



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.



Incumbency Prevails in Secondary Constitutional Offices

Incumbency is a potent, powerful, inherent advantage in politics. That fact is playing out to the nines in this year's Alabama secondary constitutional and down ballot races.

Several of the constitutional office incumbents do not have Republican or Democratic opposition. Of course, having a Democratic opponent is the same as not having an opponent in a statewide race in Alabama. A Democrat cannot win in a statewide contest in the Heart of Dixie.

Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth will be elected to a second four-year term without opposition. He will be waiting in the wings to follow Kay Ivey as Governor.

Agriculture Commissioner Rick Pate will be reelected without opposition. He has done a good job in this important state post.

State Treasurer Young Boozer is running unopposed for another four-year term. He does an excellent job and is uniquely qualified for the Treasurer's job.

State Supreme Court Justice Kelli Wise is running for reelection unopposed. Kelli is popular and is a good jurist. She is home free for six more years on the state's high tribunal.

Attorney General Steve Marshall has token opposition in his run for reelection. One Republican and one Democrat qualified against Marshall. However, he will coast to reelection.

There are two seats up for election on the Alabama Public Service Commission. There are three seats on this regulatory panel. The President of the PSC runs in a presidential year. Twinkle Cavanaugh is President and pretty much runs the ship. The two incumbents are Jeremy Oden and Chip Beeker. Oden has two unknown Republican opponents. Beeker has two opponents in the GOP Primary. One has some name identification, who has run before. Beeker and Oden will probably win reelection.

There are only three hotly contested and interesting secondary statewide races. That is because these three posts are open without an incumbent on the scene.

Popular Supreme Court Justice Mike Bolin, the former Probate Judge of Jefferson County, is term limited by an antiquated law that prohibits a judge

from running for the court after age 70. There are two qualified candidates seeking to follow Judge Bolin. Birmingham Defense Attorney Greg Cook is facing Anniston Circuit Judge Debra Jones. Cook appears to be the favorite to win. It is apparent that the business community in the state is backing Cook. He has also been endorsed by the Alabama Farmers Federation. The latest campaign finance reports reveal Cook has \$552,000 to spend compared to Jones \$15,000.

The State Auditors position is open. Jim Ziegler has served his eight-year stint. This will be an interesting three-man race for this benign position. Former Mobile State Representative and State Senator Rusty Glover is facing Muscle Shoals State Representative Andrew Sorrell and Jefferson County Pastor Stan Cooke. All three are getting out and working the state.

The race to succeed John Merrill as Secretary of State will be a good race. Merrill is term limited after eight years. State Auditor Jim Ziegler is wanting to move next door in the Capitol and become Secretary of State. Because of his name identification advantage, Ziegler will be favored to win the race. However, he will get a significant challenge from State Representative Wes Allen.

Young Wes Allen has been running for over a year and has a good many significant endorsements including Alfa. He has an impressive resume having served a decade as Probate Judge of Pike County and four years as a State Representative. He also has two home bases. He has lived and served in office in Troy in Southeast Alabama and was born and raised in Tuscaloosa where his father Gerald Allen has been a long time State Senator.

Ed Packard, who has run the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office for decades, is also running. He is very well qualified.

The aforementioned current Secretary of State, John Merrill, is not seeking any elective office in 2022, even though he is still relatively young. I have said this before and it holds true today, Merrill is currently the best and most prolific retail politician in the state and one of the best I have seen in Alabama. He has a real grassroots organization in Alabama. He is literally everywhere. Even though he is not on the ballot running this year, he is out working every candidate mentioned in this column. You have not heard the last of John Merrill.



Justice Will Sellers

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN *Happy Belated Birthday, Aretha!*

Had she lived, the Queen of Soul would have been 80-years-old in March. For at least 60 of her 76 years, Aretha Franklin shared her vocal gift all over the world. In addition to bringing her both critical and commercial success, her voice became a symbol for a new generation of Americans.

Older generations rooted in staid and static smugness frowned upon popular culture for breeding new forms of entertainment and activism, which promoted an expression of unique, differing and contrasting ideas.

Utilizing the appeal of her voice, Aretha would challenge numerous pre-conceived notions, and the acceptance of her music would push boundaries that had previously limited others based upon race, sex, religion, and politics. She created a following that was first attracted to her vocal virtuosity but later came to accept her change agent status.

After her birth in Memphis, her family joined the throngs of the Northern Migration to Detroit to escape the overt racism of the day and embrace the promise of greater economic opportunity. Her first performances were at the church that her father pastored, and while she considered Detroit her home, she never became part of the "Motown" sound. Commenting on her life, Barry Gordy recalled seeing her sing and play the piano as a little girl. How she escaped Gordy's talent search is remarkable.

Initially, her commercial success was not readily apparent as her first records under the Columbia label failed to chart. It was only when she switched to Atlantic records and the influence of Jerry Wexler that her career took off. After almost ten lackluster Columbia albums, Wexler paired her with Rick Hall's Fame Studio in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. After that providential decision, her career took off and she never looked back.

Remembering Aretha requires focusing on more than just the appeal of her music; it is also about her as a person, the times in which she lived, and the influence she had. For most musicians, having a voice with a range of Aretha's would be enough, but she also understood the nuances of music and how to write songs from her life experiences that conveyed strong emotions with a powerful cadence and drew people to her. She was also talented enough to realize that she could take the works of others, change them, and make them her own. In fact, her signature song, "Respect," was written and initially recorded by Otis Redding. Aretha's interpretation changed the song and the meaning to not merely ask for respect, but to demand it.

This respect was not limited to Redding's spousal relationship, but was about American society at large, the dignity of the individual and being accepted as an equal. After all, what most people really want is respect; an acknowledgment that they are significant and that they matter. In the 1960s, that was strong medicine.

Her songs increased the acceptance of the civil rights movement among baby boomers, but also caused friction in families caught in the middle of cultural and social change. It is hard to believe now, but initially her record covers avoided featuring her photo so as not to offend parents of white youngsters. But Aretha, like Miles Davis and other Black artists, demanded this "white washing"



Source: en.wikipedia.org

cease, and the album covers that followed removed another vestige of racism in the recording industry.

Aretha's support for social change was more subtle in that she crashed through racial barriers because her music appealed to all audiences. The clear implications of her concerts and the success of her records was that racial discrimination had no place among the new generation. Her support for racial equality would become more pronounced as she used her broad appeal to advocate for change and equal opportunities.

And the breadth of her success and the popularity of her music would support the notion that raw talent could defeat discrimination. Her acceptance in the world at large helped spread American popular culture and promoted American values not only among our allies, but also our enemies.

In fact, it was a custom among Russia and its Soviet Union to dwell on issues that divided Americans. The Kremlin was a master at sowing seeds of discord among and within western democracies. Popular culture was one vehicle to highlight the shortcomings of the West in general and America in particular. But culturally Russia was unable to compete with American post-war pop culture. In the past, it was a matter of strategy to invite a Paul Robeson or Marian Anderson to perform and point out how they were mistreated in their home country, but Soviet youths, much like American teenagers, were ready for something different. Not everyone accepted Soviet entertainment, and any Soviet pop culture had a sell-by date of 1930 something.

Aretha, among other artists, was their worst nightmare. From her style of music to her success and acceptance, there was nothing to exploit. The Soviets would try to create their own statist Russian pop culture, but it simply could not compete with Aretha and America. The sounds of young America flooded the worldwide airwaves, and there were not enough jammers to stop the infiltration of these new sounds and innovative musicians.

Initially there was an attempt to ban the music, but few could resist Aretha and so many others. But worst for Soviet ideology, she represented the democratic spirit of America that accepted musicians based on performance ability and popular appeal. There was no way to use Aretha as an example of talent suppressed based on race to contrast America and Russia. Even their young people liked what they heard and attempted to imitate the music and style of Aretha, but under the Soviet system, there was no chance for a Russian popular artist to achieve similar success.

While there are myriad causes for the end of the Cold War, Aretha and other scions of American popular culture helped win the global culture war one note at a time.

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ROBSERVATIONS... I HATE BEING RIGHT

by Robert Tate

Okay, the title is a lie. Nobody hates being right. Let's talk Ukraine. Everybody reading this has been inundated with news from Eastern Europe for the past month and little of it is good. Except that the Ukrainians are taking it to the Russians, killing a lot of their soldiers and making Mr. Putin rethink his own calculus with this whole invasion thing. Like I wrote in one of my prior Robservations, when asked what the Ukrainians were thinking, one older gentleman answered, "We are thinking where are we going to bury all the dead Russian soldiers?" I love that defiance.

Over the past month, I have personally seen my views on this conflict shift considerably. At the same time, I have to temper my views with the strategic and legal realities surrounding this conflict. It is funny how many people are now armchair generals and seem to know exactly what to do. Reality is that when I hear a lot of comments, I immediately know they have absolutely no clue what they are talking about. As for me, I am not about to throw my two cents into the argument of what I think we should do. Why? Easy. First it is not my place and second, I do not have all the facts I would need to make an informed decision.

This is in no way like Afghanistan where I have a definite opinion on what we should have done. No doubt. No questions. We "screwed the pooch" big time on that one and there is absolutely no way around that. As one retired general said, he could have given that mission to any number of 2nd Lieutenants and they would have done a better job. I think our entire leadership team, civilian and military should be thrown out for that debacle. But I digress. The Ukraine is a different animal. Why? Because Russia invaded a non-NATO country. No matter how egregious it is, where the rubber hits the road, and I hate to say this, but this is their war. We, as in NATO, cannot just jump in and spank the Russians. We can't. I hear cries for a Ukrainian no-fly zone. Really? You do realize that would mean Americans shooting down Russians and like it or not, Russians shooting down Americans – along with other NATO aircraft.

It would mean the widening of a war that nobody wants and all I am saying, cooler heads must prevail. Let's not forget Vlad has a bunch of nukes that he has already alluded to using if he has to. Or rather, if he wants to. At this point nobody, including many analysts I have listened to, has any clue what is going through the man's head. The term "loose cannon" comes to mind and it would be appropriate. All I am saying is we need to be careful what we ask for and we need to be sure that we really want to expand this thing.

Not surprising, the feckless U.N. continues to do nothing. After sitting and watching the Russian build up, they did nothing. It was not until after the Russian invasion that they got off their collective butts and called for an emergency meeting. Oooohhhh, the U.N. is having an emergency meeting. Don't you think they should have laid down the law before the invasion ever took place? After all, the Russians only gave the world almost two months' notice. Hell, immediately after the invasion, some German diplomat actually said they were caught off guard and did not know the Russians were going to do that. Really? Germany? The massive build up. Hello. Think back to Kursk '43 and Bagration '44, the Russian way of war and how they kicked your butts in WWII. And you didn't know? Please.

So here we sit. A month into the invasion and the U.N. has the nerve to say things like they may want to launch an investigation into possible war crimes committed by the Russians. What? The invasion of a sovereign nation is in itself a war crime. Let's not even show the videos of Ukrainian civilians being killed, cities on fire and strictly non-military facilities under attack. You mean like hospitals and apartment buildings? Yeah, exactly. And no, we are not talking about collateral damage. We are talking about targeting of civilians. This is not WWII and Dresden or Hamburg where no laws existed at the time to prevent the strategic bombing. Laws are most certainly in place today and yes, the Russians have broken several of them. Do we really need an investigation here or do the facts that stand out right now give us all the answers we need? But like I said in a previous Robservation, for the U.N. to act on this invasion means they would have to act when China invades Taiwan and the U.N. is simply not going to do that.

As for my opinion changing over time, I am only going to give my opinion and in no way am I saying this is what America should do. Too many people who have "no skin in the game" are way too eager to send other people's kids into combat. I am not that guy because I used to be the guy flying missions during wartime. Although I enjoyed the heck out of my job, I do not have a right to force others to do what I willingly did but can no longer do. But as this invasion has progressed, I have given a lot of thought about the war. I said earlier that this was "their war" and I am right, it is. But I am beginning to see this whole thing evolving. Again, my opinion only and in no way any kind of policy recommendation.

I see Putin as a guy who until he gets his @ss kicked, he is going to continue being the lunchroom bully he is. He is not, in my opinion, going to stop where he is. Why would he? Except for arms, nobody in the world has actually challenged him except for the brave Ukrainians. Even now it looks like he might be getting support from China and Belarus. Winston Churchill made a comment

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once that, "An appeaser is someone who feeds the alligator hoping the alligator will eat him last." Truer words have rarely been spoken. I think at some point, we and the rest of the world are going to have no choice but to stand up to Vlad. Regardless. "But Rob, he has nukes." Yeah. So do we. I am in no way advocating any kind of nuclear exchange so don't go Democrat on me. I simply do not fear his threat. I don't. When I came to that realization about two weeks ago, it made my position easier to support.

I don't know about you guys, but I love the Lord of the Rings trilogy. At the end of the second movie, Samwise offers up a soliloquy to Frodo. Samwise says, "I think, Mr. Frodo, I do understand. I know now. Folk in those stories had lots of chances of turning back, only they didn't. Because they were holding on to something. . . There's some good in this world, Mr. Frodo, and it's worth fighting for."

I agree with this. There are things worth fighting for. I look at my relatively comfy, easy life and think about those not only in the Ukraine but in other places where people are being killed and oppressed. It saddens me when I look at what is going on. When I see a man start a war, in 2022 for absolutely no reason other than he wants to, I have to say to myself, "Yes, there are things worth fighting for." If anyone thinks living on your knees kissing the butts of communist dictators is anyway to live, count me out.

But here is a problem we have in this country. Too many love their comfy, I-Phone and Tik Tok lives and to a lot, nothing of true value is worth fighting for. Perhaps they have acquired a taste for communist rump. A Quinnipiac University poll asked Americans if they were in the same position as the Ukrainians are now, would they stay and fight or leave the country?" Sadly, only 55% said that they would stay and fight for this country. That included only 40% of Democrats. Yes, that means 60% of Democrats polled said they would tuck their yellow tails and run away. Overall, 38% of Americans said that they would flee. So, these people are telling the rest of us that this country is not worth fighting for. Shame on them. I find it interesting that the Ukrainians are giving many Americans a lesson on what Democracy means.

Regardless, the mess in Ukraine right now shows no signs of letting up. Let's all hope that cooler heads prevail. At the same time, I think we all have to prepare ourselves for some tense days ahead. As for me, I will continue to pray peace over Ukraine, its leaders and its people. You should do the same.

An UPDATE on GUSTAVO A Face to the War on Ukraine



In the March issue, we began following the story of Gustavo, a cruise line piano bar entertainer. Before the ink was dry on the Gazette, Gustavo had fled to Romania with his family to seek sanctuary. This required him to leave all of his musical and recording equipment behind. On Friday, March 18, 2022, Gustavo posted the picture below with the description, "Little did we know

that this would be our first and last gig in Odessa (Ukraine). Little did we know, that this would it be the last peaceful weekend in Ukraine. Little did we know, that at some point I would have to move to another country to keep my family safe ... I miss my friends, my life there ... my home ... maybe one day ... when all of this will go away we will let the music sound all over my city's streets and be happy again."

Earlier that week, Gustavo was live on Facebook. Understandably tired and worried, Gustavo spoke about how blessed he was although it was a day-to-day struggle emotionally and mentally. Despite the difficulties for him and his family, he knows they are blessed, and he worries for others. There are so many with no place to live while other people are still taking savings out of banks, changing over currency and preparing passports.



Ultimately, he is looking forward to rejoining the cruise ship, and he hopes things are better by then. While he truly misses his music, he will have to leave his family behind to go back to work, however, he knows this is what is best to for his family.

Lives can change with just a moment in time. We cannot take a single day for granted. Please continue to support the people of Ukraine.

DID YOU KNOW?

Seventh in a Series

In 1860, the economy of the Southern States was the fourth largest in the world. The U.S. Census of 1860 asked respondents to list the value of their real estate and personal property. This revealed the average Southerner had twice the wealth, \$ 1,293.18, of the average person in the North, \$ 558.48

States and Per Capita Wealth, 1860 U. S. Census

01. Mississippi	\$ 2,128	18. Massachusetts	\$ 625
02. South Carolina	\$ 2,017	19. Missouri	\$ 612
03. Louisiana	\$ 1,877	20. New York	\$ 597
04. Alabama	\$ 1,497	21. Rhode Island	\$ 571
05. Georgia	\$ 1,153	22. California	\$ 571
06. Texas	\$ 1,075	23. Pennsylvania	\$ 571
07. Florida	\$ 1,050	24. Vermont	\$ 570
08. Tennessee	\$ 1,005	25. Ohio	\$ 543
09. Virginia	\$ 980	26. New Hampshire	\$ 530
10. North Carolina	\$ 832	27. Illinois	\$ 528
11. Kentucky	\$ 814	28. Indiana	\$ 463
12. Arkansas	\$ 811	29. Michigan	\$ 461
13. Connecticut	\$ 771	30. Iowa	\$ 402
14. New Jersey	\$ 734	31. Wisconsin	\$ 380
15. Oregon	\$ 726	32. Maine	\$ 354
16. Maryland	\$ 696	33. Minnesota	\$ 350
17. Delaware	\$ 666	34. Kansas	\$ 288

Source: Lee, Men and Wealth in the United States, 1850-1870, Yale University Press, 1975

Arkansas was the Southern State with the lowest average wealth, yet it was greater than Connecticut, the Northern State with the greatest. Three hundred thirty-five Southern counties had greater per capita wealth than the wealthiest county in the North.

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The Time Has Passed for Smoke-Filled Rooms

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

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

No truer words have ever been spoken. I am worried that the Alabama Republican Party is forgetting the past and what events lead to the rise of their party in Alabama. The year was 1986. The Democratic Party was in control. It was time to pick a successor to George Wallace who had dominated Alabama politics for two decades. Lt. Governor Bill Baxley had been waiting in the wings since the early 1970s. He had served as Attorney General for two terms and was now Lieutenant Governor. He was ready to ascend to be governor.

Baxley lead a crowded primary field but his successor in the AG’s office, Charlie Graddick, garnered enough votes to force a runoff. To everyone’s surprise, Graddick defeated Baxley in the runoff. So the powers that be in the Democratic Party went to work and overrode the people’s choice and declared Baxley the victor. They cited ineligible crossover voting as the reason for the loss even though only 33,000 Republican votes in the primary. There is no party registration in Alabama so they claimed the impossible to prove; crossover voting. Republican Guy Hunt the Republican nominee was only an after thought. At the time only three Republicans served in the state senate and only eight in the house. There had not been a Republican Governor for 114 years. They did not realize what the right to vote and choose the candidates meant to Alabamians. They completely ignored their wishes. In the general election, Republican Guy Hunt destroyed Baxley with a vote of 696,000 to 539,000 to become the first Republican governor of Alabama since Reconstruction.

Fast forward to 2022. The Republican Party is dominate, but now they are acting like Democrats of the eighties. They are meeting behind closed doors and choosing who is “Republican enough” to be on the ballot. This is a slippery slope. Party insiders should not be deciding who should be on the ballot, especially after the campaign has already begun and candidates are spending time and resources on their campaigns. To make matters worse paid consultants are often involved in the process.

The Alabama Republican Party is Ronald Reagan’s “big tent party”. The Republicans in Alabama welcomed conservative Democrats into the party as the national Democratic Party moved farther and farther to the left. The Democrat Party’s philosophy is unacceptable to Alabamians, and that’s why they fled the party in droves. Until Alabama becomes a party registration state, everyone should be welcomed to run as a Republican and let the voters make the choice during the primary.

The term smoke-filled room was coined by newspapers covering the 1920 GOP convention. At the convention party, bosses choose Warren G Harding to be the Republican nominee in smoked-filled backrooms not on the convention floor where it should have been decided. Any process where the party is governed by the elite and party insiders must be stopped. The vote of the people should always prevail.



Bill Baxley
archives.alabama.gov



Charlie Graddick
en.wikipedia.org

AMERICA'S WORST PRESIDENTS

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

Throughout our history, we have had some great presidents, and also some terrible ones.

There are few people we can trust to judge our past leaders with much accuracy. Most scholars correctly rate Washington and Jefferson at or very near the top. But these same “scholars” have very often ranked some of our very worst up there with them. Nearly all of the popular polls and lists are very wrong.

Sadly, these people have used the wrong procedures in making their judgements. Most have used the quantity of their “accomplishments” in their ratings instead of differentiating the great and good ones from the bad, the terrible, and the treasonous.

The criteria used to correctly rank any president or any public officials are the things that protect our liberty. How well did he uphold the principles of the U. S. Constitution— individual rights, minimal taxation, limited spending, minimal regulation, minimal intrusion onto people’s lives, and most importantly, safeguarding our freedom and leaving well enough alone. In our history, only a few have performed well in upholding these sacred ethics—since about 1850, less than a handful.

Who can we claim as great presidents? The list is rather short. It includes Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Cleveland, and Coolidge.

The tyrannical ones include Lincoln, Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, both Bushes, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

Most of the rest rank from poor to acceptable.

One of the very few writers who has correctly judged our past presidents as protectors of liberty is **CHUCK BALDWIN**, who writes articles for Lew Rockwell. I have not yet found his writings on our best, but **“My List Of The Ten Worst U.S. Presidents”** is dead right. He based his judgements on the very issues that mattered most on keeping our nation strong and free. The list pre-dates Joe Biden, who would have certainly made it today.

1. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: In my mind, I can hear people screaming, “Oh no! Not the great emancipator!” But in truth, Lincoln was the greatest and most vicious TRAITOR in American history. Baldwin said, “Abraham Lincoln is America’s absolute worst President. He did not free a single slave, but what he did do was begin the process of enslaving free men....It is no hyperbole to say that Lincoln truly governed as a dictator, not as a President.”

Lincoln was responsible for violating every constitutional restraint on his office, including imposing our first income tax, denial of habeus corpus, conscription (a form of slavery), and waging the bloodiest and most brutal war ever fought on American soil. Over 600,000 people died in conflict, and probably at least that many more in collateral damage, starvation, disease, and destruction of infrastructure. Sherman’s march through Georgia alone was a war crime of epic proportions.

Lincoln’s goal was NOT to free the slaves. He frankly admitted that he did not care one way or the other. His objective was to “restore the Union”—to conquer the seceded states and subjugate them back into the Union—to repeat what King George III had attempted to do with the American colonies.

Baldwin stated, “There really wasn’t a ‘bad’ President before Lincoln. But with Lincoln as a model and with the constitutional restraints against an imperial presidency left torn to shreds, we haven’t had an abundance of ‘good’ presidents since him....”

2. WOODROW WILSON: February 3, 1913 is another date that will live in infamy—the ratification of the hated 16th amendment that enabled the federal income tax. It didn’t even include a cap to prevent its rate from running away.

Wilson also helped pass the Federal Reserve Act. This gave international bankers control of our financial matters and destroyed our principles of sound money and much of our free enterprise.

And of course, he pushed us into World War I and ordered conscription.

3. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT has a rap sheet that is longer than any other. He forced every American to turn in all of his gold, which was the basis of our money at that time (1933) in exchange for paper money. Penalties for holding gold were severe. Then he officially raised the value of gold to \$35 per Troy ounce, literally confiscating 40% of everybody’s bank accounts and savings.

FDR went on a massive spending spree, created dozens of new unconstitutional agencies and jacked up Wilson’s new federal income tax to unconscionable levels. He prolonged the great depression by imposing a minimum wage that shut out poor people from obtaining employment, forcing millions to sign up for his unconstitutional relief programs. He did his utmost to pack the Supreme Court. He also created the first restriction against our right to keep and bear arms (outlawing fully automatic firearms).

Of course, knowing that the people would never tolerate another war, he set up Pearl Harbor as a bait and goaded Japan into bombing it. He ordered conscription and rounded up all Japanese-American citizens into concentration camps.

4. LYNDON JOHNSON is the prime suspect in the assassination of John Kennedy (He knew that was the only way he could become president). Once JFK was out of the way, he escalated the Vietnam War to enhance his interests in the military industrial complex. Thousands of Americans were conscripted and needlessly killed as a result.



Abraham Lincoln



Lyndon B. Johnson



Barack Obama



Ulysses S. Grant

Like FDR, LBJ was a devout socialist. His Great Society imposed draconian inroads onto our free enterprise—shutting much of it down and replacing it with social-welfare abominations.

Chuck Baldwin states: “Before Johnson’s ‘Great Society,’ black families were largely intact, and out-of-wedlock births were an exception to the rule. Not any more! Now, over 70% of births in the black community are out of wedlock. For all intents and purposes, Johnson’s ‘Great Society’ replaced black husbands and fathers with Uncle Sam and took away the black man’s self-respect and dignity. No wonder today’s black males comprise such a large percentage of the prison population.”

LBJ created the Gun Control Act of 1968, setting the stage for our numerous subsequent second amendment violations.

Besides JFK, LBJ is also a prime suspect in the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. Why? They were strong opponents of his Vietnam War and stirring up too much resistance.

5. GEORGE W. BUSH was a devout warmonger and did his utmost to intensify the brutal carnage that Reagan and Clinton had supported in the Middle East. He began a “preemptive war” doctrine and bombed Iraq and Afghanistan. He created the oppressive Patriot Act, Homeland Security, the Military Commissions Act, and the TSAI. He expunged Posse Comitatus, seized two American citizens, and held them indefinitely without a trial. Bush’s brutality destabilized the entire Middle East.

6. BARACK OBAMA continued the Bush atrocities in the Middle East and forced many thousands of refugees to flee. He transported many of them into America with no regard that many could be dangerous and even potential terrorists. He released five of GITMO’s most dangerous inmates in exchange for one American deserter.

Obama placed our tax and spend policies into overdrive. He more than doubled our national debt—from less than \$9 trillion to over \$19 trillion. He created the infamous “Affordable Care Act” (Obamacare) that was mandated onto nearly every American, whether he could afford it or not. As a result, American health care has suffered and costs have skyrocketed.

7. WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON has done some warmongering in Bosnia and Kosovo. But his cruelest crime was a military raid onto David Koresh and his Branch Davidians, who had established a complex near Waco, Texas, and just wanted to be left alone. Clinton claimed they had been stockpiling illegal weapons and were about to start a conflict. He sent ATF and FBI agents with helicopters, tanks and armored vehicles to rout them out. They shut off their utilities, and for 51 days, they continually played loud noises to prevent them from getting any sleep. Then they sprayed gunfire, pumped deadly CS gas into the buildings, and with their tanks equipped with flamethrowers, burned the compound and the occupants inside—alive—similar to the Jedwabne Pogrom in Poland in 1941. Seventy-six men, women and children died horrible deaths.

The local people were outraged. But Clinton insisted that the Davidians shot first and exonerated the ATF and the FBI. He quickly sent in bulldozers to destroy and bury all of the surviving evidence at the site.

Both Bill and Hillary Clinton are prime suspects in the mysterious “suicide” of Vincent Foster and the suspicious “suicides” and “accidents” of about 50 other associates.

The Clintons are also noted for undercover deals with Russia and China, including selling them large quantities of Uranium.

8. GEORGE H. W. BUSH is “the granddaddy of the modern Neocons.” He was the first to call for a “New World Order” and was a possible co-conspirator in assassinating JFK.

Bush I was also responsible for the murders of Vicki and Sammy Weaver at Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

9. ULYSSES S. GRANT was “a loathsome creature” and an alcoholic—“probably... the most corrupt in U.S. history—rivalled only by Bill Clinton.”

10. RICHARD NIXON: Watergate was far from being Nixon’s greatest misdeed.

He took America off the gold standard and became buddies with Mao Tse Tung.

His greatest crimes were the creation of the EPA and the DEA. Although the EPA did some good things in its beginning (about the first five years), it has since become one of the greatest bureaucratic monsters in history.

The DEA has been much worse. Drug prohibition and enforcement has been one of the most horrible acts of oppression to take place in America. The result has become the world’s highest incarceration rate—millions of otherwise innocent people in prison for the possession, use and sale of so-called “controlled substances.”

Nixon did do a couple of good things. He finally ended the Vietnam War and restored our right to buy and own gold bullion.

SOURCES:

1. Baldwin, Chuck, *My List of the Ten Worst U.S. Presidents*, September 3, 2016 <https://www.lewrockwell.com/2016/09/chuck-baldwin/10-worst-us-presidents>

All Images: *en.wikipedia.org*

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New ASA President Sheriff Jay Jones

Longtime *Alabama Gazette* contributor Sheriff Derrick Cunningham's service as President of the Alabama Sheriff's Association (since January 2020) came to a close with installation of Sheriff Jay Jones last month. One can easily imagine Sheriff Cunningham, among the most respected *Gazette* supporters, was ready for a break after quickly walking into the Covid response quagmire. Perhaps Sheriff Cunningham could impose on Sheriff Jones to submit articles of interest at times as his succeeding President.



Sheriff Cunningham and Sheriff Jones during the induction ceremony for the current President of the Alabama Sheriff's Association.

Some of the more notable quotes/text from Hannah Lester's *Observer* [3-10-22] <https://opelikaobserver.com/jay-jones-inducted-as-president-of-sheriffs-association/> report on President Jones' induction ceremony were giving credit to a mentor in the Lee County Sheriff's Office, Major Carey Torbert. "When I first started at the sheriff's office a couple of years ago, this fellow took me under his wing and he looked out for me," Jones said. "... He has over 50 years association with the Lee County Sheriff's Office, and I'm just telling y'all right now, that man's probably forgotten more about how to run a jail, what a sheriff does in office, than most folks will ever learn in their lifetime. He's a special man and a truly, truly good friend. Major I've said it, we've talked about, but I'm going to say it to the public right now, like I have before. I wouldn't be where I'm at without you, sir.

"We're sheriffs, No other position in law enforcement, but the provision of law and the insurance of public safety is as unique as the office of sheriff. We share the mission of protection of our communities with our law enforcement partners, our colleagues, and cities and states, and around our country. But none of them, I would offer for your consideration, share the exact same relationship that we do to those that we serve. We are here because it is their choice, those people that we serve. It's not a panel, it's not a commission, it's not a council, but the vote of the citizens who we serve. No higher honor exists than to be hired directly by your neighbors, your friends and even people who have never met you, but they've heard you speak, they've talked to someone who does know you and decided, you know what, that you're the one they want to be their sheriff. An honor indeed."

Chris Taylor's [3-13-22] *Lee County Bulletin* report [<https://www.leecountybulletin.com/post/lee-county-com-mission-failed-to-strip-citizens-of-their-rights>] offered some different observations. Addressing the dynamics of pay raises, Taylor wrote, "The Sheriff's appeal to adopt the resolution to limit the people's Constitutionally Protected rights has proven unsuccessful. But, his appeal seems to have been rewarded with a 25% raise from the county, not revealed until AFTER candidate qualifying closed which may have induced others to run had they known of the raise when deciding to run. Some recall this Sheriff's prior 16% 'out of cycle' raise after espousing belief in Mike Hubbard, who was under indictment in the jurisdiction Jones held the highest law enforcement position."

There are many things as a 30-year Lee County resident I would be Sheriff Jones' entire tenor section lauding. Ones which most quickly come to mind demonstrating Jay's exemplary leadership and problem solving skills – setting up a 'satellite' station to improve response times, starting the civil division to not waste deputies' time and effort serving papers, etc. in a county experiencing over-subsidized growth. My readers with very good memories may recall I turned to Jay as a trusted source [<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2018/05/01/news/alabama-sheriffs-lawsuit-outrage-v-issue/1364.html>] on explaining the issues in the 'inmate food money provision' outrage. The analogy Jones provided to understand the history prior to the 30s in an era where Sheriffs were oft housed next to the jailhouse (evoking Mayberry days of Andy & Opie) where a wife or 'Aunt Bee' would cook for inmates was superb. It was fitting for a wife, Auntie, et al to keep the difference for their hard work/efforts to provide these meals. Obviously, the small town world of Mayberry no longer applies to many Alabama counties today ... Sheriff Jones never condoned/supported the current result highlighted by Etowah County observations in my conversations with him. Jay seemed hopeful the legislature would quickly and sagaciously address the issue, which they did. From my vantage point, this was another issue where Jay took some leadership role to move things in the right direction.

This trait makes Jay effective at problem solving and devastating when wrongfully and ever so publicly professing Belief in Mike Hubbard while under indictment in his jurisdiction. While Jay never did as publicly **apologize** for his belief in Hubbard, he did show good sense and decorum to **not** show/speak before sentencing in Judge Walker's court and join the sycophants who'd enabled Hubbard's felonies pleading for leniency. We could've used Jay's leadership (instead of enabling again) thwarting our most corrupt county com-missioner these past years – Jay has no worries about re-election, even if he angers/outs the corrupt. Taking the lead to offer law enforcement actions to reduce wrongful dumping in our trash sites instead of govt. mandated curbside pick-up awarded to an ACCA crony contractor would've been the Jay I recalled and admired. Taking the lead and requesting to be an agenda item *w.r.t.* equipment and monitoring cost for enforcing noise complaints and over-weight trucks to discouraging unscrupulous quarries, timber trucks, etc. would be the Sheriff Jones I could count on and admired.

In closing, I don't know what Alabama Sheriff's Association President Jones will be ... if more the pre-**"I Believe in Mike Hubbard"** Jay Jones, Alabama will have an **outstanding** President. If the more ACCA, BCA, et al alphabet soup agencies raping our State Jones, sadly the future becomes a little more bleak for the typical, productive Alabamian. Nonetheless, keep Jay in prayer and engage him when he does well and poorly; it is our duty as citizens. Duty is still something Jay appreciates. The fact we enable so many Felon Hubbard types is a reflection of us. Sadder still, it seems we have politicians who genuinely believe being elected in our rigged duopoly State says something more about their accomplishments than the flawed system.

Pray for Ukraine



Spring Humor

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Ronald A. Holtsford

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Many are saying that President Putin has committed war crimes. Read the Rest of Holtsford's Article here ...

Continued from front page ...

CRIMES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE ICC

WHICH CRIMES FALL WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE ICC?

The mandate of the Court . . . to hold such persons accountable for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, namely the crime of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.

WHAT IS GENOCIDE?

According to the Rome Statute, “genocide” means any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group:

- killing members of the group;
- causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

WHAT ARE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY?

“Crimes against humanity” include any of the following acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack:

- murder;
- extermination;
- enslavement;
- deportation or forcible transfer of population;
- imprisonment;
- torture;
- rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity;
- persecution against an identifiable group on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious or gender grounds;
- enforced disappearance of persons;
- the crime of apartheid;
- other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering or serious bodily or mental injury.

WHAT ARE WAR CRIMES?

“War crimes” include grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict and in conflicts “not of an international character” listed in the Rome Statute, when they are committed as part of a plan or policy or on a large scale. These prohibited acts include:

- murder;
- mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;
- taking of hostages;
- intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population;
- intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historical monuments or hospitals;
- pillaging;
- rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy or any other form of sexual violence;
- conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into armed forces or groups or using them to participate actively in hostilities.

WHAT IS A CRIME OF AGGRESSION?

As adopted by the Assembly of States Parties during the Review Conference of the Rome Statute, held in Kampala (Uganda) between 31 May and 11 June



2010, a “crime of aggression” means the planning, preparation, initiation or execution of an act of using armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State.

The act of aggression includes, among other things, invasion, military occupation, and annexation by the use of force, blockade of the ports or coasts, if it is considered being, by its character, gravity and scale, a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

The perpetrator of the act of aggression is a person who is in a position effectively to exercise control over or to direct the political or military action of a State.

In the context of war it is interesting to consider what events are more horrid than killing other people with not just small arms and bombs or missiles, but weapons that wreak such havoc on people that is more unconscionable than the usual rigors of war. When you include vulnerable non combatant civilians being targeted it is especially sickening to the senses. But within the realm of combatants it is criminal to kill prisoners of war or to kill those under a flag of truce. It is interesting that one can shoot paratroopers landing to fight but one cannot shoot one parachuting down from a disabled aircraft or shoot survivors from a disabled or sinking combatant watercraft.

War crimes are not wholly found as being perpetrated by our enemies in history but by American soldiers as well. Consider the massacre at My Lai during the Vietnam war where Americans under the command of Lt. Calley and Capt. Medina killed over one hundred villagers. Calley was jailed for awhile until pardoned by President Nixon for time served.

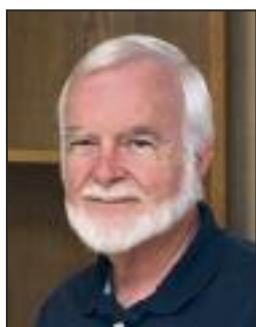
Consider Union General Sherman and his march to the sea. Targeting civilians in a manner to destroy the homes, livestock and crops of southern civilians and even the rape of women, mostly aimed at African American women. Sherman was never tried for crimes and of course neither was Grant who was complicit as was Lincoln who was assassinated.

One writer writing about a United States military officer during World War II referenced the trials of certain Nazi's at Nurembourg pointed out that atrocities that may be committed by the winners in a military conflict may be overlooked but not those of militaries defeated. A military officer exclaimed that had it not been for an American and allied win, it would have been allied officers on trial at Nurembourg. A Union victory in the War Between the States kept Sherman and other Union officers and Lincoln if he would have survived from being tried for war crimes.

Looking at the ICC definitions of war crimes, I think it is undeniable that Putin is a war criminal and almost forty countries have pressed war crimes on Putin. Being able to bring Putin to trial is another matter and would have to be able to reach beyond a Russian court without invoking a Russian military response.

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." 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.

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John M. Taylor

“The Informed Southerner”

Lysander Spooner: Northern Abolitionist and Supporter of Southern Independence

Court historians and perpetrators of the righteous cause myth have devoted much attention to the abolitionist John Brown. Heavily financed by the Secret Six (mainly Northern Industrialists and Unitarians), Brown led a rag-tag band of murderous misfits. The first person they killed in Virginia was Heyward Shepherd, a highly respected free Black man intelligent enough to not join their gang. Brown was eventually arrested, tried, convicted, and hanged for committing treason against the Commonwealth of Virginia. Conversely, Northern abolitionist Lysander Spooner has received minimal attention, with that coming mostly from libertarian circles. Spooner sympathized with Brown in many ways, did not oppose the use of violence, and equally despised the slave labor system; however, as an “individual anarchist” he also understood the Jeffersonian concepts of consensual government and peaceful secession. Murray Rothbard described Spooner as “the last of the great natural rights theorists...”

Born in Athol, Massachusetts, Spooner grasped why the North would not tolerate Southern Independence. He also understood the bigotry in his region where they generally viewed Blacks as undesirable and best left confined to the Southern and Border States. Realizing the schism was driven by economics, banking and political power, Spooner knew Northerners would not invade the South over slavery, stating: “The pretense that the “abolition of slavery” was either a motive or justification for the war, is a fraud of the same character with that of “maintaining the national honor.” He noted the government itself had aided and abetted the institution of slavery and suddenly, with the departure of the Southern States, their motivation to abolish it was “as a war measure.” Thus, using Blacks to fight for the “regime” was important in maintaining political and corporate power. The goal was “industrial slavery,” which includes all racial and ethnic groups. (As H.L. Mencken later noted.) Spooner also recognized that forcing people to live under a government they had rejected was a form of slavery itself.

A vocal skeptic of the U.S. Constitution, Spooner felt the document and/or its manipulation played a role in perpetuating slavery. He recognized the commercial interests of the North saw an independent South as a financial calamity. Abraham Lincoln, an adept corporate lawyer, helped the railroad industry enormously through numerous successful lawsuits. Lincoln's backers said a “free trade” South must be stopped. Spooner also saw control of Southern markets as a motivating factor for Northern corporate interests. Thus, various attempts were made to appease Southern and Border State slaveholders. Spooner

often referenced “blood money” associated with loans from Northern banks that helped prop up slavery. Northern control of Southern markets also had a direct relationship to currency monopolization. As noted by James Garfield (and others), “He who controls the money supply of a nation controls the nation.” This would provide iron-fisted control over industry and trade and keep all workers enslaved within the system.

The denial of Southern Independence required a propaganda platform so the North's corporate and banking complex could “glorify” their accomplishments under the ruse of ending slavery. Spooner saw through it: “Their pretenses that they have ‘Saved the Country,’ and ‘Preserved our Glorious Union,’ are frauds like all the rest of their pretenses. By them they mean simply that they have subjugated, and maintained their power over, an unwilling people...as if an enslaved and subjugated people – or as if any people kept in subjection by the sword (as it is intended that all of us shall be hereafter) – could be said to have any country.” Indeed, Lincoln's so-called “preservation” was literally the conquerors versus the subjugated, i.e., his was an involuntary Union, the complete antithesis of the original voluntary confederation of American States.

Spooner further observed, “All these cries of having ‘abolished slavery,’ of having ‘saved the country,’ of having ‘preserved the union,’ of establishing ‘a government of consent,’ and of ‘maintaining the national honor,’ are all gross, shameless, transparent cheats -- so transparent that they ought to deceive no one – when uttered as justifications for the war, or for the government that has succeeded the war, or for now compelling the people to pay the cost of the war, or for compelling anybody to support a government that he does not want.”

Lincoln was instrumental in turning the country over to corporate and banking interests. In our era, Big Pharma, mega-corporations, the Military Industrial Complex, and their media lackeys exercise undue influence over an often naïve public. It is unlikely that Lysander Spooner will be given credit for identifying this recurring phenomenon. In his day, the government was manipulated and largely controlled by the railroads, steel/iron companies, and banking interests. Presently, the uniforms may have changed but the agenda has remained the same.

References: “Lysander Spooner on Lincoln's War (1870)” by GOP Capitalist; “Lysander Spooner” by Wendy McElroy (from lewrockwell.com); “Government Is not Owned and Controlled by the People, People Are Owned and Controlled by Government,” by Gary D. Barnett, January 13, 2021 (from lewrockwell.com); and Lysander Spooner, “No Treason: The Constitution of No Authority,” 1870.

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Orrin (Skip) Ames, III

Crisis in National Character: What are We Becoming?

Much is being written in the areas of law and ethics on the “character” of corporations, their corporate cultures, whether the corporation is a moral agent, etc. These writings focus on Aristotle and Virtue Ethics, Immanuel Kant and Kantian Ethics, externally imposed Corporate Compliance and Ethics Programs mandated for public corporations by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and external evaluations by courts when following the United States Sentencing Commission’s guidelines for the sentencing of organizations.

However, very little attention, if any, is paid by the academic writers to the cultural environments in which our corporations operate and function and the effects of those cultural environments on corporate character. Some recent writers are, however, acknowledging the deleterious effects of “wokeness” and how corporate leaders are bending at the alter of wokeness and modifying their corporate philosophies under the guise of “Corporate Social Responsibility” (CSR) which has been the mantra for corporations and management teaching in business schools for years. The umbrella of CSR has provided corporate leaders “cover” to change the course of their corporations from a focus on shareholders to a more broad social focus. While that is certainly acceptable if the focus is on the recognition of social and moral obligations (not legal) to the more broad communities to which corporations might have moral obligations, corporate leaders are using the cover of that umbrella to rationalize their turn to wokeness.

This turn has been recognized by the following authors in their noted books: Stephen R. Soukup, *The Dictatorship of Woke Capital: How Political Correctness Captured Big Business* (2021); Vivek Ramaswamy, *Woke, Inc.: Inside Corporate America’s Social Justice Scam* (2021); and Ben Shapiro, *The Authoritarian Moment: How the Left Weaponized America’s Institutions Against Dissent* (2021). This move has been supported by academia and graduates of certain universities who are now populating levels of corporate management as recognized by Greg Lukianoff and Jonathan Haidt in their book titled *The Coddling of the American Mind: How Good Intentions and Bad Ideas Are Setting Up a Generation for Failure* (2018). The effects of this drift on the quality of citizenship has also been articulately recognized by Victor Davis Hanson, the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Military History and Classics at the Hoover Institution at Stanford and Professor Emeritus of Classics at California State University in his book titled *The Dying Citizen: How Progressive Elites, Tribalism, and Globalization Are Destroying the Idea of America* (2021).

These authors and others are taking high profile positions that certainly are not in this present day politically correct or woke-sanctioned to call our collective attention to the eating away of the American culture by conscious and calculated strategies by the Left to undermine the institutions in which we have always had trust and felt a degree of security and stability which are essential to the proper functioning of our form of government. If the Left can undermine our institutions, our trust in those institutions, and our sense of security and stability arising from them, which have always contributed to our national character, then a vacuum will be created which the Left will rapidly fill with an authoritarian philosophy.

Examples of this strategic undermining are the undermining of our law enforcement system, our legal system, the rule of law, and the attack on First Amendment values in our universities through the advent of vague and overbroad speech codes, free speech zones, and “safe places” where the *tender emotions* of our future “leaders” are not bruised.

On other levels, the presence of *sanctuary* cities openly defying our immigration officers and our immigration laws; Leftist prosecutors releasing criminals, many of who are multiple offenders, onto our streets after arrests with little or no meaningful bail requirements; and Leftist prosecutors enacting non-prosecution policies for certain crimes thereby leaving hardened criminals on our streets to pray as parasites on an intimidated citizenry are merely additional examples of Leftist policies which are strategized to undermine and eat away at our national character so that the resulting void can be filled by authoritarian agents.

American businesses, Capitalism, and the free market, which have always been symbols of our sense of American individualism, as recognized by Tocqueville when he came to America after the great cause and observed, from the perspective of a person who had lived under an autocratic monarchy, our unique and individual national character and wrote his two-volume *Democracy in America*, have now joined the lists of targets of the Left and that strategy seems to be working. American businesses that were once the last bastions of a free people who believed in free markets and the central importance of private property are now adrift to the authoritarian Left.

The solution, if Americans still want a solution, is multi-faceted and complex. However, I suggest that one component of the solution must come from the faith community to help restore the moral values that are the glue that binds a moral people together and tethers a society to something beyond the natural self-serving tendencies in human nature.

“Skip” Ames is a full-time faculty member, teaching Law, Ethics, Law for Accountants, and Ethical Leadership at Troy University. The opinions expressed in this column are the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the views of Troy University.

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Faulkner University Announces New President

Faulkner University is pleased to announce Dennis Mitchell Henry, J.D. as the University’s newest president. Faulkner’s Board of Trustees Chair Dale Kirkland and Chancellor Billy Hilyer made the announcement on the Montgomery campus on March 9, 2022.

Henry is Faulkner’s 9th president in its 80-year history.

Out of 26 candidates, Henry was unanimously accepted as president-elect by the university’s search committee and Board of Trustees on March 8, 2022.

Currently serving as an Associate Professor at Faulkner University, Henry teaches law to undergraduate and graduate students. He has also taught dispute resolution as an adjunct law professor at Faulkner’s Thomas Goode Jones School of Law and thus knows the Faulkner community and the university’s mission well. In addition, Henry serves as Professor of Practice in Auburn University’s College of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture Economics and Rural Sociology, teaching agriculture law.

While teaching, Henry maintained his law practice, is a 29-year practicing attorney, and a founding member of Webster, Henry, Bradwell, Cohan, Speagle, and DeShazo, P.C. His practice has specialized in insurance defense, business litigation, estate planning, and agriculture law. He’s also previously worked closely with Faulkner University’s legal counsel.

“When we invite individuals to become a part of this Faulkner family we are looking for those who not only have the ability to perform well the tasks by which they are assigned,” Hilyer said. “But more importantly we are looking for those who have character and desire, the heart and the passion to help us accomplish this mission to glorify God. In light of this mission, they must be individuals who love God, His word and who endeavor to walk with Him each day.”

Prior to the announcement, Henry and his wife Cindy had prayed for a way to become more involved in ministry. Henry views Faulkner as his mission field.

“What does education look like at Faulkner University if developing moral character is the supreme end of education?” Henry asked. “What does that truly look like in this place? We teach, we train, we launch, and we support ministers. Not just preaching ministers, but ministers who are vocational ministers, who minister in their work. We develop Christian nurses. We develop Christian businessmen and women. We develop Christian physical therapists. We develop Christian physician assistants. Christian teachers. We develop Christian folks that work in every possible occupation, and along the way, we do develop Christian ministers who preach. If that’s not enough to impress you, we develop Christian attorneys. So, how do we teach trade and launch these folks to be ministers in their vocations?”

“First, at Faulkner, we encourage young people to identify careers where they can serve the greater good, where they can share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We develop young people looking for careers and encourage them in ways that are truly intangible, things you can’t teach in a book,” Henry added.

Toward the end of the announcement, Faulkner President Mike Williams, who will be stepping down on May 6, 2022, passed a gold-colored baton to his successor.

“As I view academic presidency, it’s not a marathon, it’s not a sprint, it’s a relay race,” Williams said. “When you assume the presidency of Faulkner University, Mitch I’m glad you understand this, is that you cannot take the presidency of Faulkner University and not feel deeply committed to ten individuals who met on April 13, 1942 at the Panama Street Church of Christ when they decided to launch the Montgomery Bible College. And it’s not just a linkage backward, it’s a linkage forward. The baton reminds me that the decisions made in this moment is not just about today, but it has deep implications for the future.”

On October 27, 2021, Faulkner began the search for a new president following President Mike Williams’ announcement to step down as president of Faulkner University at the end of the spring semester to start his new role as Harding University’s president in June.

Henry, who will begin his new role in May, is a former Elder of the Vaughn Park Church of Christ where he continues to teach Bible and serve. Henry and his wife Cindy have three children, Mitchell – wife Rebecca Mann Henry, Lauren – fiancé Chase Thigpen, and Ashby. Mitch and Cindy reside on Prairie Oak, their family farm located in Hope Hull, Alabama.



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

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Sheriff's Office App

If you haven't already heard, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County AL Sheriff"
- OR**
- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

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

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

We are gradually returning to hosting community relations events for our Montgomery County citizens; with that being said, Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and Staff will be holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt for Montgomery County children ages 1 – 11 on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. on the campus of Auburn Montgomery (near the gymnasium).

For more info, please call MCSO Support Services at 334-832-2515.



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Firearms Familiarization Course

We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. The class is held at our Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and is FREE to Montgomery County residents! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.



For more info, please call 334-832-1339.

Camp Show-N-Tell



The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for our annual free Camp Show-N-Tell summer camp held at the YMCA Camp Chandler August 1-5, 2022. Activities include canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, outdoor survival skills and a big dance. Applications are available April 1 – 29, 2022, by visiting our agency at 100 S. Lawrence Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104.

For more info, please call MCSO Support Services at 334-832-2515.



Mac-Sim Butler Detention Facility resumed onsite inmate visitation as of Friday, April 1, 2022. **REMEMBER:** Only those with scheduled visitations will be permitted in the building; There is no open seating or waiting area for third parties; There are no public restrooms; Face masks must be worn by visitors. Call 334-382-1386 with any questions.



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Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for April

Not too long ago a small child told me there were 2 holidays this April – April fool’s day and Easter. How cute is that statement.

One of my favorite expressions is “April showers bring May flowers.” This is my rule of thumb in the garden setting as to when I sow seed and set out small plants. Usually by mid March to late March, the chances of a hard freeze dissipates, so I begin sowing seed and setting out plants for spring and early summer garden. Once these seedlings and plants get established before the heat of the late spring and summer months, the less problems down the line. Good care including the right soil, correct amount of light, water, fertilizer, and weed free environment will produce stronger and healthier flowers. Some people advocate heavy mulch in the beds to conserve water in the summer, but I only mulch those areas of the beds which will lay dormant in order to smother weeds which lessens the task of weeding. The mulch I prefer is pine straw since this will rot down and enrich the soil. Some seeds that I have sown include Cleome, Zinnia-Pacific Giant, Alyssum for a snowy white border, and Cosmos. Except for the Alyssum, the others, which are at least 3-4 feet in height, make a dramatic show towards the back of the beds. I also have sown Old-fashioned Poppies and Larkspur last fall for late spring bloom. How do I know where these seeds have been sown? I look at my flowerbed plan that I keep nearby in a desk drawer.

When I gave myself a critique of last summer’s flowers, I will plant more Pentas or Egyptian Star-Cluster. A Victorian-age perennial, with vibrant colors of pale pink, white, deep red, and bright fuchsia, has an added value for attracting butterflies. Pentas are of medium height and grow best in a hot climate. They are available in garden centers and at big box store garden departments. Try to



plant them now and you will have large swaths of color until they freeze. Lamb’s ear or stachys is one of my all time favorites for the front border of the beds. A hardy perennial with long hairy gray-green fleshy leaves lends much texture and interest to the beds. They are drought tolerant, and will die back when they are over watered.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – MELAMPODIUM

This is one of a very few flowers that has the same name for both the common and the official name. What a great hot summer mounding filler for the flowerbeds. It has been named one of the top 10 summer flowering annuals of all time. With buttery small yellow flowers, which do not hold its dead heads, produces masses of daisy-like flowers from summer until fall. The foliage is a deep dark green and forms mounds 2-3 feet in height. It does require heat to thrive, something we certainly have plenty of.

Happy Gardening and Happy Easter

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By Gary Miller

OUTDOOR Truths

How Proudful Are You?

Another turkey season is just around the corner. Even though I’m excited about the possibilities, I’m reminded again of my distaste for the characteristics of this bird. Yes, he’s beautiful. Yes, he’s hardy. And yes, he’s a wily competitor. But his best contribution is his shining example of all that I don’t want to be and all that I detest in seeing in others as well. His pride is evident and that ought to be enough to make me want to blow his head off. But there are other problems I have with him as well. One of them is his constant concern that others think of him to be something he’s not. As the gobbler approaches a hen or even other gobblers, he begins to swell. All the feathers on his body move in a way to make him look like something he normally doesn’t look like. This is only done because “Someone may be watching and if someone is watching I have to show that I’m big, loud, large, and in charge. I have to be noticed. I have to draw attention. I have to throw names. I have to be someone I’m really not.”

I shamefully admit I used to be this way. I wanted to dress like someone else, talk like someone else, and have what someone else had. It didn’t take me long to discover it was hard enough trying to be myself opposed to trying to be someone else. Now I still struggle with this at times, but I’m quickly reminded of its futility. You see, one of the reasons we battle with this is because we don’t have a healthy self-esteem. What we are saying when we try to be something we are not is that the person I really am is not an interesting, gifted, or even

likeable person. We think who we really are is Clark Kent. So, we constantly feel the need to put on our Superman outfit when others are around. Healthy self-esteem is simply the ability to recognize the areas we are gifted in and the areas we are not. It’s realizing that God was our individual creator and He really don’t make mistakes. Now that doesn’t mean we are not to strive to be better and to grow but what it does mean is that our identity is in who our heavenly father made us to be, and not in our fruitless effort in trying to be something or someone else. God really does love the person He made you to be. So, you ought to as well. And others will follow.



Source: en.wikipedia.org

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ELECTION PRIMARIES - MAY 24

May 24, 2022 – Primary Election ❖ June 21, 2022 – Primary Runoff Election
November 8, 2022 – General Election



Register to Vote

Voter registration and updating of voter records is closed during the 14 days prior to each election in Alabama.

www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/voter/register-to-vote

MEET & GREET THE CANDIDATES



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- ▶ I am committed to free and fair elections as the cornerstone of our representative democracy.
- ▶ I have 24+ years of service to the people of Alabama in the Secretary of State's office, participating in the administration of over 400 elections.
- ▶ To promote and maintain voters' confidence in our election system, I will work with the Alabama Legislature to enact procedural audits after each election.
- ▶ I represented the Secretary of State's office when the State of Alabama's photo voter ID requirement was attacked in federal court. The State of Alabama won that lawsuit.
- ▶ At the request of the City of Mobile, a team from the Secretary of State's office monitored elections in Mobile in 2017 and 2021 to ensure voters were afforded free and fair elections. I was a member of that team.

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Alabama Supreme Court

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— Judge Debra Jones

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"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself."*



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Dr. Lester Spencer
Lead Pastor
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Soul Searching

THE COURAGEOUS CHRIST

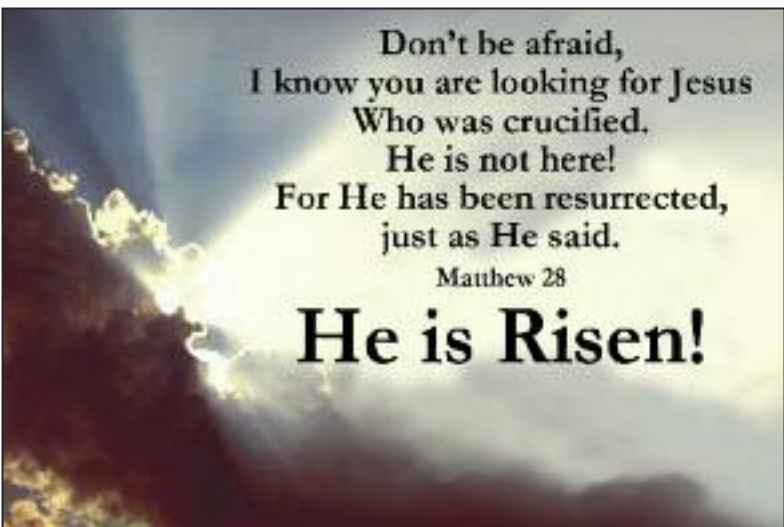
Courage is defined as “the ability to control fear and to be willing to deal with and face something that is dangerous, difficult or unpleasant.” Another source defines courage as “the quality of being brave: the ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty, or pain without being overcome by fear or being deflected from a chosen course of action.”

This certainly describes Jesus Christ, especially during Holy Week as he faced the brutality of the Roman form of execution on a wooden cross. We often use words like unconditional love, amazing grace, and self-sacrifice to describe Jesus. These are very accurate phrases to explain his compassion for us and for everyone in the world; however, we do not normally hear the word courageous to characterize Jesus and the incredible bravery he showed as carried out his mission undaunted by the opposition and the punishment he faced.

Right now, we have another excellent and relevant example of courage. Volodymyr Zelensky, the current President of Ukraine, has shown incredible bravery as he leads the people of Ukraine in a war against Russia. Russia is a world superpower led by Vladimir Putin who apparently seeks to rebuild the former Soviet Union by attacking and acquiring former Soviet countries who are now independent and sovereign nations. Russia’s military is much larger than Ukraine’s: Russia has 900,000 active military vs Ukraine’s 200,000. Ukraine has 146 attack aircraft vs Russia’s 1,328. Russia has 31,000 tanks and armored vehicles vs Ukraine’s 5,000. Regarding the Naval fleets- Russia has 605 vessels vs the 38 ships of Ukraine. And, worst of all, Russia has 4,477 nuclear weapons and Ukraine has zero.

When Ukraine, a peaceful and sovereign nation, was attacked by Russia, President Zelensky and the people of Ukraine faced overwhelming odds. In the beginning of this unprovoked attack, almost all of the political and military experts thought the Russians would overtake Ukraine in a matter of days with a far larger and superior military force. Russian military and political leaders also assumed they would win this fight very quickly. Under Zelensky’s leadership, the Ukrainian people are fighting bravely against their attackers. As of the writing off this article, many weeks into the conflict, some experts are even saying the Ukrainians could actually win this war. They have for sure put up a valiant fight even if they are not victorious against this evil force.

Without a doubt the Russians greatly underestimated the courage of President Zelensky who has inspired the Ukrainian people to stand and fight for their country. In fact, the courageous Zelensky has challenged and motivated millions around the world to support their fight to defend themselves against the Russians as he has addressed the masses via television and social media on most media outlets around the world. As he is being hunted down by the Russians, he has given speeches while wearing army fatigues in the midst of



war-torn Ukraine to the US Congress and Senate, the Canadian Parliament, the British Parliament as well as to most of the nations of Europe and other countries around the world.

When the Russians first attacked Ukraine with a huge force of their military which had massed on the Northern, Eastern and Southern borders, the United States offered to send in aircraft and escort him and his family to safety outside of Ukraine. Zelensky famously gave them this courageous response,

“The fight is here. I need ammunition, not a ride.” What incredible courage it takes to stay and fight for your cause in the face of certain danger!

Jesus revealed his amazing courage when he predicted his own suffering and death in **Luke 9: 21-22**. **“And he (Jesus) said, ‘the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief Priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised from the dead.’”**

Later in the same chapter we see in verse 51 (the NIV version) it says, **“Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”** I especially like the Message version of this verse which puts it this way, **“Jesus gathered up his courage and steeled himself for journey to Jerusalem.”** Of course, it was on this his last trip to Jerusalem, during what we now call Holy Week, that he would be arrested, put on trial, tortured, and crucified on a cross.

Jesus is in fact the very epitome of courage as it was defined above ... “the quality of being brave: the ability to face danger, uncertainty or pain without being

overcome by fear or being deflected from a chosen course of action.”

In my opinion, the events of Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter prove that Jesus is the most courageous person who ever lived. He knew the excruciating pain of the cross awaited him, yet he ventured onward to Jerusalem to face his certain death. It seemed as if all the evil powers in the world had the advantage over him, but through Jesus’ courageous act of facing the cross, he overcame darkness, sin, and death!

I hope you will choose to remember the courage of Jesus in the events of Holy Week this year (April 10-17), and I encourage you to attend the church of your choice for Easter as we celebrate the Resurrection of the Courageous Christ!

His bravery allows us to experience forgiveness of our sins and salvation through his death on the cross. His resurrection empowers us to live courageous lives in Christ!

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

Free For All by **Lester Spencer** – Available on *Amazon* in paperback and digital format. Also available at **Saint James Church** and online: sjlife.com



Join Saint James Church Sunday Morning



8:00 Outdoor Cafe

10:00 Contemp service

11:00 Traditional service

9-9:30 Open Communion

Saint James Church Hosts the Ancient Hebrew Tabernacle

“Come experience the life size replica of the ancient Hebrew Tabernacle! It is our hope that you will come to have a deeper understanding of God's deep love for you and His plan for salvation, which is depicted in and through the tabernacle.”

The Ancient Tabernacle will be open to the public beginning on Palm Sunday, April 10th and conclude on Easter Sunday, April 17th. All are welcome to tour the Tabernacle, which is an exciting journey into ancient Hebrew history and a spiritual pilgrimage into understanding how Jesus Christ fulfilled both the Old Testament and New Testament prophecy.

The Tabernacle experience will empower you to see the love of God for you as expressed through Jesus Christ.

Be sure to make this Holy Week and Easter a very special season for your family, friends, your school, your small group, or your church.

The Tabernacle will be located next to the Ryan Road entrance to Saint James Church (located at 9045 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL) and will be open 24/7 for Self-Guided Tours. Group Tours will be available from 9:00 am until 9:00 pm daily.

For more information and registration of group tours, please visit the Saint James Church website at sjlife.com/tabernacle or call 334-277-3037.



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Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heroes



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Gunnery Sergeant Jamie Michael LyBrand

Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt) Jamie Michael LyBrand served 20 years in the United States Marine Corps. His Military Primary Military Occupational Specialty (PMOS) was Military Police, and he held other Additional MOS's (AMOS): Prevention/Physical Security, Small Arms Weapons Instructor, Marksmanship Instructor, Martial Arts Instructor, Marksmanship Coach, Formal School Instructor and Recruiter.

His decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons awarded or authorized included 20 overall many with subsequent awards and stars: Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, (with combat "V"), which is given for heroism or valor in combat, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three), Combat Action Ribbon (Iraq), Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (six), National Defense Service Medal (two), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (two), Iraq Campaign Medal (two), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NATO Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal (two), Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, Naval Arctic Service Ribbon, Marine Corps Recruiting Ribbon, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (six), and Navy & Marine Corps Meritorious Unit Commendation (four).

GySgt LyBrand was born in 1975 to his parents, Terry and Denise LyBrand, at Ft. Bennington, GA, and was ultimately reared by his grandparents, Joseph Lee Bolden Sr. and Gloria Ann Bolden mainly in Alabama and Florida. He graduated from Pace High School in Pace, FL, in 1993.

GySgt LyBrand's family has a rich heritage of military service. Many cousins, uncles, brothers, and more distant relatives have served their country. His father served in the Army, his father's father in the US Navy, and his maternal grandfather started the US Marine Corps tradition. GySgt LyBrand's uncle, Joseph Lee Bolden Jr., picked up where Senior left off, and then it was GySgt LyBrand's turn. His younger brother served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and several other family members did too. He met his wife of over 24 years in the Marine Corps during his first enlistment.

GySgt LyBrand's wife, Mary, served on active duty for eight years in the Marines during his tenure. This had a very big impact on their two sons, Layne and Collin. Both of them earned the title of US Marine just like their mom and dad and all the way up to their father's maternal grandfather, PawPaw, who earned his title in the 1950s! The boys did it differently though as they are Marine Corps Infantry.

GySgt LyBrand enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps on Active Duty in 1993 and retired in 2013 with 20 years of Honorable Service. He completed Basic Training at the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parrish Island, South Carolina. He then completed combat training at Camp Geiger in Jacksonville, N.C. and the Military Police Academy in Anniston, AL.

His first duty station was Marine Base Camp Lejeune with the 2nd FSSG (Force Service Support Group) and within a few weeks, he was deployed upon the USS Nashville in support of Operations in Haiti in 1994. Following that operation, he deployed for cold weather training to Norway and then to Estonia to support the Baltic countries' (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania) entrance into NATO. He later deployed on a humanitarian mission to El Salvador in support of Central American countries that were ravaged by hurricanes in the late 1990s.

During his time with his first unit in the Marines, he earned Meritorious Promotion to Corporal, and then he re-enlisted for the first time.

He then picked up the rank of Sergeant meritoriously, and upon return to the US from El Salvador, he was assigned to Recruiting Duty. He was sent to Valdosta, GA, for recruiting duty, and while there he earned Meritorious Staff Sergeant/E-6.

After recruiting duty, he served a couple tours in Iraq, including Fallujah. He completed other deployments such as the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Float and even a year in Afghanistan at the tail end of his career.

One particular seven-month deployment was one of his best ever due to his being as Naval tradition would call it a "Polly Wog" with the 26th MEU Expeditionary Unit. He got to sail across the Atlantic Ocean into the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal and below the Equator where he became a "Shell Back", which involves a ceremony citing the crossing of the Equator by Naval Service Members. He returned to Camp LeJeune, served a year in Afghanistan and had two assignments with Special Operations Training Group (certifying MEUs for deployment). He retired from military service officially on December 31, 2013.

Important notes: while on recruiting duty, he realized that he should practice what he preached that is to utilize the benefits that the US Military provides specifically educational benefits. He made that a goal. In the latter half of his military career, he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and completed half the requirements of a master's degree. After military retirement, by 2015, he completed two graduate degrees and earned a graduate certificate.

Since his military retirement and completion of graduate studies, GySgt LyBrand has continued Federal Service for the last seven years starting with the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) for the first two years and Department of Homeland Security (Citizenship) for four years, and now he is back with the USMS as a Supervisor for a year.

GySgt LyBrand praises his wife, Mary, who served eight years in the Marines saying, "She's the reason that I have amounted to anything. I would not have excelled in anything or amounted to anything if it had not been for my bride, Mary. I am a family man and we have two sons in the Corps. I couldn't be prouder as I am in our family's accomplishments, it is an honor to serve our great country!"

He is a member of the Townsend Unit #920 Marine Corps League. He takes great pride that their two sons are on active duty with the U. S. Marine Corps. He enjoys supporting the local community, Townsend Detachment, Lima Company 3/23 and any Marine, Corpsman, or Chaplain that he can find.

GySgt LyBrand statements regarding his military service as a Marine are, "Being a Marine is something that is special. It is a very small percentage of the U.S. population that has ever done it. It is pride that you carry in your heart and soul. You know that the people who went before you are heroes. They are awesome and amazing Americans. They helped build this country. There is no greater sense of pride and belonging during my 20 years. There is something special with serving as a United States Marine."

end



Sergeant Mary LyBrand

Sergeant (Sgt) Mary LyBrand served eight years in the U. S. Marine Corps. Her Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Tactical Switching Operator (tactical telephones and switchboards). She received the following decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons: Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal (2nd Award), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (with one Bronze Service Star), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and National Defense Medal.

Sgt LyBrand was born December 1, 1976, to her parents, Steve and Mary Andrews, in Cleveland, Ohio, where she was reared and graduated from Parma Senior High School in June 1995.

On January 29, 1996, she shipped off to US Marine Corps Recruit Training at Parris Island, South Carolina. There were family members who served in the U. S. Army and Air Force in the Reserves, but she became the first family member to serve on Active Duty, the first in her family to earn the title of U.S. Marine and the first female in her family to serve in the US Military period!

Sgt LyBrand completed the 12 weeks of Basic Training at the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, South Carolina where all female recruits go for boot camp. She had entered

service as "open contract". She was sent to the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twenty-nine Palms, CA, for training in communications where she learned to run wire, install telephones, and establish tactical switchboard networks in the field as a Field Wireman. Sgt LyBrand then served at the Marine Base Camp Lejeune for the remainder of her four years of enlistment.

Sgt met her husband-to-be, Marine GySgt Jamie LyBrand, at Camp Lejeune, and after becoming a mother of two sons, she remained a full-time homemaker for seven and one-half years and finished an Associates Degree until she re-enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps September 12, 2007 in order to fulfill a few goals she hadn't accomplished. She returned for service at Camp Lejeune to resume work as a Field Wireman and deployed to Iraq in 2009 and was there for a year. She served in Al Taqaddum also known as TQ located 74 kilometers from Bagdad where she continued working as a Field Wireman. She completed her second enlistment of four years September 11, 2011 at Camp Lejeune.

Sgt LyBrand her husband, Marine GySgt Jamie LyBrand, have two sons who are also U. S. Marines. Their son, Layne LyBrand, is a Corporal in the Infantry. He is a proud machine gunner, and their youngest son, Collin, is a Lance Corporal infantry rifleman.

After her military service, she worked for a retired Marine as an administrative secretary in New Bern, N.C. for three years until her husband, GySgt Jamie LyBrand, retired from military service. They moved to Spanish Fort, AL.

Using the G.I. Bill, Sgt LyBrand earned a B.S. Degree in Legal Studies with honors. For the past three years, she has been employed by the USDA Farm Service Agency in Wetumpka, AL, as a program technician initiating farm loans, providing customer service to assist local farmers in the 12 counties in Alabama her Field Office serves. Sgt LyBrand is a member of the Townsend Detachment #920 Marine Corps League. Sgt LyBrand enjoys cross stitching embroidery. She loves animals especially her dogs, and one day she wishes to own a horse or two! She and her husband enjoy riding their motorcycles throughout rural Alabama.

Sgt LyBrand's conclusions about her service as a Marine are, "I don't think that most people could handle the service especially the Marine Corps. I know that it changed my life. There were three things that I wanted to accomplish that had not occurred during my first enlistment, namely, (1) to be promoted to Sergeant, (2) to deploy and (3) to receive the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. During my second enlistment, I checked those boxes by picking up Sergeant, deploying to Iraq for a year and getting an Achievement Medal for my tour there."

end

Resources for Veterans



Veterans Crisis Line
www.veteranscrisisline.net



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

Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System
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Yellow Ribbon Post-Deployment Event

Over 400 Alabama Army National Guard service personnel participated in a Yellow Ribbon Post-Deployment Event at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa March 12-13, 2022, in Montgomery, AL. Many members had returned from deployment to Syria; others will deploy in the near future. The workshops focused on building skills that enhance the likelihood of positive reconnections among family members, as well as the successful reengagement of the service member in civilian life. SAF volunteers Martha Poole Simmons, Cheryl Grinstead, Andy Grinstead, Tammy Selby, Anthony Selby and Lannie Newman greeted personnel at the Red Cross table, gave them Totes of Hope and assisted them in filling out a Red Cross connection card for use in contacting them to deliver emergency messages from their families to their command during deployment. Hunter Smart, Service to the Armed Forces Regional Program Manager of AL-MS Region also briefed the group on Red Cross programs and support services. Lannie Newman demonstrated Pet Therapy in the children's activity area.

(Right) Participants in the pet therapy demonstration (pictured left to right) Lannie Newman, Hunter Smart, Tammy Selby, Anthony Selby

(Below) Volunteers with Red Cross at the Yellow Ribbon, from (left to right) Hunter Smart, Anthony Selby, Tammy Selby, Martha Poole Simmons.



Veterans Love the Gazette!

Veterans at **The Crossings**, a senior adult facility, in Montgomery, AL enjoy reading *The Alabama Gazette* at its monthly meeting on March 15, 2022.



Romay Catherine Davis has been awarded the **Congressional Gold Medal** for her participation in the Women's Army Corps in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion in recognition of pioneering military service, devotion to duty and contributions to increase the morale of personnel stationed in the European theater of operations during World War II. This Battalion was commonly known as the Six Triple Eight which was the only all-black, all-female battalion to serve overseas during WWII, and they were responsible for clearing out an overwhelming backlog of mail, making certain American troops received letters from home to boost their morale. Davis celebrated her 102nd birthday October 25, 2021. Her article was published in the January 2020 issue of the *Alabama Gazette*.



commonly known as the Six Triple Eight which was the only all-black, all-female battalion to serve overseas during WWII, and they were responsible for clearing out an overwhelming backlog of mail, making certain American troops received letters from home to boost their morale. Davis celebrated her 102nd birthday October 25, 2021. Her article was published in the January 2020 issue of the *Alabama Gazette*.



Col Lawrence Herman Kloess

Colonel Lawrence Herman Kloess passed away March 4, 2022, at the age of 95. He served 34 years in the U.S. military including service with the Navy Amphibious Forces in the South Pacific during WWII and with the U. S. Air Force Reserves in the Judge Advocate General Department of the U.S. Air Force.

Image Source: www.sonofthesouth.net

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

Norma Lynn Lundy – March 4th
Donald E. Hayhurst – April 1
Trent H. Edwards – April 4
John Gibson Hamilton – April 4
Harold Woodman – April 9
Marvin G. Smith – April 13
John L. Cannady – April 15
Kenneth O. Brewton – April 15
John L. Zent – April 23
Wanda Sue Mehlhoff – April 25
Larry H. Stevenson – April 29



Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals. Raymond Keel will provide this service for free!

Call him at 334-233-8736

or visit: <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org> and fill out the form for requesting a live bugle, and provide date, location and time of interment.

Veterans love reading *The Gazette*!



SFC Campbell
(U.S. Army)



Lt. Col. McClendon
(U.S. Army)



TSgt Laneaux
(U.S. Air Force)

Many Never Returned

April is Confederate History and Heritage Month

TODAY THEY LIE IN UNMARKED GRAVES OR IN GRAVES MARKED 'UNKNOWN,' LEAVING GRIEVING FATHERS AND MOTHERS, WIDOWS AND ORPHANS WHO NEVER KNEW THE FATE OF THEIR LOVED ONES. THOSE WHO DID RETURN FROM DEFENDING THEIR COUNTRY, THEIR HOMES, AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM AN INVADING ARMY FOUND A DEVASTATED SOUTH.

SOUTHERNERS, THE MOST PROSPEROUS PEOPLE BEFORE THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE, FOUND THEMSELVES IN POVERTY. IT TOOK THEM YEARS TO SCRIMP AND SAVE PENNIES UNTIL THEY COULD FINALLY ERECT MEMORIALS TO THOSE BRAVE MEN.



Capt. Henry C. Semple Camp 2002
Alabama Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans
camp2002@alscv.org



CAVHCS CLC rated 5-stars for 10 Consecutive Quarters

By Tramel Garrett, CAVHCS Public Affairs



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Contact Us For Your Free Phone Screening:
(334) 240-4670 or toll free (800) 264-4680



Central Alabama Aging Consortium (CAAC) is excited to announce the launch of a new program, the PANDA Project.

PANDA is an acronym for **Providing Alzheimer's N' Dementia Assistance**. Funding is provided by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). The program was originally piloted in 2020 by Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging (M4A) in Shelby County.

The PANDA Project will provide People with Dementia (PWD), People with Intellectual Disabilities (IDD), and Caregivers enhanced direct service interventions across Autauga, Elmore, and Montgomery counties.

The goal of PANDA is to enable individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias, including those that live alone, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and dementia, and their caregivers to continue to obtain or provide support needed to help reduce critical incidents, such as falls, hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and overall healthcare costs; allowing individuals to remain in their homes.

New initiatives created by the program will include: "Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) FREE web-based and in-person trainings; AFA "Dementia Experience"; Dementia Education and Awareness Campaign; Evidenced-based care management protocols designed to support family members providing care to adults; Specialized legal assistance for individuals with IDD and their caregivers.

CAAC will partner with several organizations including Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, Alzheimer's Foundation of America, Capitol City Health & Rehab, Legal Services Alabama, People First Alabama, TCARE and Trualta, Inc.

Services began in March of 2022 and include: "individual Person-Centered Support Plans; regular Home Visits and Telephone Calls; One-on-One Caregiver Interventions & Training; Homemaker and Respite; Remote Safety Technologies; Home Modifications; and Legal Services."

For more information about the PANDA project or services provided by CAAC, please call (334) 240-4680.

MACOA Serve Seniors!

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging (MACOA)
50th Year of Serving Seniors Meals on Wheels!




You can help! MACOA needs volunteers once a week to deliver meals.

If you can help, please call 334-263-0532.



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<https://www.macoa.org>



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By *Kylle' D. McKinney*
kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov
 (334) 479-1242 – Cell
 (334) 272-7630 – Fax

Social Security Services

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



You and Your Family May Be Eligible for Increased Benefits

We know your circumstances may change after you apply — or become eligible — for benefits. If you, or a family member, receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), certain life changes could increase your benefit amount.

As part of our Potential Entitlement initiative, we want to help you identify where you might qualify for a higher benefit. For example, you may be entitled to higher benefits based on your own earnings record or someone else's record. Some of the life changes that could possibly increase your benefits include the following scenarios:

- If your spouse or ex-spouse dies, you may be eligible for a higher survivor benefit based on their earnings record. The death of an ex-spouse may entitle you to a higher survivor benefit even if you are already receiving a survivor benefit on another spouse's record. We encourage you to read our publication, *Survivors Benefits*, for additional information at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf.
- If you are receiving Social Security benefits based on your spouse's work and you worked and earned credits, you may be eligible for a higher retirement benefit based on your own work. You can view our Retirement page at www.ssa.gov/retirement.
- If your deceased adult child provided at least half of your support, you may be eligible for a higher parent's benefit based on your child's work history. Our publication, *Parent's Benefits*, includes information you may want to consider at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10036.pdf.

We continue to focus our Potential Entitlement initiative on people who face barriers. These populations include older people, children with disabilities, veterans, SSI recipients, and people with limited English proficiency. We are proud to say that since we started the initiative in 2017, our efforts have resulted in approximately \$553 million in retroactive and total monthly increased benefits paid.

Check out our Explore the Benefits You May Be Due page at www.ssa.gov/potentialentitlement for more information on any additional benefits available for you and your family. You can use your personal my Social Security account to check your benefit and payment information — along with your earnings record. If you don't have a personal my Social Security account, you can create one today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount!



Plan for Your Future During Financial Literacy Month



Financial Literacy Month is focused on educating people about the importance of planning for a secure financial future. Every April, we like to remind you that Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan. We have online tools to help you understand your potential Social Security benefits and how they fit into your financial future.

You should periodically review your Social Security Statement using your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Your

Statement is an easy-to-read summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability, and survivors benefits.

Our Plan for Retirement tool in your personal my Social Security account allows you to check various benefit estimate scenarios. You can compare the effect different future earnings and retirement benefit start dates have on your future benefit amount.

Please let friends and family know they can take steps to improve their financial knowledge by signing in to their secure my Social Security account. If they don't have an account, they can easily create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

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or 557-6254



Supplemental Security Income Benefits for Children with Disabilities

Did you know that Social Security's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides cash payments to children with disabilities whose families have limited income and resources?

A child must meet all of the following disability requirements to be considered medically eligible for SSI:

- The child, if not blind, must not be working or earning more than \$1,350 a month in 2022. If the child is blind, they must not be working or earning more than \$2,260 in 2022. The earning amounts usually change every year to keep up with inflation.
- The child must have a medical condition(s), that result in "marked and severe functional limitations." This means that the condition(s) must very seriously limit the child's activities.
- The child's condition(s) must last for at least a year or expected to result in death.

Some older teenagers may have part-time jobs or are involved in work programs, which may affect eligibility to SSI. In addition, if an unmarried child under age 18 is living at home, we may consider some of the parents' income as the child's income. We make allowances for the parents and their other children living in the home when we consider the parents' income. You can learn more about children's benefits in our publication, *Benefits for Children with Disabilities* at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf.

We also help children — and adults — through our Compassionate Allowances program. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify conditions that, by definition, meet our standard for disability benefits. You can read the list of conditions at www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm. Compassionate Allowances can help reduce the wait time for us to make a disability determination for children with the most serious disabilities. Thousands of children receive benefits because they have a condition on this list, but children with conditions not on this list can still qualify for SSI.

If you are or know a parent, guardian, caregiver, or representative of a child you think may be eligible, visit our Disability Benefits — Apply for a Child (Under Age 18) at www.ssa.gov/ssikids to learn more and begin an application.



Social Security: What to Know about Signing Up or Signing In



We want to help you get the services you need as quickly and safely as possible. Your personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount is your gateway to doing business with us online.

Whether you receive benefits now or in the future, you will want to create your personal my Social Security account or use the one you may already have. More than 65 million people already have an account!

Did you know you can use your personal my Social Security account to accomplish many tasks?

You can request a replacement Social Security card (in most states), check the status of your application or appeal, verify your earnings, estimate future benefits, or manage the benefits you already receive. Watch our brief video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hjJqUAFSXI about the benefits of having an account.

We are committed to protecting your information and benefits and take this responsibility seriously. That's why we ask for personal information to verify your identity in order to create a personal my Social Security account. We work with external partners to securely verify your identity. We do this to protect your data while making our online services easy for you to use.

• Ready to sign up? You can now create your new my Social Security account through either of these two credential partners: Login.gov or ID.me. Login.gov is the public's one account for simple, secure, and private access to participating U.S. government agencies.

• ID.me is a single sign-on provider that meets the U.S. government's online identity proofing and authentication requirements.

A credential includes your username, password, and two-step verification factors. A trusted credential partner helps us securely verify your identity online.

Here is a brief list of some things you need to know when creating or accessing your personal my Social Security account.

1. I have never accessed my Social Security, and I do not have a Login.gov or ID.me credential:

Visit the my Social Security webpage at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to get started. You will have the option to create an account with your preferred credential partner, Login.gov or ID.me. Keep in mind:

- You must be 18 years of age or older and have a Social Security number.
- You will be redirected to the partner's website when you select "Sign in with Login.gov" or "Sign in with ID.me."
- You must provide a valid email address and some additional information.
- Once you create the credential, you'll return to the my Social Security webpage for next steps.

2. I have never accessed my Social Security, but I already have a Login.gov or ID.me credential:

You can sign in with your credential on the my Social Security webpage at www.ssa.gov/myaccount and follow the prompts.

3. I have accessed my Social Security with a Social Security username and password that I created before September 18, 2021:

You should still sign in using your Social Security username and password. This is the first option on the Sign In screen secure.ssa.gov/RIL/SiView.action.

4. I have accessed my Social Security using my existing Login.gov or ID.me credential:

You can sign in to my Social Security using either Login.gov or ID.me credential.

Please encourage your friends and family to create their personal my Social Security account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

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

Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist
kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Amanda Walker

TEARS & LAUGHTER:

An Alabama Lottery Proposal Loses Value Every Year

The Alabama Legislature has once again introduced a lottery proposal that would give voters the opportunity to choose whether or not Alabama can have a lottery. It is one of the only states in the union not to have a lottery.

They do this every year.

I write about it every year.

They meet, and talk, and wring their hands, and second-guess themselves.

They open it up for public discussion. Then they get anxious and table whatever plan they were considering and agree to start over from scratch during the next legislative session.

Part of them feels obligated to include casinos, since there are already casinos operating around the clock every single day of the year in Alabama. Some barely want to allow it all. They are much more comfortable with control in their hands than a spread of cards.

I have long suspected that most of the members of the Alabama Legislature do not enjoy gambling ... at least not with money. And money, which Alabama needs, is exactly what a lottery would generate. Which has been a problem in the past. They can never decide what to do with the proceeds ... should they ever finally decide to give the people of Alabama the opportunity to vote on the matter by putting it on the ballot again for the first time in over 22 years.



It all seems rather slow to those who routinely visit area casinos and play neighboring state lotteries.

The legislature should maybe consider that its wager is losing value every year they delay implementing a lottery. Alabama gamblers are already gambling and do not need permission from the Alabama Legislature. We have horses.

This morning, as I write, at not quite yet 6 a.m., I am waiting for the third day of the Cheltenham Festival in the UK to begin. It is the highlight of Jump season, or “hurdles.” It is a culmination of some of the world’s most talented jockeys, paired with finest of horses who have been trained by the elites. It draws huge crowds both physically and virtually, and has pools that grow to staggering amounts.

Granted, you have to follow the horses to know the horses, riders, trainers, and tracks, but you can play horses around the clock and around the world from your phone. It is completely legal – even in Alabama – because it is a game of competition as opposed to a game of chance.

You can quickly and easily join in by creating an account with one of the interactive platforms. There may be several, but the New York Race Association (NYRAbets.com) offers wagering in Alabama, as does Saratogabets.com. You can wager and watch all races online, or on the Television Games channel. American tracks start around 11 a.m. daily, but until that time of day the African, French, and United Kingdom tracks will keep you entertained, and when American tracks call it a night just shy of midnight the Australian tracks are in full swing. Pick your preference – hurdles, harness, or flat. It’s not free, but then again you won’t be buying gas to get there either.

Or you can continue to wait on the Alabama Legislature to decide if they have the gumption to give us the opportunity to vote on their half-ass, watered-down version of a lottery bill that should have long since been allowed.

Amanda Walker is a contributor with *AL.com*, *The Selma Times Journal*, *Thomasville Times*, *West Alabama Watchman*, and *Alabama Gazette*. Contact her at Walkerworld77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.



Ms. Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“That’s Easter”

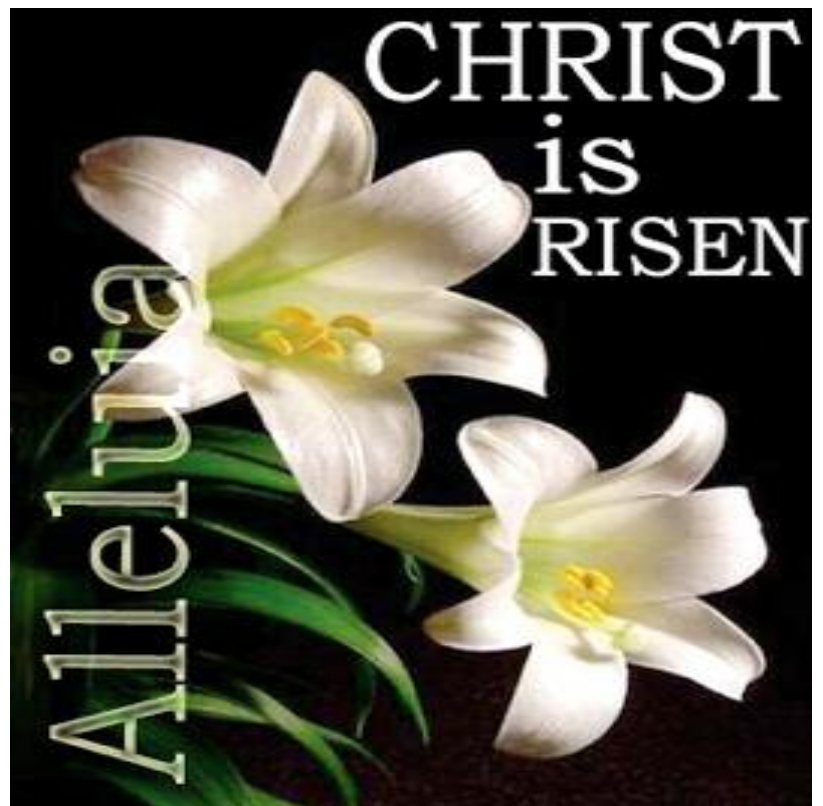
Before He was ever crucified, Jesus gave the perfect summary of the foundation of Christianity. I just saw this in His Word for the very first time. I was thinking about Easter and thinking about the cross, when I remembered something Jesus said in **Matthew 22:34-40**.

The greatest commandment deals with our VERTICAL relationship with God. ***The first, and most important relationship issue that we must settle in our lives is our relationship with God.*** It was broken by sin, but the bridge upward to God goes through Jesus. If we accept that bridge, we will love the Lord our God because He first loved us. The second commandment deals with our HORIZONTAL relationships with others. ***We will love others with God’s love if we will first love Him with all our heart, mind, and soul.***

Jesus ends the discourse by saying ***“all the Law and the Prophets HANG on these two commandments.”*** Matthew 22:40

How does this pertain to Easter? Open your right hand, use your index finger and point UP – VERTICAL to represent your vertical relationship with God (You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might). Take your left hand and place your index finger HORIZONTAL to the finger pointing up to represent your relationship with others (love your neighbor as yourself). See the cross? The fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets hung there, Jesus on the cross, who opened us vertically to the love of God and enabled us horizontally to truly love others. That’s Easter!

Happy Easter & Many Blessings!



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

Visit: www.thewomenofhope.org

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



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Boomers May Help Economy

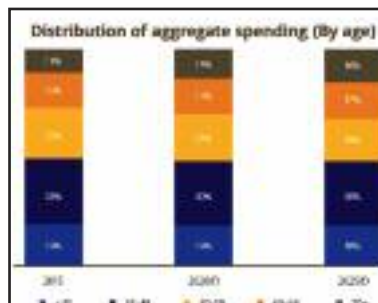
Many have hope that “Boomers” will solve America’s labor shortage; others are counting on the over-65 crowd to keep afloat consumer spending, too. Experts tell *The Wall Street Journal* that seniors are sitting on enlarged bank accounts after two years of reduced in-person spending, and that the demographic “could help fuel economic growth in the months ahead.”

The older Americans are ready to do more since the pandemic has passed, which can help all generations. Boomers want to travel, venture out to restaurants and shopping. Many are also returning to work, as well, as they hope to help their children have a secure life. It is said that the Boomer generation wants to set their children, Generation X, on the right course.

According to a Visa index of “spending momentum,” people ages 65 and up outspent 45- to 64-year-olds in February. Boomers lagged 25- to 44-year-olds, typically the biggest spenders, but only by 3.2 percentage points.



Photo by: Racool / www.FreeRangeStock.com



Visa projects consumers age 60+ will continue to drive U.S. spending for the next five to 10 years.

In 2015, aggregate spending was evenly split between those under 50 and those over 50, but by 2025 it is expected that those over 50 will represent about 52 percent of aggregate spending.

Source: Visa Spending Momentum Index, Consumer Spending Survey 2015, Visa Research and Analytics

The Visa U.S. Spending Momentum Index (SMI) is a leading economic indicator that provides a timely read on the health of U.S. consumer spending. The Index is based on a sample of current, depersonalized spending data from Visa-branded credit and debit credentials.*

Home Town Community News

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to algazettesubmit@gmail.com

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

Patricia Killough
Community Editor

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Magan Gramling | Sherry Knight |
| Linda Mann | Patrick O'Mailia |
| Ann Pascal | Jimmy Sellars |
| 2 Ronnie Broadway | Franklin Williams (43) |
| Helen Gordon (93) | 14 Brenda Blackburn |
| Ken (Buddy) Hicks | Chuck Holmes |
| Christopher Kenmore | 15 Skylar Campbell (24) |
| Patricia Killough (72) | Ruby Goodman (80) |
| Colby Mills | Moseley Higgins (22) |
| Ruth Neilson | 16 Judy Barnes (71) |
| 3 Cole Andrews | Shannon Holmes (43) |
| Winston Webb | 17 Donna Daffron Allen (77) |
| Emily Claire Needham (14) | 18 Julia Norris |
| 4 Owen Scott Edwards (15) | Slade Rhodes |
| Bill Younkin | Eunice Broadway |
| 5 Prasertsi Atkinson | Samuel Sullivan |
| Kitty Graham | 19 Haley Boyd (29) |
| Steve Stringer | Lloyd Probst (83) |
| Coleman Taylor (26) | 20 Frank Grove |
| Edwina Davis Walker | 21 Jennifer Champion |
| 6 Lew Baxter | Emily Garner James |
| Brenda Caprara | Betty Kirksey (93) |
| Evelyn Claire Carter (7) | Queen Elizabeth (96) |
| Ann Orr (84) | Anna Beth Taylor |
| 7 Winford Collier (89) | Amanda Taylor |
| Caroline Handey | 22 Sue Arant |
| Bea Ward | Brady Boyd (18) |
| 8 Debra Ehrlich | Tammy Orr |
| Cynthia Mull | Brandy Terrell |
| James White | Alice Guntharp |
| Clara Wright | Sarah Kathleene Selvage (7) |
| 9 Rev. Melvin J. Hendricks (67) | 23 Shane McKinley |
| 10 Jean Douglass | Jud Parenteau (13) |
| Wade Norris | 24 Bara Edwards |
| Jimmy Grubbs | 25 Blane Campbell (25) |
| Hayden Ward | Don Cooley |
| Travis Ratliff | Debra Kinman |
| 11 Mae Bishop | Barbara Ratliff |
| Margaret Boyd | 26 Joe Cotney |
| Buddy Handey | Betty Strickland |
| James Griffin | 27 Erik Box |
| 12 Sally Brown | Julie Livingston |
| Morgan McGough | Wayne Watkins |
| Carolyn Perry | Landyn Whigham (12) |
| Tim Sansom | 28 Johnny Johnson |
| Dalton Stephens (12) | 29 Katie Moseley (24) |
| 13 Kim Golson | 30 Luke Adams |
| 13 Lillie Ben Harris | |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Warren & Doris Miller (60th) | 12 Jason & Kaycee Wiggins |
| 2 Bobby & Mickey Ann Boyd (344th) | 20 Jeremy & Stacy Dickinson |
| 3 John & Patricia Killough (51st) | Jimmy & Barbara Pugh (66th) |
| Milton & Wanda Madison (12th) | 21 Russ & Valerie Russell |
| Shawn & Katie O'Mailia (12th) | 22 Lamar & Glenda Boyd (50th) |
| 6 Clint & Tiffany Hammock | Jim & Phyllis Fenn |
| Pat & Lonnie Smith (54th) | Wayne & Jan Morris (50th) |
| 7 T. G. & Margaret Batley (66th) | 23 Zack & Geri Azar (45th) |
| Richard & Susan Feaga | 24 Byron & Pam Lynch |
| 8 Eric & Melony Gwin | 25 Bill & Dee Russell |
| 9 Tony & Gail Dixon (28th) | 27 Scott & Heather Russell |
| | 30 Aaron & Kayla Ramer (12th) |

Happy Belated Birthday!

Tammy Boyd
March 17th

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380 Mendel Parkway, Montgomery, AL 3611

SCAN FOR APPT.

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

Jernigan, Dorothy Louise (86).....	Feb. 9
Harris, Luel Monroe "Barney" (97)	Feb. 26
McCord, Martha (91).....	Feb. 26
Connell, George William "Bill" (80).....	Feb. 28
Derickson, Jr., Thomas "Tom" Miller (96).....	Feb. 28
Dickey, Julie Walls (57)	Feb. 28
Darnell, Michael "Mike" Neil (75).....	March 3
Price, Frederick "Fred" A. (79).....	March 3
Shannon, Joseph "Joe" Leonard (91).....	March 3
Dean, Cheryl Lynn Thomas (62)	March 4
Kloess, Jr., Col. Lawrence "Larry" Herman (95).....	March 4
Friese, Erma McCollough (86)	March 8
Cone, Mary Ann Spradley (86).....	March 9
Henderson, Lynda Faye Graddy (76).....	March 9
Miles, Julia Louise Crotwell (96)	March 10
Rauschenberger, William "Bill" L. (70).....	March 10
Quedens, Barbara J. Treadway (80)	March 10
Harper, Billie Dove Barron (90).....	March 12
Killion, Barbara Allgood (91)	March 12
Simpkins, Sr., George Beauregard (81)	March 18
McWilliams, III, John Harvey (87).....	March 19
Graydon, Louis Wayne (84).....	March 20
Wohlford, Jr., Edwin "Eddie" Edison Eal (72)	March 21
Keith, Rilla Louise Carter (77).....	March 22
McGough, Virginia Beatrice Culver (86)	March 22
Henry, Sr., Davis Garrett (88)	March 23
McMicken, Mary L. Kemp (84)	March 23

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Peggy T. Cardwell Kelley	March 20
Betty Munroe	March 18
John A. Doss	March 18
Jimmy M. Thrasher	March 18
Gardner Davis Cameron	March 16
William Hayward "Steve" Stephens	March 16
Jane Grier Tarver	March 16
Ronald Lee White	March 16
Kleow Utsahagarn Williams	March 15
William Larry Jeffcoat	March 12
Jacob Cale Willis	March 10
Donald E. "Chuck" Cone	March 9
Lena Mae Walker	March 7
Mr. Lee Linn Floyd	March 5
Cherry Jean Pilgrim	March 3
Vara Ann Worley	Feb. 25
Joe H. Wood	Feb. 24
Kathleen Falls Hamner	Feb. 23
Erma Dean Duck Hudson	Feb. 23
Eunice E. Johnson	Feb. 22

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Fellowship Series ~ The Montgomery Symphony Association is pleased to present its two artists-in-residence in a six concert series known as the Fellowship Series. They will be joined by a number of guest artists on these exciting chamber music programs, and the concerts also allow opportunities for the Fellows to talk about the music including their personal interpretations. All Fellowship Series concerts are held in the Wilson Auditorium located in the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts.
More info: www.montgomerysymphony.org



<https://asf.net>



MMFA SEEKS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR GOT THE POWER: BOOMBOXES INSTALLATION

Towering sculpture to be constructed in the Caddell Sculpture Garden using boomboxes donated by the community—on view beginning May 21, 2022.



Got the Power: Boomboxes, Photograph courtesy of the artist

Montgomery, AL, March 1, 2022 – The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is excited to announce an upcoming installation in the John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden by New York-based interdisciplinary artist Bayeté Ross Smith. For his project in Montgomery, Ross Smith will construct a site-specific work, from his Got the Power: Boomboxes series. Opening May 21, 2022, the installation at the MMFA will be a 14-foot tall and 8-foot wide tower constructed from hundreds of boomboxes. This tower explores how boomboxes have been an important element in urban communities and also within popular culture. As part of the project, Ross Smith will collaborate with local residents to collect stories about Montgomery and community members' favorite songs to form a playlist. The sculptural installation will broadcast this audio story and oral history of our city. Together, the sculpture and the soundscape function, as he says, as "a symbol of pride, power, and autonomy."

This installation is organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Special thanks to our partners, Alabama Power, Leadership Montgomery, and MAX Credit Union for helping make this project possible.

PRATTVILLE Happenings!



Way Off Broadway Theatre Proof, by David Auburn
March 31-April 16

Eddie Floyd Memorabilia Exhibit
April 15-May 29

Folk Art Exhibit with Brian Bohanan
March 3-April 10

STEAM Workshop
April 16

Artist Market Day
April 16

Youth Art Show

When: submission of artwork on Friday, April 22, 3-6pm; Saturday, April 23, 10am-2pm / Exhibit opens May 1

For more information, contact the Cultural Arts and Special Events office at 334-595-0850 or visit www.prattvilleal.gov.

25th Annual Kevin Turner Prattville YMCA Golf Benefit

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill
Monday, May 9, 2022



For Sponsorship Opportunities:

Contact **Keith Cantrell**
(334) 358-9622

kcantrell@prattvilleymca.org

Alabama Herb Society Presents the
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Thanks to Bluewater Broadcasting the 5th annual "Paw it Forward" is ongoing now! Animal lovers can drop off donations to help the three area Humane Shelters – Humane Society of Elmore County, Montgomery Humane Society & Prattville Autauga Humane Society. Listed below are the most awesome business sponsors that will take donations at their locations and then it will all be donated the three shelters. Donations can be dropped off anytime during business hours in the Bluewater Collection Barrels. Puppy food (canned and dry) is great this time of year as well as bedding and cleaning supplies like bleach, laundry detergent, dishwashing soap and all donations are greatly appreciated. Please thank the following businesses for joining in to receive donations and help support River Region Animal Shelters.

Best Friend's Pet Resort, 4320 Wetumpka Hwy, Montgomery, AL 36110
For Healthy Pets, 5165 Atlanta Hwy Montgomery, AL 36109
The Patriot's Grill, 1961 Bell Street Montgomery, AL 36104
AirNow Home Services, 3481 Main St. Millbrook, AL 36054
XiRepair, 10684B Chantilly Pkwy, Montgomery, Alabama, 36117
Rick's Jewelers, 1992 Fairview Ave Prattville, AL 36066
ASE Credit Union, multiple locations in the River Region
Georgia Floor Direct, 1965 Eastern Blvd, Montgomery, AL 36117

Another ongoing supply drive for all three shelters is ongoing at Steineker, Dillon & Rolen Family and Cosmetic Dentistry, 4730 Woodmere Blvd., Montgomery, AL 36106.

To all of these businesses, their owners & staff, and to all who donate:

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!
Your support is immensely appreciated!



I was surfing the web, looking for ideas for my next article. I came across several articles that caught my eye. They were articles written about the fast food restaurants that on the surface sounded like they are serving the standard fare for a typical fast food restaurant: hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, gu

What caught my eye was that most of the descriptions of the food were misspelled. You could tell what they were trying to describe but it was just slightly misspelled. There was a restaurant that served a VLT: Vegan Bakun, lettuce and tomato sandwich. Or try their Bakun cheeseburger. How about an order of chickun tenders? It seems that we cannot let go of meat in our diet, or at least the taste of meat. One problem I see, is that you think that the plant-based meat substitutes are healthier than the real meat. But what about the chemicals that are added to the plant-based item to make it taste like meat? However, plant-based meats are far from perfect. They typically have higher amounts of sodium, usually to make them more palatable and shelf-stable. Too much sodium can cause adverse health effects, including high blood pressure and stroke.

Plant-based meats are also highly processed and filled with less healthy ingredients, such as refined coconut oil and modified food starch. Research from the National Institutes of Health suggests that processed foods cause people to consume an extra 500 calories a day and ultimately gain more weight.

Plant-based meats can fit into a healthy diet when eaten in moderation no more than a couple of times a week, but do not make it your only source of protein. Stick to whole foods instead.

The recipes for this article cover an updated recipe for a cake for dessert, an Irish holiday entrée, and a healthy fish dish.

I will start with the cake. It has been our family's favorite cake and our friends' favorite cake for years. This recipe will add a new flavor, lime. The first recipe was a vanilla bean Bundt cake and has been a Scotch-flavored cake. The zing a lime in the cake and for the icing has made this flavor a real hit. We also tweaked the method of cooking the cake, which made for a much better presentation.

Next, is a new twist for us when cooking the corned beef for Saint Patrick's Day. The addition of Irish whiskey to the poaching liquid has made the corned beef very tender and vary delicious. Try this any time of year or family meal, such as Easter dinner.

Cornd Beef

A close-up photograph of a golden-brown bundt cake. The cake has a classic fluted design with deep ridges and grooves. It is served on a plain white plate, which is placed on a light-colored wooden surface. The lighting is warm, highlighting the texture of the cake's crust.

- 3 cups all-purpose flour**
¼ tsp. salt
½ tsp. baking powder
½ cup shortening
1 cup (2 sticks) softened butter
3 cups sugar
6 room-temperature large eggs
½ cup buttermilk
5-oz. size carton of Chobani Key
Lime Yogurt
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. lime extract
¼ cup key lime juice
1 tsp. lime zest

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees.
2. Generously grease a bunt pan with Crisco. Set aside.
3. Sift together flour, salt, and baking powder, set aside.
4. Cream together butter and shortening, add sugar and cream well.
5. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each addition until light and fluffy.
6. In another bowl mix yogurt and buttermilk.
7. Add dry mixture alternating with yogurt mixture to the butter, shortening mixture. Add vanilla extract, lime extract and lime zest, mix until combined.
8. Sprinkle sugar into greased bunt pan. Spoon batter into prepared pan.
9. Bake for 1 hour and 15-20 minutes or more depending on your oven.
10. Check for doneness by inserting a wooden skewer into the center of the cake until it comes out clean.
11. Cool cake for 10 minutes in the pan. Turn cake over on to the serving plate and leave the cake pan on the inverted cake for 5 minutes, then remove. Let the cake cool completely.

ICING:

- 8 oz. cream cheese, room temp
3 to 4 Tbsp. butter, room temp
4 cups confectioner sugar
- ¼ cup freshly squeezed key lime
juice
2 to 3 tsp. key lime zest
1 tsp. vanilla extract

To make the icing, cream together the butter and cream cheese until smooth. Slowly add confectioner sugar and lime juice a tablespoon at a time. Add key lime zest and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Spread on completely cooled cake. Garnish top of cake with thinly sliced lime wedges and additional lime zest if desired.

Sea Bass

INGREDIENTS:

- 8-oz. sea bass
2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
Salt to taste
2 tsp. olive oil
1 garlic clove
5 fresh basil leaves chopped or 4
Tbsp. dry basil

METHOD:

1. Heat a small saucepan over medium heat.
2. Gently sauté the minced garlic in butter for about 2 minutes, until fragrant and golden.
3. Stir in the lemon juice and $\frac{3}{4}$ of the basil.
4. Add salt to taste. Remove from heat and set aside.
5. Pat the fillet dry and coat both sides with olive or canola oil.
6. Heat a medium frying pan (nonstick if you have it) on medium-high heat.
7. Pan fry one side for about 3 to 4 minutes. The edges should turn golden brown.
8. Flip and cook the other side 1-2 more minutes or until fish is cooked through.
9. Transfer the fish to a serving dish.
10. Spoon sauce over the fillets and sprinkle the remaining basil on top.

Enjoy immediately!

INGREDIENTS:

- 3- to 4-lb flat cut or point cut
corned beef brisket, rinsed
well**
**One large yellow onion peeled
halved and sliced**
**4 cloves garlic peeled and lightly
crushed**
2 stalks of celery cut into chunks
2 pints lager or your favorite beer
Additional water if needed
**Spice packet provided with the
corn beef**



METHOD:

1. Put onion and garlic in the bottom of a Dutch oven, place corned beef on top with the fat side up.
2. Pour the spice packet on top of the corned beef.
3. Pour beer into the Dutch oven and then add enough water to almost cover the beef.
4. Simmer on the stovetop for an hour and half, flipping the corned beef after 45 minutes. Add additional water if necessary.
5. After an hour and a half, remove the corned beef from the Dutch oven.
6. Add the small potatoes and carrots the beer liquid. Simmer until the potatoes are tender.
7. Pre-heat the oven to 325 degrees.
8. Pat dry the corned beef with a paper towel and place on a lined baking sheet.

MUSTARD SAUCE:

- ¼ cup brown sugar
 4 Tbsp. whole grain mustard
 ¼ tsp. ground cloves

METHOD:

1. Spoon the mustard sauce over the corned beef.
2. Cover with foil and cook for an hour and a half.
3. After heated, remove corned beef from pan and sliced against the grain.
4. Serve with potatoes, carrots, cabbage and mustard sauce.

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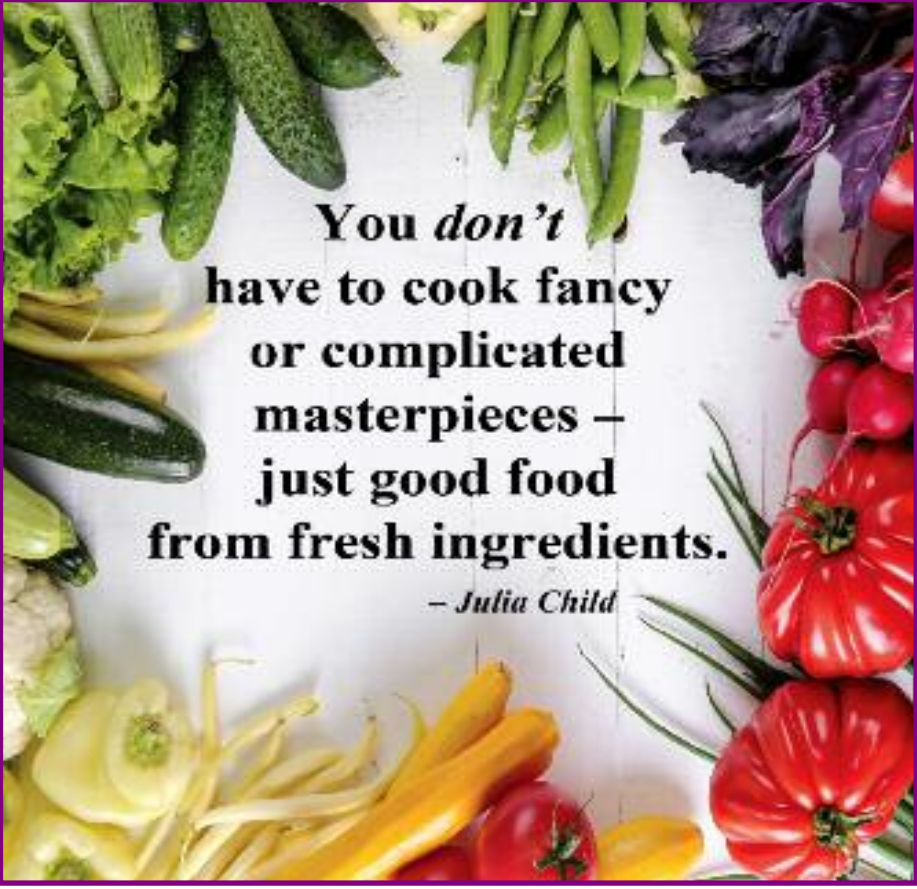
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