meaning belonging to another. The purest meaning: unable to be taken away from or given away by the possessor. One has to wonder, if the state recognizes Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, how



## “The Informed Southerner”

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

### Robert E. Lee: American Patriot

secede from the voluntary compact. Maryland may have seceded as well if she had not been invaded and occupied.

Lee’s Christianity (Episcopalian) was well known. His Godly beliefs are manifest in perhaps his most famous quote: “Do your duty in all things. You cannot do more; you should never wish to do less.” Even those in the North understood Lee’s love of Jesus Christ and his devotion to duty. In the 1880s, E. Benjamin Andrews, President of Brown University (Providence, R.I.), noted: “If any American Father were asked which of our great men he would most want his own to resemble, that father, if he were wise, would be compelled to answer ‘Robert E. Lee.’”

Also, in a January 19, 1907, speech at Washington and Lee University, Charles Francis Adams II of Massachusetts, praised Lee’s patriotism, faith, moral character, and perseverance during 1861-65, stating: “Under similar conditions I would myself have done what Lee did...In fact, I do not see how I, placed as he was placed, could have done otherwise.”

Despite the post-war agony, Lee stated, “I fought against the people of the North because I believed they were seeking to wrest from the South dearest rights, but I have never cherished bitter or vindictive feelings, and have never seen the day when I did not pray for them.” It is difficult to imagine total war advocates such as Lincoln, Sherman, Sheridan, etc., sharing General Lee’s perspective.

As we witness the present-day destruction of history, it is easy to trace these actions to lowest common denominator individuals like Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, who, in a moral era, would likely be dismissed as a subpar political hack. It is obvious Northam has no discernable moral compass (Remember his comments about letting a newborn baby die after it is born if the parents do not want it?). It seems patently clear that he and his minions have more in common with Joseph Stalin than followers of Jesus Christ.

Has there ever been a clearer line of demarcation between those who admire Robert E. Lee, a humble servant of Christ, and those who stand in opposition? The question is—when will those with morality and integrity (like Lee) let their voices be heard?

Sources: *Sons of the South* by Clayton Rand; *Albion’s Seed* by David Hackett Fischer; and *Life & Letters of Robert E. Lee* by Rev. J.W. Jones, D.D.

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## IT’S A “RIGHT” – BEWARE!!!

### I will begin this article with a simple question: Is Public Education a Right?

One may be reluctant to respond, after reading the title of this article. Let me recast this; I encourage you to ask a co-worker, neighbor or friend this question without any preface. My guess is they would quickly respond with a resounding yes, Public Education is a “Right.” Wrong answer, let me explain.

then could the courts, remove the right to life of an unborn child through abortion and or the elderly with euthanasia.

The modern day concept of “Rights” is being irrationally exploited by this urgent move toward Socialism energized by the media and 2020 Democrat Presidential candidates. They say Americans should have the “Right” to free education from K-12 through higher learning, free housing, free healthcare, free transportation, reparation, just to name a few and I recently heard Beto say we should have a “Right” to live close to our workplace. The left has been pushing these liberal and radical rights for decades. The birthplace for this leftward thinking was born at the United Nations in 1948, entitled the “**Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**” (<https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>) Eleanor Roosevelt was the chair of the UN Human Rights Commission that marshaled through the passage of this resolution. While there were some great ideas to protect the global abuse of humanity embodied in this document, this stage was misused for espousing liberal radical views born out of Socialism.

Let’s hit the refresh button and go back to a “Right to Public Education.” Public education is not a right; it is a gift from the state, paid for by taxpayers. The moment you codify a right, it then becomes the responsibility of the state to protect and fund that right. See where this is going? Rights = Protection and Funding.

The intent of this discourse is for us all to be alert to the word, “Right.” Let’s remember the core reasoning behind the Bill of Rights; it was designed by our founding fathers as a tool, etched in stone to protect the citizenry from an overreaching government into the affairs of mankind. The modern-day prophets of socialism are suggesting an eruption of new rights – entitlements, allowing citizens to tap into the U.S. Treasury and become entrapped serfs of the state. These rights to entitlements are essentially the legal purchase of votes by the Socialist Democratic Party, ensuring the entitled are enslaved to them in perpetuity.

I leave you with these two thoughts: Woe to any government leadership (all three branches) who penetrate that sacred veil and overreach. On a more important note, woe to any man who is self-appointed and attempts to divinely ascend and tamper with those Rights given to man by God: Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, which can only be given or taken away by God (U.S. Supreme Court, Roe vs. Wade, 1973). Rights endowed by our Creator, Almighty God, or taken away by man?

As we reacquaint ourselves with the profound logic of our founding fathers, we can wholeheartedly rejoice in the gift of Almighty God granting us the blessing to call America home. Let us recall the sound of the Liberty Bell ringing and envision our great symbol of freedom, Lady Liberty speaking in the New York harbor without talking.

God, thank you for blessing America!

So, when you hear the words:

It should be a Right, BEWARE!



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# GOVERNMENT TRESPASSERS



John Martin

Nearly everybody understands the concepts of trespass—the violation of other people’s bodies and property. It can range from the petty (walking across one’s lawn) to more serious (hunting or fishing without permission) to the outright criminal (theft and vandalism).

Most people understand that we should respect each other’s property, as well as their right to peacefully enjoy it without outside interference. Unfortunately, there are some who do not.

One of the popular misconceptions is that public officials can legally violate this ethic with impunity to carry out their so-called “duties.” And as time has progressed, these violations have increased.

Back in the 1990’s, Mrs. Larry Wayne Attaway was at home and noticed some suspicious people outside with rulers and clipboards prowling around and measuring her barns, chicken coops, and rabbit cages. She asked them what they were doing. They said they were measuring them for tax assessment. They claimed that any structure over four feet tall was a taxable outbuilding.

Mrs. Attaway was angry. They had not asked for any permission to come onto her property. She told them to leave immediately.

A few weeks later, The Attaways received a notice that their property had been re-assessed and taxed with a serious increase. Larry called the tax office and asked some pointed questions.

Larry reconfigured his rabbit cages to under four feet. Then he hit them for the tax on his house; it was underground, and no part of it (skylights, chimneys, etc.) exceeded four feet. For the following two or three years, Larry wrangled a large tax deduction, until the county adjusted its definition of taxable property.

Today, the COVID scaremongers are cranking up some serious violations to promote and attempt to force-feed the new experimental vaccines. Eagle Forum organizer, Becky Gerritson, has recently posted this notice to deal with “official” trespassers that includes information from KrisAnne Hall, JD in this informational box below:



Photo by: Brian Hoskins/FreeRangeStock

Alabama is one of those areas. It's important that you know your rights when they come knocking. Pasted below is Kris Anne Hall's reminder of our Constitutional rights along with a link to a form you can print and hand to the agents.

## Your Power to Trespass (even Government Agents)

By KrisAnne Hall, JD

If a government agent or assignee comes to your property, it will be important to those who wish to protect their privacy and property to KNOW THEIR RIGHTS.

- You do not have to answer ANY QUESTIONS or make ANY STATEMENTS to ANY GOVERNMENT AGENT or assignee. (5th Amendment of the US Constitution and corresponding section of your State Constitution)
- Simply asking an agent to identify themselves does not waive your Rights.
- You have the Right to be free from any government agent or assignee entering your property, your home, or your business without a properly obtained warrant. (4th and 5th Amendments of the US Constitution and corresponding sections of your State Constitution.)
- Simply demanding a copy of that warrant does not waive your Rights.
- You have the Right to tell any government agent or assignee to leave your property if they cannot produce a properly obtained warrant. (4th and 5th Amendments of the US Constitution and corresponding sections of your State Constitution.)
- Simply demanding an agent or assignee of the government to leave your property does not waive your Rights.

Perhaps the most hideous form of “official” trespass is law enforcement attempting to search motorists’ vehicles at traffic stops. At first, one might think that he has nothing to hide and that everything will turn out fine. In many cases, that could be true. But considering that very mundane objects and substances can be claimed as contraband, allowing a search can be very risky. “Oops, that cop thought that bit of spilled flour on the floor was cocaine. He also found my friend’s empty beer can. Now I’m stuck in jail for several days or longer praying for some family or friends to come bail me out.”

Furthermore, searches result in the destruction of motorists’ cars and their contents. Police have frequently ripped the interiors and tossed all of the luggage and other items onto the highway, even in the rain. Then when they finished, they would not even help pick it up and return it to the vehicle.

According to many hundreds of online posts on this topic, practically every last one explicitly states that allowing a search is foolhardy. “You have everything to lose, and absolutely nothing to gain.” Most of them have been written by the victims of searches.

In 1992, Wes Carter, with all of his possessions, was returning to his home in east Tennessee after nearly six years in the Navy. “I was passing through Kingsport, TN sometime during the middle of the night in my 1987 Dodge Shadow with a full trunk, back seat, and a couple of guitars in the passenger seat. It was drizzling rain and very wet outside. A young Kingsport city policeman pulled me over and asked several questions about where I was going, what was I doing out so late, and if I had anything in my car he should know about. I told him that I was on my way home after completing my enlistment in the Navy, and that I had nothing illegal in my car. A second police car showed up.

“The young officer asked if I cared if he took a look inside my car. I told him to go ahead. He had me sit in his car while he and the other officer removed everything from my car and placed it in the emergency lane on Highway 11-W.... Everything I owned was wet. Clothes, guitars, cameras, tools, and all of my paperwork.”

Suddenly, the cops got called to investigate a traffic accident. They left Wes

on the side of the busy, unlighted road with the task of re-loading all of his soaking wet (and likely damaged) personal belongings all by himself. “I have nothing to hide, but I no longer believe that I have nothing to lose if I give permission for cops to search with no probable cause. It will not happen again.”

Stephen Link, J.D. from SIU School of Law, said, “There is zero benefit to you for letting this happen and you open yourself for a search that could take a few minutes to an hour plus. It’s nothing but an inconvenience to you, and you get exactly nothing out of consenting.If you’ve ever had anyone else in the car, you can’t honestly be sure there isn’t anything illegal in it. Maybe someone was carrying something.... Congrats on your new possession charge.”

Retired truck driver O J Simmons, said, “For us Law Abiding citizens... No, No, No, Never ever, EVER give police consent to search.”

Former Retired Police Officer/chief of Police, Luther Kim, said, “Not only no, but Hell No... never, never consent to a search.... You have a RIGHT to be free from unreasonable searches. Don’t give up that right!

Teacher Teddie Allen, said, “When some kid cop wants to search my car, I tell him no, absolutely not. There's no reason for it, and there's better things you can be doing with your time.... like stopping actual crime.”

Tom Smith said, “NEVER voluntarily allow a search of ANY kind. Do you know why cops will tell you to empty your pockets? Because they CAN’T reach in your pockets without a WARRANT! By YOU emptying your pockets you are AGREEING to a voluntary search. If cops come to your house for ANY reason, DO NOT LET THEM IN! Courts have held that by letting them into your home THEY CAN THEN SEARCH YOUR HOME!”

Former Police Officer, Pat Alexander, said, “An unlawful search is a civil rights violation and anything they found would be inadmissible.”

William Thackrey said, “In our legal system, the police are not your friends. They are obliged to tell you that ‘everything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.’ They’re required to tell you that because it is true. You are in an adversarial situation from the very first moment you have a working encounter with a police officer. Their goal is to charge you with a crime if they

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

- If a government agent or assignee refuses to leave your property or returns to your property after being warned against entering or returning, that agent or assignee has committed the crime of Trespass and is subject to arrest. (State Law, 4th & 5th Amendments to the US Constitution and corresponding sections of State Constitution as confirmed by Supreme Court Opinions).
  - You have the Right to record through audio, video, or photographic recording of any government agent or assignee on your property, either with or without consent of that agent or assignee. (Multiple Federal Court Opinions recognize that the First Amendment plainly protects the filming of officers and public agents.)
- Please click below for a TRESPASS WARNING FORM (Word doc) that you may print and issue to any government agent or assignee that fails to satisfy the requirements of the US and State Constitutions. HAND THE COMPLETED FORM DIRECTLY TO THE AGENT OR ASSIGNEE WHILE TELLING THEM THEY MUST NOW LEAVE THE PROPERTY AND YOU WILL NOT BE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS.
- You should have your address pre-written on form and as the need arises, fill in the date and time. It is highly recommended that you take a picture of the agent you are serving the warning so you may then prove that this person has been issued a formal Trespass Warning.
- FORM: <https://psd-to-wp.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8f701b9034681ec30d1f1103b&id=11f177022e&e=0f0d0a1060>



Liberty First Legal, INC. 7/7/2021  
<https://libertyfirst.legal/>  
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can. And you are NOT on a level playing field. It is generally illegal for you to lie to police, though it is perfectly legal, and commonplace, for them to lie to you. If you lie to them, even inadvertently, it’s a crime.”

This crusade of “fishing” to convict mostly innocent people via car searches is one of the most unconscionable crimes anyone can imagine. It must be stopped. We are in desperate need of a law that specifically prohibits any law enforcement officers from even asking to search any vehicle for any reason.

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By **Kylle' D. McKinney**  
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(334) 479-1242 – Cell  
(334) 272-7630 – Fax



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

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA) SERVICES IN MONTGOMERY

The services available at your local field office are fairly standard. You can perform simple services like requesting a replacement Social Security card or more complex things like applying for Social Security Disability benefits. Here are some of the services available at your local Montgomery, Alabama office:

- Request a new or replacement Social Security card
- Request changes to your Social Security card
- Review your Social Security statement or earnings history
- Estimate your retirement benefits
- Get a copy of your proof of benefits
- Apply for Social Security retirement benefits
- Apply for benefits for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Apply for Social Security spousal or survivor benefits
- Apply for Medicare or get a replacement Medicare card
- Set up direct deposit for your Social Security benefits

### Online Services

To make things easier on you, many services today can be completed online without a trip to your local office. Not only does this usually result in faster processing of your request, but it also makes things much simpler because you never even have to leave home. Today, you can do everything from viewing your Social Security statement to applying for benefits online. A more complete list of the online services available is shown below.

### Frequently Asked Questions at Montgomery, Ala., 36106 Social Security Office

#### How does Coronavirus (COVID-19) impact Social Security?

Due to COVID-19, many local field offices are closed to the public. In most cases, you can call the office to schedule an appointment if you need to complete a transaction that can only be done in person. Otherwise, you will need to take care of your situation over the phone with the central office or online through the Social Security website.

**How do I make an appointment with the Montgomery, Alabama office?**  
Even in situations where your local office is open normal hours, it is always better to schedule an appointment to help cut down on your wait time. You can call the Montgomery, Alabama office at 1-866-593-0914 to schedule your appointment. When you make the call, they can also let you know what documents you need to bring to your appointment.

#### What kind of documentation do I need to bring?

The documentation that you need to bring along varies depending on what it is you are trying to do. At a minimum, you will need some form of identification. This might be a driver's license, U.S. Passport, or state-issued non-driver's identification card. You might also need your current Social Security card and even your birth certificate. It is usually best to take everything you can even if you are not sure whether you need it. It is better to carry documentation that is not needed than to arrive without the proper documentation.

#### Where is the Montgomery, Alabama Social Security office located?

The Montgomery, Alabama SSA office is located at 4344 Carmichael Rd Suite 100. This is where you will go when you need to complete any of the services that have been mentioned above.

#### How do I apply for Social Security benefits?

You will need to complete an application for benefits. This can be done online, in person, or over the phone. The application process is necessary whether you are applying for retirement or disability benefits. You will need your Social Security number and other required documentation to complete your application.

#### How can I check my Social Security benefits?

The easiest way to check your benefits is by logging into your My Social Security account online through [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov). Once you get logged into your account, you can view benefit statements, benefit estimates, earnings history, and the status of any pending applications. That site should be your go-to for any information related to your Social Security account.



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*Please continue to wear masks when visiting the Sheriff's Office if at all possible. Thank you!*

Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy



## Autauga Co Alabama

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(334) 361-2500

[www.autaugasheriff.org](http://www.autaugasheriff.org)



Sheriff Joe Sedinger  
162 W 4th St  
Prattville, AL



## ELMORE CO ALABAMA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(334) 567-5546



Sheriff Bill Franklin

<https://www.elmoreso.com> 8955 US-231, Wetumpka, AL 36092

## Crenshaw Co Alabama SHERIFF'S OFFICE

(334) 335-4850

Sheriff Terry L. Mears

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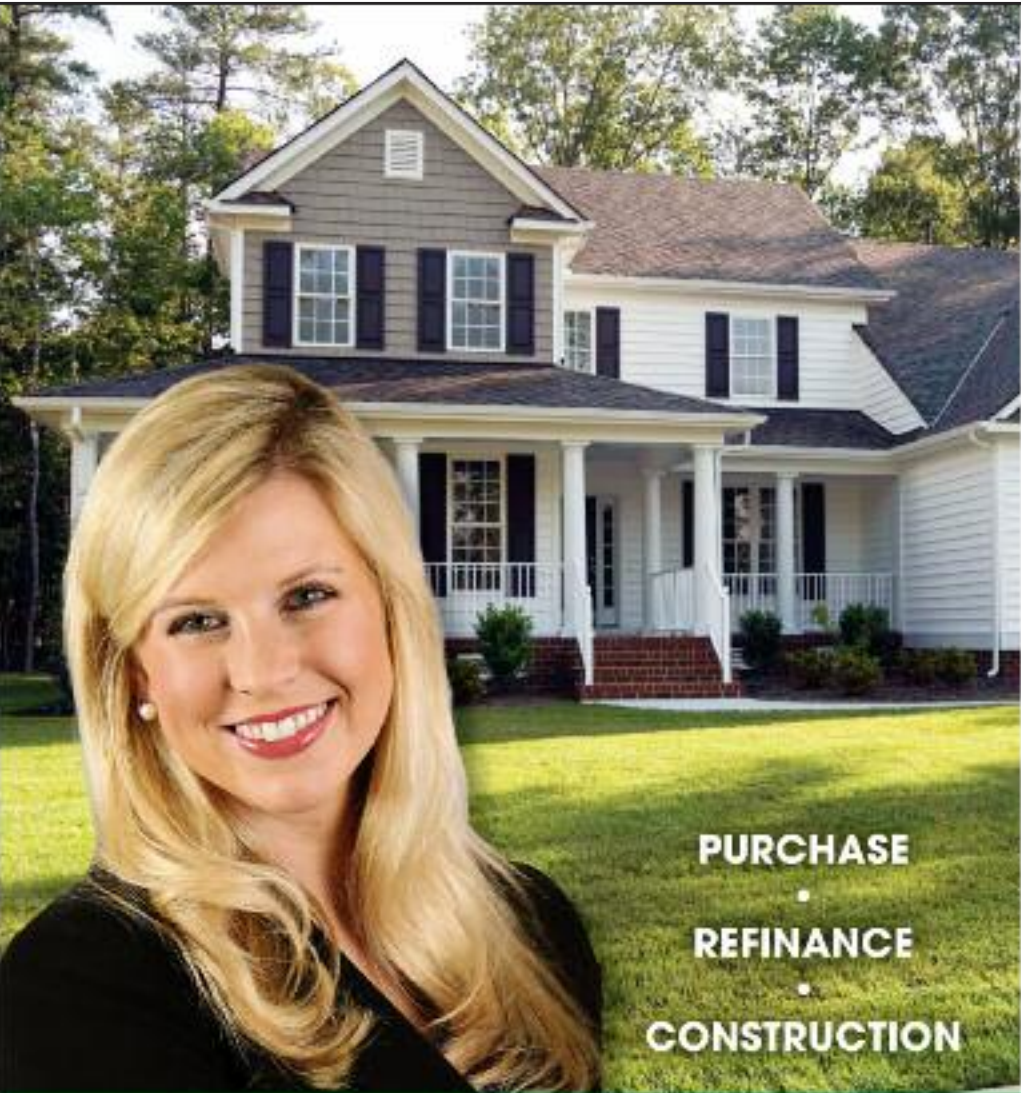
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# Southern Cuisine

**Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef**  
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Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County*



What to do this weekend. Having a hard time deciding what to have for your next meal? Don't cook! This is the season when it is sometimes too warm to cook and too cold not to cook. So when it is just a lazy time and you can't make up your mind what to do, just don't cook. Instead of cooking, prepare a dinner or lunch that can be prepared without cooking. I am sure there are ingredients in your refrigerator that are cooked and can put together to create a meal. Be creative preparing a salad. And since salads are never the same each time you make them, I am not including directions on their preparations.

## BIRDS NEST SALAD

**METHOD:**

Have ready as many crisp leaves of lettuce as may be required to make a dainty little nest for each person. Curl them into shape and in each one place tiny speckled eggs made by rolling cream cheese into shape, then sprinkle with fine chopped parsley. Serve with French dressing hidden under the leaves of the nest.

## NO-COOK MEAL PREP CHICKEN SALAD

*Recipe Serves: 1*

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 cup mixed greens or lettuce of choice
- 3 oz shredded rotisserie chicken (large, sealed bag of rotisserie chicken can be purchased at COSTCO)
- 1 hard-boiled egg (pre-cooked)
- 1/4 avocado, diced (COSTCO also sells a box of individual packaged avocado mash, 2 oz each)
- 1/4 beefsteak tomato, cut into chunks
- 2 Tablespoons red onion, diced
- 1 Tablespoon crumbled bacon (pre-cooked)
- 1 Tablespoon bleu cheese dressing

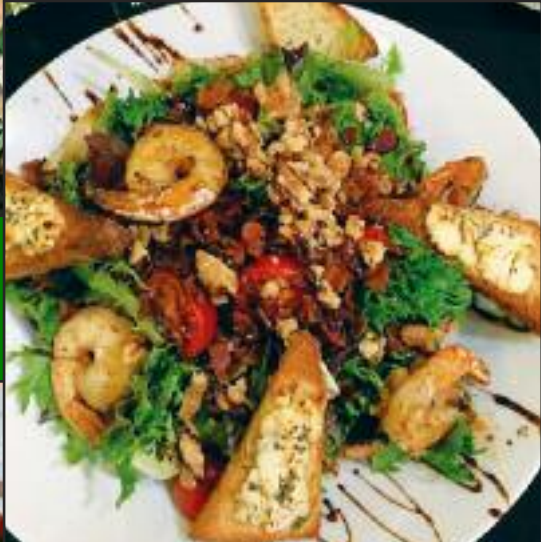
**METHOD:**

Pour dressing into a small container with a lid. Combine the remaining ingredients\* in a meal prep container and store in the refrigerator until ready to eat.

*Notes: Do not add avocado to the meal prep container until the day you are going to eat the salad. It will brown and form a crust on the fruit if stored too long unless you buy the avocado mash.)*

*While we are changing courses, now I want to display the amazing cuisine my wife and I consumed in a recent trip to a relative's birthday party. The last weekend in September, Anne and I traveled to Big Canoe, Georgia, where we dined quite differently then I did in New Mexico. This was a fairly intimate gathering of about a dozen or so of Anne's relatives at a Country Club. We were served exquisite meals that were incredible. The fare was both visually satisfying and very tasty.*

*Below are several pictures I took that will make anyone's mouth water for a bite!*



## WATERMELON, ARUGULA AND FETA SALAD

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (2 lemons)
- 1/4 cup minced shallots (1 large)
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/2 cup good olive oil
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 6 cups baby arugula, washed and spun dry
- 1/8th seedless watermelon, rind removed, and cut in 1-inch cubes
- 12 ounces good feta cheese, 1/2-inch diced
- 1 cup (4 ounces) whole fresh mint leaves, julienne

**METHOD:**

- Whisk together the orange juice, lemon juice, shallots, honey, salt, and pepper. Slowly pour in the olive oil, whisking constantly, to form an emulsion. If not using within an hour, store the vinaigrette covered in the refrigerator.
- Place the arugula, watermelon, feta, and mint in a large bowl. Drizzle with enough vinaigrette to coat the greens lightly and toss well. Taste for seasonings and serve immediately.

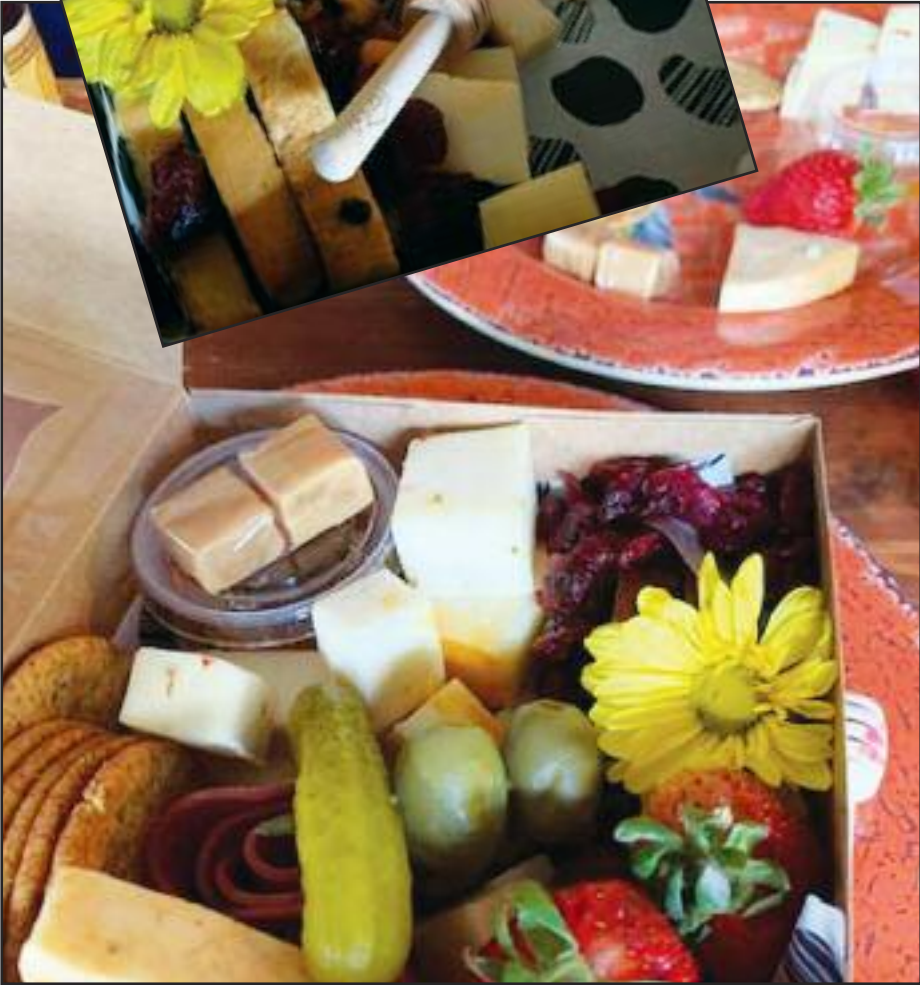
*Now I am going to change the content of this article. I went to a birthday party mid-summer in Ruidoso, New Mexico. The celebration was held outdoors at a house that was about 7,000 feet above sea level. It was a perfect place to host festivities outside ~ no mosquitos and no humidity!*

*The meal was served in beautiful, pre-assembled boxes of fresh ingredients. Being the chef I am, I couldn't help but be pleasantly surprised. I thought, "What a unique and delicious presentation!"*

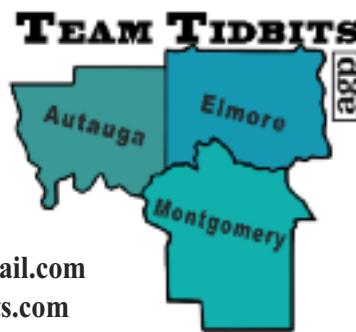
*Each person was given a box with enough food in it to serve two people. Unfortunately, I was flying solo as my lovely wife, Anne, was back in Alabama. However, I was secretly delighted not to have to share my box.*

*As you see in the images, there was an array of fresh fruit and a selection of meats and cheeses, along with fresh honey and it's own wooden honey dipper.*

*This is definitely a twist on a celebration meal that I look forward to recreating in the future! Enjoy!*







The Alabama Gazette is now bringing you Team Tidbits for the Tri -County area. Below are businesses who have chosen to network their business in “The Neatest Little Paper Ever Read!” If you are glad to have the Tidbits back in the Tri-County area, give them a “thank you call”.

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The Women of Hope logo of two angels locking hands connected by the pink breast cancer ribbon is symbolic of strength, courage, friendship and the bond of HOPE for those coping with breast cancer. Women of Hope consists of a Board of Directors, Professional Advisory Board, and Members, all who have in some way been affected by breast cancer. Members of the Board are dedicated to the operation of the organization as well as mentoring breast cancer patients and survivors. Many Women of Hope members have first-hand experience with breast cancer. Our empathy is an effective tool for supporting individuals and families and providing them with a living portrait of HOPE! Learn more at: <http://www.thewomenofhope.org/>

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# THE ALABAMA Gazette

## Community Lifestyles

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

## Southern Gardening

## Potpourri for October

Is it possible that we are getting back to a normal life? When watching the football games on Saturday, there were many cheering fans crowding the stands, which was good to see. We are certainly ready for some happy times with all the gloom and doom we are hearing in the news.

But there is one thing that has not changed and that is we can still go out of doors and garden without masks. I weeded a flower bed in the misting rain the

other day, the experience was rather fun. And speaking of rain, I think I can be absolutely sure that whatever drought we were experiencing in Alabama over last 2 to 3 years is over. One plus to all the rainfall in the Montgomery area can be summed up to saving on monthly water bills, for those who have sprinkler systems.

Let's turn our attention to the wonderful world of ground covers which in many situations can cover a multitude of problems. I have seen steep slopes in neighbors' front yards that presents problems with cutting if clothed in grass. The problem was solved with monkey grass, which held in the soil and prevented erosion.

Monkey grass (liriope) has been used though out the south to edge everything from driveways, to flower beds, you name it and monkey grass fits the bill. Both the dark green and variegated varieties, I believe are best suited as ground covers, but that is a matter of preference. The barrier that monkey grass

creates is so thick that weeds and grass do not cross the line. Whether the area is shady or sunny, monkey grass will thrive. However, monkey grass borders for flower beds distract from the flowers, and gives a weedy appearance. Again, this is just my preference.

Other examples of popular ground covers are as follows: (1) asiatic jasmine (2) vinca minor (3) Blue Rug juniper (4) ajuga (5) pachysandra (6) hosta (7) English ivy (8) clover.

### PLANT OF THE MONTH: Pachysandra terminalis

As stated in the prior paragraph, this is used mainly as a ground cover for shady areas. If you have a difficult spot under a tree, this plant may be the solution. When it is first planted, space the plants about 3-4 inches apart for a better and quicker cover. If spaced 12 inches apart, then do not expect cover until after 3 years. The first year not too much spread, but after the second year growth is rapid. An evergreen, and once there is a complete carpet, rooted pieces taken out of the ground can be replanted elsewhere.



*Happy Labor Day and Happy Halloween!*

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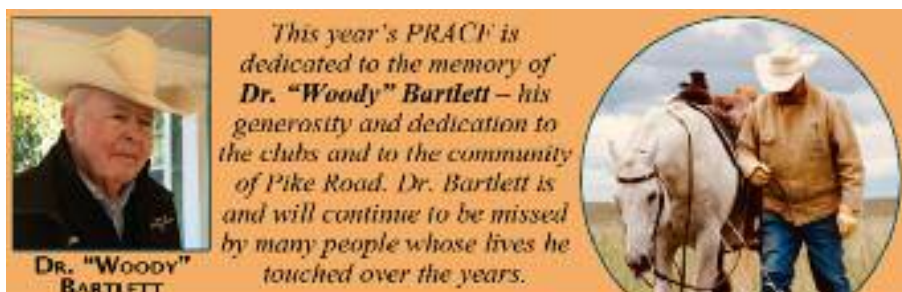


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This year's PRACP is dedicated to the memory of Dr. "Woody" Bartlett - his generosity and dedication to the clubs and to the community of Pike Road. Dr. Bartlett is and will continue to be missed by many people whose lives he touched over the years.



## THE 54TH ANNUAL PIKE ROAD ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

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Jubilee Farms will provide a petting zoo and pony rides!

Welcome Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus!



This jolly pair is starting a new tradition. They're bringing their sleigh, so be sure to visit them and take family Christmas photos!

**\$5\$ AT THE GATE!\***

\*Children 8 and under free. Cash Only. \$3 advanced tickets available at locations in the community.

For directions or more information:

[www.pikeroadartsandcraftsfair.com](http://www.pikeroadartsandcraftsfair.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pikeroadfair](https://www.facebook.com/pikeroadfair)  
or find us on Instagram!



Jessie Lynn, "Alabama's Singing Cowgirl" will be performing at this year's PRACP! The current 2021 Miss Limestone Sheriff's Rodeo Queen, Jessie Lynn is on the "Road to Miss Rodeo USA." She also will open the Fair by singing the National Anthem on horseback.



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Patricia Killough  
Community Editor

# Home Town Community News

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

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



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 David Hite (79th)<br>Karen Hollingshead<br>Wallis Litchfield  | 19 John Lithgrow<br>Jeff Ludwick<br>Nell Nesbit  |
| 2 Allie Dibole<br>Jerry Hollingshead<br>Donna Karen<br>Janice Vaughn Majors (72nd)<br>Bob Morris  | 21 Evelyn Roger<br>Pam Anderson<br>Ken Guthrie<br>Cheryl Horp<br>Spears Rhodes   |
| 3 Ladon Boyd (61st)<br>Monica Mills<br>Ben Sawada<br>Stevie Ray Vaughn  | 22 Judith Lamar<br>Joyce Browning Mills<br>Tony Nemunaitis<br>Alicia Smith   |
| 4 Hazel Campbell  | 23 Earl Henderson<br>Mollie Ester Isacson<br>Mike Kirk<br>Elfie Meredith   |
| 5 Chester Alan Arthur<br>Thomas Chesnutt (100th)<br>Nikki Smith Womack<br>Lynn Moore  | 24 Thomas Norman<br>Connie Thompson<br>Norma Stockett  |
| 6 Frances Grant<br>Jimmy Pugh<br>Matthew Sweet  | 25 Glenn Chesnutt<br>David Alexander Dean<br>Hannah Grace Johnson<br>Dot Pouncey (71st)  |
| 7 Ashley James<br>David Price (72nd)  | 26 Alice Cole (71st)<br>Carol Fowler<br>Judd Huett (83nd)<br>Mike Horsley<br>Natalie Merchant  |
| 8 Jim Fleming<br>Beck Tucker  | 27 Brynlee Ashmore (11th)<br>BoBo Boyd<br>Terry Boyd (61st)<br>Amy Moone (47th)<br>Glen Raley (67th)<br>Stephanie Selvage (47th)   |
| 9 Vance Cordle<br>Arbin McCathern (84th)<br>Bob Persons<br>Asia Patron<br>Clifton Renfro<br>Linda Stringer                                | 28 Louise Lareson<br>Roger Bryant (69th)<br>James Cantrell (94th)<br>Heavenly Fanning (6th)<br>Patti Moseley Higgins<br>Josh Hudson<br>Parker Lynch<br>Johnny Miles<br>Joakin Phoenix<br>Matt Schall |
| 10 Sherry McCulley<br>Ron Selvaggio<br>Mason Williams (11th)  | 29 Marge Crockett (78th)<br>Adam Dupree<br>Lisa Etheridge<br>Amber (Sally) Heitsenrether<br>Elizabeth Mills<br>Caylyn Oswald   |
| 11 Bonnie Ashcraft<br>Susan Guevara<br>Debbie Moore<br>Anna Marie Sessions<br>Christie Vazquez  | 30 Nellie Cole (96th)<br>Felicity Edwards<br>Lee Sellars<br>Grace Slick<br>Josie Stanton   |
| 12 Kirstin Boyd<br>Kim Moore  | 31 Carey Cauthen (67th)<br>Annabelle Henderson (7th)<br>Ron Johnson<br>Elizabeth Kirk<br>Johnny Marr   |
| 13 Fred Cole (99th)<br>Loretta Grant<br>Danny Ott (60th)<br>Mary Wimpee   |  |
| 14 Margaret Batley<br>Brian Burrows<br>Elizabeth Miller<br>Sarah Margaret Poundstone  |  |
| 15 Bob Crowe<br>Noah Edwards<br>Dolores Kavanagh<br>Charlie Lamar Jr.<br>Ray Martin (82nd)<br>Linda Stembridge Chandler<br>Gaston Wallace |  |
| 17 Jane Braswell<br>Chris Floyd   |  |
| 16 Louise Light<br>Jessie Watt  |  |
| 18 Charles Andrew Campbell<br>Marcia Chambliss<br>Ryan Sellars<br>Joann Hassey  |  |

## Happy Anniversary

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3 Mr. & Mrs. Theo Katechis (42nd)<br>Tom & Mary Lion (68th)               | 12 James & Jean Hicks (63rd)<br>Glenn & Susan Yost        |
| 5 Jack & Kim Golson<br>Lance & Sylvia Smith (63rd)                        | 13 William & Loretta Grant (59th)                         |
| 6 Jimmy & Donna Grant   | 15 Lance & Amy Brown<br>Gaston & Doris Wallace            |
| 7 Jimmy & Judy Grubbs<br>Tracey & Britt Betts (8th)                       | 16 Travis & Nicole McGough (5th)                          |
| 8 Eric & Casey Fleming (16th)<br>Bob & Lynda Maddox<br>David & Xan Morrow | 19 George & Marilyn Evans<br>Brett & Barbie O'Neal (19th) |
| 9 Ian & Caty Jane Turnipseed (12th)<br>Gus & Greta Nicole Katechis (5th)  | 20 Tim & Amanda Anderson (9th)                            |
| 12 Mike & Lynn Davis  | 21 Jimmy & Ann Hale<br>Brad & Lee Ann Williams (15th)     |
|   | 27 Chuck & Janice Cole (29th)<br>Kathryn & Andrew Hilton  |

## AMERICA'S GREATEST NEED TODAY "REVIVAL"

"If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."  
(2 CHRONICLES 7:14)

OCTOBER 10 HOMECOMING: S.S. 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11:00 a.m.; Dinner  
OCTOBER 10 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker - Eddie Newton  
OCTOBER 11 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker - Jim Looney  
OCTOBER 12 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker - Corey Dennis  
OCTOBER 13 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker - Neal Hughes

### COME AND JOIN US!

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."  
(JOHN 15:13)

romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

revelation 20:14 "Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death."

ohn 3:16 "For God so loved the world (people), that he gave his only begot- en Son (Jesus), that whosoever believeth (trusts) in him should not perish (hell), but have everlasting life (heaven)."

romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call (with the heart) upon the name of he Lord shall be saved."

salms 119:166 "Great peace have they which love thy law (Bible); and noth- ing shall offend them."

roverbs 3:24 "When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yes, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."

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

Sellers, III, Ronald Earl (69)	Aug. 14
Killlough, Elizabeth Anne Bullock (84)	Aug. 13
Parducci, Janice Johnson (71)	Aug. 20
McKim, Gary Lee (84)	Aug. 21
Owens, Sandra L. (73)	Aug. 21
Avinger, Jr. Charles Lewis "Bubber" (58)	Aug. 22
Hill, Luther Leonidas (85)	Aug. 23
Gillenwater, Edna Dobbs (69)	Aug. 24
Hutchison, Phillip Surtees (92)	Aug. 24
Murrah, A. Wyndol (99)	Aug. 24
Taylor, Jr. John Selman	Aug. 24
Brown, Joseph James "JJ" (49)	Aug. 25
Martin, Marguerite Elizabeth Bass (90)	Aug. 25
Snider, Christie Mae (76)	Aug. 26
Martin, Deborah D. (61)	Aug. 26
McGill, Voncile Ada (94)	Aug. 27
Duke, Jr. James Arthur (70)	Aug. 28
Strickland, Garnieta Nelson (88)	Aug. 28
Phillips, M.D., Gary (82)	Aug. 29
Fitzpatrick, II, Clement Tranum (83)	Aug. 30
Collins, Betty Joyce McNeill (89)	Aug. 31
Best, Terrell Lamar (95)	Sept. 1
Lambert, Joseph "Joe" (83)	Sept. 2
Tucker, James Kenneth (57)	Sept. 2
Myers, Ronald E. (77)	Sept. 4
Wallace, Nancy A. (74)	Sept. 5
Eiland, Carrol Edward (69)	Sept. 6
Elliot, Jeanette Jones (92)	Sept. 8
Cauthen, Larry Morgan (74)	Sept. 17
Kahn, Charlotte (71)	Sept. 18
Bimbo, Cheryl Lynn (63)	Sept. 19
Atkinson, Jr, Joseph Benton "Ben" (77)	Sept. 21
Chadwick, William L. (52)	Sept. 21
Dillard, June Dunn (97)	Sept. 22
Epperson, James "Guy" (88)	Sept. 22
Baranowski, Jean Elizabeth MacDonald (76)	Sept. 23
Marshall, M.D., Donald Alan (74)	Sept. 26
Peavy, Willam Winford "Bill" (85)	Sept. 26

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## In Memory Of

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L B Woodruff, Jr.	Sept. 28
Willis Vaughan Ross	Sept. 28
Larry Thompson JR	Sept. 22
Frances Josiephene "Jo" Parker	Sept. 22
Beverly Joyce Brown	Sept. 21
Edwin Grady Holland Sr.	Sept. 19
Mary A. Stokes	Sept. 18
James Lovic McLean	Sept. 17
Dewey Lavaughn "Bubba" Stoddard	Sept. 16
Annie Ruth McQueen	Sept. 14
Walter Edward "Walt" Higgins	Sept. 14
Juanice Kelley Mims	Sept. 12
Eunice Paulette Edwards	Sept. 12
Thomas Jerome Burnett	Sept. 11
Betty Louise Jones	Sept. 8
Juanita W. Leonard	Sept. 7
Marjorie Ann Spring	Sept. 3
Arthur Daniel Faulkner	Sept. 3
Phillip Earl "Phil" Price	Sept. 3
Carolyn Lowder Payton	Sept. 2
Carroll Dollar Martinez	Aug. 31
James Mitchell Cameron	Aug. 31
William Clark Walker	Aug. 30



# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



By Amanda Walker

## Tears & LAUGHTER:

### For the Love of Autumn

This week’s cooler air has been refreshing after a long Alabama summer... a summer that is likely not through. These first dips in temps are just teasers.

We know this.

We know Southern summers linger late into October some years. Summer often won’t leave until ushered out by an early frost or chased away by the chilling ghosts of Halloween.

By September’s end, most everybody is ready for a change of pace. College football is in full swing, days are becoming noticeably shorter, and the kudzu along the roadsides are beginning to show signs of surrender.

Afternoons have taken on the golden bronze hue of autumn sunsets. Falling leaves, not yet pooling in the yard, are beginning to dot the patio.

If you close your eyes you can almost tell what month it is by the sound. You can hear the change, if you listen past the crows. There is a crispness lush leaves of summer do not have. It is a rustle that will beckon the colors of fall.

It is pumpkin season. And soon the initial subtle signs of an approaching Christmas will follow. But not before nature puts on its annual show of beauty so great that memory cannot retain it from one year to the next.

The beauty of autumn cannot not be justly described in words. Only when the colors splash across a windshield, only when you walk within them and look up are they most accurately experienced.

Childhood has changed with the ambitions of the community I suppose, but during my stint at Thomasville Elementary School there were various field trips that were designed to equip students with awareness that could possibly stay with them for a lifetime. Everybody got to go to the state capitol...to get a picture with the governor and to inspire anybody in the bunch that may have had any political motivations.

Then they also made it a point to bus us to the Shakespeare Festival in an attempt to expose us to what they thought was a little culture, and then, to keep it real and closer to home, every fall they took us to see cane syrup being made.

Everybody was excited anytime we did anything out from an ordinary day in a classroom, but we particularly looked forward to syrup making day. At first glance off the bus, it looked like this was the place where everyone had been while we were in school. A big slice of the town was already there helping. The steam from the evaporator welcomed us.

There were stalks of sugar cane being put through a grinder and juice filling buckets. There was a fire being stoked that fueled the evaporating. It was a slow process. There was constant stirring and watching.

Women busied themselves preparing nearby long tables with lunch, talking together the whole time. The tables were covered with white table cloths and topped with favorite dishes, best recipes, and vegetables from late summer gardens.

I guess they were trying to show us a tradition and give us an experience we could remember all of our lives. And they were successful. With the first cool breezes of fall...I go back every year.

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](mailto:Walkerworld77@msn.com) or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.



Trisston Wright Burrows  
Ms.Wheelchair Americal/  
Alabama 2005

Autumn visions of our favorite warm cozy sweater, rich hot cocoa, and steaming hot apple cider spring into action in our hearts.

The Bible also references new changes and beginnings in our lives as being seasons. Seasons are metaphors for God's perfect timing in delivering us through all the changes He makes in our lives. These certain seasons can bring about the blessings we reap from having been obedient in following Him through those changes even if we did not fully understand or welcome them.

*“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9*

This scripture tells us to never give up. No matter how long, strenuous, and painstaking the road or trials are in our lives, there is always a new season ahead, a season of new beginnings.

Every day we can make the decision to begin again. We can adopt a positive mindset to overcome, conquer, and live triumphantly. All beginnings must eventually come to an end so a new beginning, a new season, can commence. We need to take the opportunity to look ahead at what can be and forget the “what-might-have-beens”. We can challenge ourselves to be better, live higher, rise above our own self-appointed limitations. We can look ahead to a new season of thinking, speaking, acting and living more positively. Each subtle change we implement towards living a more positive life will eventually take root and manifest itself into our days, weeks, months and years.

A beautiful tree full of wonderful green foliage and rich, ripened fruit can offer shelter, nourishment, and shade, but only temporarily. The leaves eventually turn brilliant hues of crimsons, golds, reds and oranges, offering us a wonderful spectacle to behold, a brushstroke of genius only God can artfully paint. Then, those leaves must fall, leaving that beautiful tree bare and vulnerable as it must survive the harshest of seasons. The tree must go through that season to begin a new life, a new cycle, with budding blossoms fragrant and beautiful.

*“He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Psalm 1:3*

We need to be very grateful and thank God continually even when our future seems very unclear. We can still stay firmly planted in faith so we will never wither; but always prosper and produce good fruit.

All glory comes then from daring to begin, daring to change, ushering in each new season, and forever trusting God with each unpredictable new step. Never stop believing and growing. We can never fully know what God's intentions are for us, but we can always do our absolute best with where He has placed us right now. Only then, when we have learned all there is to learn and are truly grateful in this place, this season, will God move us to a new, more bountiful, and blessed season.

*“For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1*

*Many blessings!*

## Trisston’s Tidbits ...

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

### Finding a New Groove

Happy Fall Y’all! (as we say in the South) The leaves are beginning to turn, and there’s a crisp chill in the air. What is it about a simple change in weather that can bring out the best in people? It's almost like each new season is a new beginning of sorts. It's a very representation of newness that stirs up changes in our souls.



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

# Soul Searching

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

## TRUTH IS LIKE A LION

A young boy was the key witness in an important lawsuit. The attorney had put the boy through a rigorous cross-examination and had been unable to shake his concise, damaging testimony. He had given clear answers to all questions.

In a stern voice, the attorney asked, “Your father has been telling you how to testify, hasn’t he?”

“Yes,” said the boy.

“Now,” said the attorney with smug satisfaction, “just tell us what your father told you to say.”

“Well,” replied the boy, “My father told me that the lawyers may try to tangle me, but if I would just be careful and tell the truth, I could say the same thing every time.”

Truth is a wonderful and precious commodity in these days. Statistics show that 92% of Americans speak a lie at least once a day.

Let’s all strive to be persons of truth and integrity – it will make our community and our world a better place!

**Two of my favorite truth quotes are:**

**“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”** – Jesus, John 8:32  
And ... The Apostle Paul states, **“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth.”** – 1 Corinthians 13:6

God is truth. When we tell the truth, we live as God wants us to live and as God has commanded us to live. **“You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.” Or “You shall not lie.”**– Exodus 20:16

When we lie, we go against what God expects of us, and we disobey His Commandments. Often people lie because they are concerned about getting in trouble or perhaps they fear that by telling the truth they will hurt someone. But we lose our integrity when we lie. We hurt ourselves, and we hurt others.

We lose our integrity not only in the eyes of others but also in the eyes of God. Lying diminishes our relationships with others and destroys trust.

Think about how the world would be different if no one ever lied. At first it is a scary thought. After all, if we didn’t lie people would get hurt right? For example, you might hurt your relationship with your best friend if you told him or her that you couldn’t stand a certain character trait of theirs. Or you may have to pay a bit higher taxes if you told your accountant about a particular gift or inheritance you didn’t want to declare on your income statement. Yet, not being able to lie might teach us to be more tactful with our friends or more honest about our business affairs.

We must learn the skills that will help us be honest in all of our relationships. If we want to be people of integrity and honesty, we have to overcome the temptation to lie. It can be frustrating at times and fear is the biggest emotion

we must overcome when we face the temptation or desire to lie. Yet we must always keep in our hearts and minds that there is a way to tell the truth that is good, right and wholesome!

**How can we live as people of truth?**

**Think first.**

Sometimes we lie so we can give a quick answer to someone. Before you speak or answer a question, take a deep breath and pray about how you can say the truth in a tactful way. Sometimes you don’t need to say anything at all.

**Keep It Real**

Lies aren’t always full untruths. Sometimes we exaggerate or stretch the truth. Exaggerating or stretching the truth is also lying. We often do it to make ourselves look better. But is it worth it? Be authentic. Be real. People are usually very impressed with people they can always trust to tell the truth no matter what.

**Set things right**

We have all given in to the temptation to tell a lie or exaggerate. If you have or if you do in the future, pray about and look for the opportunity to make it right and tell the truth. It will be uncomfortable but telling the truth will set you free to be who God created you to be. You will experience a freedom that comes from being a person of integrity who speaks the truth.

Determine today that you will be a person who always speaks truth. I will close with two more of my favorite quotes about truth:

**“Speak the truth in love.”** – Paul, Ephesians 4:15

**“Truth is like a lion. You don’t have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself.”** – Saint Augustine

**Always speak truth!**

Dr. Lester Spencer  
*Lead Pastor*  
Saint James Church



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**SHINE** the light of **JESUS**

MATTHEW 5:16





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# YOGA

## FORMER YOGI, MIKE SHREVE, INSISTS YOGA SHOULD NOT BE TAUGHT IN ALABAMA SCHOOL?



Should yoga be taught as part of the curriculum in the public schools of Alabama? A former teacher of yoga at four Florida universities, Mike Shreve, says, “Absolutely not!” Evidently, some Alabama legislators disagree, because in May of this year (2021), the Alabama Senate and House of Representatives passed a bill, introduced by Democrat Representative Jeremy Gray, lifting the ban on yoga in the public school system that has been in place since 1993.

Apparently, Representative Gray has a vested interest in the passing of this bill because he is a yoga teacher himself and promotes yoga-related concepts through his business called “Elevate Your Grind.” In a statement given to the Associated Press, Gray recently proposed, “This whole notion that if you do yoga, you’ll become Hindu — I’ve been doing yoga for 10 years and I go to church and I’m very much a Christian.” That sounds convincing, but once you inspect Mr. Gray’s belief system, it becomes clear that he does not embrace a traditional, New Testament “Christian” worldview. On his website, he proposes that the result of the study of yoga will be the following:

“Ultimately one must connect with self on a physical plane in order to connect on a spiritual plane wit [sic] God, The Universe, Buddha, Allah, Nuture [sic] or whatever deity we choose.”

Mike Shreve was converted to Christianity in 1970 and he immediately shut down his yoga ashram and ceased teaching yoga classes. “The two worldviews are just not compatible,” he contends. Countering Gray’s point of view, Pastor Mike Shreve offers, “A true biblical perspective does not include all religions, nor does it propose that God and the universe are one. That stems from a Hindu belief called pantheism. Neither can you ‘choose any deity you want.’ Jesus clearly insisted, ‘I am the way . . . no one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (John 14:6).

Some lawmakers have recently expressed regret that they voted affirmatively for the bill. “We just didn’t realize what it was all about,” one commented this past weekend at a statewide Republican gathering.

Alabama was the last of 50 states to have the yoga-ban in place. “That was a trophy on Alabama’s shelf that never should have been relinquished,” Shreve insists. He also admitted, “I’ve learned one of the main reasons Alabama continued with this unpopular standard was the combined effort of some key individuals over the last 30 years like: Attorney Eric Johnston of the Rutherford Foundation, Clete Hux of the Apologetic Resource Center in Birmingham, Eunie Smith of the Eagle Forum, and Craig Branch of Watchman Fellowship. Shreve offers, “It’s an honor to join with these influencers to once again hold up the banner of truth. Our hope is that Alabama legislators will revisit this bill and be courageous enough to go against this cultural megatrend, as they have in the past, and reverse their decision. It may not seem politically correct to some, but it is definitely philosophically and theologically correct.”

It is true that the bill (HB-246) prohibits many overtly Hindu practices like chanting mantras, the use of mudras (symbolic spiritual hand gestures), meditation, guided visualization, using Hindu names for postures, and greeting one another with the Namaste greeting (which means “I bow to the divine in you”—a way of declaring that all human beings are manifestations of God). However, according to a BBC interview, “Mr. Gray . . . hopes to remove the unnecessary aspects of these amendments in [sic] future.” Which ones does he consider “unnecessary”? Unfortunately, once yoga gets a foothold, these restrictions will most likely erode over time and far eastern religious concepts will infiltrate the school system more and more.

One of the most blatant indications that the bill is unacceptable is the required wording on a permission slip that parents must sign for their children to participate. It reads:

“I am informed that my child (name of child) will participate in yoga instruction at the school named above. I understand that yoga is part of the Hinduism religion.”

What? Read that again! Anyone of a different religious persuasion (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh or any other), should be disturbed by the wording of this requirement. Unknown to most people, the physical exercises (asanas) and the breathing exercises (pranayama) are the third and fourth of eight steps that are supposed to lead a practitioner to God-consciousness (according to the Hindu teacher Patanjali). No wonder, in an interview that described Hinduism as “the soul of yoga,” the former managing editor of the magazine Hinduism Today, Sannyasin Arumugaswami, warned:

“Based as it is on Hindu Scripture and developed by Hindu sages, Yoga opens up new and more refined states of mind, and to understand them one needs to believe in and understand the Hindu way of looking at God . . . A Christian trying to adapt these practices will likely disrupt their own Christian beliefs.”

Tim James, son of former governor, Fob James, was the concerned Alabamian who first enlisted Mike Shreve’s help in the hope of reversing this ruling when the legislature reconvenes. A group of nine concerned leaders met on August 12th to discuss possible ways to accomplish this goal (including some of those who have been in this political jousting match for three decades).

Some of Shreve’s strongest arguments are as follows:

**“There may be an opt-out clause in the bill, but there are three reasons it will not be effective in protecting the children of Alabama:**

**(1) Many children will be embarrassed to opt out because of peer pressure and will make the decision to participate in order to avoid being “different”;**

**(2) Once exposed to the fundamental principles of yoga (that primarily involve physical postures), out of curiosity, many will explore the deeper aspects of yoga. This will expose them to beliefs of Hinduism like a pantheon of 330 million gods and goddesses that are worshipped (the traditional number) and the true purpose of yoga, which is the “awakening of the kundalini (the serpent power)”;**

**(3) In many communities, the only persons qualified to teach yoga classes will be certified yoga teachers in the area—most of whom embrace a new age or far eastern worldview. Through the building of teacher/student relationships, they will gain spiritual influence over the children that could ultimately sway them to embrace a different belief system than that held by their parents.**

*For more information on the true nature of yoga and this particular initiative, go to Mike Shreve’s comparative religion website, [www.thetruelight.net](http://www.thetruelight.net), and look under “Writings.” His ministry website is: [www.shreveministries.org](http://www.shreveministries.org). He can be contacted at the address: [mikeshreve@shreveministries.org](mailto:mikeshreve@shreveministries.org).*

## Become an INFORMED CHRISTIAN

ALWAYS FIND THE TRUTH!

DON'T ALWAYS TRUST WHAT YOU ARE TOLD!  
WE INVITE YOU TO GO THE BOOKS-A- MILLION  
AND READ THE MANY BOOKS ON YOGA FOR YOURSELF.

ALWAYS FIND THE TRUTH!



## Halloween has become an issue among Christians !



by Russell Ki Tara (excerpts)

The question is, should Christians adopt the pagan customs and superstitions of ancient peoples and "Christianize" them? The Bible is not silent on the subject:

**"Learn not the way of the heathen....for the customs of the people are vain." (Jeremiah 10: 2-3), and,**

**"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations" (Deut. 18:9).**

**Ephesians 5:11 declares, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."**

### THE APPEARANCE OF EVIL.

The Bible says, **"Abstain from all appearance of evil."** (1 Thess. 5:22).

Who can deny that virtually all of the symbols of Halloween are evil? Witches, monsters, ogres, vampires, ghosts, ghouls, goblins, devils and demons all portray evil! On the other hand, Christians are called to be "followers of God" (Eph.5:1), and "lights" to a sin darkened world. How can we justify our masquerading as creatures of darkness in the light of the Scriptures? And if our houses and churches are dedicated to God and are to glorify Christ, how do we justify decorating them with demonic and occult symbols?

**Virtually all of the common Halloween decorations represent something Demonic or Occult. For instance:**  
**The "Jack-o-lantern"** is the ancient symbol of a damned soul.  
**The "black cat"** has long been associated with Witchcraft and numerous superstitions are still connected to it.  
**Witches and Witchcraft** are a dominant theme of the holiday, but are an abomination to God (**Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18: 8-14; Leviticus 18: 24-30**).  
**Even the "trick-or-treat" is a threat!** It's nothing less than extortion! "You either give me a treat or I'll play a trick on you."

A careful examination of these Scriptures reveals God's unreserved condemnation of all who participate in any occult activity.

What's wrong with Halloween? Everything about it is wrong! It does not have

even one single redeeming virtue. It is a demon inspired, devil glorifying occult festival! Those who love the Lord Jesus Christ should have nothing to do with it!

**"Learn not the way of the heathen...for the customs of the people are vain." (Jer. 10:2-3).**

**"When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations." (Deut. 18:9).  
"Let us cast out the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light." (Rom. 13:12)**

**"And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." (Eph. 5:11)**

**"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." (1 Thess.5:5)**

**"For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing..." (2 Cor. 6:14-17).**

The Christian should not fear any of the powers of darkness, for we have authority over them (**Mk. 16:15; Lu. 10:19**), and **"God has not given us the spirit of fear..." (2 Tim. 1:7)**. But at the same time, **"We are not ignorant of Satan's devices" (2 Cor.2:11)**

Some may call me "legalistic" for doing so, but I have forsaken this pagan celebration altogether. Perhaps its time you considered doing the same.

**"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." (Eph. 5:8).**

### IT IS DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD!

God repeatedly forbids his Children's participation in such demonic activities, as the following passages attest: **Deut. 18:14; Ex. 7:11-12, 22:18; Lev. 19:26, 31; 20: 6, 27; 1 Chron. 10:13-14; 2 Ki. 21:5-6; Isa. 2:6; Jer. 27: 9-10; Zech. 10:2; Mai. 3:5; Acts 8:9, 16:16; 19:19; Gal. 5:16-21; 2 Tim. 3:8; Rev. 21:8, 22:15.**

**JUST GO TO THE BIBLE AND READ FOR YOUSELF! YOU DECIDE!**



# Happy Anniversary

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