

Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heroes

Thomas Miller Derickson Jr.: Age 95



Thomas Miller Derickson, Jr. served two years in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a diesel mechanic at the rank of Motor Machinists' Mate Third Class. He received the following ribbons: Victory Ribbon and Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbon.

Derickson was born July 4, 1925, in Meridian, MS, to his parents, Thomas M. Derickson, Sr. and Myrtis Derickson. He was reared in Montgomery, AL, where he played trombone in the band and graduated from Lanier High School in 1943. He volunteered to serve in the Navy, entering military service February 22, 1944, and he completed his Boot Camp Training at the US Naval Training Station at Sampson, New York. Following this training, Derickson was trained at the Naval Training Center at Gulfport, MS, in basic engineering and diesel mechanics. From there, he was sent to serve at Pearl Harbor at the Advanced Base Reshipment Depot where he worked repairing automobiles and trucks at the base until WWII ended. His work was an important part of the support effort for the victory of American military in the Pacific Theater. Derickson was discharged April 19, 1946.

Derickson's reflections on his military service are, "It meant that I was patriotic. All my friends were in the service. I went in right after high school at age 18. I was more mature when I left the service. My brother served at Guadalcanal."

When Derickson returned to Alabama, he used the G.I. Bill and received a B.S. Degree in Accounting from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) in 1949. Then he began his long, successful career as an accountant. He returned to Montgomery and worked for Gulf Area Building Supplies for one year, Foshee Lumber Company for one year, Arctic Traveler for three years, Kershaw Manufacturing Company for five years, and W.S. Newell Construction Company for 57 years. He continued working until January 2021 and retired at age 95.

Derickson and his wife, Martha, were married for 53 years before she passed away, and they had three children and four grandchildren. He has one stepchild and two step-grandchildren with his wife, Judy, with whom he has been married for 20 years. He and Judy enjoy attending concerts by the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra and attending plays by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. They often travel to the mountainous areas of Mentone, AL, on the crest of Look Out Mountain or to the Gulf Coast area at Orange Beach, AL. They have enjoyed visiting all of the Alabama State Parks and going on cruises. They have been part of a supper group with other couples for 35 years in Montgomery, and they are active members of Christ Church Anglican where they were founding members. Prior to the founding of the Christ Church Anglican, he was actively involved in his former church, the Church of the Ascension, serving as Senior Warden on the Outreach Committee, teaching Sunday school and serving as the church's treasurer. Derickson also spearheaded three different campaigns to build houses for Habitat for Humanity. Derickson has served as the President of the Montgomery Civitan Club. He has been active in the Sons of Confederate Veterans serving as the Adjutant, and he enjoys visiting Civil War battlefields.

After 18 years, he retired from delivering Meals on Wheels for Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA). An avid Auburn football fan, Thomas and Judy attended many Auburn football games until just a few years ago. "War Eagle!"



Col John M. Vickery: Age 77



Col John M. Vickery personified true patriotism and heroism throughout his 24 years and nine months of distinguished service in the United States Air Force. As a combat pilot in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, he repeatedly risked his life for a way of life, for those who fought at his side and for containment of the scourge of communism. His service included tours as an F-4 aircraft commander in the USA, Asia, and Europe, a fighter weapons instructor in Europe, a tactical operations staff officer in the Pentagon, commander of multiple Tactical Fighter Squadrons, Commander NATO's Warrior Preparation Center in Europe and instructor at USAF's Air War College.

Col Vickery's accomplishment over his career earned him recognition for superior aviation achievements, superior leadership, and serving his country around the globe. Notable among his awards are the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, five Meritorious Service Medals, 11 Air Medals, a Presidential Unit Citation, three Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and an Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

Col Vickery was born June 24, 1943, at West Boylston, MA, to his parents, Harold K. Vickery and Mary M. Vickery. He graduated from West Boylston High School in 1961, graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant June 9, 1965.

Pilot training followed at Williams AFB, AZ; followed by survival school training; F4 tactical fighter training at George AFB, CA. Further F-4 training was at Eglin AFB, FL and MacDill AFB, FL. Then in 1968, he went to Udorn RTAFB, Thailand, to begin flying as an F-4 aircraft commander in combat. He flew 195 combat missions with the 555 "Triple Nickel" Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS). Combat missions were day or night, bad weather or good weather, engaging 'up North' North Vietnamese ground and air forces, Pathet Lao forces in Laos, and Viet Cong forces in South Vietnam. A lot of people died, and a lot of things were destroyed during his combat time in Southeast Asia.

Reassigned to Europe in 1969, Col Vickery joined the 78th TFS at RAF Woodbridge, England. Here as part of NATO, he trained and sat 'nuclear alert' deterring the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact from attacking NATO, an alliance of free and democratic nations of western Europe and North America. This deterrence took him to sites from England to Italy to Turkey to sit nuclear alert and to many other locations to conduct or participate in national or combined alliance combat training exercises and activities. It was during this period that he helped found USAF's Tactical Employment School and taught as an F-4 combat aviator trainer for NATO's tactical air forces crew members.

The Air Staff at the Pentagon in Washington, DC has a Directorate of Operation and within that is a Tactical Division which deals with training and employing USAF tactical combat aircraft around the world to support our nation's national goals – 'peace, freedom, security'. In 1974, Col Vickery was assigned to the Tactics Branch of the Tactical Division where he labored in the basement of the Pentagon. His assigned task with several other officers was to determine why air power had not been decisive in Vietnam and to determine how

Continued on next page

Lawrence Edward Morrow, Sr.

Lawrence Edward Morrow was a U.S. Air Force fighter pilot who lost his life at age 25 while serving his country on a TDY deployment to Okinawa. His F4 jet fighter exploded when it crash-landed in the Pacific Ocean following a touch and go landing. Morrow served three years doing exactly what he had always wanted to do.

Morrow was born September 7, 1939, to his mother, Jessie Woodman, and he was adopted by MSG L. M. Morrow, his stepfather. He was reared predominantly in Montgomery, AL, and he graduated from Lanier High School in January 1958. Morrow enlisted in the AL Air National Guard and attended the University of AL for three years majoring in aeronautical engineering. In 1961, because he had scored so high on tests when he joined the Air National Guard (ANG) and because of the shortage of pilots with the ANG, he was offered the opportunity to leave college and receive pilot training. Morrow reported for duty at the ANG in Montgomery entering as a 2nd Lt. and completed 13 months of pilot training at Craig AFB in Selma, AL, receiving his wings in May, 1962. He was sent to McDill AFB, FL, and then to Okinawa for TDY for three and one-half months where he lost his life May 24, 1965, during night flying. Morrow's name is listed on a Wall of Remembrance in Colorado Springs, CO.

Morrow was respected and admired by NCO personnel. In 2001, a veteran NCO who had been stationed in Okinawa in 1965, called one of Morrow's sons to tell him a story about his dad. The veteran stated that Morrow was the only pilot officer who would take time to chat informally with the NCO's on the flight line. Morrow's service as a fighter pilot involved hazardous missions. While in Okinawa, Morrow was sent on a mission to photograph a Russian MiG aircraft over Japan. Guns were removed from Morrow's F-4 plane and replaced with cameras. Morrow was successful in getting vital pictures of the MiG's where other pilots had failed. He was awarded a medal and commendation posthumously.

Morrow was married to his wife, Patsy, for seven years, and they had two sons who were ages 18 months and two months old when he left for TDY at Okinawa. They had three grandchildren. His wife remembers Morrow saying, "There is one thing that I want to do. I want to fly jets." Morrow was an active member of a Baptist Church, and he enjoyed playing golf as well as playing his guitar and singing.

Lawrence Edward, Jr. at age 35 wrote this poem in honor of his father:

The Lead

*The night was black when you disappeared,
the weather not particularly bad.
I know this was something we all feared
and the darkness took away my Dad.*

*I've been told about the man you were,
The way your smile could lift everyone.
Although your passion was flying, I'm sure
Your love was your wife and two sons.*

*My mother gave me the strength and hope,
The courage to hold my head high.
She held me close as I try to cope
and stare into the night sky.*

*Black as pitch, no light above,
you fall into the sea.
You disappeared from the things you loved,
and one of them was me.*

*I've traveled the road of memories,
I can't help but believe,
my life would be much different
If you had been the lead.*

*You were on final, the next to land,
Then a radio call said I need a helping hand.
You refuse the strip of safety and make another pass.
You always put others first and always yourself last.*

*Black as pitch, no light above,
You fall into the sea.
You disappeared from the things you loved,
and one of them was me.*

*I've traveled the road of memories,
I can't help but believe,
my life would be much different
If you had been the lead.*



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

Honoring Veterans Who Have Passed ...

Bobby Neville Asbury: December 18, 2020

Morgan C. Barnes: January 7, 2021

Henry D. Cobb: November 27, 2020

Thomas Daniel Davis: May 15, 2020

Erskine R. Grimes: February 21, 2021

Donald Charles King: June 8, 2020

Winfred Lowe: June 7, 2020

Thomas E. McFadden: June 29, 2020

Roy McGinnis: February 20, 2021

Jesse Perkins: August 7, 2020

Atwood Bullock Rush: August 25, 2020

John Sherrer: January 3, 2021

Roy Thomas Sublette: January 31, 2021

Wilborn Clinton Vaughn: deceased July 2, 2020

~ at 100 years of age ~

MEMORIAL DAY

CELEBRATE ★ HONOR ★ REMEMBER

CONFLICT	SPAN	CASUALTIES
AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR	1775-1783	50,000
NORTHWEST INDIAN WAR	1785-1796	1,881+
WAR OF 1812	1812-1815	20,000~
MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR	1846-1848	17,435
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR: TOTAL	1861-1865	655,000~
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR	1898	4,068
PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR	1898-1913	7,126
WORLD WAR I	1914-1918	320,518
WORLD WAR II	1941-1945	1,076,245
KOREAN WAR	1950-1953	128,650
VIETNAM WAR	1955-1975	211,454
PERSIAN GULF WAR	1990-1991	1,143
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM	2001-PRESENT	22,266 (AFGHANISTAN)
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM	2003-2011	36,710 (IRAQ)

Sources: U.S. Army Military History Institute; iCasualties.org; Wikipedia.



AFGHANISTAN
afghanistan-analysts.org



Col John M. Vickery ... Continued from previous page

to fix it. There was no simple answer, but one common thread ran through the problem – tactical weapons systems did not “train the way they were expected to fight.” Nowhere were all the air oriented combat elements, fighters, tankers, tactically employed bombers, electronic warfare aircraft, air and space reconnaissance assets, signals intelligence assets and ground air defense assets brought together to train by doing against a realistic air and antiaircraft enemy threat array that closely mirrored the existing threat we expected to fight. All the required elements existed and were controlled by different groups with different agendas. What do you do to bring them all together: (1) Talk to each group and explain the need and how to fix it. (2) Tell them that they already have the tools they need so it will not cost them any money. (3) Tell them they can take the credit when the large-scale realistic force employment exercises are a grand success. (4) Do all the coordination and legwork for them. (5) Facilitate the initial exercises and compare the results to the desired outcome measures. The process took two years along with doing routine staff work and resulted in ‘Red Flag’ air combat training exercises. The ‘Red Flag’ exercise program won the Collier Trophy in 1977 for Tactical Air Command as the most significant military air achievement in the year. No mention of the Air Staff was made. The ‘Red Flag’ exercise program has produced the air training that combat and combat support aviators have needed to reduce their combat losses to almost zero and to dominate in the battle spaces of the Middle East where they have been flying combat missions for over thirty continuous years. A person can achieve great works when one focuses on the problem, the team and teamwork. That is not a new lesson, but it is a lesson one can easily lose sight of if he is working in government in Washington, DC.

Following staff duties in Washington D.C., Col Vickery’s flying returned with duty as Operations Officer 36TFS at Osan AB, Korea. The mission was air defense to deter surprise air attack initiated by North Korea. Being close to the North Korean border, it was a case of too little warning time to stop an attack but long enough to initiate the actions required to respond before a surprise event became a renewal of the 1950 Korean War which now is just “on hold” as an official armistice. Incidents occurred and 36TFS F-4 alert fighters responded, but no weapons were used. Korea remains tensely stable today with one major change. In 2006, North Korea obtained nuclear weapons status and has several dozen nuclear weapons that it can deploy today. This assures that a despotic regime can continue to subjugate its people and terrorize its neighbors and the world.

After service in Korea, Col Vickery’s duties were in command and flying in 1980 through 1984. As commander 435TFTS at Holloman AFB, NM, he trained the instructors who would train new pilot-training graduates in the art of tactical fighter flying. As commander of the 425TFTS at Williams AFB, AZ, his unit’s mission was to train the F-5 fighter international pilots and maintenance personnel from allied nations and friendly nations. These F-5 pilots and maintenance personnel in-turn would return to their countries and train their national forces at home. The courses typically lasted over a period of three months to a full year. The training was intense and very interpersonal. Pilots and maintenance personnel who graduated from the 425TFTS returned to their countries and provided points of contact and testimony of the United States commitment to its allies and their security. Today, one graduate of this training is the king of his country, and others are senior leaders in their military or defense forces. Building trust and understanding over training in the United States and maintaining contact and support over the years build stable nations and more avenues to maintain peace in our dangerous world.

In 1985, Col Vickery returned to Europe, and he was tasked to create a computer-based war-gaming operation where senior NATO commanders could test their war plans against Warsaw Pact capabilities. He was involved with setting up in Einseidlerhof, Germany, and getting assistance from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, an integrated computer network which emulated both NATO and the Warsaw military capabilities. This allowed complete free-play of all

forces and systems available to the commanders. A dedicated ‘Red Team’ played the Warsaw Pact forces, and the NATO commander and his staff employed their forces. Each wargame began with the existing NATO war plan. During each night, the senior commanders and key staff would face the computer outputs and adjust their plans and orders as necessary. The Red Team would do the same. While no definitive conclusion was ever reached in any wargame, the results illuminated vast areas of insights and worries for NATO’s commanders that led to changes which ultimately led to needs for new and different weapon systems, different training and applications of forces, systems, and information. This improved war fighting training and force readiness.

Some of the perspectives of Col Vickery’s military experiences area are:

(1) Vietnam was sad but turned out well. Why? France as a colonial power was forced out of Vietnam. After the Paris Peace Accords and the 1975 fall of Saigon the US, China and the Soviet Union left Vietnam to self-determination. Today, the Vietnamese people are united, capitalistic and troubling no neighbors.

(2) Nuclear alert deterrence worked. Why? It was because it kept the Soviet Union at bay until Western Europe recovered from WW II and became an economic powerhouse. Eastern Europe remained in poverty. When the Soviet Union could not pay to keep all Eastern Europe in subjugation, the Warsaw Pact dissolved and freedom, capitalism and democracy came to most of Eastern Europe.

(3) In Washington, D.C, a person can achieve great things when he has a better idea and he lets everyone take credit for it. Work for the nation’s good.

(4) Hosting and training military personnel from smaller nations around the world and selling these nations weapons systems for security and sovereignty are critically important to having contact, access and communication in times of stress or conflict.

Col Vickery’s conclusions about his military service are, “The military was my home. It was a place where I got married, had and reared my children and had people with whom and for whom I worked. They helped me to grow. My growth helped my nation to be more secure. I always felt that we were a team and that the team would move heaven and earth to have the outcomes be positive for the people for whom we were fighting and for our nation as a united whole. My military career was ‘just right for me’.”

Col Vickery completed his service in the U.S. Air Force at Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL, as a seminar leader, curriculum and computerized war game developer, and instructor in the Department of Joint Combined Operations. He retired March 31, 1990.

After his military retirement, Col Vickery worked for six years as a pilot flying the A300 Airbus with Continental Airlines. He then joined Headquarters Civil Air Patrol (CAP) where he worked for five years as the first Chief of Aerospace Education. He nationally directed training of youth and adults CAP members and supported teachers across the nation with educational products that promoted knowledge and understanding the of the science, history, and future potential of air and space activities. His last work was at Alabama State University in the College of Business in the Department of Management teaching courses in management, economics, scheduling and basic survey courses for 10 years retiring in 2009.

Col Vickery and his wife, Sarah, have been married 54 years, and they have two children and four grandchildren. They enjoy traveling and visiting with friends. He is an active golfer, racquetball player and yard maintainer. Col Vickery is a Life Member of Military Officers Association of America, the Air Force Association and the Daedalians, all military professional organizations. He annually volunteers locally doing free tax returns for elders and others under the IRS/AARP VITA TaxAide Program. He also serves as a soccer referee for local YMCA youth soccer development and U.S. Soccer Federation youth soccer competitions for age groups from eight to eighteen.



AARP Alabama invites you to participate in a virtual 2021 Memorial Day Tribute honoring fallen veterans. The Memorial Day Tribute can be viewed on Monday, May 31 at 10 a.m. at: <https://www.facebook.com/alabama.aarp> or on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/MemorialDay2021>.

Alabama Soldier Accounted for From Korean War

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that **Army Cpl. Henry L. Helms**, 24, of Collbran, AL, killed during the Korean War, was accounted for April 16, 2020.

In late 1950, Helms was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec.2, 1950, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered.

Helms will be buried May 22, 2021, in Ringgold, Georgia. For family and funeral information, contact the Army Casualty Office at (800) 892-2490.

To see the most up-to-date statistics on DPAA recovery efforts for those unaccounted for from the Korean War, go to the Korean War fact sheet on the DPAA website at: <https://www.dpaa.mil/Resources/Fact-Sheets/>.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for Americans who went missing while serving our country, visit the DPAA website at www.dpaa.mil or find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/defense-pow-mia-accounting-agency>.

Helms’ personnel profile can be viewed at <https://dpaa.secure.force.com/dpaaProfile?id=a0Jt0000001xTdoEAE>. Contact: Sean P. Everette, SFC, USA Public Affairs NCOIC Outreach and Communications, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, 241 18th St. South, Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22202, (703) 699-1420



Veterans love reading *The Alabama Gazette!*



Brig Gen Trent H. Edwards
U.S. Air Force

Col Margaret Leah Compton
Alabama Air National Guard



MSgt Robert C. Carr, Jr.,
Alabama Air National Guard

VETERANS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

Edward G. Platt: May 2
Jimmy F. Meacham: May 5
Linda Lake Boyle: May 6
Joel A. Burdette: May 7
Lee Andrews Kennedy: May 12
Lenora White: May 19
Ronald W. Balkom: May 20
Willie Durham: May 22
Charles Lynn: May 23
Ell White: May 27

If you know of a Veteran who deserves to be honored, please email: algazettesubmit@gmail.com



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.

State Supreme Court often forgotten in Alabama

Our 1901 Alabama Constitution replicates the United States Constitution in designing a triumvirate of government. The Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches are designed to have separate and essentially equal powers.

Although, ideally, the three branches should be exclusive, over the course of history in both our state and national governments the Executive and Legislative Branches have been intertwined in public policy matters and government seems to work more cohesively that way, especially when they are on congruent pages. On the federal level, our judicial arm of government sits on a separate island shrouded by a statue of the Blind Lady of Justice, and rightfully so. They are very independent and shielded from politics on the federal level. The U.S. Supreme Court is an omnipotent and private reserve of ultimate supreme power over public policy in America.

Our Alabama Supreme Court is separate and powerful, but is not shielded by politics. Our Supreme Court judges are elected. Most states appoint these positions. However, Alabamians have resisted any move to go from elected to appointed. Although most Alabamians could not name any of the members of the Supreme Court, they will fight to their death for their ability to go into a voting booth to elect them even though after they have done so they cannot remember who they just voted for or why.

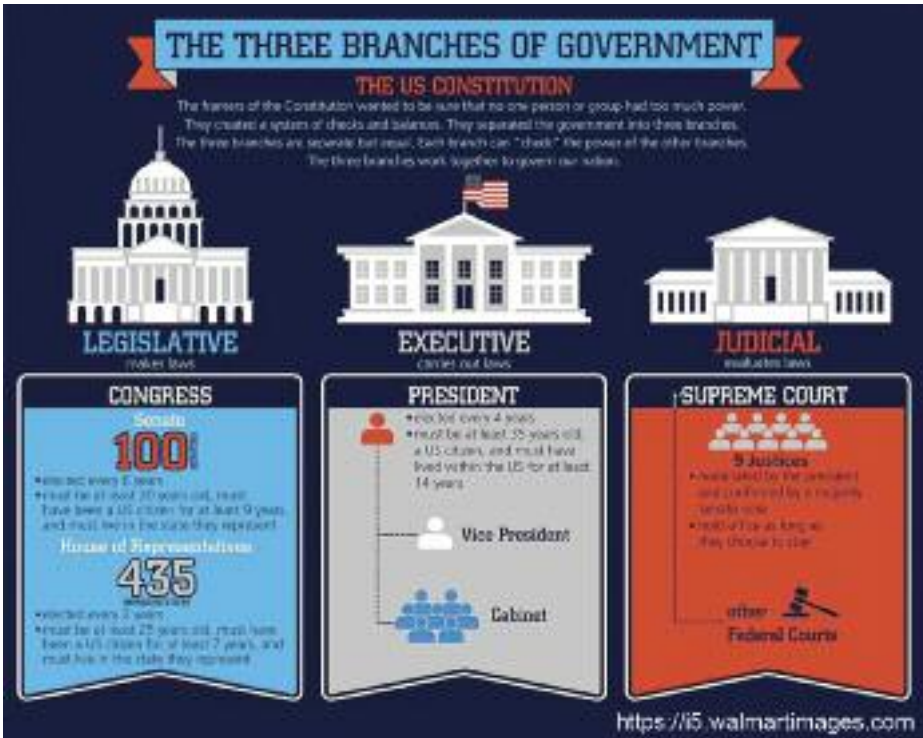
However, despite having to elect our judiciary, Alabamians have done a good job of electing good, well qualified people to our appellate courts. We have nine members of the State Supreme Court, all elected for six-year terms instaggered election years. We also have a five-member Court of Civil Appeals and a five-member Court of Criminal Appeals. They are also elected for six-year terms in staggered years.

All nine seats on the State Supreme Court are held by Republicans, and all 10 appellate judges are Republican. Therefore, winning the GOP Primary in the state Supreme Court races is tantamount to election in the Heart of Dixie. Seven of the nine Supreme Court Justices are men and two are female. All are very conservative and religious in their court decisions and in their personal lives.

As late as the 1990s, our Supreme Court was Democratic laden like our legislature. However, unlike our legislators, who were mostly conservatives and probably Republicans running as Democrats in name only, these Alabama Democratic Supreme Court judges were pro plaintiff trial lawyers and anti-business. Many had been plaintiff lawyers prior to going on the court. Due to this overt bias and brazen liberal interpretation of laws and justice, we had become the laughingstock of the nation for fairytale justice that gave outrageous verdicts and judgments against every national corporation that did business in our state or even traversed through our borders. Therefore, our State Supreme Court became

an eyesore for Alabama in recruiting any business or industry. *Time Magazine* did a feature publication entitled “Alabama Tort Hell.” Numerous business publications cautioned against not only opening plants in the state but to be leery of even passing through.

Alabama was in bad need of Tort Reform. Alabama’s corporate community as well as the national business community, decided to change things and that



began with changing our State Supreme Court from a Democratic plaintiff bastion to a Republican conservative tribunal; and they put their money where their mouth was. The business community brought in the legendary Karl Rove to orchestrate the takeover. He was successful.

As mentioned, we now have a very conservative Republican nine-member State Supreme Court panel. As Rove was leaving, he imparted this nugget of advice for future races His polling indicated that voters in Alabama prefer a Republican female candidate for a judgeship. Indeed, it is a proven fact in an Alabama appellate court race, if you place two candidates on a ballot in Alabama and neither does anything or spends any money, Jane Doe will defeat John Doe 54-46.



Will Sellers is an associate justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama.

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

Remembering the Bay of Pigs and Its Aftermath

When great powers stomp their toe on foreign policy, the initial pain, though slight, often causes loss of focus, a stumble, and sometimes a more serious accident.

Sixty years ago, the United States sponsored an unsuccessful invasion of Cuba, and the colossal failure ultimately damaged our nation’s reputation, emboldened our enemies, worried our allies, and clouded our

vision of proper objectives for foreign relations.

President John Kennedy’s inauguration was a cause for much optimism as a young, vibrant breath of fresh air would lead America in a new direction. His inaugural address was an inspiring call to a new nationalism of service to the world at large, and he promised that the United States would do all in its power to protect freedom around the globe.

The naivety of his rhetoric was not apparent, however, until he was challenged by an energized Russian bear ready to test the mettle of the young president.

At the beginning of the new administration, America had every reason to be hopeful that the world was moving towards greater freedom. The Eisenhower administration had successfully used covert action to change the governments of Iran and Guatemala, some hotspots of communist insurgency had been stopped, and there was stability in the Philippines and Vietnam.

When the torch was passed to the Kennedy administration the world appeared stable and controllable.

During his transition from electoral success to governing, Kennedy reached out to some of the smartest and most capable individuals in business and academia. These whiz kids promoted a theory that the machinery of government was a science, and if the formulas were correct, the results would be both predictable and successful.

But, while genius in government is great, practical simplicity is always better. Understanding and assessing people and personalities often primes academic articulation. Within a matter of months, President Kennedy was to learn this the hard way.

By failing to understand the difference between ideology and interests in diplomacy, the Kennedy administration embarked on a path that reflected an impractical view of the world as they wanted it to be and failed to appreciate that an effective foreign policy must reflect a national self-interest to deal with the world as it is.

Even before the Bay of Pigs, members of Kennedy’s foreign policy team decided on a covert coup to oust Portugal’s Dictator.

This plan made little sense.

There was no overarching U.S. interest at stake, any local opposition to the regime was minimal, and, to make matters worse, Portugal was a NATO ally. Thankfully, the coup never got off the ground, the covert action was scrapped, and the instigators departed before any real damage was done.

But the thought process, or lack thereof, was troubling. And any further ideas about forced regime change should have been put on hold until a comprehensive foreign policy was developed and measured objectives approved.

But rather than seriously considering American interests, the excitement of covert action and the thrill of cloak and dagger operations distracted the young administration and set in motion one of the biggest disasters that was as open to ridicule as it was notorious for ineptness.

When U.S. sponsored Cuban exiles landed at the Bay of Pigs, nothing went according to plan. There was no expected popular uprising, and, more importantly, Kennedy had cancelled any air support. With limited engagement from the Navy, the landing party hardly got off the beach.

The conflict was a total rout with almost the entire invasion force killed, wounded, or captured. In retrospect, any casual observer would question the need to invade Cuba, our national interest there, and any thoughtful steps to take to achieve our goals short of force. The after-action report was devastating and served as a proof text for Murphy’s law.

The Bay of Pigs served as a shakenown cruise for the new administration, and the evaluations of its first 4 months was resoundingly negative. Allowing a small country like Cuba to thwart an American sponsored coup fueled our enemies to take full advantage of the geniuses who attempted to advance the national policy of a new administration.

After the Bay of Pigs, the stature of the United States was substantially reduced in the eyes of the world; perhaps for the first time, we were vulnerable, and our enemies probed and tested our resolve.

Indeed, for the rest of his presidency, Kennedy’s foreign policy exploits would be an attempt to overcome this defeat in Cuba. Sensing distraction, our enemies took full advantage of us.

In Europe, the Soviets approved building a barrier between East and West Berlin, and when Kennedy signaled that he would take no actions to stop construction, the barrier became the solid, fortress-like wall, which was improved and secured to provocatively divide the people of Berlin.

Continued on next page ...



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Robert Tate

ROBSERVATIONS...

‘TOP’ MEANS STOP!!

man, they are the worst.” A Jersey guy will say, “I’m never going back to the south because those dang southerners can’t drive.” I love to hear the reasoning. I am not immune from this “Robservation” either. I’ve seen some crazy stuff everywhere. Driving down I-81 in Virginia one day, I passed a driver who was actually playing his guitar while driving. No, you cannot make this stuff up. But for me, there is a special place in my heart for Saudi Arabia as by far having the worst drivers in the galaxy. Worse even than the Argonians from star cluster Zeta-2 who are known galaxy wide for their driving abilities.

Much like an artist taking a square lump of clay and fashioning it into a masterful work of art, the Saudis would take driving insanity and mold it into ever-changing, unbelievable madness. It was truly an artform for them. I could go into a lot of detail but that is for another day. Let’s just say that I will bet that most of you have never seen the likes of what I witnessed in my two years there. Now I am not jamming on Saudis because as people, I really like them; a lot. Teaching them to fly jets and living in the Kingdom for two years with my wife was certainly among my career highlights. And on a personal level, by far, most of them were extremely nice and fun to be around. Out on the roads, however, that is another story.

In the two years I was stationed there, I drove myself to work five days per week. In those 450+ times trips, add another 100+ times I drove to play softball, in all of those trips I can honestly say that there were no more than five times where I did not see at least one car accident. Some days I would seriously see 5-10. It was insane. To make matters worse, many of those were pretty horrific. Rollovers, cars basically disintegrated, bodies strewn about. Most folks did not wear seatbelts and the woman carrying the baby in her lap basically turned her kid into a carbon-based air bag. The blood splatters stood as a testimony to this. Yeah, I’m morbid and would look to see. So, I think it is safe to say that in my two years there, I saw the remains of and witnessed over 1,000 car accidents. Off line, ask me about the game red light; green light.

The point I am going to make is this. I am not sure what has happened to Montgomery since COVID but in my mind, we are fast approaching what I witnessed in Saudi Arabia. “Oh, Rob. You are exaggerating!” No, no I’m not. I am not saying we are there yet, not even close but we as a city are moving in that direction. I will tell you why. I believe Montgomery drivers are becoming among the most dangerous, undisciplined and rude drivers I have ever seen. I bet many of you reading this will agree as I go down my list. I see it EVERYDAY so I know darn well many of you do too. Sadly, I am sure this is not just a Montgomery phenomenon but is systemic in the way our country is moving as a whole. But I can only report on what I “Robserve” here.

1. Red Lights: This to me is the biggest of all. The most dangerous practice and trend growing in our city. Every single day when I drive around town, I see people running red lights. I am not talking about the guy or gal who goes through as the light is beginning to change but the person who blows through the light when I have been staring at a green light on my side for 5-10 seconds. Yesterday, 24 April, I drove from my house to Home Depot, East Chase and back home again. In that time, and yes, I counted, I saw eight, count them “8” people who ran the red light. Not a single one of those was close. Not even.

Several weeks ago, I was leaving my neighborhood. As I got my green light to make my left turn onto Vaughn Road, as always, I check left and right. To my right about 100 yards down the street I saw a big, sparkling new orange pickup truck heading my way. As I started to move into the intersection, something told me to take another look. As I did, I saw that this truck was not even going to try to stop. I hit my brakes and come to screeching halt as this slack-jawed, booger-eating moron blows past me doing at least 40-50 mph. He missed me by less than 20 feet. Had I continued into the intersection, I honestly do not think I would be writing this today. We get down to the next red light, and when I pull next to him, he rolls down his window and says something stupid like, “We cool?”

Considering you just almost killed me, no, not really. I really wanted to get out of my car and take a hammer to his shiny new fender but the police don’t take kindly to that so how about just pay frappin’ attention to what you are doing! It shook me up pretty good. When I got home, I just hugged my wife. I was not so much scared as I was thinking about what she would have done had it been the police ringing the doorbell instead of me walking through the door with the pizza I had just bought.

I think I would like to see a study commissioned concerning the apparent growing incidence of colorblindness among the citizens of Montgomery. Maybe the majority of the idiots running red lights are in fact color blind although I seriously doubt it. If so, here is a public service awareness tip. On the traffic light, the red light is either on the top if hanging vertically or on the left when horizontal. Just remember, “TOP MEANS STOP.” I really wish the police would

start hammering the heck out of these people. I would love to see fines in the hundreds if not thousands of dollars. “I can’t afford that!!” Good, don’t frappin’ run red lights. It is that simple. BTW, I have seen several times when folks have run the red light and a police officer was sitting right there and did nothing.

2. Cell phones: Put your stinking cell phone down! My gosh, if you cannot physically, mentally or emotionally exist without a stupid cellphone up to your face, you probably need some kind of intervention. “Well, I can multitask.” No, no you cannot. You may think you can and get away with it but while you are operating a multi-ton vehicle traveling 150 – 200 feet per second, you are nothing but a danger to yourself (which I could care less about) and to other people out there who by the thousands are paying the price for your stupidity as a distracted driver. Every day people are dying and being injured by the enlightened multi-taskers in our society. Again, yesterday while I was driving down Vaughn Road toward East Chase, a 25-30-something woman was driving beside me and the entire time from the Bypass to Taylor Road, in a lot of traffic mind you, each time I looked over, she had her stupid cell phone in her hand and I could see her thumb moving at warp speed texting, sexting, Facebooking, who knows. I won’t even talk about the little girl not strapped into in a car seat standing in the seat next to her. Whatever you are doing on your phone cannot be that important. It can’t be. If so, how about pulling off the road and handle your business there.

3. Wrecks. Not every day, at least not yet, but I do see car accidents almost every day now when I am out driving. Shades of Saudi. What is distressing is that I watch the news and witness the carnage first hand and we are seeing cars completely obliterated in accidents within city limits. You might expect to see this level of destruction on the interstate or highway but in town? That means way too many people are running many red lights, driving distracted in addition to driving too darn fast and creating a lot of heartache within the city. It needs to stop. Yesterday, again on the 24th (this day was the Trifecta of road buffoonery), I saw a minor car accident coming home from East Chase on Vaughn Road. Nobody was injured but what I thought was funny is the car that had just rear ended the other car had a bumper sticker warning people not to tailgate. I found the irony of that rather interesting. Yup, a wreck a day. Now all we need is a bunch of sand around us.

4. Speeding: I know we all see it. Just get on the bypass, drive the speed limit and watch the games begin. Cars in and out of lanes, cars going at least 20 mph over the posted speed limit, of course with the obligatory cell phone stuck up to their face, you name it. Race car driver Mario Andretti once said, “Speed doesn’t kill, uncontrolled speed kills.” Too many of our peeps fit into this category.

5. Overall ridiculousness: Before my wife and I left Saudi, we had seen so much highway buffoonery that we just shook our heads. Just ask about the “Saudi Sweep.” Then one day it happened. We saw it. If we hadn’t seen it for ourselves, well okay, we would have still believed it. But we saw a car pass us going the opposite direction and the driver had a sun shade in the windshield with just a minor portion pulled back so he could see where he was going. We knew it was a guy because women were not allowed to drive then. The wife and I looked at each other and collectively said that we could go back to the States now because we had officially seen “everything.” Flash forward 26 years and I was driving here in town and yes, yes, I saw the same thing. A driver had their sunshade up with just a little corner pulled back so the driver could see. I immediately looked around, saw some trees and grass and no overabundance of white Nissan pickup trucks and knew I had not been transported back to Riyadh. Regardless, the sting of stupidity was the same as it was a quarter century ago.

The point to all this is that as a people, citizens of our city, we have to do better. I know with the increased lack of discipline and selfish behavior of many, it is only going to get worse. Everyday, people seem hell-bent on wanting to kill others simply because they are too self-absorbed to do what is right. People seem to have absolutely no idea what operating a car safely actually means. What is worse, they don’t seem to care. Whether running red lights, texting, speeding or whatever it may be, I hope the MPD will start cracking down on these people. This boorish behavior needs to be corrected before more people get hurt or killed.



Photo: Margan Zajdowicz
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Remembering the Bay of Pigs ... continued from previous page



The place he chose to show resolve was Vietnam.

The Bay of Pigs represented not only a defeat of U.S. interests, but a disaster in creating a foreign policy that was rooted in a personal quest to show a powerful America and decisive administration. By focusing on goals and objectives that had little relation to the permanent interests of the United States, Kennedy ultimately followed a path leading to humiliation and defeat.

Engaging on the world stage requires critical thinking about America’s goals and the strategies to achieve them. Foreign policy must be practical and focused on long-term interests and not the distractions of ideological whims.

In Southeast Asia, Russia amped up its support of the Pathet Lao in a proxy war for control of Laos. Khrushchev rhetorically decimated Kennedy at the Vienna Summit some months later.

Atoning for the loss of prestige at the Bay of Pigs, Bobby Kennedy became obsessed with Cuba, diverting resources in any number of attempts to topple the Castro regime. In fact, some of the most preposterous assassination plans cooked up by the CIA were aimed at Castro.

Rather than destabilizing Cuba, Kennedy’s singular focus forced Castro into a strong alliance with Russia, resulting in a Soviet base 90 miles from Florida. The obsession with Cuba led to the Cuban Missile crisis, which was the closest the world has yet come to a nuclear war.

But perhaps the most significant legacy from Kennedy’s bruised ego was his desire to reveal his machismo and show he could draw a line in the sand against communism.



Ronald A. Holtsford

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WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF DIVORCE ON ESTATE PLANNING?



There are various issues relative to estate planning and divorce. There are instances where an ex-spouse may continue to be entitled to your assets, times when they are automatically disqualified from assets and/ or disqualified from acting as a fiduciary and then there are changes in the law. Finally, there may be times that you may wish for your ex spouse to inherit from you even though by law that might be successfully challenged.

With your Last Will and Testament, upon divorce your former spouse is considered by law to have predeceased you. While that makes things convenient for you immediately following a divorce, it is wise anytime you have a major life change to have a new Will done. You may have named your ex-spouse to act as your Personal Representative or as a Trustee, so you will want to name another individual to act as your Personal Representative and name a successor as well.

However, I have had clients who have either maintained a close relationship with their ex spouse or have minor children together and really want their ex-spouse to have a least a portion of their assets upon death. The language needs to be specific that it is the intent of the testator or testatrix that they want their former spouse to have something from their estate, if that is what they desire. With a legal presumption that a former spouse has predeceased you, a legal challenge by successor beneficiaries would probably be successful. And in the throws of the emotional turmoil of a divorce if the other spouse decides to kill you thinking they will ensure inheritance, one spouse that kills another (besides going to jail) is also precluded from inheritance.

What about the other major components of a legal estate plan? If your former spouse is named as your agent under your Power of Attorney (financial or health) then their power as agent is automatically revoked or if they are named as proxy under your Advance Directive (Living Will) then that power is also revoked. After all if the Advance Directive kicks in due to a medical condition the ex spouse might be saying, "Let them go, they always said they weren't afraid to die" ☺.

With a Trust it can be more complicated as to what form of Trust exists but it should definitely be addressed during the divorce.

Historically, insurance accounts that name the former spouse as a beneficiary remains as is and has been consistently upheld by the Alabama courts. I have always counseled my clients on the effect of these policies. However, a change to the law as of 01 September 2015 now aligns itself more with the effect of former spouses and Wills. If you have a life insurance policy naming your spouse as beneficiary and later are divorced then the spouse automatically loses that benefit, and that is probably what you would want. However you must consider who your successor beneficiary(ies) is/ are and whether they can outright take upon your death, i.e. they cannot if they are under age 19 and whether you really wanted your former spouse to remain as a beneficiary. I think this will be interesting for the courts since it is a contractual obligation and I believe that insurance companies will want to otherwise pay to a former spouse that remains as beneficiary unless directed otherwise by the court.

While most real property deeds include spouses "with rights of survivorship", a divorce that does not address the title to real property would continue to have both former spouses on the deed but as "tenants in common" which means no rights of survivorship and could eventually mean upon the death of a spouse that a former spouse and a new spouse could have a 50/50 share of the real property. I'm sure that would not be good.

If you are unfortunately staring down a divorce make sure that in addition to your assets that your estate plan and insurances are considered and that you speak with attorneys proficient in those areas. 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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MORE ... Inside the Statehouse ... with Steve Flowers

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Who Are the Nine People Who Sit on Our State Supreme Court?



This week allow me to share with you a sketch of the men and women who sit on our State Supreme Court. These nine Justices are all Republican, all conservative on both social and business issues. All are very devout in their faith and very connected to their church and their family.

Chief Justice Tom Parker has been on the State Supreme Court since 2005. He was born and raised in Montgomery and went to Dartmouth College and Vanderbilt Law School.

Chief Justice Parker and his wife the former Dottie James of Auburn have been married 39 years. Dottie was a supervisor of the governor's mansion during the Fob James administration. They are Methodist.

Justice Jay Mitchell is the most personable and definitely the tallest member of the Supreme Court. Jay was a star basketball player at Birmingham Southern where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa. He is imminently qualified for the Supreme Court having graduated from the University of Virginia Law School and had a sterling career with a Birmingham Law firm prior to being overwhelmingly elected to the high tribunal in 2018. Justice Mitchell and his wife, Elizabeth, have four children. They reside in Homewood and are members of the Church of the Highlands.

Justice Tommy Bryan is a popular and conservative member of the high court. Tommy was born on a family farm in Crenshaw County. He served on the Court of Civil Appeals and was an assistant attorney general prior to being elected to the Supreme Court in 2012. Justice Bryan and his wife, Pamela, are very active members of the First Baptist Church of Montgomery where he is a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and sings in the choir. He and Pam are very close and have raised two fine children.

Justice William "Will" Sellers, like Justice Parker, is a Montgomery native, as is Will's outstanding wife, Lee Grant Sellers. Justice Sellers and Lee have been married 33 years and have three adult children and are active members of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Montgomery. Will was a prominent Tax Attorney prior to going on the court. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama Law School and has a New York University tax degree.

Justice Brad Mendheim was a Circuit Judge in Houston County prior to going on the Supreme Court. He was born and raised in Dothan and is one of the most respected young men to have come out of his hometown. He is a graduate of Auburn University and Cumberland School of Law. He and his wife of 24 years, Michelle, are very active members of the First Baptist Church of Dothan and they have three fine sons.

Justice Greg Shaw epitomizes a judge both professionally and personally. He is said to be the hardest working member of the Court and takes his role

seriously and is well above reproach. He has an outstanding wife, Samantha "Sam" Shaw, who has also had a sterling career in politics. She was overwhelmingly elected State Auditor twice, serving eight years. Greg and Sam live on a farm about an hour from Montgomery. They have two outstanding sons and are members of the Auburn United Methodist Church. Justice Shaw graduated from Auburn and Samford's Cumberland School of Law.

Justice Sarah Stewart is a longtime Mobilian and was a Mobile Circuit Judge prior to going on the Court. She is a very respected jurist and a graduate of Vanderbilt Law School. She and her husband, Craig, have two children and are Methodists.

Justice Mike Bolin is one of the finest men I have ever known. Mike was a stellar and popular Probate Judge in Jefferson County prior to his service on the Supreme Court. He is a graduate of Samford University and a graduate of Cumberland School of Law. Justice Bolin and his wife, Rosemary, have one daughter. They attend St. Peter the Apostle Church in Hoover. Unfortunately, Judge Bolin cannot run for reelection next year. He will be over 70 and is term limited under state law.

However, last but not least, Justice Kelli Wise is well below 70 and can and will run for reelection next year and she will win. She is a very popular member of the high court. Kelli served several terms on the Court of Criminal Appeals before matriculating to the Supreme Court. Justice Wise and her husband, former District Court Judge Arthur Ray, have one daughter and are members of the St. James United Methodist Church. Kelli is a Wiregrass native up for reelection next year in 2022.



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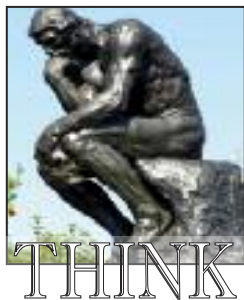
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John Sophocleus

Christos Anesti! – i.e. “Christ is Risen!”

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Or perhaps “Cheese-toast [sic] Anesti!” to fans who recall actor John Corbett’s poor attempt at psittacism in the 2002 movie My Big Fat Greek Wedding as “Ian Miller.” A few Greeks found the movie a little ‘insulting’ or ‘too stereotypical’ but I’m not among them. I find it healthy to laugh at oneself when apropos and even savour the idiosyncratic characteristics embedded in one’s culture. Quite often there are delightful reasons stereotypes of this sort emerge over time to highlight our differences ... dare I type diversity? I ask forgiveness for recycling this title/text from any reader who may remember my first Alabama Gazette Easter column about a dozen years ago. I also penned a column several years ago for those who asked why Easter and Pascha rarely fall on the same date; I’ve waited for a year when they did NOT fall in the same month so my Pascha column would be noticeably after Easter. This year was perfect as the dates fell so far apart April 4th v. May 2nd.

Socrates offered sound argument to examine one’s life – so please join me for a little self-exam of the heart, mind and spirit. While the movie is largely about a Greek girl’s travails of dating and marrying a “Xeno” (outsider) in the orthodox Church, it also makes reference to baptism and “Pascha” – i.e., Easter. As one who is a very poor example of a Greek orthodox Christian (specifically I know very little Greek, nor is my life one to hold up as an example to replicate) I could easily identify with Ian Miller’s first “Cheese-toast Anesti!” salutation.

As I now approach sixty, my oldest clear memory of youth is still singing the “Christos Anesti” anthem with my grandfather (who bore the same name) at my side as it has been sung for almost 2,000 years. Just as Ian Miller’s “Cheese-toast” I really didn’t know what I saying – nor if it were English could I’ve possibly yet acquired the maturation to begin to understand the power of the words or the charge they put upon all those who sincerely want to follow Christ’s path. Powerful psittacism, but nonetheless a child ‘parroting’ the words while soaking in the melody and feeling of unity in Spirit. Some may have similar memories of their youth (esp. in the South) going to their first college football game. I’m indeed a beneficiary of the inheritance referenced in Ephesians (birthplace of my paternal grandmother) I’ve come to hold most dear from my parents and grandparents who knew and had the fortitude to “suffer their little children to know Him.”

The opening words from this age-old Paschal anthem translate from the Greek as follows:

“Christ is risen from the dead, by His death destroying the power of death ...”

It wouldn’t be until my early twenties, as I was slowly compelled to make peace with the endeavour of existing in this world, where I would truly begin to understand what this Pascha/Easter commemoration meant. In Christ’s time, Rome was the biggest ‘up and coming’ leviathan (meaning large command and control despotic government) mankind had witnessed since the likes of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Persians ... and thankfully for the Greeks – Sparta won their ‘war between the Greek Nation-States’ when Athens tried to replace recently defeated Persia as a tax tyrant, but military efforts to curb the relentless spread of Roman tyranny had failed. Those who knew the past could easily forecast what the future held. It would require a widespread change of man’s heart, mind and spirit to end this evil and try to put in place a longer term understanding to make it more difficult for the next leviathan (after Rome) to emerge and survive. As usual, I beg forgiveness from theologians for type on this matter by the hands of an economist. For those interested in reading more on this history, I highly recommend Charles Adams’ book entitled, “For Good & Evil: the impact of taxes on the course of civilization.”

To illustrate how encompassing the power of Rome applied to Christ’s time on earth, even His place of birth was soiled by the Roman leviathan as Caesar Augustus mandated return to cities of origin to be taxed. Christ witnessed firsthand the cruelty of Rome which tormented the souls of young and old alike – think of the demon “Legion” (one of many) He cast into swine, which some theologians consider purposeful, thinly veiled symbolism of despotic Roman rule. Christ knew the meaning of David defeating the Philistines (Star of David) the reason for the Maccabean Revolt (Menorah) and other common teachings of this sort to Jewish children; just as our young people knew about Washington’s 1783 victory over the British, War of 1812, War Between the States, etc... when they were taught well to our youth.

The Caesar in power at the time of Christ’s crucifixion, Tiberius, was a man of poor character by most accounts, but he’s noted as the Caesar who spent a great deal of effort in advancing his propaganda “Ti Caesar Divi Aug F Augustus,” – i.e., “Tiberius Caesar, Worshipful Son of the God Augustus.” This was very important to establish after the killing of Augustus, who had set himself up as god. For most readers, esp. those who may have read my past column on the First Commandment, I doubt I have to type more on how Christ proclaiming He is the Son of the true God (obviously NOT Augustus) would place him at odds with the likes of Pontius Pilate, the Procurator of Judea who was responsible for tax collection with sufficient Roman soldiers in his charge to easily secure the task.

At the rawest level, the power of Rome was facilitated by a complete and some may consider irrational fear of death. Those who Rome wished to use and control via this overpowering fear could be sent into the depths of mines to fuel the despotic government’s huge resource demands; could be chained to oars to power Rome’s ships to their very last breath; entertain Romans in blood sports to the death; etc... In the current world, think of how our modern Rome has her citizens so afraid to die they are willing to advocate theft from others, even their own children’s future to continue their existence for another breath. I remain awestruck with how little regard some have for their dignity and souls to continue ‘life’ in this world to aid and abet a leviathan which no doubt will make their (and their posterity’s) existence dark and grim.

I pray readers now have enough history to get to the important Q&A. Why did Rome fear this little Jewish carpenter who taught so meaningfully and righteously? The power of His ideas and teachings provided a cure to the growing cancer Roman despotism was on mankind. If Christ had the will to follow His heavenly Father into the next world – even upon suffering the most horrific death Romans could devise; AND others were willing to follow – the tyranny of Rome could not survive. There were those who understood and wanted Christ’s body, passion, Spirit and teachings to be buried and forgotten. Thanks to His disciples (including Peter who denied Him in the aforementioned fea) and countless martyrs who followed Christ, this was not so.

To be clear (from the old orthodox anthem) Christ’s path destroys the power of death so the fear of death in this world may not be used by the Romans (or the many leviathans certain to follow) to advance their despotic ends. Christ showed us the way – it is up to us to have the courage, faith and wisdom to follow. If we do not stand well against evil and despotism in our everyday lives, we are failing Him and this noble effort so many have suffered for mankind.

I type this just before our Holy Week, but when you read this, our Paschal celebration will have passed almost a month after Easter. While Pascha is the end of venerating Christ’s journey as man in this world, it is indeed a beginning for us all... a renewal of our commitment to a better world and the courage to stand well against evil. How will you proceed? Do you know Christ’s teachings well enough to sort out the righteous from evildoers? Will juries and legislatures shepherd us to light or darkness? Will administrators, clergy, executives, et al, make the sound (often difficult in the short-run) decisions to advance us toward a better world or slowly become part of the problem?

Not picking a ‘terrorist’ like Barabbas over Christ may have averted the consequences, which follow in 70 AD Judea. Imagine the courage it took for Peter and John to stand-up to wicked clergy like Caiaphas and Annas after just witnessing the role they played in slandering and serving up Christ (their beloved master and teacher) to Pilate. Knowing the Gospels of Holy Thursday teaches us to distinguish between good clergy like Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea who opposed the faction of evil clergymen. Good men of Joseph & Nicodemus’ character are still around today – can you identify and have the courage to support them? Governors like Herod are alive and well today, who have little regard toward the well being of those in their charge and easily purchased by Rome, but there are also those public servants who will not succumb to this evil – will you sacrifice to support them? Poor jurist like Pilate will always be with us – will you still take wrongdoings to the courts (even when certain to lose) to shine light on their evil? How often do you observe the modern day Judas, claiming to care about the children, the environment, the poor and sick while really caring about advancing their own avarice?

The way Rome saw to overcome Christ (when it became obvious He would NOT be buried and forgotten) was to test devotion to His teachings... could Christians really love their neighbors, truly pray for their enemies to turn away from despotism, be patient enough to turn the other cheek and even suffer death in this world to shine light upon evil? As the greater power of Christ’s teachings took root and spread across the Roman empire, the threat of Christians had to be explicitly addressed to where it reached a high-watermark with Diocletian (one of Rome’s worst) who championed the public humiliation, torture and death of Christians including sawing them in two, feeding them to lions, etc. for public viewing and ‘entertainment.’ In modern times leviathans have learned to be much less vulgar to the righteous by simply imprisoning them, disgrace, slander, taking away their children, employment, homes, etc...

If you are indeed sincere about following Christ’s path, you will be in for a blessed life – esp. in these times where it seems increasingly difficult for God to find servants. I often pray for God to be patient with me when it is very clear I’ve been put in situations to shine His light on evil – when I know there are much better potential servants than myself, but they’re unwilling. When you devote your life in this manner, you’ll find many situations where you can not remain silent; must help those in need; can’t let corruption go unchecked. I’ve been a part of efforts to shine light on accountants who embezzled where I’ve worked; on poor administrators, bureaucrats, businessmen, clergy, and university presidents; been threatened by Congressmen, Governors; taken poor Federal judges to the US Supreme Court to win unanimously. I still find it odd when folks tell me I’m special when it so obvious (certainly in my case) it is not so – what they really see is Christ in others – and anyone who wants to follow His path will be a part of advancing God’s Light and the Holy Spirit in this world. Furthermore, one of the many satisfying revelations of knowing Christ is when finding good, honest accountants, bureaucrats, businesspeople, righteous clergy, dept. heads, jurists, lawyers, politicians, university presidents, et al – is realizing how great a blessing it is!

So in closing, it is no longer “Cheese-toast [sic] Anesti” psittacism. You know the meaning and power of the “Christ is Risen” anthem. Christ has already done the ‘heavy lifting’ clearing the Way for us. It is up to us to follow. Those who don’t follow, do so at their own peril and have little standing to complain when evil surrounds and envelopes them in darkness. Those who do follow and take up the Cross in their everyday lives refusing to succumb to ‘the fear of Rome’ will probably not be remembered – that’s OK ... there’s an old Greek orthodox funeral anthem for that as well – “May their memory be eternal through Christ.” It doesn’t matter if our name or accomplishments in this life are remembered ... it does matter the powerful teachings of Christ are eternal to shepherd mankind toward something better – i.e., to be more like Christ.



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REVERSE RECIDIVISM RATE

One of Alabama Governor Kay Ivey's current legislative pushes is to fund new prisons, improve the current institutions, and reform the criminal justice system, to which she has faced many obstacles.

John W. Giles

This article written by John W. Giles and published in the Alabama Gazette May 2019, is good to review in light of the State's failing, overcrowding prison system ...

Recidivism rate is the tendency of a criminal to commit a crime and return to prison. This is one of those areas where fuzzy math drives you crazy getting to the facts. According to the National Institute of Justice, 68 percent of 405,000 prisoners released in 30 states in 2005 were arrested for a new crime within three years of their release from prison, and 77 percent were arrested within five years. According to a 2018 report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 1960 the U.S. prison population was about 46,000, today it is nearly 2.2 million. The U.S. population since then grew 44%, but prison population grew over 100%. We have to ask ourselves, what in the world is going on and what has changed?

Let's dig in.

Folks, first we have to admit what we are doing is not working. Rising prison populations and increasing crime are crowding the agendas and pressing budgets for legislators. The public conversation now is about sentencing reforms, which means lessening sentences and punishment, building mega prisons, restoring



Photo by StuartMiles/FreeRangeStock.com

felons voting rights and now Senator Bernie Sanders wants all inmates to vote in prison. This friend is insane. Prison is now called Corrections, which has become three hots and a cot, plenty of porn, television, flip flops, breeding grounds for gangs, drugs, cell phones, and next, there will be mandated cookies and milk along with a bedtime story. To my congressional and state legislative friends, we are moving the reform needle in the wrong direction – we are going softer and we should be going harder.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) have worked over time to incrementally give prisoners almost the same rights as free people. At one time, a prisoner was property of the state and had no rights. Within sixty plus years of a jurist activism within the liberal federal courts, we have become very soft while crime and prison populations soar.

We moved to Alabama in 1959, I was five years old and Kilby Penitentiary was a stone throw from my family home in Dalraida right across three mile branch. I remember riding in the car through the cotton fields behind the prison and seeing mounted guards with shotguns and striped uniformed convicts picking cotton. The faces of these convicts looked contorted and angry, frankly frightening as a child. As a young boy, I feared even the thought of prison. There is something to be said about a deterrent environment.

Between 1812 and 1965, 708 people were executed in Alabama. Until 1927, hanging was the primary method of execution, although one person was shot. Firing squads, public hangings were the order of the day and then came along Yellow Mama, the electric chair. Some of the court mandated reforms brought about the gas chamber and now lethal injection. Yellow Mama was unplugged. For capital punishment, the liberal courts have moved us from hangings to say your prayers and go to sleep sugar, night – night, while I put you to sleep with this little shot. Sweet dreams!

Simply put, our current system of so called reform is not working; we need to go back to some serious deterrents invoking fear of going to the penitentiary. The U.S. is feared worldwide, because we maintain world peace through military strength. No one really wants war, but our strength and the enormous military ability serves as deterrent. Likewise, we need to turn back the clock and return to the old days of true prison reform.

As a starter, use the term penitentiaries and convicts, not correction and inmates. Abolish parole boards and go back to truth in sentencing, if you get twenty years, you serve twenty years. We need to return to hard labor and work these convicts with genuine manual labor. No TV except rewarded and then limited to shows like the Andy Griffith Show. No porn, no cell phones, no drugs and limited cigarette breaks. In the 50's, convicts lost their rights and were property of the state, we need to return to this notion. If you are caught in a gang, having any sex or caught with contraband, years are added to your time. If you are convicted of a felon your voting rights are permanently revoked. Pedophiles are now mapped and all released convicts need to be mapped. If you commit any level of a murder, rape, incest or pedophilia proven by DNA, you are immediately executed within days, not years. The convict can choose between hanging, firing squad or Yellow Mama. Our recidivism rate will go from 77% back down to 50% or below like it was in the 1960's. Keep in mind this static, during the days of Yellow Mam, one execution served as deterrent and saved 17 lives.

To my friends in the Alabama Legislature and Congress, let's erase the sixty years of jurist activism that have incrementally turned our prisons into summer camps. Let's roll back the laws to some serious stiff incarnation environments as suggested in this article. Our federal courts are now being filled with strict constructionist and we might return some sanity into our penal systems. We now have an opportunity to right so many wrongs invoked from the liberal sixty year reign in the courts.

Get serious about reversing the escalating recidivism rate in our country.



Daniel Sutter

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THE FREEDOM TO USE FOSSIL FUELS

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

The Biden Administration seems intent on renewing the war against fossil fuels to combat global warming. Before going down this path, I hope Americans will consider Alex Epstein's argument in The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels.

A moral argument requires a standard of value and Mr. Epstein's is human life. As he explains, "I think that our fossil fuel use so far has been a moral choice because it has enabled billions of people to live longer and more fulfilling lives."

Many environmentalists do not share this standard. Mr. Epstein describes their standard as minimizing human impact on the environment. Environmentalist Bill McKibben desires a world where, "Human happiness would be of secondary importance." David Graber hopes, "Until such time as Homo sapiens should decide to rejoin nature, some of us can only hope for the right virus to come along."

Human life and well-being is a holistic standard embracing all people, not just an elite. It means far more than enriching oil and gas companies and demands considering benefits and costs, including pollution.

The Industrial Revolution unleashed what economist Deirdre McCloskey calls the Great Enrichment, the enormous increase in standards of living and life expectancy of the past 250 years. Energy has powered the Industrial Revolution's tractors, steamships, factories, and railroads.

Fossil fuels specifically give humans low cost energy, which is crucial. A tractor allows us to save time planting compared with working by hand. But we are not better off if obtaining fuel takes all the time saved. Fossil fuels also provide the energy to build machines and buildings.

Electric power grids and natural gas systems also improve the quality of life. Previously people burned coal, wood, or animal dung in their homes, creating indoor air pollution and smog. Energy allows modern, sanitary water and sewer systems to deliver safe water to and remove dangerous waste from homes.

Energy makes our planet more livable. Mr. Epstein notes that nature, "attacks us with bacteria-filled water, excessive heat, lack of rainfall, too much rainfall, powerful storms, decay, disease-carrying insects and animals, and a large assortment of predators." Technology protects us from nature's hazards.

Hundreds of millions of people in Africa and Asia still lack electricity, clean water, and sanitation. Modern medicine also requires energy. A lack of affordable energy kills 3 to 4 million people each year.

Mr. Epstein puts a human face on these statistics. He observed the impact on medicine of unreliable electricity visiting Africa: "A full-term infant was born weighing only 3.5 pounds. In the U.S. the solution would have been obvious and effective: incubation. But without reliable electricity ... [t]his seemingly simple solution was not available to this newborn girl, and she perished needlessly."

Pollution harms human life and well-being and should be avoided if possible. Mr. Epstein suggests viewing pollution is as a by-product. We use fossil fuels to power factories and cars and then recognize that this causes air pollution.

What do we do? Use human ingenuity to reduce the by-products. Inventing and installing pollution control technology on cars and factories yields prosperity and environmental quality.

Global warming represents a similar by-product, although the harm is speculative and occurs primarily in the future. Banning fossil fuels is not the only way to address global warming. Alternatively, we could continue to use fossil fuels to make the world wealthier than today. With continued economic growth, world GDP per capita could easily increase by a factor of four by 2100. Even if global warming reduced world GDP by 25% in 2100 (a rather extreme estimate), the world would still be three times richer than today.

The economic freedom and empowerment, including the freedom to use fossil fuels, has produced modern prosperity. Using more of this energy could soon extend this prosperity to billions more. If we care about human life, climate policy must acknowledge the enormous human value of fossil fuels.

SUIT FILED TO BLOCK PRISON LEASE PLAN



A civil suit was filed Tuesday [April 27, 2021] to enjoin a prison lease plan by the Alabama Department of Corrections and Gov. Kay Ivey.

The suit alleges that the prison lease plan is illegal in that it did not receive approval by the Alabama legislature and other legal deficiencies.

The Montgomery County Circuit Court filing was made by Montgomery attorney Kenny Mendelson on behalf of four plaintiffs. Mendelson had been the attorney in the first civil suit against then-governor Robert Bentley that paved the way to Bentley's resignation.

Four plaintiffs bringing the suit are State Auditor Jim Zeigler (R); State Rep. John Rogers of Birmingham (D); Leslie Ogburn, a homeowner near the proposed prison site outside Tallassee, Alabama; and prisoner rights activist Rev. Kenny Glasgow of Dothan.

Zeigler said there was a strategic decision to file a bi-partisan suit.

"This prison plan would be a 30-year mistake. It would force Alabama taxpayers to pay rents starting at \$94 million a year and going up to \$106 million. At the end of 30 years, the state would own equity in the prisons of zero. No equity. This is a bad business plan," Zeigler said.

"The plan does not address the problems in the prison system – safety of staff and other inmates; overcrowding; mental health; suicide; recidivism; and inadequate job training. The plan merely throws over \$3.6 billion of taxpayer money at the problems," Zeigler said.

"We thought this plan had been killed off April 19 when the two largest underwriters pulled out of the project, but the Ivey administration is stubbornly pushing forward. There are two giant signed contracts already executed. This lawsuit is needed to make sure the plan is good and dead," Zeigler said.

The case has been assigned to Judge Greg Griffin of Montgomery.

For a copy of the complete lawsuit or more information, contact:
Hope Scarborough, CPM, Executive Assistant to Jim Zeigler
State Auditor, State Capitol
600 Dexter Avenue, Room S-101, Montgomery, Alabama 36130
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Dangerous Vaccines

On January 5 of this year, baseball legend Henry Aaron received his COVID-19 vaccine and then promptly tweeted that Coronavirus vaccinations are safe and that all black Americans should get the shots: “I was proud to get the COVID-19 vaccine earlier today at Morehouse School of Medicine. I hope you do the same!”

Two and a half weeks later, on January 22, Aaron passed away. Some people suspect that it was a result of the vaccine.

Since the new Coronavirus vaccines were administered, people have suffered a meaningful number of deaths and hospitalizations. As a result, a sizable portion of our population has become concerned and has decided to postpone or even reject getting inoculated.

One argument is that the vaccines were distributed well ahead of adequate studies to determine the likelihood of any dangerous side effects.

The Moderna and Pfizer formulas are not like the normal tried and true vaccines—those that deliver a weakened or dead version of the disease that will prod the body to build up immunity. These two vaccines are very different (called mRNA), and reports of grave concerns reveal that they could weaken or even destroy our immune systems by altering our bodies’ genetic structures. One would assume that they would make us stronger to ward off the virus. But problematic cases are revealing that they can actually give us a chemical form of AIDS, one of the most horrible diseases encountered by humanity. In other words, like AIDS, they cause our immune systems to battle our own bodies.

Mat Staver has reported that these two vaccines are under suspicion and “have the potential to cause microvascular injury to the brain, heart, liver and kidneys in a way that does not currently appear to be assessed in safety trials.”

A report from Israel said Pfizer vaccinated young people suffered a mortality “hundreds of times greater” than Coronavirus deaths in the un-vaccinated ones, and “dozens of times more in the elderly.” Of 3000 adverse vaccine events, 2900 were from mRNA vaccines. According to Gary D. Barnett, the Pfizer vaccine has killed “about 40 times more (elderly) people and 260 times more of the young than what the COVID-19 virus would have claimed in the given time frame.”

In a German nursing home, “several residents were injected with the experimental COVID mRNA shots against their will... many of them died a short time later.”

Dr. Joseph Mercola states: “When it comes to the novel mRNA technology used in COVID-19 vaccines, historical data are troubling to say the least, and the U.S. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is rapidly filling up with COVID-19 vaccine-related injury reports and deaths.

“As reported in **‘COVID-19 Vaccine to Be Tested on 6-Year-Olds,’** as of February 4, 2021, VAERS had received 12,697 injury reports and 653 deaths following COVID-19 vaccinations. Even more telling, between January 2020 and January 2021, COVID-19 vaccines accounted for 70% of the annual vaccine deaths, even though these vaccines had only been available for less than two months!

“It’s important to realize what mRNA and DNA COVID-19 vaccines actually are. They are not traditional vaccines made with live or attenuated viruses. They’re actually gene therapies. They don’t even meet the medical or legal definition of a vaccine, as detailed in **‘COVID-19 mRNA Shots Are Legally Not Vaccines.’** This novel, never before used therapy has a long list of potential problems....

“The messenger RNA (mRNA) used in many COVID-19 vaccines are synthetic. **Your body sees these synthetic particles as non-self, which can cause autoantibodies to attack your own tissues.** Judy Mikovits, Ph.D., explained this in her interview, featured in **‘How COVID-19 Vaccines May Destroy the Lives of Millions.’**...

“The synthetic RNA influences, in part, the gene syncytin. According to Mikovits, **when syncytin is aberrantly expressed in the brain, you can develop multiple sclerosis.** Expression of the syncytin gene also inflames and dysregulates communication between the brain microglia, which are critical for clearing toxins and pathogens in the brain. It also dysregulates your immune system and your endocannabinoid system, which is the dimmer switch on inflammation.

“The synthetic mRNA also has an HIV envelope expressed in it, which can cause immune dysregulation.”

Mat Staver reported: “A healthy 56-year-old Florida doctor died when his platelets dropped to zero within 72 hours after receiving the Pfizer COVID injection. Multiple platelet transfusions didn’t help because after he received the ‘vaccine,’ his body was reprogrammed to attack itself and destroy all platelets.”

Meanwhile, a third vaccine from Johnson & Johnson that is non-mRNA and possibly safer, is being called off the market for 6 serious blood clot issues out of 6.6 million vaccines administered. J&J wasn’t the only one with blood clot issues. On April 17, VAERS reported 400 blood clotting disorders with Pfizer, 337 with Moderna and 56 with J&J between Dec. 14, 2020 and April 8, 2021.

Another issue with all three vaccines is breakthrough—vaccinated people becoming infected and sick. The CDC reported 5,800 cases of COVID-19 in fully vaccinated people, including 396 hospitalized and 74 who died.

Should we take any of these new vaccines?

We already have a vaccine that has been around for nearly a century—the **Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine**, a treatment for tuberculosis. Proven to be safe and effective decades ago, it is derived from a mycobacterium (mycobacterium bovis) found in cattle, which is a “live” but attenuated bacterium. **Yes, it protects against COVID-19 via activation of T-cells.** Besides tuberculosis, it also confers immunity against Staphylococcus and Candida, and it is also useful in preventing multiple sclerosis and cancer. **So why don’t we use it?**

About half of the United States’ people have now been vaccinated, and the vast majority has so far shown no signs of any problems. But if the vaccine is anything like AIDS, the problems might not show up until months or years later.

Of course, many people are becoming wary. People don’t easily forget the Tuskegee syphilis and the horrific MK-Ultra LSD experiments. They don’t trust the government. Can you blame them?

The bottom line is that our bodies are sacrosanct. We own our bodies.



outright. What we do to our bodies is our business. We choose what drugs to take and what not to take—just like we choose what to eat and what not to eat. We assess our own risks, and if we don’t do it right, we suffer the consequences by our own decisions. Nobody, and I mean absolutely nobody, has a right to force feed us medications. This is what the Nazis did. This is probably what they do in North Korea. It is barbaric.

Should you take a COVID-19 vaccine? That is strictly your choice. You might not believe some of the scary statistics mentioned here. You might be happy with the fact that the great majority of people, so far, have suffered few or no adverse effects. You might be convinced the odds are strongly in your favor. You might decide to take the vaccine.

Other people might trust their own immune systems, especially those who have always been strong and healthy. Even though the risk is small, it is still greater than the risk of contracting COVID-19. They might decide to go without vaccination. It is their right to do so and not be forced or coerced into having it violated.

If you are not yet vaccinated and are unable to decide, wait until July for the results of a major vaccine study.

We now hear a lot of arguments on the news and elsewhere about vaccine “passports”—if you have been vaccinated, you will be allowed to access public events and whatever. On February 28, *The Jerusalem Post* announced a “Green Pass” program that required proof of a COVID vaccination to enter “registered” places of business.

That is just an indirect method of forced vaccination. In this country, it is patently unconstitutional, unethical and illegal, regardless of how much some groups and organizations are hyping it up. Anybody who attempts to mandate such an act as a public policy is guilty of one of the highest crimes anybody could commit.

Finally, if you and/or any family members and friends have received an mRNA vaccine and have suffered side effects, report it to VAERS and on VaxxTracker.com, a nongovernmental adverse event tracker. File anonymously if you prefer.

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Error of Omissions in April Issue

We apologize as we accidentally failed to print the last few paragraphs of John Martin’s April article **“Tax Filing Headaches.”** Below are those paragraphs or you can find the complete article online at www.AlabamaGazette.com. ~ Alabama Gazette Staff

From 2011 until 2019, needed paperwork could be picked up at local libraries and post offices, although in later years, a few necessary pages had to be printed from online. In 2020, the IRS quit providing anything except the small booklet with the 1040 forms and the new schedules. It may not be long before there is no printed material at all.

Up until and including last year (2020), we could call an IRS number (800-829-3676) to order forms by mail. That year, it worked fine. A lady promptly answered and took my request. I received the needed materials a few days later. I attempted to order forms and instructions this year with the same number. It seemed to work at first, but when it came time for someone to answer, I was put on hold, which I expected in the beginning. But I stayed on hold—10 minutes, 30 minutes, an hour—until finally my phone battery died. Repeating the procedure another day ended up with the same result—nobody available to take an order—just loud music. So say goodbye to mail order forms.

The news media does not seem to show much interest in addressing tax filing problems. Newspapers, magazines, radio, TV, the internet, and others are wrapped up in COVID-19 issues and have said little about tax issues, except a

brief mention in January that new tax forms for 2020 would not be ready until February 12. We were (then) given only a two month window to get our returns prepared and filed. That means more mistakes and more wasted time and anguish to deal with unfamiliar new changes on short notices. And of course, refunds are going to be delayed this year.

If the IRS is really serious about getting people to co-operate in paying their taxes, it should stop putting roadblocks in the way. Quit trying to force people to file online; give everybody the option to file either way. Scrap the new protocols and go back to the simpler forms and procedures of a few decades ago.

Keep tax filing simple. Avoid needless questions and inputs. Avoid frequent and needless changes. Avoid confusing language. Avoid anything that causes trouble and consumes excessive amounts of the taxpayers’ time.

For people who file paper forms, help them with the complete booklets used back then—complete—with two copies of all forms and schedules and instructions for all of them contained therein. And add a nice touch, an addressed, postpaid, return envelope.

2021 FEDERAL TAX DEADLINE ... DUE BY MAY 17



John M. Taylor

“The Informed Southerner”

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CLEMENT L. VALLANDIGHAM: A VICTIM OF LINCOLN’S REGIME

We observe many modern instances of government overreach. A look at Abe Lincoln’s regime will echo much of what we now witness – Clement Laird Vallandigham’s case is an example. [Denied free speech & habeas corpus rights.]

Vallandigham, born in 1820 in New Lisbon, Ohio, was educated at New Lisbon Academy and Jefferson College in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. He built a respected law practice and became a popular political speaker. In 1845, he became the youngest member of the Ohio State legislature. He respected Southern character and honor and took pride in his Stafford, Virginia lineage.

A States’ Rights Democrat, Vallandigham denounced the Radical Republicans and opposed the 1857 Tariff. In a February 24, 1859, address to the House of Representatives he stated the legislation “was peculiarly a manufacturer’s tariff and a highly protective tariff too...He then referred to the manner in which the interests of his constituents and the farmers, especially the wool-growers of Ohio, had been disregarded in the Act of 1857.” Ironically, the 1857 agreement gave some relief to the South and angered the Northern industrialists who lobbied for higher tariffs.

Vallandigham continued to make enemies. On February 3, 1862, he criticized the Lincoln Administration’s Legal Tender Act, noting the creation of a fiat money system (greenbacks backed by nothing) as a risky means of financing the war on the South. He predicted this Act would result in... high prices, extravagant speculation, enormous sudden fortunes, immense fictitious wealth, general insanity. These belong to all inordinate and excessive paper issues.”

“Peace Democrat” Vallandigham served as U.S. Representative from Ohio, part of a military district that included Indiana and Illinois and “commanded” by Union General Ambrose Burnside. Vallandigham, troubled by the Lincoln Administration’s ruse of claiming the goal of the war had suddenly changed from union preservation to slavery destruction, recognized military failure as a source of this deception.

On April 13, 1863, Burnside issued General Order Number 38, which stated that free speech would not be tolerated if it were in defense of the South. Burnside felt Lincoln’s September 24, 1862, suspension of habeas corpus gave him authority to issue the order.

On May 1, 1863, in Mount Vernon, Ohio, Vallandigham described the Union war as “wicked, cruel, and unnecessary”...and a “war for the purpose of crushing out liberty and erecting a despotism.” He called for Lincoln’s removal from office. Unknown to Vallandigham, Burnside sent two captains, dressed as civilians, to listen to his criticism of “King Lincoln” and public denunciation of Burnside’s order. In retaliation, officers broke into Vallandigham’s house at 2:00 A.M. on May 5th. He was arrested and charged with violation of Burnside’s General Order Number 38, by expressing opinions that weakened government war efforts and discouraged military enlistments. Military commissions are not designed to handle civilians and the regular civilian courts were in operation,

yet Vallandigham was placed before a military tribunal. Trying a civilian in a military court generally means the verdict has been predetermined. Lincoln favored the use of military courts for civilians in such circumstances.

In confinement, Vallandigham wrote: “I am here in a military bastille for no other offense than my political opinions ... I am a Democrat – for the Constitution, for law, for Union, for liberty – this is my only crime.” Vallandigham was tried in Cincinnati and convicted of being disloyal to the U.S. and sympathetic to the Confederacy. He was sentenced to two years at the military prison in Fort Warren, located at the entrance of Boston Harbor. George Pugh, Vallandigham’s attorney, appealed the verdict to Federal Judge Humphrey Leavitt based on the lack of jurisdiction of a military tribunal combined with denial of free speech and habeas corpus rights. Leavitt would not budge and the verdict was left intact.

The treatment of Vallandigham drew criticism from multiple sources, including some who opposed his Jeffersonian worldview. Disapproval came from: The Dayton Journal, The New York Herald, The Detroit Free Press, New York Evening Post, the Chicago Times, The Allentown Democrat, Erastus Corning, New York Governor Horatio Seymour, and many others. Although some extreme nationalists supported his arrest, there was intense backlash among those who believed in constitutional government.

Lincoln sought to minimize political fallout and had Vallandigham “banished” to the South. Ultimately making his way back to Ohio, Vallandigham’s incessant peace efforts eventually backfired; as the South became more depleted and Union victory was in sight, majority sentiment in the North was to crush the Southern self-government movement.

Post war, Vallandigham became a supporter of rights for all and, as a member of the Liberal Republican Party, advocated full rights for Blacks. In 1871 he died of an accidental gunshot wound during a murder case. His legacy factored into Unitarian Minister Edward Everett Hale’s short story, The Man Without a Country.

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Joe Biden’s Plan Not About Infrastructure but Big Government Control

Perry O. Hooper, Jr.

Joe Biden’ Infrastructure Plan is not about Infrastructure but about a radical transformation of the entire American economy. This is what the world’s elites like to call “The Great Reset.”

Joe Biden campaigned and was elected as a good ole moderate Democrat. He pledged repeatedly to work across party lines and reach a consensus on issues that all Americans regardless of party affiliation, can agree upon. He has governed however, just the opposite. As Professor emeritus of political science at the University of Chicago Charles Lipson wrote “Biden’s deception is based on the oldest marketing technique in the book: bait and switch.” Promise one thing deliver another.

Republicans offered a reasonable 600 billion infrastructure bill, nowhere near enough for the radical agenda of the far left Democrats. Their infrastructure plan is about everything but infrastructure. In their \$2.5 trillion infrastructure bill, only \$115 billion or less than 5% of the total is spent to "modernize the bridges, highways, roads, and main streets" \$25 billion on airports, and \$17 billion on inland waterways, coastal ports, land ports of entry, and ferries.” The rest is a combination of the Green New Deal and a host of new big government federal social programs that have nothing to do with infrastructure. These programs include 300 billion for housing, 400 billion for elderly and disabled care. Additional spending also includes 400 billion for “clean energy credits” to promote wind and solar. All of these programs individually are receiving much more than roads and bridges. The Democrats plan to ram through this program without a single Republican vote. So much for bi-partisan Joe.

To pay for these programs Biden unbelievably proposes the biggest tax hikes in our country’s history right as we are emerging from COVID lockdowns. To pay for a portion this grab bag of socialist spending the White House’s plan calls for new and increased taxes. These include the return of the “death tax” to individuals and raises the federal corporate tax rate to 28 percent from the previous 21 percent. As the Federalist reported “This change puts the corporate

rate above even notoriously entrepreneurship unfriendly countries like England (at 19 percent) and nations fallaciously hailed by the left as positive examples of socialist tendencies, including Finland (20 percent), Sweden (21.4 percent), Norway (22 percent), and Denmark (22 percent). China is below the proposed rate with 25 percent.” In fact, the U.S. corporate tax rate will be the highest of the 37 countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) once France implements their reduction to 25.83 percent over the next year. Sweden and the Netherlands are likewise reducing their tax rates on businesses.

“It seems like President Biden has an insatiable appetite to spend more money and raise people’s taxes,” Representative Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the GOP whip, said in an interview. Senator Tim Scott of Florida remarked about the proposal: “Tax hikes will slam the brakes on the great economy created by President Trump.”

In even harsher criticism of the so called Infrastructure program former Bill Clinton advisor Dick Morris stated ”Biden’s infrastructure package is “designed to collectivize the United States, to regiment us, to unionize us, and to make us controllable and tractable as an economy. You cannot get these infrastructure funds unless you unionize. Davis-Bacon will control all of that spending. You will have to have a union for your company to qualify. That’s going to force the entire construction industry and huge numbers of other industries into unionization.”

The results of these new taxes and programs will be a return to the stagnation of the 1970s brought on by the disastrous policies of Jimmy Carter. High inflation will kill the consumer, sky high interest rates will destroy small businesses, and low economic growth will deny minorities and other low income individuals a pathway to better lives. Republicans in the House and Senate and the indivial states must do everything in their power to stop this disaster from passage and implementation.



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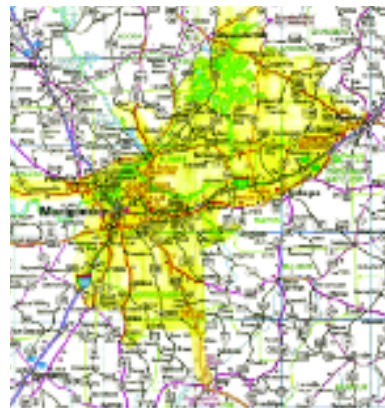
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9045 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL**Soul Searching****SUMMITTING MOUNT EVEREST**
It Takes A Team To Reach Your Goals

At 29,035 feet, Mount Everest is one of the most inhospitable places on earth. Everest is very remote and the altitude incapacitates all but the hardest and most experienced climbers. On top of that the weather is ruthlessly unforgiving and extreme.

Because Everest is the highest mountain in the world, many have tried to summit the great peak. Between 1920 and 1952, seven major expeditions tried to summit Mount Everest and all of them failed. In fact, the mountain is littered with at least 120 bodies of mountain climbers who attempted to summit this peak so they might literally stand on top of the world.

Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa born in the high altitudes of Nepal, had been drawn to the mountain since he was young. He joined his first expedition to Mount Everest in 1935. The first expedition that Tenzing was on only made it to North Col, which was an altitude of 22,000 feet. On this flat area between two peaks, they made a gruesome discovery. It was a wind-shredded tent with a frozen body inside. All that was left were the bones of a former climber with one boot off and the laces of the remaining boot between its bony fingers.

Only someone who has climbed a great mountain knows what it takes to make it to the top. Of the seven major expeditions between 1920 and 1935, Tenzing was on six of those expeditions. His fellow climbers joked that he had a third lung because of his ability to endure while climbing with heavy loads. Everyone respected him for his experience and tireless energy.



Nirmal Purjo/Elite Himalyan Adventure

In 1953, Tenzing joined his seventh expedition to Everest with a British group led by Colonel John Hunt. By then Tenzing was a respected climber and mountaineer who was a full-fledged member of the team, an honor not normally given to a Sherpa. The year before he had climbed to a height of 28,250 feet with a Swiss climbing team. This was the closest anyone had ever been to the top of Everest.

For a climbing team with just 10 high-altitude climbers attempting to summit Mount Everest, it would take 200 to 300 people hauling the supplies on their backs just to get the gear, equipment and food to the base camp. It would take another 40 Sherpas with extensive mountain climbing experience to get the needed supplies further up the mountain. Only Tenzing and three other Sherpas would have the strength and skill to go to the high camps near the summit.

The team of ten climbers was divided into pairs who would possibly have a chance to reach the summit. Tenzing was paired with a New Zealander named

Edmund Hillary and they were in Team Two. The first pair of climbers on Team One attempted the summit and failed to reach the peak. Tenzing described the first team as they returned from their failed attempt. "They were worn-out, sick with exhaustion and, of course, terribly disappointed that they had not reached the summit themselves. But still ... they did everything they could to advise and help us."

Now, it was Tenzing and Edmund Hillary's turn to try to reach the summit. They made the best of their opportunity.

On May 29, 1953, Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary accomplished what no other human being ever had: they stood on the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak!

Could Tenzing and Edmund Hillary make it alone? The answer is no. Could they have made it without a great team? No. Could they have done it without each other? No.

To reach our greatest goals and to fulfill our purpose in life, we cannot do it alone. We need other people to help us and empower us along the way. That is why we need our families. That is why we need a church family. That is why we need friends and co-workers. That is why we need to be connected to a community.

There is one fact about this story that most people do not know. We do not know which one of them made it to the summit first. Was it Tenzing Norgay or Edmund Hillary? The answer is: we do not know. Why? Because they made a decision that they would never tell anyone who made it to the summit first. They did it together and that was all they would ever say. Now that is what being a team is really all about. Its not about who gets the credit, it is about accomplishing the mission together.

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Southern Cuisine

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



April lived up to the adage, “April showers will bring May flowers,” at least the shower part. I have been trying to do more yard work and re-design my garden. When I have time from work to start on my new garden, it rains. The upside of the rain, is my garden will have a good start in moist soil. Another plus is I have more time to catch up on my binge watching of my favorite shows. The downside is I spend way too much time binge watching cooking shows which produces downloads of recipes to try and more recipes that I find interesting but I will not try. A French recipe for poaching eggs in red wine did not make my list of recipes to try. I can think of a better way to enjoy a bottle of wine than to poach an egg in it. Other tidbits of somewhat useful information

I went to my sister-in-law's for lunch recently and one of the vegetables served was an asparagus dish. It was colorful and delicious and when I asked for the recipe I found out it was easy to make. So of course, on the way home I had to stop at the grocery store to get the ingredients. It was nice having a vegetable for a meal that did not remind you of winter and picking which “hearty” soup to fix next.

Asparagus & Red Bell Pepper Salad

INGREDIENTS:
2 bunches (or about 2 pounds)
pencil-thin asparagus, tough
ends trimmed and cut into
1 to 1 ½ inch pieces
Red bell pepper, seeded, cut into
bite sizes pieces
2 Tbsp Dijon mustard
2 Tbsp Whole Grain mustard
3 Tbsp olive oil
Salt and Pepper to taste



Photo: David Spooner

METHOD:
1. To a heated skillet add oil and mustard.
2. Add asparagus and pepper and stir lightly until asparagus is heated through.
3. Serve warm or room temperature. It was even good cold the next day out of the fridge.

As doing my usual surf of the web, I came across a recipe that caught my eye. It is from one of my favorite British stores, Marks and Spencer. M&S has a food section that I can't get enough of. This recipe was screaming for me to make it. After doing more research about the recipe, I found out that there are at least three different variations. I tried the first variation I found and it was boring. It was the British version of the recipe. It did not have much going for it, just bland. It was a recipe from the British Cheese Board pushing British Brie. The other two variations were Mediterranean and Italian. I picked the Italian. The name of the recipe could be changed to any ethnic food group you want with the change of the vegetables and cheeses. So the name reflects that. It is described as crumbly cheese pastry that encases roasted vegetables.

Italian Cheese & Roasted Vegetable Pie

INGREDIENTS:
1 zucchini , sliced
1½ pound bag of baby potatoes,
cut in half. *Quarter larger potatoes*
8 ounces cherry tomatoes
1 small brie crust trimmed
off cut to small bits.
1 Tbsp olive oil
2 tsp powder garlic
2 tsp sesame seeds
2 tsp dried oregano
Pinch salt and pepper
2 tsp dried thyme
¾ cup mature Cheddar
cheese, grated
1/3 cup grated Parmesan
Pinch red pepper flakes
1 Pillsbury Crescent Roll sheet
1 egg beaten



Serves Four
Photo: David Spooner

METHOD:
1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Put the vegetables into a roasting pan, sprinkle with olive oil and spices and herbs, toss to mix.
3. Roast for 20 minutes. Cool.
4. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface to a round shape 12 inches across.
5. Transfer to a baking sheet.
6. Lightly press the Cheddar cheese into the pastry sheet leaving a 3 inch border.
7. Pile the vegetables onto the pastry, leaving a border around the edge.
8. Mix the Parmesan and brie into the vegetables
9. Fold the pastry edge over the vegetables, overlapping and sealing it to make a free-form tart. Brush the pastry with beaten egg and sprinkle with sesame seeds.
10. Bake for about 25 minutes, until the pastry is crisp and golden. Serve warm or cold.



GROCERY LIST: (NOUN) WHAT
YOU SPEND A HALF-HOUR
WRITING AND FORGET TO TAKE
WITH YOU TO THE STORE.

I have found include starting my garden plant seeds in eggshells. I know this is not new, but it is the first time I tried it. Try to crack your eggs to produce two small cups. Fill with potting soil and the plant seed. Keep the shell “pots” moist and in the egg container until the seeds sprout. Plant the shell and all, while crushing the shell in the hole for the plant. I found out that the best way to get the shells crushed in the garden is to have your 6-year-old grandchild crush the shells. H was so excited. I started twenty-four seedlings this way and all I had to do was eat twelve eggs. I'm hoping to get poblano and jalapeno peppers, bell peppers and cucumbers this way.

When I saw this recipe on Sally's Baking Addiction website, it reminded me of a “fake news” story. The story was that a person tricked into paying \$250 for the Neiman Marcus Cookie recipe was taking revenge against the company by distributing the recipe for free. Neiman Marcus publishes their recipe online and has updated the original recipe with a new secret ingredient. I will tell you what this ingredient is, for a limited time, not for \$250, not for \$100 but for the price of an issue of the Alabama Gazette as advertised on their front page. As long as it is still free. Take One!

Soft & Chewy Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
to room temperature
1 cup packed light or dark
brown sugar
1/4 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs room temperature
1 Tbsp pure vanilla extract
1 Tbsp molasses
1½ cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
1½ tsp ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon salt
3 cups old-fashioned whole
rolled oats
1 cup raisins, soaked in warm
water for 10 minutes
before using, blot very
well to dry them *(this*
makes them nice and plump)
½ cup chopped pecans
1¾ cups semi-sweet chocolate
chips *(a mix of chocolate and*
peanut butter flavored chips is how I made them.)



Yield about 24 cookies
Photo: David Spooner

METHOD:
1. Using a hand mixer or a stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment, cream the softened butter and both sugars together on medium speed until smooth, about 2 minutes.
2. Add the eggs and mix on high until combined, about 1 minute
3. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed. Add the vanilla and molasses and mix on high until combined. Set aside.
4. In a separate bowl, whisk the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt together.
5. Add to the wet ingredients and mix on low until combined. Beat in the oats, raisins, and pecans on low speed. Dough will be thick, and very sticky.
6. Chill the dough for 30-60 minutes in the refrigerator (do the full hour if you're afraid of the cookies spreading too much).
7. Preheat oven to 350°F
8. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.
9. Roll balls of dough (about 2 tablespoons of dough per cookie) and place 2 inches apart on the baking sheets. I recommend using a cookie scoop since the dough can be sticky.
10. Bake for 12-14 minutes until lightly browned on the sides. The centers will look very soft and under-baked. Remove from the oven and let cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely. The cookies will continue to “set” on the baking sheet during this time.

Adapted from Loaded Oatmeal Cookies & Oatmeal Creme Pies. Recipe originally published on Sally's Baking Addiction in 2014. Sally says the reason the cookies are so good is because they have moist and tender centers and light crispy edges, and are sweetened with brown sugar. They are loaded with oats and pecans and are studded with raisins and cinnamon spiced with a buttery flavor.

www.thesouthernladycooks.com

When in Doubt Make Cookies!

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Southern Gardening

Potpourri for May



Judge Peggy Givhan

We are happy to reprint this great article from Judge Givhan that was originally published in the May 2015 issue of the Alabama Gazette

May Day has been celebrated throughout the world since ancient times and the festivals held commemorated the astronomical mid-way points between the spring equinox and the summer solstice. One of the earliest celebrations stemmed from the Celtic festival of Beltane. I can remember as a child in elementary school, watching the erection of the May Pole and being taught, along with other classmates, to weave the wide pastel colored ribbon around the pole. The May Pole had a bonnet of flowers at the tip top with a few loose streamers of ribbon hanging down. Also, another tradition involved finding homemade May baskets filled with spring flowers on one's doorstep. May Day traditions like these need to be revived to remind of us a gentler time. For the 21st century, perhaps an edible flower arrangement made from fruit would be in order.

This is a charmed time of year in which we have plenty of sun and rain, while having cool nights. **Perfect time to get the summer annuals and perennials established such as: begonias, verbenas, vinca, salvias, dusty miller, geraniums, daylilies, canna lilies, impatiens, elephant ears, sometimes referred in the south as Persian Palms, and caladiums.** Of course there are hundreds more that can be named, but these, I see, are readily available at garden centers.

Pot gardens do well planted now, also. Many of the winter annuals may be just too beautiful to pull out, so I devised a trick to allow the small begonias, or other new plants to grow in extra pots. Then when the mass pull out occurs, usually by June 1st, these flowers which we have staged in pots, are full and easy to transplant.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

MARJORAM – *This is a very popular herb which is a member of the mint family. The variety of Sweet Marjoram is the most popular and very easy to grow. Somewhere I read that marjoram conjures up the scent of sunshine and I might add the scent of sunshine in Greece or Italy. There is hardly a recipe in the Mediterranean that does not call for Marjoram or its more pungent cousin, Oregano. It is very easy to get these plants up from seed, and now is the perfect time to do just that. Sow the seeds in pots, keep it moist in a sunny location, and VOILA, you have saved about \$2.00 per plant.*



WILDFLOWERS OR WEEDS

As beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so is the preference, weed or flower in our flower beds. The following are examples of this type of category:

1. Carolina Geranium – these are weeds in my eyes, as they spread like wild fire and will take over the beds in a New York minute. They are native to the United States, have a sprawling habit, with greenish red segmented leaves. These are also known as Crane's Bill. Sporting a tap root, they are easy to pull out. After extracting a few, the plant material thrown out gives the impression of hours worth of hard hand pulling since they are so bushy and top heavy. Deer especially love this weed/flower. Where are the deer when I have to yank them out by hand?

2. Butter Cup or Oenothera speciosa – These are also called pink ladies, grow to about 10 inches in height, and produce many blooms. These are pink in color and, like all evening primroses, close up at night. The yellow variety is known as Oenothera fruitcosa. Northern Bob White and dove, along with seed eating songbirds, such as the gold finch, find the Butter Cup a delicacy. Again, in order to cut down on work the next spring, I try not let them go to seed. The Best of both worlds is to eliminate them from the flower beds, and sow seeds in the fields. News Flash – deer do not eat Butter Cup.

3. Sorrel – An herb that flourishes in low, moist areas and grows to about a foot in height. Common sorrel or garden sorrel (Rumex acetosa) is a perennial herb.

Another common name is spinach dock and narrow-leaved dock. Many countries use it as a vegetable and are frequently cooked in soups. The leaves are eaten by the larvae of many species of butterflies and moths. I have left some plants in the flower beds as they have a green leafy appearance and appears to be a good filler.

Carolina Geranium



Verbena



Impatiens



Butter Cup or Oenothera speciosa



Sorrel



White Begonias



Caladiums



Geraniums



Seniors Reveal: 10 Reasons Why Aging is Awesome

Aging is an interesting process to say the least. Here are ten random facts about senior citizens and growing older that you may or may not already know.



Source: <https://commhealthcare.com>

Believe or not, there's more to life for those 65 and older other than game night and golf courses. You feel wiser. You know yourself better. And you also become apart of a powerful demographic. To celebrate this special time in your life, we've shared some interesting facts about older adults that may surprise you.

- 1. Age doesn't determine success:** The founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Harland David Sanders (a.k.a. Colonel Sanders), started Kentucky Fried Chicken at the age of 65!
- 2. We lose a few bones along the way:** We are born with 350 bones in our skeleton. Over the course of time and during our aging process, our bones fuse together leaving us with 206 bones as adults.
- 3. Seniors hold the most voting power:** When it comes to voting in the United States, those 60 and over cast more ballots than any other age group.
- 4. Creativity doesn't diminish with age:** Laura Ingalls Wilder didn't publish Little House in the Big Woods until 65. Millard Kaufman didn't publish his first novel until 90!
- 5. Seniors are living longer:** Due to advancements in health care and technology, people are living longer. By the year 2040 the population of seniors over 85 is expected to triple from 5.7 million to 14.1 million.
- 6. ...and growing faster:** According to the US Census Bureau, older adults make up the fastest growing age group within the United States.
- 7. You (mostly) have control over aging:** Studies argue that only 30% of the characteristics associated with aging are controlled by genetics. The remaining 70% is controlled by chosen lifestyle factors.
- 8. There's less stress after 65:** Despite citing other health and money concerns, those 65 and older experience less stress.
- 9. Learning can save your brain:** In response to learning, senior citizens can grow new neurons over time which can help fight off dementia.
- 10. Sleeping habits alter over time:** Our sleeping patterns change as we age: we get tired earlier and wake up earlier.

Source: <https://www.seniorly.com/resources/articles/10-fun-facts-about-aging>

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THE CROSSINGS AT EASTCHASE

AgeWell LIVING



Retiring Single: 5 Strategies to Consider

Planning on retiring single? You aren't alone. Nearly 22 million Americans age 65 and older were unmarried in 2019, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, representing 41.5% of those in that age category. And for women, it's more likely to be the case. According to the Administration on Aging, 54% of older women are unmarried, as compared to 30% of older men.

"Retirement planning can be especially challenging for singles, who need to prepare without the decision-making and income support of a partner," says Scott Pedvis, financial advisor, Wells Fargo Advisors.

For those setting a course for solo retirement, Wells Fargo Advisors offers these five tips:

1. Create a fallback plan. Retirees commonly discover a gap between what they thought they'd need for retirement and what's actually needed. And if you're single, you may not have a second income stream to rely on should finances become unexpectedly disrupted. Periodically review your investment portfolio and build backup plans. Such contingency planning could involve more emergency savings and more robust disability and long-term care insurance protection than couples. You could also choose to take a part-time job for extra income.

2. Build a network of advisors. With autonomy sometimes comes a reluctance to seek advice. Consider forming a team of trusted professionals, including a financial advisor, accountant, attorney and healthcare providers.

3. Count on loved ones—to a point. Friends and family can be a lifeline

4. Prepare key documents. According to Caring.com, more than half of American adults don't have estate planning documents such as a will or trust. Don't wait. Even if you've put some documents together, they may not ensure your wishes are carried out. Here are the key documents forming the foundation for most estate plans:

- Will
- Power of attorney (POA) for financial matters
- Durable power of attorney for health care
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) release authorization
- Living will
- Revocable living trust

To prevent confusion and misdirected bequests, carefully designate beneficiaries of IRAs, employer-sponsored retirement plans, insurance policies and annuities. Lay out clear directions for the distribution of remaining assets. Also, don't forget about digital assets and accounts. Will your executor or trustee have proper authority to access and manage those items? Talk to your attorney about keeping digital planning secure and up-to-date.

5. Plan for change. Entering into a committed relationship could mean making adjustments. Look at your insurance coverage, emergency fund and future income plan. Think about having a frank discussion with your new partner about how you'll divide assets in the event of divorce or death. If ex-spouses or children are in the picture, consider managing finances and estate plans separately. With the assistance of your financial advisor and estate-planning attorney, you can establish a basic estate plan, and, as appropriate, discuss other strategies for preserving wealth.

For more expert retirement guidance, visit wellsfargoadvisors.com.

"Planning for retirement is part of the financial journey. Key planning strategies can help you feel confident as you approach your golden years solo," says Pedvis. (Source: StatePoint)



in good times and times of need. However, ensuring they don't take advantage of your independent status or create serious financial burdens for you is essential. For example, you should take extreme care before turning over financial matters to others. Stay actively involved and work with a trusted team to help make decisions in your best interests. Evaluate the possibility of engaging a corporate trustee to manage finances, should you become incapacitated.

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SUDOKU on the Side

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

Please help inform others by sharing these messages with family and friends. Kylle’ McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov

Replacement or Corrected Social Security Cards During COVID-19 Pandemic

Social Security offices are currently open only for in-person appointments for limited, critical situations, depending upon local office conditions. However, you can continue to apply for a replacement Social Security card online and by mail. Before requesting a replacement card, please remember that you might not need the physical card. Most of the time, simply knowing your Social Security number is enough.

If you have a critical situation that requires you to have a physical card and you cannot apply by mail or online, you should call your local Social Security office. Please visit our Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates page for more information at www.ssa.gov/coronavirus.



Applying Online

If you don’t need any changes to your Social Security Number record (such as a name or date of birth change), applying for a replacement card online is your most convenient option. You don’t need to mail proof or visit an office.

You can use our online application if you are an adult, have a State-issued drivers’ license or non-driver identification card, and live in the District of Columbia or one of the 45 States that verifies State-issued documents for us. All you need to do is create a my Social Security account to access and complete the online application at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/replacement-card.html.

If you live in one of the five States that do not participate — Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, and West Virginia — know that we are working hard to bring this service to you as soon as possible.

Applying by Mail

We require proof of your identity with your replacement card application

(www.ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf), usually a State-issued drivers’ license or non-driver identification card, or U.S. passport. We call these documents “primary” identity proofs. We understand mailing primary identity proofs with your replacement card application can be challenging. To help, we are temporarily expanding our policy to accept alternative identity documents—or what we call “secondary proofs” — when you cannot mail primary proof.

Acceptable secondary proofs include, but are not limited to:

- Employee identification card.
- School identification card.
- Health insurance card (not a Medicare card).
- U.S. military identification card.

Proofs must be current (not expired), show your name and identifying information (such as your date of birth or age), and be an original or a certified copy.

If you need to change your name, when you mail your replacement card application, you will need to submit proof of identity plus proof of the name change. The proof of identity can be primary or secondary proof. Proof of the name change could be a marriage certificate, divorce decree, Certificate of Naturalization showing the new name, or a court order approving the name change.

You may be able to submit one document to serve as proof of your name change and identity. For example, you may submit a marriage certificate as proof of name change and identity if the certificate shows the marriage occurred within the prior two years and:

- Includes your prior name.
- Includes your age, birth date or parents’ names.
- This information matches your Social Security Number record.

We will return any documents you send us.

Unemployment Insurance Fraud and Social Security



Scammers are using the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to file fraudulent unemployment claims, often using someone else’s identity. Scammers may even use the identity of someone who is receiving or applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

SSI applicants and recipients who begin receiving – or appear to begin receiving – State Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits could appear

to be ineligible for SSI benefits. They could even appear to be overpaid because of an unemployment claim filed in their name.

These UI fraud schemes are widespread and affect most states. The United States Secret Service is investigating more than 500 claims in over 40 states related to unemployment fraud.

At Social Security, we’re taking steps to verify whether SSI applicants and recipients are victims of UI fraud. We will not reduce or terminate your payments due to a fraudulent unemployment claim filed on our behalf. If you suspect you may be a victim of fraud, report it to your state fraud hotline at www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/UIIDtheft. You may also report suspicions of fraud to your local unemployment office.

Remember that scammers always look for a chance to exploit your fears. Don’t fall for their tactics – and guard your personal information. Please share this information with your friends and family – and let’s help each other stay vigilant.

Supplemental Security Income Benefits for Children with Disabilities

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 the following medical requirements to be considered disabled under Social Security rules:

- The child must have a medical condition, or a combination of conditions, that results in “marked and severe functional limitations.” This means that the condition(s) must seriously limit the child’s activities.
- The child’s disabling condition(s) must last for at least 12 months, or the condition(s) must be expected to end in death.

We also help children through our Compassionate Allowances program. Compassionate Allowances are a way to quickly identify conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security’s standard for disability benefits. The list can be found at www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances/conditions.htm. Compassionate Allowances help us reduce waiting time to reach 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.



A child must meet additional eligibility requirements for low income and limited resources to qualify for SSI. To qualify, a child:

- Who is blind must not be working or earning more than \$2,190 a month in 2021.
- Who is not blind, must not be working or earning more than \$1,310 a month in 2021.

Earnings amounts usually change every year. Some older teenagers may have part-time jobs or be involved in work programs, which Social Security will count for financial eligibility.

In addition, if an unmarried child under age 18 is living at home, Social Security 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 read more about children’s benefits in our publication, Benefits for Children with Disabilities at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10026.pdf.

If you are a parent 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/benefits/disability/apply-child.html to learn more and begin an application.

Social Security Supports Teachers Online

The past year has been difficult for everyone, including educators and their students. Our nation’s teachers have adapted, pivoted, and provided for their students in ways they had never imagined possible. This year, we celebrate **Teacher Appreciation Week from May 2 through May 8**, and honor all educators who prepare our children for the future.

We know that well-informed instructors can have a powerful and positive influence on their students. That’s why we created an Educator Toolkit. It’s a shareable online resource for teachers to engage students and educate them on Social Security. The toolkit includes:



- Lesson plans with objectives.
- Infographics and handouts for each lesson plan.
- Links to Social Security web pages.
- Talking points.
- Quiz questions and answers.

You can access the toolkit at www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/educators.html.

We value and welcome the efforts all teachers make to educate America’s young people. We want to help spark discussion with students about Social Security. Please share our toolkit with the educators in your communities, today!

Social Security Honors OUR Military HEROES



On Memorial Day, our nation honors military service members who have given their lives for our country. As Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men [and women] have died to win them.” This is why families, friends, and communities come together to remember the great sacrifices of our military members and ensure their legacies live on.

The benefits we provide can help the surviving families of deceased military service members. For example, widows, widowers, and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. You can learn more about those benefits at www.ssa.gov/survivors.

We also offer support to our wounded warriors. Social Security benefits protect veterans when injuries prevent them from returning to active duty or performing other work. Both the Department of Veterans Affairs and Social Security have disability programs. You may qualify for disability benefits through one program but not the other, or you may qualify for both. Depending on your situation, some members of your family, including your dependent children or spouse, may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits.

Wounded military service members can receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability claims. If you are a veteran with a 100% Permanent & Total compensation rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs, we’ll expedite your disability claim.

Want more information about how we can help? Visit www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors for answers to commonly asked questions or to find information about the application process.

Thinking about retirement or know a veteran who is? Military service members can receive Social Security benefits in addition to their military retirement benefits. For details, visit our webpage for veterans, available at www.ssa.gov/people/veterans.

8	4	6	7	3	9	2	1	5
7	2	1	5	6	8	3	9	4
5	3	9	1	2	4	6	7	8
9	8	7	4	5	3	1	2	6
2	6	5	8	1	7	4	3	9
3	1	4	6	9	2	5	8	7
4	5	8	3	7	1	9	6	2
1	7	2	9	4	6	8	5	3
6	9	3	2	8	5	7	4	1

SUDOKU Answers

from pg 4B

"BIRTHDAYS are GOOD FOR YOU. STATISTICS SHOW THAT THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE MOST LIVE THE LONGEST."

– Larry Lorenzoni –



From Pigskins to Rawhides



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

The Alabama Gazette's Sports Writer, Stan Hurst, is on temporary hiatus. We look forward to hearing from him again in upcoming issues. In the meantime, we were fortunate to have a great article sent in for this space.

Stan Hurst
Sports Writer

THE FLY HIGH FIELDS



Everyone has been affected by cancer in some way or another. The cruel disease brings fear, worry, and sorrow to millions of individuals and families each year. While great strides have been made in the prevention and treatment of cancer, the sad reality is that the battle to defeat it is far from finished.

A little over five years ago on February 20th, 2016, the world lost Nolan Fields to the cancerous disease of Non-Hodgkin's Leukemia. He endured his battle for over 16 months, undergoing two chemotherapies, all the while, never showing an ounce of fear,

worry, or sorrow. In fact, Nolan managed to continue to be a shining light of hope and joy to those around him, like he had always been, and, as he always will be.

On April 3, 2021, at the Lower Wetumpka Sports Shotgun Sports Club, hundreds of individuals who knew Nolan gathered to celebrate his life and legacy via a wonderful fundraising event: the inaugural "Fly High Fields Memorial."

It was a day filled with laughter and jubilation, akin to an extended family reunion. The participants and hosts came out not only for the camaraderie of old ties and companions, but for a deeper purpose.

All of us knew and loved Nolan for myriad reasons, among those his bright smile, quick wit, jovial attitude, and never faltering strength.

Cancer holds no partiality to one person or another. It is a solemn reminder that life is precious and may cause unexpected turns at any given moment. Every year roughly 1,500-2,000 adolescents succumb to their fight with cancer in the United States. Although Nolan unfortunately is included in that toll, his legacy will be that his memory lives on to fight the good fight. This year the Fly High Fields Memorial raised a \$20,500 scholarship for a child who has suffered from cancer.

Losses are never easy, but it's life. Spending time asking "why?" is oftentimes irrelevant and wasteful. However, this particular loss has served its positive purpose for good. A day spent with old friends, shooting clays, and chowing down on the sumptuous Hamburger King delicacies are exactly what Nolan would have wanted.

A special thanks to everyone involved in bringing this event to fruition, particularly Wells Hooper, Coleman Taylor, and Marshall Griffin, three of Nolan's closest friends and some above average guys. Nolan's spirit lives on and is looking forward to the next year's celebration.



Nolan Fields

Nolan was as caring and sincere as a person could be. He was an outstanding person with a great life ahead of him. In October of 2014, he was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma and would have to undergo Chemo therapy. He was given a 95% survival rate and was told he would be back to normal after a few months. Nolan never wanted anyone to worry about him or be upset about his sickness. He always kept a positive mindset and made sure that everyone else did the same. He missed out on the remainder of his Senior football and basketball seasons, majority of his Senior spring semester, and his Freshman year of college. Never one complaint. He took every day like a true warrior. After 16 months, 2 Chemo therapy treatments and a radiation treatment, Nolan was called up to heaven on February 20, 2016. This memorial sporting clay tournament was held for him on April 3rd at the Lower Wetumpka Sporting Clay Club in Montgomery, AL. Our goal was to raise \$20,000 for a scholarship for a child whose childhood/youth has been strongly effected by cancer like Nolan. I am happy to say that goal was exceeded by people's love and generosity. But we can continue to do more! Every dollar is greatly appreciated and will go a long way! For more information or if you would like to sponsor the event please contact Wells Hooper at whooper@primesurg.com / 334-471-0403

You may also contribute to the official [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com). Just search for organizer, Wells Hooper, "Fly High Fields Memorial 2021."



Contributed by Sam Adams, Jr.

M AND M
THE MARLON AND MARCUS FOUNDATION
FIRST ANNUAL
Celebrity GOLF CLASSIC
FEATURING
All-Star Professional Athletes
May 10-11, 2021
Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill
Prattville, Alabama
Proceeds to Benefit The Marlon & Marcus Foundation's Efforts to Build a Multi-Purpose Community Center on the original site of Prattville's Historic North Highland High School
Tickets to All-Star Pairings Party Start at \$100 - Individual Golfers Start at \$250
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE
More Information:
www.MarlonandMarcusFoundation.com



Spring on the Greens: Hospice of Montgomery's Second Annual Golf Tournament June 4, 2021

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill

Pay close attention ... If you are a golfer in the River Region, there is no place you'd rather be on June 4, than at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill. Excitement is building for Hospice of Montgomery's upcoming golf tournament to raise funds to serve families who need extra special care keeping a medically challenged loved one at home.

Hospice of Montgomery Executive Director Jenille Ball says, "Grab your clubs, your shoes, and your friends, and meet us at the Trail for an afternoon of fresh air, hot shots, and great fellowship. We'll have a shotgun start and scramble format. Like last year, registration includes lunch, green fee, cart, and prizes. And don't forget, that one masterful shot—a hole-in-one—will win you \$10,000."

This year, golfers will play the Legislator course starting at 1 p.m. The registration fee is \$500 for a foursome and \$125 for an individual. Registration and lunch begin at 11:00 a.m. The awards presentation and distribution of door prizes begin at end of play. "This is a real value for a wonderful lunch at a scenic venue, and a great afternoon of golf and fellowship at one of the state's most beautiful and challenging golf courses," Ball said. "And it is truly for a great cause," she added.

You may register online at hospiceofmontgomery.org If you have questions, contact Julia Wilson at 334-279-6677, 334.318.5398 or jwilson@hospiceofmontgomery.org

SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC
3316 ATLANTA HWY, MONTGOMERY, AL 36109

Prices:
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Female Cats: \$70
Male Dogs*: \$70
Female Dogs*: \$85
*Extra fee for dogs over 60 lbs.
www.alabamaspayneuter.com
Surgeries are performed
Monday-Thursday
by our veterinarians
Appointments are necessary & available to everyone.
Call (334) 239-7387

Less Homeless Animals Thanks to 100,000 Animals Spayed/Neutered at Alabama's First Spay/Neuter Clinic

The Alabama Animal Alliance Spay/Neuter Clinic (AAASNC) is delighted to announced its most recent milestone of *performing more than 100,000 surgeries*. As a result of their work, our area animal shelters are euthanizing less animals. *The AAASNC is the State of Alabama's FIRST high quality, high volume, affordable spay/neuter clinic* and opened on October 22, 2007. Since opening they have assisted in the opening of three other spay/neuter clinics in Alabama. Their 100,000 surgery was "Durbin" a domestic long haired cat who is currently a resident of the Prattville/Autauga Humane Society.

The AAASNC would like to send a special thank you to all their supporters who have helped make affordable spay/neuter a reality for thousands of pet owners, animal shelters, and rescue groups over the last 14 years. Consider making a tax deductible donation to their Spay Montgomery or Esther's Fund grants. Spay it Forward with the Spay/Neuter Clinic if you want to see less homeless and unwanted animals in our area!

The Spay/Neuter Clinic's veterinarians are Drs. Cathrine Byars and Angela Tolbert; licensed veterinarians with more than 40 years of combined experience.

For more information call 334-239-7387 or visit www.alabamaspayneuter.com

Vacant District Seats Being Filled Across the State

Loretta G. Grant announced her candidacy for District 78 with a kick-off luncheon on April 14 in downtown Montgomery. Attendees enjoyed a simple buffet with delicious sandwiches from SweetCreek Farm Market at the offices of Alabama Gazette Publishing, co-owned by Loretta and Sam Adams.



The Alabama House of Representatives is composed of 105 members, for the respectively numbered districts across the state. Each member represents a district of approximately 42,000 people, and is elected to a four-year term. Members of the House at the time of their election must have been citizens of Alabama for three years, and have lived in their respective districts for at least one year immediately preceding their election. (Source: Wikipedia)

MCREC Honors Pat Wilson at SweetCreek Meeting & BBQ



The Montgomery County Republican Executive Committee (MCREC) had its first in-person meeting in over a year on April 22, 2021 at SweetCreek Farm Market in Pike Road. The weather was perfect as 60-plus members and guests gathered at the outdoor pavilion for a delicious barbecue dinner followed by the business meeting. Former Chairman Pat Wilson, who served as Chairman for 15 years and retired at the end of 2020, was honored for her relentless service and dedication to MCREC and the Republican Party. Pat was presented with an American flag from Senator Richard Shelby's office that had been flown over the United States Capitol. She was also presented with a Certificate of Recognition signed by the Commissioner Rick Pate of the Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries, and received an honorary gift from Governor Kay Ivey. "Pat's leadership, dedication and tireless work ethic over the past 15 years has been incredible and she leaves behind gigantic shoes to fill," said Greg Pool, the current Chairman of MCREC. State Rep. Reed Ingram, who is also the owner of SweetCreek Farm Market, gave an update on the current legislative session and then entertained questions from members and guests.

The Montgomery County Republican Executive Committee, AKA the Montgomery County Republican Party, governs and directs all Republican Party activities in Montgomery County. For more information visit www.MontgomeryGOP.com or email montgomery-gop@mgmgop.com.

Congratulations, Kenneth Pascal, District 73 Representative

On Tuesday, April 27, 2021, Kenneth Pascal won the District 73 seat in the Republican run-off against Leigh Hulsey.

A retired Veteran with a 21-year military career, newly elected Representative Pascal's platform was founded on "God and Country." He supports economic and workforce development with a servant's heart and voice for the people.

Kenneth Pascal is known to friends and colleagues as the one-and-one man. He always asks people when he is interacting, "What is your one-and-one? What is your one blessing for the day, and now what is the one thing we need to pray for?"

We wish Rep. Pascal great success in this position as he continues to work for the people of Alabama.



Support Local Arts & Culture! Support Local Non-profits!



Event Announcements
coming soon!

www.montgomerysymphony.org/

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO THE ALABAMA GAZETTE.

algazettesubmit@gmail.com

DEADLINE IS THE 20TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO EVENT DATE.



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

<https://mmfa.org>

Summer art camp is FREE! for all this year!



The MMFA is super excited to share our Summer Art Camp plans for 2021. This year, parents can choose between our safer-at-home summer camp lessons or attend summer camp in person at the Museum. For those attending in person, we will be holding camp in the outdoor studio during the morning hours.

Orion Cultural Concert Season Closes in Style!

We appreciate everyone who helped make this ANOTHER successful season ... About 45 attended this year's final concert on Sunday, May 2.

Thank you also to *The Alabama Gazette*, co-owners Loretta Grant and Sam Adams, who sponsored this event and made it possible for us to enjoy the Cajun low-country boil cooked by Mark Tatom. The shrimp was brought fresh from the boat by Lloyd Taylor, and John Weaver provided excellent music once again.



Mayor Keith Roling presented Sam Adams with a Key to the City!

Jan T. Goings, owner of Jan's Beach House Grill was crowned Miss Orion. Then three others won the prizes for the best Derby Day Hat Contest. Mary Ida Williams, Judy Rigdon and Debbie Hogan were the WINNERS!!!

Again, thanks to our season ticket-holders and sponsors: Rhett Davis and Jeff Gilly, Benny Pinckard, Dr Larry Williams, Porte Rouge Hunt Club, 3 Notch Package Store, Horn Beverage, and Jan's Beach House Grill and The Alabama Gazette!

The next year starts in October – Season 18 ...
Enjoy your summer vacation!



C Ya
Soon!



ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

COSTUME PARADE



ALABAMA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

We invite you to tour the 13 panels located on our gorgeous grounds in Blount Cultural Park — and peek inside our lobby windows to see the work of these talented professionals.

<https://asf.net>



Le Conservatoire

Montgomery May 8, 2021

DANCE LIVES HERE



Montgomery Ballet

Montgomery May 8, 2021

6:00 Pm

The Shops at East Chase located next to Books A Million

To purchase tickets visit montgomeryballet.org



Le Conservatoire

Pike Road May 15, 2021

DANCE LIVES HERE



Montgomery Ballet

Pike Road May 15, 2021

6:00 Pm

The Chapel at The Waters 1 chapel hill street Pike Road AL

To purchase tickets visit montgomeryballet.org

Home Town Community News

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to alabamagazette@gmail.com
The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.

Patricia Killough
Community Editor



Ferris Lily Callins was welcomed to the world on **Saturday, April 17, 2021**, just before midnight. Ferris is the daughter of Waylon & Summer Callins of Coosada and the granddaughter of Billie Jo Sewell and the late John Ferris Sewell of Coosada and Vernon and Cathie Callins of Wetumpka. She was also welcomed home by her siblings Connor, Emilee, and Bella.



Sarah Kate Selva celebrated her 6th Birthday on April 22 with a whole week of activities. She enjoyed dinner at her grandparents, dinner out with her family, a special

snack at school, and a day of fun with her friend, Bella. Sarah Kate is the daughter of Jason and Stephanie Selva and the granddaughter of Pat and John Killough and Ruth and Greg Selva.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Grace Zara "Tiny" Cantey (104th) | 16 Lonnie Smith |
| 2 Judy Grubbs | Stephan Turnipseed |
| Weston Ashley Sellars (10th) | Devery Wright |
| Pat Duffell Smith | 17 Wendy Haddox |
| 3 Scarlett Box | Bertha Graham |
| 4 Brittney Belcher (22nd) | Rosa Nell Watkins |
| Teresa Grant | 18 Ken Stafford |
| Forrest Taylor (27th) | 19 Connie Butts |
| 5 Ashton Box | Dorothy Hall |
| Connie Bowden | 20 Maggie Royster |
| Olivia Propst | 21 Rhonda Alexander |
| Jayne Ward | Al Barnett |
| 6 Michael Mckenzie | Ashley Boyd (46th) |
| 7 Tory Alexander | Susan Johnson |
| Bryson Box (18th) | Daniel Selva (13th) |
| 8 John P. Hanson | Sophia Vazquez |
| Michael Moseley (53rd) | 22 Tom Broadway |
| Mary Peoples | Aileen Kovacic |
| Janet Suddith | Hunter Meadows (24th) |
| Trinity Woodall | Brad Williams (42nd) |
| 9 Walter Cooper (83rd) | 23 Susanne Boyd |
| Jim Garrett | Frank Clayton |
| Bill Jones | Julia Grant |
| Paul "Moon" Jones | Mike Sikes (44th) |
| Jo Oswald | Casey Woodall |
| 10 Nicole Sansom | 24 Brantley Box (21st) |
| 11 Johnson Alexander | Sydney Ellen Grant |
| Pam Lynch | Wallace Smith |
| Barbara Strickland (71st) | Seth Meadows |
| Dee Dee Ward | 25 Wynne Ross (47th) |
| 12 Mary Ellen Grant | Hamer Phillips |
| Tanya Moore (55th) | 26 Paula Burgess |
| Liz Morris | Mary Louise Dobbs |
| Mary White | Rachael Doran |
| Zack Witherington | 27 Ronnie Broom |
| 13 Betty Casey | Emmie Abelia Johnson (6th) |
| Chris Cordle | Coley Jones |
| Raven Johnson | Carrie Rhodes |
| Debbie Mills | 28 Brian McCord |
| 14 Luke Dickinson | 30 Michele Blount |
| Victor Chad Mason (Trace) (8th) | Kate Sansom |
| 15 Ann Macon Adams | 31 Betty Crowe |
| Waldon Woodall (63rd) | Susan Daffron (73rd) |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Thomas & Betty Chesnutt (74th) | 15 Woody & Linda Foxworth |
| 5 Haley & Josh Bass (2nd) | 16 Austin & Ashley Owens (11th) |
| 6 Corey & Alicia Smith (24th) | 17 Carl & Faye Boyd (46th) |
| 8 Billy & Courtney Whigham | 19 Billy & Ann Cox (73rd) |
| 10 Clint & Tiffany Andrews | 21 Allan & Shannon Vinson (15th) |
| Ashley & Susanne Boyd | 28 Carl & Betsy Penn (59th) |
| Charles & Sue Meredith | 29 Joe & Gail Cotney |
| Al & Shirley Decker (64th) | 30 Richard & Gwen Walters |
| 11 Roger & Sandy Brown | Carma & Bill Marks (55th) |
| 15 Travis & Christle Jordan (15th) | 31 Mike & Connie Northcutt (46th) |

Mary George Whitehead Smith ~ May 29, 1945 – April 21, 2021

Mary George Whitehead Smith, a resident of Montgomery, passed away with family members by her side on Wednesday, April 21. A retired school teacher, she was loved and cherished by so many in the educational community, as well as her First United Methodist Church Cloverdale family and an extensive circle of cherished friends.

As much as Mary George was loved, she loved in return with such a gracious gift of making everyone around her feel special. Mary George's spirit and presence can best be described in the beautiful words written by her eldest son, Quinton:

"My dear mother was a Christian, wife, sister, mother, teacher and friend in life. She set the bar HIGH with her deep-rooted faith. It never shook this whole time she was sick. She knew where she was headed. Mom was full of compassion, love, forgiveness and faith."

A memorial service was held in Mary George's honor on May 2, 2021 at First United Methodist Church Cloverdale to celebrate her life and her homecoming with Jesus. Following the celebration, the family held a reception and welcomed everyone into Bud and Mary George's home in Fox Hollow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Memory of Mary George and the ministries so dear to her heart at First United Methodist Church of Montgomery.



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

Cawthon, Dr. William Upson (97).....	Mar 22
Allen, Monica Rae Flack (54).....	Mar 24
Williamson, Paul C. (56).....	Mar 27
Daniel, Coach Sidney Glenn (95).....	Apr 3
Hawthorne, James Thomas (66).....	Apr 3
Hornsby, Alice Drucilla "Dru" (86).....	Apr 3
Minor, III, James Edward "Jake" (26).....	Apr 5
Clements, Priscilla Chase Clark (97).....	Apr 6
Ward, Edna Sue Simpson (86).....	Apr 6
Jefferson, Ralph Hoover (92).....	Apr 7
Collister, II, William David (86).....	Apr 10
O'Ferrell, Anne Clements (82).....	Apr 10
McQueen, Jr., Sam (91).....	Apr 12
Thompson, Sidney "Sid" Alford (84).....	Apr 12
Duck, Carolyn Cox (75).....	Apr 14
Tompkins, Jr., George Milton "Bo" (54).....	Apr 14
Mattison, Gary Wood (82).....	Apr 15
White, Donald "Don" Lee (74).....	Apr 15
Brown, Maureen Curphey (74).....	Apr 16
Biggio, Dorothy Lewy (103).....	Apr 17
Guillot, Maria Annette Piazza (66).....	Apr 17
Stewart, Mary Buford Anderson (94).....	Apr 17
Weston, Mary Ann Granger (86).....	Apr 17
Bircheat, Frances Mitchell (79).....	Apr 18
Higgins, Sr., John Michael (63).....	Apr 18
Skinner, Joseph Boyd "Bud" (65).....	Apr 19
Pickard, Mary Ann (94).....	Apr 20
Meadows, Jr., Hebert Jackson (72).....	Apr 21

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In Memory Of

Nettie Jo McCroskey	May 2
Pete Laughlin Jr.	April 30
John Cooper Brooks Sr.	April 30
Doris H. Anderson	April 27
Karen J. Milstead Brock	April 25
William Joseph "Bill" Magee Jr.	April 24
Sandra Gail Collier	April 24
Antnet Lorene Daughtry	April 18
Charles Lloyd Williams Jr.	April 15
Delores Ann Rippy	April 15
Jeanette Hall Bonner	April 14
Col. Berry S. Johnson Sr.	April 13
Horace Duffie Arant	April 11
Larry Martin	April 8
Mitchell Kyle Grant	April 8
James Logan	April 7

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



By Amanda Walker

Tears & LAUGHTER: Growing Tomatoes & Thumping Watermelons

By this time of the year, gardeners have already tilled their ground and formed their rows. They have sown seeds that by now sprouting and growing. The watching and waiting has begun.

I like people who garden. There is a realness about them I appreciate. A lack of pretentiousness.

I am from people who garden. They were good at it. If I look back at census records of my old family, they were listed as farmers. They have gardened for a long time.

Growing up in Sandflat, I would follow behind my dad as he plowed rows with his tiller. I would step where he had stepped. My barefoot print centering the print his boot had left in the soft, fresh earth.

My granddaddy prided himself in growing tomatoes. He grew a little of everything – okra, purple hull peas, all kinds of squash, and corn. Running beans that would grow up poles with vines so thick they looked like a wall. But tomatoes seemed to be his favorite.

Mama always said he planted more tomatoes than necessary because he liked to watch them grow. And it is true that he would take the time late in the afternoons to check their progress. He stalked them as they grew, giving the heavy limbs support.

He would watch for tiny yellow blooms that would soon turn into little green tomatoes that would swell plump and round in the hot sun, and eventually they would turn that deep red orange that would peer out from the green plant. Nobody left Granny's in the summertime without a bag of tomatoes.

My other grandfather considered himself a bit of an expert of the watermelon. He was raised farming, but after taking a job with the state and moving to Mobile, I don't think he ever touched a plow again, but he made it his business every year to judge watermelons at grocery stores and roadside stands.

He judged them, by thumping them.

I don't think he ever passed a watermelon he didn't thumb.

And apparently he was gifted at thumping watermelons, like his daddy and granddaddy before him, because he could tell if they were ripe, sweet, and planted on good Friday by the percussion caused by the thump.

Because of him, my brother and I would also thump watermelons. We would thump them and then put our ear close to it like we were hearing secrets from the deep. Then we would make up the number of seeds inside, the quality of the soil it was grown in, and the name of the farm who had planted it.



Photo by Jason Hochman/Freeimages.com

I don't garden myself. Even living on a farm, I make no attempt. I am not good at it, and like a lot of people, I prefer to buy produce out of the back of old pickup trucks parked at the courthouse square. I like farmer's markets and roadside stands. I like vegetables I buy out of yards on the way to Florida. I watch for hand painted signs every summer.

The farmer's market, in all of its forms, started centuries ago – connecting farmers directly with customers. It continues today with the same intent. The offerings and tastes remain the same, as does the welcoming energy that pulls people in off of highways – just for the chance to hold bright red tomatoes in their hand and thump ripe watermelons. They offer the spirit of what used to be. The connection to land and place and dusty fields. To grandfathers...and to kitchen tables.

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 www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist.



Ms.Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Living with Purpose"

Living with purpose is the best way to plug into God's greatest plan for your life. And, once you know your purpose, there is so much more meaning to life. It may sound simplistic, but I believe it to be true.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

Jesus helps us look beyond ourselves to find our purpose. You see, our purpose in life is a combination of 'out-of-this-world living' and 'living our lives for others'. In Matthew 22:37, Jesus unveils that purpose. He removes any doubts about what matters and what doesn't.

He states our purpose with crystal clarity. He says, **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."** He then goes on to say, **"Love your neighbor as yourself."** With these words, Jesus directs us to live for God and for others!

This month my husband, Brian, and I will celebrate our 13th wedding anniversary. My, oh my! How time flies! Traditionally speaking, the material that symbolizes the 13-year wedding anniversary is lace. It represents intricate beauty and requires special care, just like a relationship after 13 years together. For many, 13 is an unlucky number. But after 13 years of marriage, the bond of a couple meant for one another is stronger, more beautiful, and more purposeful than ever. The delicate lace is traditionally considered the theme for the 13th anniversary, representing how a couple's lives have become intricately woven together. I think Brian would agree, without a doubt, that God placed us together on purpose for a purpose.



So, I encourage you today to live your life with purpose. All you need is a heart that is willing to let God's light shine through you!

Many Blessings!

P.S. Happy 13th Wedding Anniversary to my husband, Brian! I love you!! "I have found the one whom my soul loves" Song of Solomon 3:4

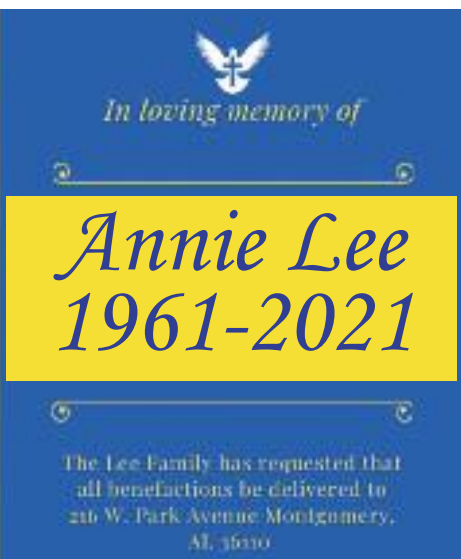


Women of Hope is a group of caring and compassionate individuals who desire to help educate, promote awareness, and provide hope for individuals and families coping with and dealing with the affects of breast cancer.

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.

Remembering Mama Lee, mother to Charles Lee, Founder of That's My Child



Mrs. Annie D. Lee Bates was born on December 22, 1961, to Frank and Leanne Lee in Chicago, Ill. She was the 9th child out of her 11 siblings. She attended Central Y High School where she graduated and went on to attend Kennedy King College. Annie met Charles and had children but did not marry until they committed their lives to Christ. After moving to Montgomery, Ala., and becoming saved, sanctified, and full of the Holy Ghost, she acquired her license to minister. Over the years she has cooked in many different kitchens. People came from all over the city to taste Mama Lee's food. Soon after, she opened her own business there were many people who could not get enough of Mrs. Annie's catering. She was dedicated to her community where she worked with her son at That's My Child. She helped the young girls with rides, self-esteem, and to obtain their goals. All the kids loved her on her block where she was also known as the 'candy lady.'

She was proceeded in death by her mother: Leanne Lee, father: Frank Lee, two sisters: Earnestine Mcknight, Geraldine Lee, brother: Robert Lee, and great-granddaughter: Makiya Davenport.

She leaves to cherish memory her husband, Charles Bates. Two daughters: Latasha Lee Branyon (Terrance), Angela Lee. Three sons: Charles Lee (Mohona), Charles Smith, Shauna Smith (Jacquies). Five sisters: Christine Humphries, Peggy Lee, Roberta Kindred, Linda Lee, Joanna Lee. Two brothers: Frank Lee, Jr., Raymond Lee. Sister, and best friend: Christine Jackson. 18 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and a daughter she took as her own: Allisa Harris.



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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County, Ala. Sheriff's Office

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

Anyone entering a County building is required to wear a mask or face covering, have their temperature checked, and practice social distancing.



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

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:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery county sheriff "O"
- 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!

Social Media

Social Media	Search
Facebook	Sheriff of Montgomery Alabama
Instagram	Mcsoal
Snapchat	mcso.alabama
Twitter	MG_Twitter



Community Relations Events

As you can imagine with the COVID-19 pandemic, our Community Relations events have been postponed or cancelled. We are monitoring the situation closely so please check back monthly for updates.

COURTHOUSE ANNEX I CONSTRUCTION

As renovations progress on Montgomery County Annex I, located at 100 S. Lawrence Street, the public entrance and security screening will temporarily move to the entrance on Adams Street between Lawrence Street and Perry Street.

Autauga County Alabama

SHERIFF'S OFFICE





Sheriff Joe Sedinger

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.autaugasheriff.org

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

WATER PLAY DAY

You are invited to join Rooftop Friends, a respite care ministry for families & individuals touched by disabilities for a

Water Play Day

Saturday May 22 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Young Meadows PCA – 5780 Vaughn Road, Montgomery Alabama

Wet Bounce House ♦ Slip & Slide ♦ Super Soakers

Wear your wet weather clothes, bring your towel and flip flops


Call or Email:

Ruth Brewbaker: 334 399 3031
rbrewbake@christchurchanglican.net or
 Nancy Burtron: bmaw2020@hotmail.com
 to participate or volunteer

All participants will need to have a 'Liability Waiver' & 'Emergency Contact' on file with Rooftop Friends





E-mail: bmaw2020@hotmail.com for forms to be turned in on the day of the event



Armed Forces Day Celebration—May 15

Help us honor the men and women of our military as Friends of Army Aviation (FOAA) and Troy University host the 2021 Armed Forces Day Celebration. An entire day of activities and great food are planned at the Troy University Dothan campus. Come early so you won't miss a thing—activities will start at 8 am.

- ✓ Recognition of All Branches of the Military
- ✓ Round Canopy Parachute Team
- ✓ Displays by Military Personnel
- ✓ FOAA's Traveling Aviation Museum
- ✓ Rides on a UH-1H Huey Helicopter
- ✓ Vietnam Era Reenactors
- ✓ SE Alabama Community Band
- ✓ Food vendors



Troy University — Dothan Campus
 500 University Drive
 Dothan, AL 36303

Tickets to ride on the Huey can be purchased online OR at the event (\$50/person). Come early to ensure a ride on the Huey. Advance tickets available @ friendsofarmyaviation.org

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- Alex City, Ashland & Talladega areas (2 positions) •




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