



¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

²And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.

³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that

she should be delivered.

⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

Christ is Born

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God, and saying,

¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2, KJV



Salvation Army Red Kettle History

In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was distraught because so many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one major hurdle to overcome – funding the project.

Where would the money come from, he wondered. He lay awake nights, worrying, thinking, praying about how he could find the funds to fulfill his commitment of feeding 1,000 of the city’s poorest individuals on Christmas Day. As he pondered the issue, his thoughts drifted back to his sailor days in Liverpool, England. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large, iron kettle called “Simpson’s Pot” into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor.

The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, “Keep the Pot Boiling.” He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas.

Six years later, the kettle idea spread from the west coast to the Boston area. That year, the combined effort nationwide resulted in 150,000 Christmas dinners for the needy. In 1901, kettle contributions in New York City provided funds for the first mammoth sit-down dinner in Madison Square Garden, a custom that continued for many years. Today in the U.S., The Salvation Army assists more than four-and-a-half million people during the Thanksgiving and Christmas time periods.

Captain McFee’s kettle idea launched a tradition that has spread not only throughout the United States, but all across the world. Kettles are now used in such distant lands as Korea, Japan, Chile and many European countries. Everywhere, public contributions to Salvation Army kettles enable the organization to continue its year-round efforts at helping those who would otherwise be forgotten.

To learn more how you can help the Salvation Army’s mission, see page 10A.



**CHRISTMAS
CASH
Giveaway
\$1,000**

*Nominations must be received
by December 15th.*

The Alabama Gazette is happy to be presenting \$100 cash to 10 deserving people! Each year, we learn about so many amazing, giving souls. Offering this cash gift is our way of recognizing these people during this season of giving!

Send in your nomination letter stating why you think your friend or family member deserves \$100 cash for Christmas. Please include address & phone numbers of your nominee.

Winners will be notified by December 20th.

Winners must come to the office to pick up. We cannot mail the money.

Email: alabamagazette@gmail.com or send your letter to **The Alabama Gazette**

12 E. Jefferson St., Montgomery, AL 36104

MONTGOMERY'S NEW LUXURY CRUISE THAT NEVER LEAVES PORT!

Get the “run of the ship” whether you choose a semi-private suite from \$1,399 or one of our Premium Luxury Suites. We have your ideal residence awaiting.

All-Inclusive, Resort-Style
**Seniors Independent
Living Community**

Private,
All-Inclusive Studios
One, Two and Three
Bedroom Apartments

Call Calvin Tilley at 334-284-0370 for a Tour & Complimentary Lunch
4000 Fieldcrest Drive, Montgomery, AL 36111 (South on Perry Hill off I-85) • WWW.CARAVITAVILLAGE.COM

Enjoy your leisure time and worry-free living, with ...

3 Chef-inspired Meals Daily • Activities & Transportation • Weekly Housekeeping • All Utilities included (except tel)

Bring a Friend for a Tour & Lunch



The Red Kettle – Please Give This Season!

A tradition has developed in some locations in the US in which gold coins or rings are anonymously inserted into the kettles ...
83 cents of every dollar donated during this time is used to support the organizations many missions throughout the world.

Come see us for the best Stocking Stuffers!



(334) 365-6552

**1778 E. Main St.,
Prattville, AL 36066**

**M - F: 9 ~ 5:30
Sat: 9 ~ 5**

www.BryanJewelry.com

Bryan Jewelry



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.



Presidential Election Turnout Shatters Record in Alabama

On the morning of the momentous November 3 Presidential Election Day, I began my day on my hometown radio station, WTBF in Troy, which has been my tradition for election days for over 30 years. As the polls began to open around 7 a.m., we began getting calls that the people were lined up for almost a mile outside of the two most populous voting locations in Pike County. Then, I started getting texts that a good many of the Republican boxes in major North Alabama cities had people waiting in line for two to three hours in voting precincts in Jasper, Hamilton, Cullman and Huntsville. Folks in Talladega were showing up in droves driven by a local amendment. When I voted around 10 a.m., the voting officials informed me that more people had already voted in record breaking numbers.

About that time, I was receiving texts from other South Alabama locales like Daphne and Fairhope in Baldwin County and Enterprise and Ozark in the Wiregrass that records were going out the window. In Dothan, where I had spoken the day before, people were calling to tell me that records were being shattered at the Westgate polling place, which is one of the largest Republican boxes in the state. When I went on the popular Mobile talk radio Jeff Poor Show at 10:30 a.m., Jeff said reports were coming in of an unbelievable turnout.

During the noon hour, I traversed to Montgomery for Talk Radio and interviews with my Capitol City television home, the Alabama News Network CBS 8 and ABC 32. I saw the same thing happening. At St. James Methodist Church where most of Wynlakes votes there were two-hour long lines. At Woodland Methodist in Pike Road it was two to three, and at most of the Republican boxes in Elmore County, especially Millbrook and Wetumpka, there were three hour waits.

As I headed on to Birmingham for my election night TV appearance the scene in Shelby and Jefferson Counties was more of the same, if not more pronounced. My daughter, who votes at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church said the line had been out the door and around the church all day with no

parking. The two major voting locations of Hoover, the Finlay Center and Hoover Met, had lines that reached almost a mile.

Around 6:00 p.m., while discussing the unprecedented turnout with Secretary of State John Merrill, who had joined me on CBS 42, we saw an unbelievable line out the street at the prestigious Church of the Highlands voting location in Tuscaloosa. The coup de gras was at around 9:30 p.m. a good two-and-a-half-hours after the polls had closed, our TV cameras showed a picture of Trussville City Hall where voters were still waiting in line to cast their ballot even though Trump and Tuberville had already been declared the winners by the Associated Press.



Photo by: Kristen Price/freeimages.com

See page 7A for a second commentary this month from Steve Flowers ...



Ronald A. Holtsford

What has changed regarding Christmas celebrations and governmental entities?

Little has changed since earlier appellate cases and one will note slight subjective language in the subsequent decisions. These cases have arisen using the Establishment Clause of the Constitution of the United States to back up the adverse claims of individuals or groups in what they perceive as being unconstitutional.

The Establishment Clause is a part of the First Amendment and reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion," followed by the Free Exercise Clause, which states, "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". The Establishment Clause is an oft-disputed issue, the Free Exercise Clause not so much. Until the Fourteenth Amendment was passed the United States Supreme Court considered the Establishment Clause as not applying to the states and local governments. It was not until 1940 that the Supreme Court held through the Fourteenth Amendment that the Establishment Clause applies to all levels of government. At the time of the formation of the country, six states had endorsed religious institutions so it seems that the eventual interpretive expansion to include governmental application at all levels was a move from the original intent. There have been additional arguments in school prayer cases where it has been argued that the use of certain religious rituals such as prayer in a state supported institution, such as a school, has an impression on the young and may create a peer pressure.

Since the 1980's it has seemed that the typical way to present anything that has a religious component is to present it in a historical context along with secular symbols.

A Seventh Circuit case out of Indiana in 2015 was only decided in 2018, Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc. v. Concord Community Schools, No. 17-1591 (7th Cir. 2018). For 45 years through 2014 the Christmas Spectacular was presented at Concord High School in Elkhart, Indiana. In 2015, the Christmas Spectacular was challenged as being impermissibly religious. The District Court enjoined the school from presenting its version even after altered from what was presented in 2014. The show uses about 600 students who function as actors, set designers/ builders, costume makers and it includes a live nativity scene. The school then presented a second modification removing more of the religious content such as New Testament readings. It also added songs celebrating Hanukkah, Kwanza and included more secular songs. The former nativity scene was greatly reduced to using mannequins and only a single religious song. The 7th Circuit decided that Concord's changes from their 2014 Spectacular suggested to a reasonable person that the show was not just about

Christianity even though the Plaintiffs continued to argue that point.

Even though it is understandable that parents do not want an influential activity that is adverse to the teachings of the parents to the child, it is unfortunate that a small minority of individuals in a community and outside organizations such as the Freedom from Religion Foundation can disrupt certain activities.

When a form of government was being considered by the Constitutional convention, it was a constitutional republic form that was decided on. When it came to the school it seems the majority of the people for 45 years had no problem (at least not significant) with the program. Looking at political affiliation in Elkhart it appears to me to be overwhelming Republican and thus I would think more supportive or at least tolerant of the traditional school program. John Adams once said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." It seems a minority opposed to religious practice when connected, no matter how loosely to a government-supported institution flies in the face of what Adams said.

The teachings of parents to children and the beliefs of a majority within the community I am sure, continue to be held within the Concord Community Schools regardless of the disruption, even without the presented visualization of the nativity.

I do hope that each of you have a blessed celebration of your faith, from myself a Merry Christmas.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist. No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

Ronald A. Holtsford, Esq.
Ronald A. Holtsford, LLC
7956 Vaughn Road, Box #124
Montgomery, AL 36116
(334) 220-3700

raholtsford@aol.com



**12 E. Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104**

**www.alabamagazette.com
alabamagazette@gmail.com**

The Alabama
Gazette
Office (334) 356-6700

**Volume 21
Issue 3
©2020**



The Alabama Gazette
20 pages / 2 sections

The Gazette, (*now The Alabama Gazette*) was created in the year 2000 for the people of Central Alabama with the intent of being a thought-provoking, non-partisan publication reaching over 20,000 readers monthly. Written comments, stories, advertisements, social and church events, as well as classifieds are always welcome. The publisher is not responsible for errors in text reprinted from other sources. Furthermore, this publication does not establish due diligence on authors or advertisers and cannot guarantee that their offerings or writings are correct or suitable. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. We reserve the right to print, edit or condense any and all contents submitted. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising and submissions at its own discretion. All articles, ads and photographs may be subject to copyright.

Loretta Grant
Co-Owner/Publisher

Chelese Beck
Layout & Design

Samuel Adams
Co-Owner/Publisher

Beth Thomas
Layout Assistant



ROBSEVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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

THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE

I have to admit one thing. As I look back at my Air Force career, I have had the honor and pleasure working with some of the most honorable, intelligent and patriotic men and women you can imagine. I will tell anyone that if I could handpick my team of 10 veterans and debate just about any other group of equal numbers in areas of national security, military necessity, homeland security and the like, we would crush all challengers. I honestly believe this. I say this because the group of men and women that entered the Air Force with me way back in 1983 are a vastly different group of people that dominate much of our political discussions today.

Most of the younger generation has zero compasses from which to focus their arguments relative to my peers and I. This is not to say they are not as smart because many of these young kids today would bury me in the world of academia. I concede that without any animus. I will, however, argue that the world perspectives we share are polar opposites and that many of the young in our country have absolutely no clue what they are arguing for and about. NONE. Below is exactly what I am talking about. Both of these quotes come from the following site.

<https://thefederalist.com/2017/11/01/study-nearly-half-millennials-prefer-socialism-capitalism/>

Nearly half of American millennials (44 percent) would rather live in a socialist society than a capitalist one, according to a report from the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation (VOC) which relied on **YouGov** polling data. Even so, there's widespread ignorance among millennials about socialism and communism — only 71 percent of the millennials surveyed could properly identify what communism is and many often conflated the two economic systems.

This ignorance among millennials isn't surprising, as a 2016 CBS/New York Times survey found that only 16 percent of millennials could accurately define what socialism is. The VOC survey also found that 23 percent of those between the ages of 21-29 said Joseph Stalin was a "hero." As leader of the Soviet Union, Stalin oversaw the death of millions and the infamous "gulag archipelago" of deathly work camps for political dissenters. An equal number of 20-somethings described North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, who has imprisoned an unknown number of political dissidents in labor camps while thousands of his people starve, as a "hero."

Millennials also gave conflicting answers about free speech. While 71 percent said it ought to be protected, an alarming 48 percent said it should be limited on social media and 45 percent said it should be limited on college campuses so as not to offend anyone.

As a red-blooded, card-carrying American patriot, I cannot for the life of me understand how these kids can really believe this stuff. All the rioting in the streets and looting this past summer is a testament to their lunacy. I think it would be fair to say that none of these idiot kids, who actually believe this, has ever lived in a socialist country. I am not talking about countries that may have some socialist institutions but rather, hard charging, I will kill you if you disagree with our government, type of socialism. And as Lenin once allegedly claimed, "The ultimate goal of socialism is communism."

But this being said, one of the more eloquent manipulators of the English language is a friend of mine. I will call him, "Joe." I will not disclose his name or location, but nearly every day we trade information on world events and although I have been retired from the Air Force for 13 years, "Joe" still works daily with the military in his now civilian role. He sent me this letter last week and I asked if I could edit it down and repost it.

Although this letter specifically pertains to "Joe's" current job, the principles and overarching constructs point directly to so many people in our country today. They have absolutely no common reference with me and many of my generation. It is both scary and sad and as we move further into the 21st Century, it will get worse as more and more socialist thought is pushed into our schools by many left-leaning socialist teachers who themselves have no common perspective with traditional views of what is important about America and where we fit in world history. Are we perfect? I'm a Black guy for crying out loud, of course we are not. But I tell you what, I have been in some pretty crappy places around the world and I would not trade it for any other place.

See ya next month. T8er Out!!

In the letter, my friend talks about military leaders today and where they were on 9/11. What about school teachers? School administrators? The writers of textbooks? The list goes on.

But enjoy "Joe's" letter to his boss. I have tried to define all of the acronyms used. Sorry if I missed any.

Sir,

As I sat down to pen this, it occurred to me this was the day (28 September) in the year of 1991 Strategic Air Command's continuous day-to-day ground alert posture ended. It was a surreal day watching our alert area KC-135's off of SIOP Alert status. (The Single Integrated Operational Plan was the United States' general plan for nuclear war from 1961 to 2003) At that point in our history, we had had two wings – a Strategic Air Command Wing and a Tactical Fighter Wing on the same installation.

The year of 1991 was pivotal. DESERT SHIELD had turned into DESERT STORM and airpower delivered a stunning February victory. By mid-1991 the Soviet Union largely completed the removal of their forces from Eastern Europe followed by a 1 July announcement declaring the dissolving of the Warsaw Pact. Hardline Communist Party officials grew discontent with these changes and attempted a coup against Soviet President Gorbachev in August. It was sporty times. But the times were indeed changing and the threat was being reassessed as the Cold War was in its twilight. That brought about significant USAF organizational changes as well. Many commands were changed, some terminated with extreme prejudice as old cultural scores could now be settled with a few strokes of a pen. Mighty SAC (Strategic Air Command) was soon sent to rest into the pages of history and SAC was absorbed by the fighter mafia to be led by fighter pilots. Thus, began a retribution cycle to expunge their culture, readiness and discipline, but that is another story left for another time...

As I reflected on that year it got me to thinking about what readiness once was and how the mission was at the center of everyone's eye during those times. My thoughts then went to my perception that a cognitive dissonance on readiness seems to exist in this organization's culture.

Why are so many reluctant to face reality? Why do so many seem complacent and at times aloof to the mission? It made me reflect upon a presentation I once sat through that talked about "you are who you are when..." The presentation laid out a hypothesis stating the "who" you are today reflects the world where you grew up and what existed in your formative years.

For the sake of argument, we'll look at those leaders at this installation with 20 years of service that are on our books now. For them:

- The Soviet Union only existed in history books*
- The Berlin Wall was always down*
- There has only been one Germany, not an East or West Germany*
- There always has been a conflict in the Middle East*
- We've never had nuclear bombers on alert*
- They've never heard a KLAXON (A launch alert sounded throughout a base)*
- The Cold War has always been over*
- Loring, Pease, Plattsburgh, Wurtsmith, K.I. Sawyer, Grissom, Bitburg, Zweibrücken, Hahn, Torrejon, Alconbury, Comiso, Araxos, Clark, George, Castle, Mather, March, Myrtle Beach, McClellan, Kelly, Keflavik, Galena, King Salmon, Homestead, England, and Williams have never been Air Force Bases*
- They have always had GPS*
- They have always had a computer on their desk*
- They have always had e-mail*
- They have always had the internet*
- They have always had cell phones*
- They have never had to use an overhead projector*
- They have never used a grease pencil*
- They have never been subjected to no-notice Operational Readiness Inspections*
- They have always had plenty of time for buildup and preparation*
- They have never had to deploy to a Base X to validate wing combat readiness*
- BRIM FOST, TEAM SPIRIT, FOAL EAGLE, REFORGER, SALTY DEMO, CHECKERED FLAG, and BRIGHT STAR are abstract terms lacking any point of reference. (Annual/ Semi-annual exercises we used to do)*
- China was not a threat but our source of cheap economic goods and a great trading partner*

That all said, I can conclude the vast majority of active duty officers and SNCOs (Senior Non-Commissioned Officers) here do not have the same references that I do. They have never lived with an existential threat. One could, in some ways, argue 9/11 was an existential threat to them. It is safe to say every officer serving on 9/11 is now at least a Lt Col and they view contingencies and characterize conflict predominately through a CENTCOM (Central Command) prism. The losses and turmoil the likes of which we endured in Vietnam and the austerity of the Post Vietnam era are unable to draw an emotion to most. Nor can those members comprehend the sting of failure like we endured at DESERT ONE in Iran.

Our current crop of leaders has never had to live without technology. They have, in many ways, become conditioned to expect the certainty of victory and instant information. This along with decades long focus on counter-insurgency may have created an institutional complacency that is making true change difficult. It may be hard to comprehend a rapidly evolving enemy that moves faster than we can respond or that possess capabilities we do not know of.

Personally, I, believe we have become complacent. The CSAF's (Chief of Staff of the Air Force) declaration of "adapt or lose" is not resonating the gut punch is should in our force. Losing is incomprehensible because we have become intoxicated by our own successes. We think victory is assured. We no longer think about backups and redundancies because things have always have worked and excess capacity is too expensive. We were conditioned to no longer think we need to be ready to fight at a movements' notice because we have been afforded plenty of time. We don't worry about the Russians because they've always been our friends and the Chinese are our biggest economic partner.

You and I know we have had this affliction at many points in our Air Force's history. We explain away threats as anomalies, alter assumptions to satisfy conclusions we want, and build war games to guarantee outcomes, rather than hone capabilities. Sadly, we seem to have traded John Wayne for the Kardashians and in doing so we have become a Pedigree show quality Jack Russel Terrier in a world of wolves. That Jack Russell is one smart dog with strong bloodlines. What worries me is that the wolves seem to be figuring it out, and they are getting hungrier...and in this world, we need wolves to fight wolves. Wolves are pack animals.

So where am I going with this?

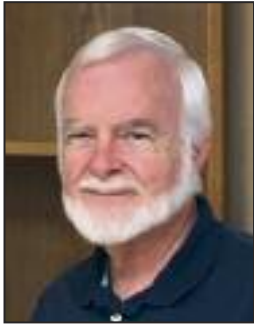
Culture. Readiness.

Culture directly correlates to organizational readiness. Military organizations exhibit certain characteristics that distinguish them from civilian organizations. Culture is the bedrock of military effectiveness. Culture is the glue – the motivation, aspirations, norms, rules of conduct that focuses, galvanizes and enables a military outfit to be viable, survivable, and lethal. Modern threats and hybrid warfare create a fluid and complex battlespace – one more chaotic than we have faced in previous eras. That environment demands a highly adaptable, disciplined and resilient organizational culture in order to survive.

Within our organization, even after the release of the 2018 National Defense Strategy (NDS), we fought to maintain the "status quo". Most pronounced in this document was the acknowledgement we are emerging from a period of strategic atrophy. The NDS declared our competitive military advantage had been eroded. We neglected to culturally transition into accepting the NDS as the change agent then Secretary of Defense Mattis meant it to be at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. We consistently missed opportunities to change culture in anticipation of those mandates.

In this day and age, and especially in a resource constrained environment change can be hard. Culture change can be very hard. If you throw a rheostat open to full capacity very rapidly you risk blowing a circuit and damaging the circuitry. Change can be accomplished incrementally at a deliberately accelerated rate with a steady hand manipulating that rheostat without damaging the circuitry. But that requires analog leadership. Leadership that goes beyond command by edict and e-mail. Again, it is hard, you have to make it personal. Leaders have to lead. Get out and look, see, inspire. Your presence will be infectious. Our men and women need a connection to the mission and each other propelled by leader interaction to build focus and resolve – to MEAN SOMETHING. Sadly, it seems we have opted for "connectivity" and not "connection". And it shows in our culture.

So, in conclusion, be not afraid of looking out beyond the screen of your phone, tablet, and desktop. Seek out the elders and the veterans that have an experience portfolio that you can leverage. They offer you an experience and perspective of unimaginable breadth and depth. It seems the USAF is awakening from its slumber and we will be called to face worthy adversaries once again. But time in the airpower business is the only commodity that cannot be replenished and we have little left to make this culture change a reality. Those old gray slightly overweight vets you have access to have intimate knowledge of what has worked and what has not worked over the years. They can give you honesty and perspective that few others can.



John M. Taylor

“The Informed Southerner”

Lee, Acton, and the Dangers of Centralized Government

Having studied Southern History for the last thirty plus years, I understand why certain types of people dislike Robert Edward Lee. Lee represented the best of American society. He was a devout Christian (Episcopalian) American patriot with an incredible family history; he loved his kinsmen and friends and constantly referenced duty as the most sublime word in the English language.

One of Lee’s contemporaries was John Emerich Edward Dalberg-Acton, aka Lord Acton, of English and German lineage. Acton was also a devout Christian (Catholic) with a similarly proud lineage. He was a classical liberal and devotee of individual liberty and philosophical truth. Acton is perhaps best known for saying: “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Lee and Acton were exceptional individuals—most of their critics are quite the antithesis.

Lee and Acton understood the danger of consolidated, centralized power. Acton extolled the federal character of the Original American Republic and the emphasis on moral communities and “he admired the Confederacy as the most advanced expression of such a polity.” A devotee of the John Locke/Thomas Jefferson classical liberal philosophy of government, Acton saw the Union’s military victory as a dangerous trend toward consolidation, with inherent threats to individual rights. He saw States’ Rights/Sovereignty as the bulwark against the federal government determining the limits of its own power. Lee’s opinion echoed that of Acton.

In 1866, after the South failed to gain its independence, Lee and Acton exchanged prophetic correspondence. Their writing reveals wisdom, knowledge of history, and a clear understanding of consensual government. They understood federalism, the sovereignty of the States, and the federal government’s role as their agent. The only powers delegated to the federal government by the States are enumerated in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. The following is a brief overview of their correspondence.

In his November 4, 1866, letter to Lee, Acton wrote: “I saw in States’ rights the only availing check upon absolutism of the sovereign will, and secession filled me with hope, not as the destruction but as the redemption of Democracy...I believed that the example of that great Reform would have

blessed all the races of mankind by establishing true freedom purged of the native dangers and disorders of Republics. Therefore I deemed that you were fighting the battles of our liberty, our progress, and our civilization, and I mourn for the stake which was lost at Richmond more deeply than I rejoice over that which was saved at Waterloo.” It is astounding that Acton lamented the near-death blow to State sovereignty more than he rejoiced over one of the greatest military victories (defeating Napoleon Bonaparte) in British History. He realized the precedent-setting potential of having a viable means of keeping government under control.

On December 15, 1866, Lee responded: “I yet believe the maintenance of the rights and authority reserved to the states and the people, not only are essential to the adjustment and balance of the general system, but the safeguard to the continuance of a free government. I consider it as the chief source to our political system, whereas the consolidation of the states into one vast republic, sure to be aggressive abroad and despotic at home, will be the certain precursor to ruin which has overwhelmed all those that have preceded it.” Lee identifies the slippery slope that typically leads to runaway government and empire. Although history shows empires can do some positive things, it also shows they become morally corrupt, domestically tyrannical, aggressively interventionist, and financially insolvent.

The predictions of Lee and Acton can be observed today. Central banking planners (The Federal Reserve) control money, interest rates, etc. Failed companies with the “right” connections are bailed out when they would collapse under true laissez-faire capitalism. Power-hungry entities, e.g., tech companies, banks, and corporations partner with government operatives and seek to monitor our every move. They advocate the elimination of cash to outlaw private exchanges and allow the monitoring of every financial transaction. Decades of interventions into the affairs of sovereign countries and nations have created numerous enemies.

This lust for power and centralization has now reached a new level with the sinister Klaus Schwab and the Davos crowd who advocate a “Great Reset” toward world government. Perhaps this is the group referenced by the late comedian George Carlin, who said: “It’s a big club and you ain’t in it.” Lee and Acton saw it coming to America; however, even they may not have envisioned the enormity, extent, and wickedness of the Leviathan.



John Martin

THE CRIME OF THE CENTURY

Four years ago, in November 2016, we Americans elected a president who has out-performed all others within the last 50 years.

Donald John Trump has fought the deep state like no other in recent history. But fighting it has taken a terrible toll. The Deep-Staters have imposed numerous road-blocks, including frivolous impeachment proceedings, to block his efforts to drain their swamp. There is no argument that they passionately hate him and are willing to take any desperate measures imaginable to get him out of the way.

Why do so many people hate Trump? He destroyed ISIS and yet has killed many terrorists without going to war. He avoided going to war with North Korea. He is pulling our troops out of the unproductive wars in the Middle East and elsewhere. He has brought home over 40 Americans held captive, including one from Iran. He helped make us the largest producer of oil. He drove Big Pharma nuts by cutting the prices of prescription drugs. He kept almost every campaign promise with zero support from Congress. He has done more for the black community than any other President, including opportunity zones to help minorities. He passed prison reform, which gives people a second chance, and that has also helped the black communities. He is signing new trade deals that benefit Americans and has refused those that hamstring us. He is making the reas of the world pay its fair share for UN protection. He respects the police, veterans, ICE, & first responders. And finally, he does not sell out America to other countries like our prior leaders have done.

For those reasons and many others, the members of the Deep State HATE him for it.

The presidential election of 2020 will perhaps go down in history as the greatest act of organized crime in this century—one so blatant and devilish, it cannot even seem to be real. And it was committed not by one or a few, but by many thousands of corrupt and malicious traitors.

As the election returns were broadcast this past November 3rd, the early results seemed pretty normal, and by about 10 pm, Trump was on his way to easily collect his 270 electoral votes. Then as time wore on late into the night, and Trump advanced toward his victory, strange glitches popped up. Several key swing states—Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—where Trump held meaningful margins, inexplicably suspended their vote counts. Into the wee hours of the morning, late votes began straggling in, and they kept straggling in, on and on and on into the following day and beyond. Trump’s leads in these states slowly evaporated and were eventually lost.

How did this happen? Why were all of these votes coming from the small number of “blue” counties in these states, and none from the red ones? Why were 90-100% of these votes always for Joe Biden?

Why indeed?

A New Judicial Watch analysis found 353 counties in 29 states with voter registrations greater than 100%.

Boxes of 130,000 to 200,000 ballots arrived in the middle of the night in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Ten thousand, yes, 10,000 dead people voted in Clark County, Nev. alone.

Citizen journalists have found numerous 2020 voters who were born from the early 1900’s and back into the nineteenth century. One researcher discovered a woman born in 1800 who voted in this election.

In Pennsylvania, millions of mail-in ballots have been sent to people who never requested them.

Seven voters older than the oldest human alive today voted in Michigan, including a man born in 1850.

Eyewitnesses in Michigan saw a batch of ballots where 60% of them had the SAME signature.

In Michigan, 138,000 mail-in votes all went to Joe Biden. Not one vote in the batch went to Donald Trump. Similar vote dumps happened in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. In an honest election, this is a mathematical impossibility.

A ballot count watcher described at least 130,000 ballots, ALL FOR BIDEN, arriving in three vehicles in Detroit in the dead of night.

On November 4, at about 7 am in Michigan, Biden received a sudden jump of about 100,000 votes. Trump received none. Even extreme Democrat neighborhoods vote for at least a small fraction of Republicans.

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

Many late mailed in ballots have been back-dated so they could be “legally” counted.

Michigan Republican Chairman Laura Cox spoke to reporters about a software glitch in Antrim County that took about 6,000 votes from President Trump and GOP Senate candidate John James, which caused the red county to show a majority vote for Biden and Democrat Senator Gary Peters. Cox said the same vote tabulating software was used in 47 counties in Michigan and called on those counties to examine their vote counts.

United States Air Force Lieutenant General Thomas McNerney described a special software program developed by the National Security Agency that can be used to alter vote counts in elections.

The rotten core in this plan is that you do not need complete control of an entire state; you only need a few key precincts. Densely populated urban areas like Atlanta, Philadelphia and Detroit can generate enough fraudulent votes to offset Trump’s lead in the other parts of the states. The Democrats have used this strategy on smaller scales for many decades. But now, corrupted in their very blood with extensive experience on local and state levels, they pumped it up and went over the top to usurp this most crucial presidential election.

We might recall former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich who was convicted of similar corruption and sentenced to 14 years in federal prison, of which he served 8. But by comparison, that was still just penny ante cheating in a local race in a corrupt blue precinct.

This year’s megafraud was many orders of magnitude greater. It impacted our entire population of 325 million people. It was a synchronized operation across several key battleground states to hijack the highest office in the land. The prison sentences should be life without parole, or even death.

President Trump won this election. Had he not, the Democrats would not have had to suspend the count and drag it out until they seized enough votes to declare Biden the winner. Trump must not concede to this outrage under any circumstances. Doing so would be not only a sell out to those who voted for him, but it would also turn the nation over to the neo-Marxist hard left that is responsible for this travesty.

How will the courts react to this outrage?

Some people will argue that there is not enough evidence to discard the election results and/or prosecute anybody for wrongdoing.

Some have suggested that we could just re-do the election, but this time there would be no mail-in ballots. Instead, absentee ballots must be obtained and filled out at courthouses with verified signatures. All other voting would be in person.

Another possibility would let each state legislature cast one vote for its chosen candidate—one vote per state; that’s it.

And if none of those procedures are acceptable, just let the Supreme Court decide.

The big problem with any of these is that there is no historical record of any having been done, at least not in this country. And since enough people may not be motivated to address this scam, they just might let the Democrats and the Deep State enjoy the greatest election coup ever imposed onto the American people.

President Trump should order the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the Supreme Court to investigate this matter and prosecute all who have taken any part in it. We cannot allow America to degenerate into a Soviet Union, a Venezuela, or a North Korea.

SOURCES:

1. Kohlmayer, Vasco, Democrats Must Not Be Allowed to Get Away with their Criminal Election Fraud, November 10, 2020.
<https://www.lewrockwell.com/2020/11/vasko-kohlmayer/democrats-must-not-be-allowed-to-get-away-with-their-criminal-election-fraud/>
2. Kohlmayer, Vasco, How They Stole the Election, November 9, 2020.
<https://www.lewrockwell.com/2020/11/vasko-kohlmayer/how-they-stole-the-election/>
3. Roberts, Paul Craig, Evidence Mounts of a Stolen Election, PaulCraigRoberts.org, November 6, 2020.
<https://www.lewrockwell.com/2020/11/paul-craig-roberts/evidence-mounts-of-a-stolen-election/>
4. Montestruc, Alfred, What Evidence Does Trump Have that there is Electoral Fraud?, [Quora.com](https://www.quora.com/What-evidence-does-Trump-have-that-there-is-electoral-fraud), Updated Nov 10, 2020.



John Sophocleus
GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com

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



THINK

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING 2020 IN THE REAR VIEW MIRROR...

Doubtful I’m alone considering 2020 one of the worst years endured in recent memory. I type this year’s Alabama Gazette Christmas column with very heavy hands knowing it will be the first without William “Bill” Grant in the mix; an integral part of establishing this wonderful paper 21 years ago. Those who recall past Christmas writings know I consider the Grants a “Bailey Family” in Montgomery similar to the classic story and Spirit of Bedford Falls. Jimmy Stewart (George Bailey) and Donna Reed (Mary) could easily have played a Southern version of ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ movie in keeping with Bill and Loretta Grant’s lives. Those they’ve touched in positive way are many and unknown to most. This poor wordsmith can’t convey how blessed I feel to know them and recognize how much they’ve accomplished. My Christmas wish (perhaps more a prayer) is for many more good souls of this sort to continue nurturing and amplifying the Holy Spirit as the circle of life unfolds.

Former State legislator John Rice is my ‘go to’ guy for history on Alabama people and events these past few score. Upon requesting some words on Bill Grant, Senator Rice provided the following:

“William Grant had his best day ever when Loretta took his hand in marriage. He has now had another great day as he ascended to his Savior and left his wonderful wife behind and still in charge of the Alabama Gazette. Through over three decades of working with Montgomery Coca Cola, he showed his patience and love of his fellow workers. A graduate of Montgomery High School in Ramer, he was always a hometown guy. He will be dearly missed by all his friends and family, including Loretta and all the children. Just a good man.”

Amen, Brother Rice. Bill was indeed blessed with a wonderful life.

In similar Spirit of 2020 losses, many thanks for all the kind calls, e-mails, Facebook posts, etc. with respect to my Mother's recent (10/23/20) passing. An avid Gazette subscriber who read (dare I type suffered?) all my columns these past dozen years; she likely learned more about an aging son’s thoughts and deeds than most mothers. Approaching the end, it seemed apparent (even to one like me – a poor example of knowing/following the Holy Spirit well) my Mother's beautiful soul was slipping away early that Friday morning after 8 long nights of being the 'night watchman' and dispenser of meds. Mom would often remind me of my reluctant entrance into this world – making her endure one more day to not have the same birth day as my early father she was married to for 62 years. Fitting for me to be there for her reluctant exit...

I found a way to get a computer to play her “My Heart Sings” CD (she cut in 1999) that last night along with Alexa's help playing Sinatra's “All the Way” –

Mom & Pop's song that in my humble opinion I thought they lived up to well. Perhaps my imagination, but singing appeared to be getting through more than talking. The last thing in English I sang to her was The Lord’s Prayer. Those who know my Mom and how many times she sang it flawlessly at so many special events these past decades will appreciate the irony that the last she would hear it sung here on earth would be my inferior voice; certainly more emotional than the times she immaculately accomplished the task as the professional singer she truly was. I pray what it lacked in quality was ameliorated by the loving effort of her son who’s not been the best or strongest among men – esp. at that moment.

As for those last sung to her in my poor Greek; “Meterra mou Gleka”–the song she wrote and scored for her mother, and some hymns which included the Rubanis version of “Se Imnou men” [We Praise You] we loved to sing together. The final one was “E tho men to fos” [We have seen the Light] which makes more sense in retrospect. Last words said (via phone) to my earthly father in April was I love you, the last to my mother were those words sung in Greek and bid her a loving farewell to go with God. I pray all may be as blessed to part as well with their parents and all they hold dear.

It meant so much more to have her fellow Annunciation (Baltimore Cathedral) Choir members offer song at the funeral under these difficult pandemic constraints. Also, to have the comfort of three pastors (Roland Austin, Shirley Myers and Dean Moralis) meant a great deal. Pastor Austin, Dave & Anne Laband and my eldest Godson Peter Byrd thinking of and checking in on my bride was the only way I could imagine spending so many weeks away to be there for my mother’s passing. Again, I pray all are blessed to have so many good souls of this sort in support when enduring such loss. Shirley Myers being there in person, Spirit and in song (with fellow joyful voices in tow) to sing some of the Gospel Mom held dear when a member of “All God’s Children” group was such a wonderful, completely unexpected blessing. And finally, Fr. Dean (who I still see as younger fellow Altar boy about half a century ago) was precious in his heartfelt, personal eulogy.

In closing, I fear many readers unfamiliar with Greek Orthodoxy and/or Black Gospel will find these last paragraphs a mystery. In many ways, it (myseterion) is also a mystery to me – God’s Love is always there for those who embrace it. I don’t know how one endures loss of this sort without knowing such Love. No matter if agnostic or Atheist, Buddhist, Christian, Druid to Zionist, I’m certain many others look forward to seeing 2020 fade in the rear view mirror...



John W. Giles

U.S. CONSTITUTION ~ GREAT FIREWALL ~ 2020 ELECTION

“The grass fades and the flower withers, but the word of our God stands forever.” During the Ten Commandments battle here in Alabama, this was one of my favorite scriptures to publicly quote as we struggled to keep the monument in the Alabama Judicial Building. The U.S. Constitution is not even a hint equal to the Bible, but, the founding fathers in their immeasurable wisdom, had full intent for the constitution to be strong as titanium standing against every passing fad, whim, wind and doctrine. In this well-choreographed 2020 made for movie election coup d’état, the U.S. Constitution will emerge as the last bastion and beacon of hope, an old dependable and faithful friend of this republic, the United State of America. Let me explain!

Relativism, liberalism, socialism and communism roar like lions in the public square at the Constitution when trying to move a flash in the pan idea. Whipping up the emotions of a targeted constituency, fueling well-funded fringe groups and engaging the tsunami momentum of the liberal media, zooming like a high speed rail train can be brought to a screeching halt, by a piece of paper adopted in 1789. Activists detest the strength of this document, so they find the weak to do end runs, only to be met once again by this renowned document that sets us apart.

The constitution and jurist on the bench who embody the title as a strict constructionist, constitutional originalist level the playing field, when standing in front of the faddish flame thrower, devised by the left to melt anything in its path. This is the reason that the legacy of any sitting President, is their lifetime federal judicial appointments, particularly the U.S. Supreme Court. The term jurist activism describes a seriously flawed individual’s character and ethics that intentionally turn their back on the sworn oath to preserve and protect the U.S. Constitution. These irresponsible notions, kindred to a criminal act, create new law written from the bench, setting a new legal precedence, and like Judas, eroding our foundation of our greatness for fifty pieces of silver. That WAS NOT the intent of our founders as guardians of our constitution, those who practice judicial prudence and constraint.

Democrats can no longer win on issues. All of their constituency core groups are slipping through the hour glass like fine sand. Liberal thinking used to be one that could debate an issue on merit, and they prided themselves of being the symbol of tolerance, now all of that has changed. If you are not in absolute lock step with them, you are called names, dog cussed, victims of violent attacks, outshouted trying to shut you down with intimidation, burning down cities, destroying statues, defunding police and saying the FU word in every sentence. This is not even close to civil discourse. Let’s not forget they joined hands with the liberal media and maliciously pounded Trump, his appointees and supporters for four long years. Now all of the sudden, they are calling for us to come together and unify as a nation. Let’s see if this message is still good if the illegal votes are discarded and Trump wins another four years in the White House.

So if you cannot win elections with a real constituency, you have to create this fictional non-existent electorate and fabricate multiple venues to stay in control. They steal elections beginning with fraudulent voter registration, mail in ballots, absentee ballots, out of state voting, late counting, voting dead folks and machines built in foreign countries designed to manipulate vote outcomes to favor democrats. Yes, this election if they are successful was stolen using multiple tactical approaches. A recent revelation from a whistleblower, as a contractor for the US Postal Service hauled twenty seven pallets of marked ballots across state lines. Believe it or not, it is now the first of December and they are still counting votes in California and New York! This is out of control and on the other side of this storm, we need to rein all of this in and make our elections airtight.



The Democrats have two other products of deception ready to hatch if they win the White House and somehow control the U.S. Senate. They will do away with the standing 60 vote filibuster rule, and anoint the statehood of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, making 52 states and adding 4 Democrat U.S. Senators, giving them insurance of perpetual Senate control. They also want to add 4 or more seats to the U.S. Supreme Court and pack the court with liberal judicial activist. Can you see their graffiti artwork on the sidewalk, control the House, Senate, Supreme Court, the White House and every election cycle have an instant replay of 2020, giving them uninterrupted control of this country.

Here is the constitutional question, reportedly there were some 200 or so cases launched in state courts since March, after COVID was at the pinnacle in these marginalized states. These cases involved mail in ballots and relaxing absentee voting restrictions just to mention a few. These efforts in many cases bypassed the state legislatures, which is the constitutional authorized body to change state election laws, not the action of the state executive or judicial branch. The Pennsylvania constitution requires in person voting, in which the only way to change this is a state constitutional amendment, ratified by the people, not some move by activist state courts.

72 million plus people who voted for Trump know what time it is in America. If they succeed in this grand theft, our freedoms embodied in the Bill of Rights are gone. America will fold like a weak puppy in the lap of the United Nations joining a one world government, one world currency and reducing America the Great to irrelevancy. Sounds like a biblical prophetic warning?

To the natural eye, this mountain in front of us seems immovable, impassable and they are telling us to get over it and move on with a new administration. Just hold on friends, we have in our arsenal a plumb bob, a tried, tested and true tool, an instrument of perfection, that can shut the mouths of the roaring lions, recalibrate the clambering, extinguish the flame throwers, calm the raging seas and stop this racing train to a halt, it is the U.S. Constitution.

It is somewhat overwhelming to track all of the states in question, the plethora of voter fraud infractions being discovered by the hour and the mounting affidavits daily being added to the choir. Be assured, all of these roads are on their way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Soon all of this will be at the feet of nine people, five of which, I truly believe are constitutional originalist, strict constructionist. They possess the power to tap the reset button, because all remedies in the hour in which we live are safe in the immeasurable treasures embedded in our constitution.

In the end, our loyal and faithful friend, the U.S. Constitution will become the Great Firewall to save this Hallmark Republic. God Bless America!



Daniel Sutter

HARVESTING AND SELLING VOTES

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.

Joe Biden has won the presidential election, although President Trump alleges fraud. Mr. Trump, however, has not yet offered credible evidence of fraud. The current controversy involves “vote harvesting” and raises questions about the effect of selling votes.

Vote harvesting involves individuals collecting mail-in ballots from voters. Clearly persons with limited mobility should receive assistance in voting, which relatives, legal guardians, and election officials can generally provide. Harvesting involves other persons – including party officials – collecting ballots.

Harvesting creates a potential for misconduct. Altering or deliberately destroying ballots clearly constitutes fraud. Ensuring that legal voter cast ballots is not, however, fraud.

Let’s assume that harvesting only enables registered voters to cast unaltered ballots. A harvester will likely learn which candidate a person voted for, effectively eliminating a secret ballot. How might this matter?

Introduction of the secret ballot reduced vote buying by thwarting contracting for votes. If Candidate X wants to buy Jane’s vote, he will want to ensure that Jane does vote for him. A secret ballot prevents Jane from demonstrating that she voted for X, making X less willing to buy her vote.

Who is hurt if Jane willingly votes for Candidate X in exchange for \$100? Not Candidate X, who happily pays for the vote, nor Jane, for whom \$100 is worth more than the cost of voting for X. X’s opponent is harmed, but similarly to the harm suffered by Pepsi when someone buys Coke; we normally dismiss such “harm” from market competition. With a legal vote market, X’s opponent could also try to buy Jane’s vote.

People could also trade votes among themselves. As a resident of Troy, Alabama, I get to vote for local, state, and national offices. If I cared the most about local elections, I could trade my votes in national races for extra votes in city elections.

Elected representatives regularly “sell” their votes on bills. Vote trading among legislators is called logrolling. A representative from an agricultural state may trade her vote on an urban transportation bill for votes on a farm bill. Rural state residents might prefer that only the farm bill pass but accept the farm and transportation bills together as better than neither passing. Logrolling enables the building of coalitions.

We might object to political candidates buying our votes. But candidates already try “buy” our votes, through campaign promises or ads on television or social media. The cost of ads makes candidates eager to make deals with campaign contributors. Negative ads often more effectively sway voters while slowly poisoning our political climate. Letting politicians pay for votes at least provides the voter a tangible benefit from political campaigns.

Vote buying might involve contracts spelling out a candidate’s promises. Contracts could alert voters to inconsistent promises, like if a candidate signs deals to support and oppose gun control. Voters might have a legal remedy against candidates who renege on promises. Imagine if politicians had to pay us for breaking campaign promises.

What harm results from eliminating the secret ballot? Candidates and parties could use negative incentives – the loss of a job or government benefits and violence – in addition to buying votes. Furthermore, a political machine could refuse to prosecute their thugs terrorizing their opponents.

I find a market for votes worth considering but do not favor eliminating secret ballots. I also believe that vote harvesting will be a temporary issue. Technology should soon allow electronic voting with biometric security at least as good as online banking. Only duly registered voters will cast ballots, and likely from home.

Improved voting technology could citizens to vote for ourselves as opposed to relying on representatives. States already rely on ballot referenda to enact or repeal legislation. Technology could let citizens vote to pass bills. Exploring the consequences of direct legislation will have to wait for a future day.

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



Perry O. Hooper, Jr.



Republican State Executive Committee
Former State Representative

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

Small Business Crisis 5.0

With so much news to absorb in recent months, it has been easy to overlook the continuing small business crisis in our state. While we have been preoccupied by the mounting Coronavirus cases and deaths, soaring unemployment, unprecedented political turmoil, thousands of Alabama small businesses have been teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. This is not their fault. They were ordered to close their doors. These businesses employ more than half of all Alabamians and are major drivers of our economy. The stock market may be soaring near all-time highs, but this does not reflect the suffering that remains on main street. Most of us are back at work, but things are not normal. Not even close. Millions of dollars were lent to Alabama businesses through the Payroll Protective Program. However, it ended months ago, and it was nowhere near enough. According to the Wall Street Journal, nationwide 300 companies who received 500 million in PPP loans have filed for bankruptcy.

Even after reopening, Retail, Restaurants and other service businesses still operate under severe restrictions as the virus continues to spread. Many Alabama small businesses—many family owned and operated for generations—have closed never to reopen. The pandemic has lasted longer than most all projections resulting in dire circumstances for most small businesses. In Alabama, the Food Service Industry is taking a devastating hit according to statistics provided by Mindy Hannon, Executive Director of the Alabama Hospitality Association. The Industry employs 211,800 Alabamians representing 10% of all employment in the state with annual sales of \$9.8 billion. In April alone, the Industry lost a staggering \$585 million in sales that they will never recover. 76% of food service operators have made layoffs or furlough representing 114,000 neighbors who work in this industry. 69% of all Restaurant operators say that it is unlikely that

they will be profitable in six months. Worst of all, an almost unbelievable 68% say that it is unlikely that they will still be in business in 6 months without an additional relief package. I am the last person, who in normal times, would be calling for Government stimulus packages, but these are extraordinary times. Our leaders in Washington must immediately come together and pass a responsible targeted bill to help our small businesses.

While we wait on Washington to help our Alabama businesses, it is time for all of us to be good neighbors and do our part. We must go out of our way to support our locally owned small businesses. When possible, forgo ordering online and mask up and visit a local business. Instead of the drive thru at a fast-food chain, pick up or have delivered food from a local restaurant.

The governors of many states are making moves towards another lockdown which would be devastating to their small businesses, overall economy, and the wellbeing of their citizens. I commend Governor Kay Ivey for her support of small businesses. She has announced her support of the Keep Alabama Open Initiative led by CEO and President of the Business Council of Alabama Katie Britt The campaign also has the support of several entities, such as the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama, National Federation of Independent Business, Alabama Restaurant and Hospitality Association, and Alabama Retail Association. Governor Ivey has also released \$200 million in additional funding for Alabama small businesses. Revive Alabama will give Alabama businesses that have less than 50 employees up to \$20,000 in grants for expenses they have incurred because of the pandemic.

As Governor Ivey has stated many times: “You cannot have a life without a livelihood.” We are all in this together, and we can survive this crisis by working together.

Republicans Must Maintain Control of the Senate

Perry O. Hooper, Jr. ... Additional Commentary

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

It is imperative that everyone supports the two Republican Georgia Senators, David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler, in their bid for re-election. The control of the Senate hangs in the balance. Republicans currently hold a 50–48 lead. However, if the Democrats sweep these races in the January 3rd runoff and Joe Biden is the President, Kamala Harris represents the tie breaker on all votes that are tied 50 – 50 in the Senate. The Democrats nationwide are pulling out all stops to win these elections with two radical left-wing candidates. “We are the firewall, not just for the U.S. Senate, but the future of our country,” Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler recently stated.

The radical Democrats will have at least two unfettered years for their reign of terror if Joe Biden is certified and Republicans lose the Senate. This unchecked socialism will do lasting damage to our great country that will be near impossible to fix. Court packing, the elimination of President Trump’s corporate tax cuts, the Green New Deal, Statehood for Puerto Rico and Washington DC, the elimination of the Electoral College, defunding the military and a host of other radical, socialist programs could become a reality. To start, they are going to cancel over \$1.6 billion in student loans as if there is a Money Fairy that can just make it all disappear without transferring those costs onto the backs of hardworking Americans.

The liberal governors and mayors who have destroyed their local economies with lock-downs and years of mismanagement want to force taxpayers in other states to pay their bills with a multi-trillion-dollar federal bailout. New York alone is insisting on \$30 billion. The Democrats insist on tying bailout money to any additional COVID relief packages that help American workers and small businesses that are struggling mightily through no fault of their own.

In Georgia, Democrats say they are laser-focused on registering voters and pushing them to vote early or absentee. Nse Ufot, who leads the New Georgia

Project, a group focused on voter registration, told POLITICO earlier this month that they identified upwards of 100,000 potential voters to register ahead of the December 7 runoff deadline. Ossoff’s campaign estimated more than 20,000 potential new voters became eligible after November 3rd.

The Democrats are relying on a cadre of groups, from those like The New Georgia Project and Fair Fight, founded by 2018 failed Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, to help on the ground. Abrams has claimed that 750,000 Georgians have requested absentee ballots through her efforts. Abrams, by the way, has not yet conceded the fact she lost the Gubernatorial race in 2018.

The Republican Party has conceded that they will not have money that Democrats will have from billionaire hedge funds managers and Silicon Valley Tech Oligarchs. However, money alone does not win elections. The radical left tried this tactic in trying to unseat Senate Majority Lead Mitch McConnell and Judiciary Chairman Lindsey Graham. They outspent both Senators by tens of millions of dollars trying to elect two candidates with socialist policies proving they cannot win on money alone. In Georgia, even more radical candidates are trying to unseat Senators Loeffler and Purdue.

The Democrats think they can buy Georgia so they can implement their agenda to fundamentally change America forever. We must do all we can to support the Republican ground game in Georgia. This effort will enable Republicans to verify all signatures on all ballots. Call all your friends and family in Georgia and do not hang up until you have convinced them of the importance of this election. If possible, travel to Georgia and go door to door. Contact your local Republican party and volunteer to make calls on behalf of Senators Loeffler and Perdue. You can do this on your cell phone from the comfort of your own home. We must win or all is lost.



Justice Will Sellers

Thirty years ago, [the week of November 23rd], the longest serving British prime minister of the 20th century resigned. Margaret Thatcher, having governed since 1979, saw her leadership challenged, but rather than continue to fight, she was gaslighted into believing she was losing her grip on her party and would lose her office in an embarrassing vote.

None of that was true.

In fact, the very men who rode to leadership positions on her coattails and hid behind her skirts during controversy allowed their greed for power to debase their loyalty to the Iron Lady. Dejected, she resigned and thus, quietly exited British politics.

Prior to Thatcher's leadership, Britain was in decline and, by all economic measures, sliding into second rate status. Rather than control its financial destiny, the International Monetary Fund was needed to help the Empire shore up her accounts. Socialism dominated with anti-capitalist trade unions and nationalized industries weighing down any real economic growth.

But in the winter of British discontent, Thatcher emerged to lead the minority Conservative Party into the majority. For more than a decade thereafter, she was the face of the party, and even when she left the scene, the imprint of "Thatcherism" would remain a dominate political ideology.

Thatcher's political program relied upon a simple appeal to the British sensibilities. She believed in limited government, liberty of the individual, and the rule of law. But rather than relying solely on rhetoric, she acted on her beliefs and ushered in a golden age that changed not only Britain, but the entire world. Indeed, the world she inherited in 1979 stood in stark contrast to the world in 1990. She caused the contrast.

Unlike many political leaders who espouse high minded principles, she pursued hers with what some considered reckless abandon. Thatcher took significant steps to push back the suffocating hand of state control and return the economy to a true free market. Government intervention was replaced with individual responsibility and human action.

There are five significant events revealing what Thatcher believed by how she acted. And the impact of her actions had ramifications that still affect both British and international politics.

Thatcher organized her government to firmly oppose state-sponsored terrorism and declined to allow the cloak of diplomatic immunity to cover subversive activities. When the Libyan Embassy in London was used to harbor snipers to shoot protestors and ended up killing British policewoman Yvonne Fletcher, the prime minister terminated diplomatic relations and used special forces to clear the embassy and send the terrorists masquerading as diplomats packing.

She would similarly send a large contingent of Russians home when it was clear their embassy was a cover for supporting domestic terrorists and spying on military and industrial targets. These actions rankled some in the diplomatic community who wanted her to be more deferential, but by sending a message of British resolve, she earned the respect of the world community.

Perhaps the one thing cementing Britain's return to power was the Falkland Island campaign. While it was only a small British outpost near Argentina, Thatcher recognized that the Argentine invasion was not simply a threat to the islanders but also a challenge to international British interests. Unwilling to concede anything, she ordered the unequivocal liberation of the islands and effectively threw down a marker that she would defend and protect British subjects and interests anywhere at any cost.

Accepting the Argentine invasion would have been the easy course, but while some in Britain were embarrassed at her saber rattling and projection of military power, the vast majority saw her actions as patriotic and a reminder of the former greatness of empire. After the Falkland's victory, Thatcher's popularity soared, and when a general election was called, she achieved a landslide victory establishing a conservative majority that lasted until 1997.

On the domestic front, Thatcher knew from the beginning of her administra-

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

The Enduring Legacy of Margaret Thatcher



Stock Photo

tion that she had a dead reckoning with trade unionism, whose power had grown so strong and influential that strikes could paralyze the country. But rather than take them on directly, the wily strategist first worked to pass laws that prevented union corruption and inappropriate strikes.

Once those laws were in place, she realized that the first challenge would be with the coal miners' union. At that time, coal miners in Britain were a larger part of a socialist network that had grown in influence because coal was so critical to energy and the economy. But a minority of the unions were not part of this network and Thatcher allied herself with them, stockpiling coal to outlast the socialists.

So, when the coal miners decided to strike, she was prepared. First with lawsuits that prevented sympathy strikes from other unions by exacting fines and then with resources to close unprofitable mines and wait until the unions were unable to hold out. The coal miners were the first step, but gradually she reduced the unions' economic stranglehold and began to privatize state-owned industries, which made the British economy more dynamic and competitive.

With an established Church, the parameters for separation of church and state are not debated in Parliament. In fact, the prime minister was involved in approving ecclesiastical promotion. Unlike other politicians who rarely addressed religious issues directly, Thatcher had no such reticence. When she became alarmed at the liberal bent of the established Church, she found an opportunity to explain to the professional clergy exactly how she viewed their role in society.

Addressing the General Assembly of Scotland, she boldly stated, "Christianity is about spiritual redemption, not social reform." She chastised church leaders for failing to appreciate capitalism and the spiritual benefits it provided. It is hard to imagine a political leader who would have the intestinal fortitude to attend a denominational gathering, articulate a theology and take ministers to task for in essence failing in their mission.

Her speech, known derisively as "The Epistle to the Caledonians" is readily available on the internet (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J21NXB6rIw0>). Some Sunday when virtual church is off, watch Thatcher explain her version of Christianity and see her sense of faith boldly defended and publicly exhibited.

Perhaps the one thing that both defined Thatcher and also led to her resignation was her idea of Britain's place in the European community. Her view of Europe was with an eye toward free trade and removing regulations and restrictions on the free flow of goods and services. She saw Europe not as a melting pot where states and people lose their currency and cultural identity, but, rather, as a mosaic where nations and people maintained their unique culture within a framework of collaboration centered on trade.

As the idea of a united Europe moved toward a common currency, democratic socialism and a heighten regulatory environment, Thatcher stood her ground and refused to participate. Her speech to the College of Europe at Bruges explained succinctly her concerns and her vision of developing a strong capitalist Europe. Like her speech to the Church of Scotland, this speech, too, is worth a listen as it is prescient considering the current status of Europe, Brexit and NATO. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_XsSnivgNg

Lady Thatcher's political demise was ushered in by disloyal cabinet members who were willing to subjugate British hegemony to an amalgamated Europe. Nothing they would say or do could detract from her legacy. In her retirement as she travelled to the former Warsaw Pact countries, throngs of people venerated her as the force that helped liberate them from Soviet domination.

If Thatcher was not honored in her own country, the voices of the children freed from totalitarianism offered honor enough to the Iron Lady who held to her principles, saved her country from irrelevance, and ushered in a new world order based on liberty of the individual and the rule of law.

COVID killed the Don

Steve Flowers ... *Additional Commentary*

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

Around Labor Day when this year's presidential campaign was beginning to heat up, I wrote a column about the classic 1960 presidential contest between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon. This pivotal presidential race marked the beginning of television as the premier political medium. The first televised presidential debate that year was the turning point of that campaign. Kennedy won the Whitehouse with his performance or as some would say, Nixon lost by his appearance on TV that fateful night in October of 1960.

A lot has changed in the past 60 years, America was a more Ozzie and Harriet, Andy Griffith Mayberry America. There was not a lot of difference, philosophically or ideologically, between a Republican Kansas farmer and a Blue-Collar, Democratic factory worker in Pennsylvania. They both believed in American values of decency and hard work. Even though the Pennsylvanian was a Union man who tended to vote Democratic and was probably a Catholic, and the Kansas farmer voted Republican and was a protestant. They both were Christian conservatives.

The country was more homogenous and amicable. This America lent itself to a close presidential contest where 40 states were in play in the Electoral College, and only 10 predetermined. Today it is just the opposite, 10 states are in play and 40 predetermined.

The country is more divided than at any time since the Civil War. You are cemented into either a conservative Republican tribe or a liberal Democratic tribe, and there is no peace pipe to be smoked. There are very few independent voters in the middle. It is these truly undecided swing voters that decide the presidential race. Also, it is even a further defined swing voter who resides in a swing state – primarily the states of Florida, Ohio, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin and now Georgia.

Both parties got their bases out to the maximum. Democrats hated Donald Trump. Republicans loath Nancy Pelosi and Bernie Sanders. They stoked every fire possible and the two tribes almost broke about even.

Donald J. Trump lost the middle of America swing voter in the key battle-

ground states and he lost them overwhelmingly. Why? You ask: It is simple, the COVID pandemic. It would have been impossible for any humble, genuinely caring, kind and compassionate president to overcome a pandemic that has killed over 250,000 people and annihilated the economy. A legendary, revered leader like Franklin Delano Roosevelt or Ronald Reagan would have had a hard time surviving this Communist Chinese invasion of our nation. This Chinese generated epidemic destroyed our economy.

It is always about the economy. Trump's administration was the overseer of the most robust economy in years. He could have possibly won reelection with this rosy economy. However, the March invasion of the Chinese coronavirus derailed the Trump Train. There is an old political adage that says, "If you claim credit for the rain, you got to take blame for the drought."

Any presidential election campaign where there is an incumbent president up for reelection is a referendum on that President. Therefore, this presential race was all about Trump. He would have had to have been an FDR or Reagan to have survived the events of this year. Folks, Trump is no FDR or Reagan.

To win a presidency, people have to like you. Very few people genuinely like Donald Trump. All exit polling revealed that even the most ardent Republicans disliked Trump the man. They were only voting for him because he was a proven true-blue, hard core conservative. Even evangelical conservatives voted for him knowing his personal and business life was not exemplary of a practicing Christian, but he was the vessel for conservative Supreme Court Justices.

However, key swing voters, primarily suburban women, just did not like a brash, irreverent, egocentric, irrational, narcissist as their president. They had seen the sideshow on television and Twitter for over three years and they had had enough. There is another tried and true maxim, "More people vote against someone than for someone." This played out to the nines on election day. Very few people voted for Joe Biden. They voted against Donald Trump.

See you next time!

THE ALABAMA GAZETTE HOME DELIVERY FORM	
Send My S&H/Home Delivery to: Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail: _____	Send a Gift S&H/Home Delivery to: Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Cell: (____) _____ E-mail: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> My check for \$35 for ONE 12-Month S&H/Home Delivery is enclosed. <input type="checkbox"/> My check for \$70 for TWO 12-Month S&H/Home Deliveries is enclosed.	
Complete this form and return to: The Alabama Gazette, 12 E. Jefferson Street, Montgomery, AL 36104	

**START
MONTH**

THE ALABAMA Gazette
Home Delivery
334-356-6700

20 years of printing the People's Paper with God, Family & Country taking front and center. Renowned writers bring the latest commentary on federal, state and local news.

Never miss an issue with home delivery! Cost covers S&H along with full online access to all the issues at www.alabamagazette.com.

BBB The Alabama Gazette is free and can be picked up at locations around the River Region.

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



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

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCREASE IN 2021



Nearly 70 million Americans will see a 1.3 percent increase in their Social Security benefits and SSI payments in 2021. Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are a little more expensive, so the COLA helps to offset these costs.

January 2021 marks other changes that will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2021 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change in 2021. You can read our press release for more information at www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2021.pdf.

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to

retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. Want to know your new benefit amount sooner? You can securely view and save the Social Security COLA notice online via the Message Center inside my Social Security in early December without waiting for the mailed notice.

If you don't have an account yet, you will have to create your account by November 18, 2020 to receive the COLA notice online this year. **my Social Security** account holders can opt out of receiving a mailed COLA notice and other paper notices that are available online. You can choose text or email alerts when there is a notice in Message Center by updating your Preferences at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/opt-out.html so you always know when we have something important for you.

Be the first to know!

Sign up for or log in to your personal account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Choose email or text under "Message Center Preferences" to receive courtesy notifications. This way you won't miss your online COLA notice!

You can find more information about the 2021 COLA at www.ssa.gov/cola.



Photo credits: blog.ssa.gov

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

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

The Alabama Gazette wants to promote local businesses! We want to help network with consumers to encourage money to be spent locally this holiday season. We know that the Pandemic will continue to sway people to shop online, so we are here, willing to help publicize that your business can compete with Internet sales.

Let us help you! Contact us today as we continue to offer special advertising rates at great prices to be included in the next issue of *The Alabama Gazette*! We look forward to helping you!



Advertise with us in the New Year!

334-356-6700 / alabamagazette@gmail.com

MACOA works to keep serving seniors safely during Covid-19.

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging (MACOA) SERVING SENIORS FOR 48 YEARS!

Our Mission: The Montgomery Area Council On Aging assists senior citizens by providing services to promote independent living, by offering opportunities to enhance quality of life, and by increasing community awareness of senior issues. **TOGETHER WE'VE DELIVERED OVER 4,000,000 MEALS!** And you can help, TOO! MACOA needs volunteers once a week to deliver meals. *If you can help, please call 334-263-0532.*

115 East Jefferson Street / Montgomery, Alabama 36104
<https://www.macoa.org/>

The way banking should be.



B BRANTLEY
 BANK & TRUST CO.

BRANTLEY • 334.527.3206 • 9402 North Main Street
 RAMER • 334.562.3257 • 105 Main Street
www.brantleybank.com



ELIZABETH H. WRIGHT APARTMENTS

Senior Living • 62 and older



Spacious 1 Bedroom • 1 Bath apartments
Rent is based on income
rent includes utilities
(On the Campus of Faulkner University)

5201 W. Alabama Christian Dr.
Montgomery, Al. 36109

(334) 386-7490 TDD 334-557-6252
or 557-6254



CAMELLIA GARDENS APARTMENTS



334-244-6582

For those 62 years and older, or younger if mobility or physically impaired.
1 Bedroom Apartments with furnished utilities, and *rent is income-based.*

Come by 265 Evelyn Drive on Faulkner University Campus or call today!



Support local Law Enforcement



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County, Alabama Sheriff's Office

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



Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

SANITIZE AND STAY ALIVE!

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



We appreciate your patience during these stressful times.
STAY SAFE!

Social Media

Check out the new Facebook page for MSCO:

<https://www.facebook.com/Sheriff-of-Montgomery-Alabama-102518251601438>

Social Media Search
InstagramMcsol
Snapchatmcsol.alabama
TwitterMG_Twitter



The Sheriff's Office welcomed back Deputy Griffin to the MCSO family in November!

MCSO extends a big "Thank You" to Lt. Bryan Farrington and The Salvation Army for allowing the Office to participate in their annual First Responders Appreciation Luncheon Event November 6. The Salvation Army provided lunch to the Deputies to show their appreciation for law enforcement. MSCO truly appreciates The Salvation Army for all that it does for our community!



PUMP REPAIRS

6908 Norman Bridge Road,
Montgomery, Alabama

(334) 281-1258 or 1-800-242-8904

Service Station Repairs



Tank Installations & Closures



Hydrostatic Tank & Line Testing

Norman P. Mitchell - Tony Mitchell

The Alabama Gazette has lost a cherished friend and supporter: **Norman Mitchell, owner of Pump Repairs.** Our love and prayers are with his wife, Barbara, and their extensive family.

"Mitch" will be greatly missed!
Learn more about Mitch in the Community section on page 9B.



Autauga County Alabama SHERIFF'S OFFICE

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.autaugasheriff.org

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



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

Prattville Exchange Club Recognizes Officers for Acts of Bravery While Off-Duty

Deputy Jeffery Chandler, Autauga County Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff Joe Sedinger of the Autauga County Sheriffs Office nominated School Resource Officer Deputy Jeffrey Chandler for the Exchange Club Officer of the Year.

On August 24, 2020, Deputy Chandler was driving home on U.S. Hwy 82 around 3:20 pm when he observed movement in a ditch. He turned around to go back and investigate and discovered a male subject lying in the ditch in rough shape. After calling dispatch for medical attention and notifying State Troopers, Deputy Chandler was approached by another male who stated the victim was possibly struck by a tractor-trailer, which was later located and the driver held for questioning.

A few days later, Deputy Chandler followed up on the status of the victim, as well, and was told he should survive his injuries. Without Deputy Chandler paying attention to his surroundings on his drive home from school the outcome to this accident could have been much different. Deputy Chandler went above and beyond his call of duty to assist this accident victim, which is why he was nominated him for the Exchange Club Officer of the Year.



The Prattville Exchange Club recognized these three fine officers for their services on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. (l to r): Deputy Chandler, Battalion Chief Brown & Off. Braise.

Officer Christopher Braise, Prattville Police Department

Captain Mike Vineyard of the Prattville Police Department recommended Officer Christopher Brasie for the Exchange Club Officer of the Year due to his actions following an accident on Cobbs Ford Road on July 12, 2020.

One of the parties involved was a family on vacation. Off. Brasie attempted to help them find a rental vehicle to complete their vacation, but there were none available. Off. Brasie allowed the family to use his personal vehicle so they could continue their vacation. Off. Brasie deserved to be recognized for going above and beyond in assisting a stranded family.

Battalion Chief Joshua Brown, Prattville Fire Department

Fire Chief Terry Brown of the Prattville Fire Department nominated Battalion Chief Joshua Brown for the Firefighter of the Year. Josh is a dedicated employee who has served the citizens since 1995 and has worked his way through the ranks. He is known to continue his "job" even while off duty.

While traveling one day, Josh came upon a house fire and, without concern for his own safety, entered the structure and rescued a woman and child.

Josh is compassionate about the fire service and is an asset to the City's department. For this reason and many more, it was Fire Chief Brown's honor and privilege to request considerate for Battalion Chief Joshua Brown.

Town of Mosses Police Department Creates Valuable Partnerships to Help its Citizens



To help combat crime and empower citizens, Mosses Police Department has partnered with **Central Alabama CrimeStoppers.** Residents of Mosses can now use CrimeStoppers

when they have any information regarding a crime.

"We will work closely with Central Alabama CrimeStoppers" Mosses Police Chief DeMarcus Weems said. "They will help us with solving and preventing crime. This is a great partnership."

Central Alabama CrimeStoppers will provide resources, training, and other services to help assist Mosses Police Department.

To report a crime, residents in Mosses can call Central Alabama CrimeStopper's 24-hour tip line at 215-STOP or call the 1-833-AL1-STOP. Residents can also give information via the web at www.215stop.com.

Area residents with information about wanted criminals or unsolved crimes are now eligible for a cash reward.

The Town of Mosses Police Department recently announced a partnership with One Place Family Justice Center to help victims of domestic violence.

"We want to make sure our community is safe when it comes to domestic violence" said Town of Mosses Police Chief DeMarcus Weems. "This partnership brings another resource to our area."

Since being appointed to serve as police chief in June, Weems has been heavily involved in the community. He has hosted several events providing free food, face masks, voter registration, and other resources. Weems is also actively engaged with the youth, especially young males.

One Place Family Justice Center is where victims can go to plan for their safety, have an advocate, talk with a police officer, meet with a prosecutor, obtain information on shelters, and obtain sexual assault services.

Weems is looking forward to working with One Place Family Justice Center. "It feels great. This takes the police department to another level."

For more about One Place Family Justice Center visit www.oneplacejfc.org.



The Town of Mosses Police Chief DeMarcus Weems has been appointed to serve on the board of the Family Sunshine Center (FSC).

As a member of the Board of Directors, Weems joins local community leaders and advocates in raising awareness about family violence. Weems will also serve on the Public Affairs Committee.

The Family Sunshine Center provides services for victims of family violence, stalking, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Service sites are located in Autauga, Butler, Chilton, Crenshaw, Dallas, Elmore, Lowndes, Montgomery, Perry, and Wilcox counties.

"Working with the FSC allows me to serve my community in another capacity. Weems said. "This is an opportunity to help individuals and families affected by domestic violence. I will work diligently and compassionately to assist them with finding the resources they need."

Contact: Jamal Thomas, Marketing Concierge, (216) 469-0838, www.gumptownmag.com



"Jesus is the Reason for the Season"

Cod bless each and everyone!!

May the Joy of this Holiday Season be with you
now and all throughout the coming year!



334-265-0281
900 Maxwell Blvd.
Montgomery, AL
36104



334-281-2395
3561 Mobile Hwy,
Montgomery, AL
36108



334-262-6024
108 Camden St,
Montgomery, AL
36104



334-263-3784
521 Trade Center St.
Montgomery, AL
36108



334-235-2634
2403 E South Blvd,
Montgomery, AL
36104



334-265-0784
1309 Upper Wetumpka Rd,
Montgomery, AL
36107



334-260-3980
5015 Woods Crossing,
Montgomery, AL
36106



334-834-0551
17 Mildred St.
Montgomery, AL
36104



334-260-8010
380 Mendel Pkwy E,
Montgomery, AL
36117



334-354.6142
506 Montgomery St.,
Montgomery AL
36106

**MAPCO Spreads Holiday Cheer
With Goal To Raise \$100,000
For Children's Miracle
Network Hospitals®**



GIVE AT YOUR LOCAL MAPCO STORE!

**Have a BLESSED and MERRY
CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



**Call Sheila at 334-202-3252
for all your advertising needs
as we enter a new year in 2021!**



Give this Season From the Heart

Salvation Army Kettles Are Ringing!



Photo by SchuminWeb

This holiday season, The Salvation Army expects to see a greater need for our services – more than any in recent history.

Unemployment rates are expected to be 10%-11%, and based on the increased service we've already provided this year due to COVID-19, we need resources to serve up to 155% more people with Christmas assistance.

COVID-19 has not only created a bigger need for us to fill, it has also decreased the number of traditional red kettles you're used to seeing on street corners and at store entrances

each Christmas season. In fact, we could see up to a 50% decrease in red kettle funds this year due to several factors, including:

- Consumers carrying less cash and fewer coins
- More online shopping, which means less foot traffic in shopping areas
- Unemployment rates
- Recent closures of some brick-and-mortar retail stores

Our work this holiday season is going to be even more crucial to serve the most vulnerable – regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or gender orientation – in your community.

To donate and help those in need this Christmas, donate at the Red Kettles located around town, or online at the Salvation Army website at <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/brighten-the-holidays/> or donate to the Salvation Army/Walmart Angel Tree Registry online at <https://www.salvation-armyusa.org/usn/walmart-angel-tree/>.

Red Cross – Holidays for Heroes

The **Holiday Mail for Heroes** program is now **Holidays for Heroes**. This change allows local Red Cross offices to identify and engage in a variety of activities that thank and recognize members of the military and veterans living in our communities. *There is no longer a national Holiday Mail for Heroes P.O. Box to which cards are sent.* Please contact your local Red Cross office for details.

The Red Cross Holidays for Heroes program enables Americans to "Give Something That Means Something" this holiday season and other holidays year-round. We are inviting the public to join their local Red Cross offices to thank and recognize members of the military, veterans and their families through a variety of activities. Please check with your local Red Cross office for details.

There is no longer a national P.O. Box for the program. Instead, Holidays for Heroes is being conducted at the Red Cross office in your local community. Check with your local Red Cross for times and locations of events and for opportunities to get involved: <https://www.redcross.org/local/al-ms.html>



Christmas is the season of giving – there is no greater gift than helping those in need.

CHRISTMAS CASH Giveaway \$1,000



*Nominations must be
received by December 15th.*

*The Alabama Gazette is happy to be presenting
\$100 cash to 10 deserving people! Each year,
we learn about so many amazing, giving souls.
Offering this cash gift is our way of recognizing
these people during this season of giving!*

*Send in your nomination letter stating why you
think your friend or family member deserves
\$100 cash for Christmas.*

*Please include address and phone numbers
of your nominee.*

Winners will be notified by December 20th.

Email the Gazette at: alabamagazette@gmail.com
or send your letter to *The Alabama Gazette*
12 E. Jefferson St., Montgomery, AL 36104

TILLERY

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

- ❖ Breakdown Repair
- ❖ Maintenance
- ❖ Replacement Estimates

For Dependability ... Call Tillery

(334) 264-2388

Tillery Heating & Air Conditioning

2360 S Forbes Drive

Montgomery, Alabama 36110

Email: dennis@tilleryheatingandair.com

**Contact us today for all of your
H&AC needs!**

www.tilleryheatingandair.com

Since 1974

ALLIC#84787

"THE PEOPLE'S PAPER"

THE ALABAMA

1B

Gazette

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

Community Lifestyles



Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor

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

Soul Searching

Generosity is Good For You!

In this season of Giving, may you discover that Generosity is Good for You!

Generous people discover something about giving that selfish people will never understand.

What is it you may ask?

Generous people discover 7 reasons why generosity is good for you:

1) It guarantees that your priorities are served.

Think about it – you can't always spend your time on your priorities, but your gifts can see to it that the work you deeply believe in goes on.

2) It breaks the hold of selfishness.

In every one of us there are two competing instincts – selfishness and generosity. We must make a conscious decision to be generous, else the numerous messages we receive both from advertising and from within ourselves cause us to look increasingly to "keeping" to make us happy.

3) It enables you to be a part of something great.

It is a bad and scary world out there; sometimes we feel absolutely overwhelmed, that there is nothing we can do. But giving to your church/community of faith makes you a shareholder – a shareholder in the work of the Kingdom of God.

4) It gives you a disciplined life.

We all admire athletes and others who work hard to be disciplined. Even more, we like ourselves when we are disciplined. To make a weekly pledge to the work of God through our local church sees to it that giving is not based on a whim or a feeling, but is the result of a deeply held principle that is practiced faithfully.

5) It multiplies your usefulness.

Through your gift you are working with a troubled teenager, leading in divorce recovery, visiting hospitals, providing free counseling. You are in many places at once, enabling lives to be changed in the name of Jesus Christ.

6) It brings a satisfaction of knowing you are faithful.

There is a great peace when one can say, "I am meeting my responsibilities, I am doing what God asks of me."

7) It enables you to leave a legacy.

A wise man once said, "None of us can complete our work in a lifetime."

Through our gifts we enable work that will outlive us, influencing young lives who will carry on the work of hope and healing after we are gone.

Jesus put it this way in Luke 6:38, "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

If you choose to be a generous person and invest in things that will have a lasting impact on others for good, then you will discover that generosity is good for you too! There are so many great churches and area ministries to support. Look for those opportunities during this season of giving!

Remember, you have been blessed to be a blessing! Live a generous life and experience these 7 principles for yourself.

Blessings,
Dr. Lester Spencer
Lead Pastor
Saint James Church

A Savior is Born!



find God.

NEW! Sunday Worship Schedule

8AM - OUTDOOR WORSHIP IN THE PINES

10AM - CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

11AM - TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

ONLINE SERVICES AT LIVE.SJLIFE.COM

Support LIFE!



104 Company St
Wetumpka, Alabama
@elmorecountypregnancycenter
Call (334) 567-1955



Your CHOICE STARTS HERE



FirstChoice
Women's Medical Center

We're here for you.

www.FirstChoiceMontgomery.com

334-260-8010

380 Mendel Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36117



SCAN FOR APPT.

SEMI-PRIVATE SUITES FROM \$1,399

Private,
All-Inclusive Studios
One, Two and Three
Bedroom Apartments

All-Inclusive, Resort-Style Seniors Independent Living Community

You don't have to break the bank for Senior Living in Montgomery!

Call Calvin Tilley at 334-284-0370 for a Tour & Complimentary Lunch
4000 Fieldcrest Drive, Montgomery, AL 36111 (South on Perry Hill off I-85) • WWW.CARAVITAVILLAGE.COM

Enjoy your leisure time and worry-free living, with ...

3 Chef-inspired Meals Daily • Activities & Transportation • Weekly Housekeeping • All Utilities included (except tel)

The NEW CaraVita Village



Honoring Our Heroes

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Brig Gen Lawrence H. Stevenson: Age 73

Brig Gen Lawrence H. Stevenson serviced 30 years in the United States Air Force. He served as the Vice Commander, Warner-Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins Air Force Base, GA. In this position, General Stevenson was responsible for worldwide logistics support of most transport aircraft, F-15 fighters, support for remotely piloted vehicles, all Air Force helicopters, air-to-air missiles, surface motor vehicles, high-technology airborne electronics, as well as avionics and electronic warfare requirements. He retired April 1, 2003.

This highly decorated officer received the following awards and decorations: Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal and Air Force Achievement Medal.

Brig Gen Stevenson was born April 29, 1947, at Ironton, MO, to his parents, Henry and Ruth Stevenson, and he was reared in Fredericktown, MO, and graduated from Caledonia High School in 1965. Brig Gen Stevenson graduated from Southeast Missouri State University in 1971. Following the footsteps of his father who served

in the U. S. Army in WWII, he was commissioned upon graduation from Officer Training School in May 1973. Brig Gen Stevenson has served in various rated positions involving KC-135, B-52 and T-1 aircraft, and in positions at major command and joint command levels. Before assuming his last position before retirement, he was Director of Plans and Programs at Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, Randolph AFB, Texas.

Brig Gen Stevenson completed extensive educational programs at civilian and at U.S. military institutions. He received a Master of Arts Degree in business management and administration, Central Michigan University in 1976. He fulfilled all of the requirements for completion of military program requirements at the following: Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL, in 1976, Air Command and Staff College by correspondence in 1981, National Security Management Course by correspondence in 1985, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA, in 1987, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL, in 1992 and Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security, Johns Hopkins School of Government in 1995.

Brig Gen Stevenson's career encompassed numerous assignments including two overseas. In June 1974, he completed undergraduate pilot's training at Laughlin AB, TX, as a distinguished graduate and in December, 1974, he completed student pilot's training with the 4017th Combat Crew Training Squadron, Castle AFB, CA. During December 1974 through September 1979, her served as a KC-135 pilot, standardization and evaluation pilot, aircraft commander and staff instructor pilot, at Wurtsmith AFB, MI. He served as instructor pilot, standardization and evaluation instructor pilot, Combat Crew Training School, later, wing flying safety officer, 93rd Bombardment Wing, Castle AFB, CA, during September 1979 through January 1984. Brig Gen Stevenson's rating was Command pilot accumulating more than 3,900 flight hours. He flew the following aircraft: B-1, B-52, C-5, C-12, C-17, C-141, E-8, F-15, F-16 and KC-135.

Brig Gen Stevenson personified and excelled in leadership in the U. S. Air Force. He served as the program officer, Continental U.S. Bases and Units Division, later, Chief Executive, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt AFB, NB during January 1984 through July 1986. He attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA, July 1986 through March 1987. He deployed to Stuttgart, West Germany, and served as the Chief, War, and Special Plans and Analysis, Plans Directorate, Headquarters U.S. European Command March 1987 through November 1989. His next assignment was as Commander, 906th Air Refueling Squadron, later, Assistant Deputy Commander for Operations, 5th Bomb Wing, Minot AFB, ND, November 1989 through July 1991. He returned to Maxwell AFB, AL, to attend the Air War College during July 1991 through July 1992. Remaining at Maxwell AFB, he served as Director of Operational Affairs, later, Seminar Director, Department of Regional and Warfare Studies, and Director, South American Regional Security Analysis TRIP Air War College during July 1992 through January 1994. His next four assignments included leadership as Commander, namely of the 22nd Operations Group, McConnell AFB, KS, January 1994 through August 1996; Commander of the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, McConnell AFB, KS August 1996 through May 1998; as Vice Commander Vice Commander, Headquarters 5th Air Force, Yokota AB, Japan, during May 1998 through May 1999; as Commander, 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB, TX during May 1999 through August 2000; as Director of Plans and Programs, Headquarters AETC, Randolph AFB, TX, August 2000 through May 2001; and Vice Commander, Warner-Robins ALC, Robins AFB, GA, during May, 2001 through April 1, 2003.

After graduating from college and while working for General Motors corvette plant, he saw an advertisement for the U. S. Air Force on television, he volunteered for service beginning at the rank of Second Lieutenant and reaching the rank of Brigadier General. Brig Gen Stevenson states, "I loved the Air Force. It was always a new experience and exciting challenge. I just fell into my niche. I loved it, and apparently they loved me. It was a lot of pride just putting on the uniform and thinking about how fortunate that I am to be born in a country like this and to represent it through the military. I wish everybody could serve and get that feeling."

Since retirement from the military, for five years, he taught courses in organizational behavior and leadership courses at Auburn University at Montgomery. He has served on the Board of the Deer Creek Subdivision in Montgomery, AL, and as a member of the Board of the Family Teams For Life (FTFL), a marriage and family educational non-profit whose mission is to train and equip military leadership couples to help others build Military Family Teams for Life and civilian couples build Family Teams for Christ (FTFC).

As a member of Montgomery's Frazer United Methodist Church, he devotes much time to volunteer-ministry with visitation at the Alabama Kilby Correctional Facility, teaching the Sowers Sunday School Class, delivering meals to elderly through Meals on Wheels and serving on the Staff Parrish Relation Committee. He feels that he has been blessed, and he wants to serve Jesus Christ. He and his wife, Mary Lou have been 54 married years, and they have two daughters and eight grandchildren, and he enjoys spending time with his family. For recreation, he works out and plays golf and pickle ball.

Ship's Serviceman Senior Chief Petty Officer Pete "Jiggs" Bowdoin: Age 90

Pete "Jiggs" Bowdoin served 22 years in the United States Navy. His awards and decorations include: National Defense Service Medal, Korean Presidential Citation, Korean Service Ribbon, United Nations Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal.



Bowdoin was born June 7, 1930, at New Brockton, AL, to his parents, "Buck" Marshall Philip Bowdoin and Willie Till Bowdoin, and he was reared there. After dropping out of school in the 9th grade, his father taught him how to cut hair, and he worked as a barber and sold shoes. His father encouraged him to join the U.S. Navy, and he enlisted June 10, 1947, at the U.S. Navy Recruiting Station at San Diego, CA, at the age of 17. After scoring well on GED tests, his service included deployments to Hawaii, Guam, Japan and to two ports in China, Shanghai and Tsingtao. He sailed on the transport ship, the USS Jackson, from San Francisco to Shanghai where he boarded the

hospital ship, USS Repose, for two weeks while waiting for the USS Kaskaskia to return from Saudi Arabia. His primary assignment aboard Naval vessels was on the USS Kaskaskia (AO-27) a Cimarron-class fleet replenishment oiler, where he worked as a barber and in the laundry, tailor shop and soda fountain for over six years. The ship was part of the USA's 7th Fleet in the Pacific Ocean.

Then he was assigned to serve at St. Alban's Naval Hospital at New York City for two years where he worked as a barber. He was then transferred to Midway Island for two years keeping records of merchandise in the ship's stores. His next three assignments also included work in keeping records of the ships'

stores. He was aboard the USS Cavallaro, APD-128, a Crosley-class high speed transport for six months followed by assignment on the USS Calvert (APA-32), a Crescent City-class attack transport that served with the United States Navy during World War II and the Korean War. He then served on the USS Cook, APD-130, a frogman amphibious personnel destroyer. Bowdoin returned for shore duty to the USA and worked in Navy recruiting at Odessa, TX, and at Santa Fe, NM. He was transferred to Taiwan and then to El Cento, CA, at the U.S. Naval Air Facility managing the Navy exchanges. Bowdoin retired at El Cento August 22, 1969, at the rank of Ship's Serviceman Senior Chief Petty Officer.

Bowdoin and his wife, Patricia Joann, were married 48 years before she passed away, and they had one son and one grandchild. They lived at Seattle, WA, where he worked at Bonmarche in the receiving department for three years. They traveled often to Portland, Oregon, visiting relatives. They moved to AL in 1972 where he drove trucks delivering for Pepsi Cola. This was followed by employment as a food broker with George W. Thompson at Montgomery, AL, for three years and at Auburn, AL, as assistant store manager at Super Foods concluding employment for 10 years and as manager of Hudson Thompson Grocery Cash and Carry at Montgomery, AL, retiring in 1992.

His retirement years have included volunteer service as a first responder for the American Red Cross. In addition, he has been a ham radio operator with membership in the Montgomery Amateur Radio Club.

Bowdoin's reflections upon his Naval service are, "It was a good job, and it was what you made it. I enjoyed it. I advanced, and I went to places that I had never been. I did things that I had never dreamed. I learned leadership. I learned a lot working in the Navy's ships' store. I made good marks in the review boards."



Our Veterans love reading *The Alabama Gazette!*

Bryan Strickland
U.S. Air Force



Gerald Thompson
U.S. Navy

Wyndol Murrah
U.S. Army
Infantry



Henry D. Cobb, a WWII veteran, passed away November 27, 2020, at the age of 97. His article was published in the August 2019 issue of The Alabama Gazette.





Andrew E. Lindsey: Age 71

Andrew E. Lindsey served in the United States Navy for 21 years, including three years on active duty and 18 years as a drilling reservist. He received the following awards and medals: Navy Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon and Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon.



Lindsey was born February 25, 1949, at Mobile, AL, to his parents, Sumpter D. Lindsey and Lilla Lindsey. He was reared in Daphne, AL, and graduated from Fairhope High School in 1966. Lindsey enrolled in NROTC at Auburn University, participated in Naval training during the summer before his senior year aboard USS Cabildo (LSD-16), a Casa Grande class dock landing ship, graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. Degree in economics in 1970 and received his commission for service in the U. S. Navy June 9, 1970. Lindsey served during the Vietnam War aboard Navy ships in the Atlantic Ocean. He served on the USS York County (LST-1175), a WWII-era

landing ship tank at Little Creek, VA, near Norfolk. Aboard the York County, he earned his 1115 Designator as a Surface Warfare Officer. His second assignment also near Norfolk was on the staff, Commander Amphibious Squadron Two and embarked on the USS Shreveport (LPD-12), Landing Platform Dock. He completed his active duty in 1973.

Having grown up on a small family farm, Lindsey had little interest in pursuing agriculture as a career; however, after his active duty, he worked as assistant store manager with Pike Nurseries in northeast Atlanta for one year. His farming background and nursery experience prompted Lindsey to pursue a B.S. degree in Agronomy from Auburn University which he received in 1976. He returned to Fairhope, AL, where he worked as the manager of Klumpp’s Farm and Garden for two years. He then opened his own store, Eastern Store

Nurseries, in Daphne, AL, operating it for 10 years. Next, Lindsey worked 20 years as Director of Landscaping at the University of South Alabama in Mobile retiring in 2009.



Lindsey and his wife, Vicki, were married for 24 years before she passed away, and they had one son and four grandchildren. He reared their son along with two of Vickie’s children by an earlier marriage. He and his wife, Julie, have been married 12 years. They enjoy traveling, and he is an avid gardener, raising fruits, vegetables and flowers. Lindsey is an active member of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, AL, where he has served as a deacon, and he volunteers at the Caring Center. In 2019, he was selected Senior Volunteer of the Year by Hands On River Region.

Lindsey has served on eight international mission trips including Brazil and Guatemala and six missions to Cuba. His strong testimony in service to Jesus Christ is, “I love the Lord, and as long as he allows me, I want to serve.”

Lindsey’s conclusions about his military service are, “Military service for me encompasses a requirement that my mother had for her sons: if we were physically qualified, we would serve. My older half-brother died in a crash of a Navy plane when I was only a small boy, and two other brothers served as officers in the military because of our mother’s admonition. I knew that I owed something to my country. There was that sense of obligation, of duty, honor and service. When I entered the Navy at age 21, I had to unlearn a lot of childish behavior in order to become an effective officer because a lot of people were depending on me for leadership. It became very important to me to grow up in a hurry.”

Sergeant Gilbert R. Monismith Jr.: Age 86



Sergeant Gilbert R. Monismith Jr. is a U. S. Marine veteran who served eight years with some of the time during the Korean War. He was born at Lebanon, PA, July 13, 1934, to his parents, Gilbert R. Monismith, Sr. and Lillian Rebecca Monismith. During his youth, he lived at Harrisburg, Mechanicsburg and Camp Hill, PA. After finishing high school at Camp Hill and working for a year for Thompson Products making blades for G. E. turbine engines, in 1953, he volunteered for military service because he always wanted to be a U. S. Marine. Monismith completed Marine Basic Training at Parris Island, S.C., followed by duties at the

Marine base at Quantico, VA, where he worked in fire-control optics used in all of the instruments in the artillery on tanks. Because of his experience in working as a polisher for G.E., he was selected for specialized duties which he did the entire time that he served in the Marine Corps. After serving at the Marine base at Camp LeJeune, N. C., he was deployed to Korea; however his ship returned to Camp LeJeune without his becoming involved in combat as the Korean War

ended in June, 1953, and he was discharged in October, 1961, with the rank of Sergeant.

After discharge, Sergeant Monismith returned to Harrisburg, PA, where he worked for one year with his uncle and then with a job processing the cash and charge tickets for the PA Turnpike. Then he worked at a Sunoco gas station as a mechanic for five years. In 1954, he married his wife, Jeri, and they had five children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. They were married for 59 years before she passed away. He worked for the Hershey Corporation in the creamery department followed by a move to MS. He worked for the Kellwood Corporation which made quilts and mattress pads for Sears Roe Buck for seven years. Next, he worked for Jack’s Cookies as a supervisor at Osyka, MS, for seven years and later as a manager for Jack’s Cookies at Montgomery, AL, for three years. He then worked as a route salesman of welding rods for Nunns Battery and Electric Co. for 15 years until retirement in 1989. After retirement from full-time employment, he worked part time as a mechanic in service stations and as an operator of a cotton-picking machine. He has enjoyed recreational activities of bowling, playing bingo at a senior center and having coffee visits with other retirees.

Sergeant Monismith said, ”Serving in the Marine Corps meant discipline and honor. Don’t ever forget your buddies. No one is left behind. I got educated.”

Colonel George Brenton Smith: Age 75

Col Brent Smith served 30 years in the United States Air Force as an instructor pilot in the KC-135 and the B-52G/H, a staff officer at both the Strategic Air Command Headquarters and the Air Staff, a Squadron and Base Commander, and as Director of Operations, Plans and Resources, Air War College, Air University, Maxwell, Air Force Base (AFB), AL. As a command



pilot, he accumulated over 4,000 flying hours. Col Smith is a highly decorated officer having received the following military decorations and awards: Defense Superior Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal with one service star, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster, Defense Medal with one service star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Cambodia),

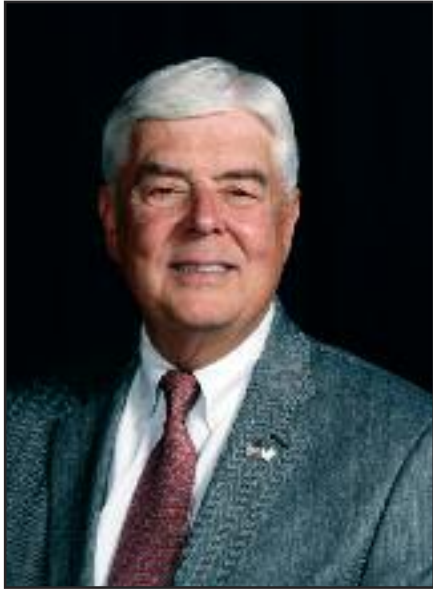
Vietnam Service Medal with three service stars, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award with six oak leaf clusters, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship ribbon and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

Col Smith was born to his parents, George Weldon Smith and Edith Mae Eagan Smith, October 5, 1945, at Columbus, Ohio, was reared there and graduated from Whetstone High School in 1963. He received a B.A. Degree in education from Ohio State University in 1968 and an M.S. Degree in business administration from Central Michigan University (Washington, D.C) in 1981. In addition, he completed Squadron Officer School in 1975, Air Command and Staff College as a distinguished graduate in 1983 and Air War College in 1988, all three located at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB) at Montgomery, AL.

Following in the footsteps of his father who had served as an instructor pilot of the B-17 aircraft during WWII, Col Smith completed the AFROTC program at Ohio State University where he was a member of the Arnold Air Society and was Group Commander and earned his pilot license through the Air Force Flight Instruction Program (FIP). He had always wanted to become a KC-135 pilot which is a military air refueling aircraft designed to support bombers of the Strategic Air Command. It was also used in the Southeast Asia theater as a force multiplier proving midair refueling to F-105 and F-4 fighter-bombers as well as B-52 bombers. Col Smith entered active military service January 2, 1969, and completed undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin AFB, TX, Survival School at Fairchild AFB, WA., and KC-135 training at Castle AFB, CA. He then served as a KC-135 co-pilot, standardization and evaluation co-pilot, aircraft commander and instructor-pilot at Fairchild AFB, WA.

While at Fairchild AFB he was deployed to Southeast Asia multiple times where he flew 150 Young Tiger and Linebacker combat missions from January 1970, until the summer of 1973. Going TDY from Fairchild AFB, WA, Col Smith flew logistics missions from Hawaii to Anderson AFB, Guam, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa and U-Tapao, Thailand. He flew combat air refueling sorties out of Guam, Okinawa the Philippines and Thailand providing air refueling for F-105, F-4 and B-52 aircraft that were on combat missions in Vietnam. At Guam, he often flew strip alert missions providing emergency refueling of B-52’s returning from Vietnam.

Col Smith then went to Offutt AFB, Nebraska where he served as the assistant executive officer to the Strategic Air Command (SAC) Inspector General under the Strategic Air Command’s “Spotlight” program from 1974-1975. He was next assigned to Grand Forks AFB, ND, as a B-52H aircraft commander and Chief, Bomber Standardization and Evaluation Branch from 1975-1978. He worked at the Pentagon in Programs and Evaluations and later became the Strategic Flying Hours Program Manager. Col Smith returned to flying duties in 1983 serving as a B-52G aircraft commander, instructor pilot, operations officer, and Squadron Commander of the 340th Bombardment Squadron, at Blytheville AFB. His squadron won the coveted Fairchild Trophy for the Strategic Air Command’s Bombing and Navigation and the General George C. Kenney Award for the Best Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI).



In 1987, Col Smith attended the Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL, and after graduating, he remained on the faculty as Chief, Current Programs and Chief, National Security Forum. In addition, he served as a Seminar Director and course instructor in International Security Studies, Department of Warfare Studies. In 1991 Col Smith had an overseas unaccompanied tour with the Defense Nuclear Agency as the commander of Johnston Island. As base commander, Col Smith was responsible for support of Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS) which was the first chemical munitions disposal facility. Johnston Island is a remote atoll 800 miles southwest of Hawaii. Following this tour, Col Smith returned to Maxwell AFB in 1992 as the Dean of Students at the Air War College where he retired October 31, 1998.

After military retirement, Col Smith worked as the Director of Continuing Education at Alabama State University. Then he taught the Aviation and Space Program at Booker T. Washington Magnet High School, Montgomery, AL, for 13 years. He and his wife, Betty, have been married 53 years, and have four children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. As a military wife, she has been a devoted wife to her husband and a genuine helper to other military wives. She was selected as the Strategic Air Command’s Wife of the Year in 1973. Their first child was born while Brent was deployed to Southeast East Asia where he received a message from the Red Cross informing him of his son’s birth. They are active members of the Frazer United Methodist Church, and have taken 13 mission trips to Cuba. They serve in the meals-on-wheels ministry and the blood donation program and Brent served as the president of the Sowers Sunday School Class. They have worked with four and five year-old children in a Wednesday night missions and Bible program, and they have served in the English as a second language program (ESL). He enjoys playing pickleball and racket ball as well as scuba diving on trips to the Dominican Republic.

Col Smith’s conclusions about his military service are, “I absolutely loved my time in the service. I love flying. I would have flown during my whole service career if I could have. I attended my 50th pilot training reunion, and it was absolutely wonderful to see all of these men again. I think that the Air Force and the military were not appreciated like they should have been when I entered the Air Force and went to Vietnam, but it was really my honor and my privilege to serve.”

Col James Carl Poole Jr.: Age 81

Col James Carl Poole Jr served 29 years in the United States Air Force, and his Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) included serving as pilot, pilot-instructor and program manager. His awards and medals include: Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with ten oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Distinguished-Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Organizational Excellence, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Award with three service stars, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbons, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with seven oak leaf clusters, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Col Poole was born July 1, 1939, to his parents, James Carl Poole Sr. and Olivia Colins Poole at Opelika, AL, and he was reared at Mobile, AL. In 1957, he graduated from Mobile's Murphy High School and in 1961 from the U. S. Air Force Academy in its third class. Col Poole trained as a pilot in the T-37 and T-33 aircraft and then became an instructor-pilot at Craig Air Force Base (AFB) Selma, AL in the T-38 aircraft. He volunteered for service in southeast Asia, trained in flying the F-4 Phantom aircraft at MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL, and in 1968, he was deployed to Udorn Air Base in Thailand for 9.5 months flying this aircraft as an aircraft commander on 100 Missions over North Viet Nam and 22 missions over South Viet Nam in both bombing and combat air patrol roles over North Vietnam.

Upon return to America in 1968, he attended Iowa State University receiving a Master of Science Degree in Astro-Aeronautical Engineering in June, 1970. Col Poole was sent to Los Angeles Air Force Station, CA, working in the space-test program as project manager on one of the early space satellite launches to test capabilities of various equipment in orbit. He then attended the Navy Command and Staff College in Newport, Rhode Island, graduating in 1973. This assignment was followed by a tour at Wright Patterson AFB, OH, as the engine test manager for the A-10 fighter for three years and then as



commander of a pilot training squadron at Columbus, MS, for three years. He then had three assignments in the Washington, D. C. area; namely as a student at the National Defense University at Ft. McNair for one year focusing on the military-industrial complex, to the Pentagon as Director of Air-lift and Training Requirements for two years and lastly to Andrews AFB, MD, as Division Chief of Tactical Systems and Development for two years. Col Poole's last assignment was at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL, where he served as an instructor at the War College in charge of the Leadership Department for two years and as Dean of the War College for three years. He retired from military service June 30, 1990.

After military retirement, Col Poole worked as a consultant with organizations in strategic planning, process improvement and leadership development with Organizational Dynamics, Inc. traveling the world for 13 years followed by consulting working independently for seven years retiring totally in 2010.

Col Poole and his wife, Susan, have been married 32 years. He has two sons and one daughter from a previous marriage, one step-daughter, and they have six grandchildren. They enjoy travel, and he plays golf and pickleball. They are active members of Frazer United Methodist Church where he serves as a Sunday school teacher, was a past Chairman of the Parrish and Staff Committee, is an usher and a member of the Board of Stewards. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Montgomery Area Council on Aging for three years.

Col Poole survived perilous duty flying the F-4 Phantom during the Vietnam War; however 445 F-4 Phantom II aircraft were shot down. He has wondered why he survived while many other pilots did not. While teaching a Sunday school class many years after his military service, a member gave him a card upon which these words were printed, "You may not be here because you need to be here. You may be here because someone else needs you."

Col Poole's conclusions about his military service are, "Being in the military all of that time helps me to realize that there is something more important than who you are. It is service before self. The heritage of our country is precious. It is not something to be dealt with lightly. To keep our country free and able to positively impact the world, there must be a strong military. I felt privileged and thankful to have been in the military."

Col Charles Winnick Ashley: Age 71

Col Charles Ashley served in the United States Air Force 27 years, and his Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was auditor, Detachment Commander, instructor and academic program manager. He received the following awards and decorations: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak



leaf clusters, Air Force (AF) Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, AF Outstanding Unit Award, AF Organizational Excellence Award with three oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, AF Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, AF Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, AF Longevity Service Award with five oak leaf clusters and AF Training Ribbon.

Col Ashley was born July 24, 1949, at Jackson, MS, to his parents, Winnick Luther Ashley and Mildred Waits Ashley where he was reared and then graduated from Murrah High School in 1967. He graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in accounting in 1971 and later received a Master of Business Administration Degree from the University of West Florida in 1977.

Having completed Air Force R.O. T.C. training, he reported for duty at Edwards Air Force Base (AFB) as an auditor for 2.5 years. This was followed by an overseas tour to Osan Air Base, South Korea, for one year. Col Ashley served three years at Eglin AFB, FL, as auditor and then returned to Edwards AFB as the Detachment Commander of the Air Force Audit Agency office (AFAA). One exciting highlight was seeing the first Space Shuttle (Columbia) land at Edwards AFB in 1981.

Before assuming his next assignment, he completed the Academic Instructor School at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL. Col Ashley felt that the training there changed his life because he discovered that God had given him a gift for teaching. He then went to the University of Southern MS working as Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies for three years, where he was among six faculty members recognized for excellence in teaching and was presented the Leo Codd award as the Outstanding AFROTC Instructor in the nation by the Secretary of the Air Force.

Col Ashley was then assigned to Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, OK, returning to auditing in a supervisory auditing position as branch chief for the Air Logistics Center for two years followed by three years of assignment to Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE at Strategic Air Command (SAC) as AFAA Detachment Commander and liaison to the SAC Commander, responsible for audit operations at six bases. Col Ashley's second overseas tour was at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, as Detachment Commander for the AFAA office for two years. While there, within 36 hours, the Red Cross assisted him in getting home to Jackson, MS, for the funeral of his father. He was then selected to attend the Senior Service School at the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL. After graduation, he served on the faculty of the Air War College for six years as a Seminar Director, Department Chairman, and Director of the European Defense Industry regional studies trip. He received two awards, Outstanding Instructor of the Year and the Wright Brothers Officership Award. Col Ashley retired there February 28, 1998.

Col Ashley's conclusions about his military service are, "I felt a call to serve. Upon retirement, that service turned into a higher call as I was ordained and called to serve the Lord through the ministry at First Baptist Church for 21 years. The summer ROTC training that I received at Maxwell Air Force Base Gunter Annex was tough training, but it made a man out of me. I am very thankful to the Air Force for giving back to me and making me a continual learner. No matter what you did, there was something out in front of you, another goal. Keep getting better. Don't give up. It is all motivated toward service. I loved the Air Force and moving around. I found my real calling in life is education and training. I love teaching God's Word and sharing the good news of Jesus with a lost world."

Col Ashley and his wife, Ann, have been married almost 50 years, and they have two daughters and four grandchildren who are now the center of their life. He enjoys investing in his grandchildren, playing golf and working in his yard. Col Ashley's personifies Christian service as a teacher of a coed-adult Sunday school class, as a deacon and for 21 years as Minister of Adults and Minister of Education at First Baptist Church of Montgomery, AL., retiring in February of 2019.



Helen Lattal is turning 101!

Helen Lattal will celebrate her 101st birthday on December 28th! Helen was a WWII WAC.

Please join the *Gazette* in wishing her a very happy birthday!



Vietnam Veterans of America

Martha Poole-Simmons attended a meeting of **Chapter 607 Vietnam Veterans of America** where she handed out *Alabama Gazette* newspapers along with "Totes of Hope," which contained vitamins and toilet articles from the American Red Cross. Pharmavite, which produces and sells vitamins, minerals and supplements, donated the items.



Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

LeonArd Norman: Dec. 1st

Robert Carr: Dec. 4th

Billy Gillyard McKenzie: Dec. 8th

David Payne: Dec. 14th

Robert Harper: Dec. 18th

Lamar Smith: Dec. 19th

James Dyson: Dec. 20th

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



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

Call him at 334-233-8736 or visit: <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org> and fill out the form for requesting a live bugle, and provide date, location and time of interment.



Southern Cuisine

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

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



Last month I said that by the time you read the November article we may or may not know who is going to be the President of the United States. It is still a matter of discussion, but it looks like we will know who it is by the time you read this article. The topic of discussion I hear mostly is that will this year never end! I think that we are ready to start a new year that is less stressful, less unknowing, and less chaotic.

If you noticed the Christmas decorations and gifts were for sell in the stores right after Halloween! It looked like Thanksgiving was going to be a bust because we were told not to be in large groups and we had to social distance. In the past we have had twenty-five to thirty friends and family come to our house for a sit-down Thanksgiving feast. This year we are down to six. And we did not cook a full-size raw turkey; we bought a spatchcocked smoked turkey. Just heat and serve!

Just like I wrote in my last article, I am still working on my 190-year-old house and yard. But with winter coming I am slowing down a bit outside and concentrating on cooking. My freezers are full and the house needs to be warmed up. With some free time, I have been watching various series and

videos on Amazon Prime and Netflix. I have found a series that has really impressed me. It is a four-part mini-series on Netflix. The series is based on Michael Pollan's book "COOKED" divided up into four parts labeled fire, water, air and earth. A review from Food and Wine Gazette states "the American dream to liberate people by allowing corporations to cook the food is creating a problem for society and one which we need to address. It should serve as wake-up call to people who might not be passionate about cooking or food. It is a call for action. Don't miss it."

A last comment about our food comes from a review about one of Pollan's other books, "In the United States... we're mostly fed by two things, corn and oil. We may not sit down to bowls of yummy petroleum, but almost everything we eat has used enormous amounts of fossil fuels to get to our tables. Oil products are part of the fertilizers that feed plants, the pesticides that keep insects away from them, the fuels used by trains and trucks that transport them across the country, and the packaging in which they're wrapped. We are addicted to oil and we really like to eat."

Buy local carries more weight than you think.

If you are reading this article in December, you are thinking about the meal for Christmas Day. Like Thanksgiving, the Christmas meal is usually set by tradition. The basic core of the meal, the meat and the side do not change much from year to year. Make this year different! End 2020 with something new. Start getting ready for a new year. Start new traditions. Start a "new normal."

In a past article, I had a recipe for a stuffed tomato that required little cooking and was to be eaten cold. That was during a warmer time of year. So here is a dish that can be served for breakfast or as a side for brunch/lunch and served hot. The other recipe is for a side and is a vegetable that I have rediscovered and it can be cooked or eaten raw. It can be a part of a cold salad or a hot side with an entrée. The first recipe is for a tomato dish and second if a radish dish.

I am not a food stylist. When I find a recipe I like for this article, I look at the picture taken of the dish. My picture comes close sometimes. I change the original recipe to try to make it easier to prepare, use local products, and in doing so my picture does not necessarily look like what you would think after reading the recipe. Except for the Lemon Pie in a Jar. We have made it so many times it will work just as the recipe is written. I have a problem with the temperature and time to cook some dishes. My oven heats high and has a cold spot. I have to watch the dish and always set the timer for less than the recipe calls for. There was no picture of the radish dish and it did not turn out like I thought it would. But I like radishes and after preparing the dish I further changed the recipe. What this does is the picture I took may not look like what you will get when you prepare it. You can change the balsamic vinegar to a white balsamic for the radish dish if it seems too dark for you. And for the egg in a tomato use a small egg so you can add more cheese and maybe put some cheese in the tomato first and then the egg with more cheese on top. Even when the recipes say they serve more than one, I prepare the dish as a single serving for the picture. And I only prepare the dish once. I have heard of food writers preparing a dish many times until it is just right for them. I think of a recipe not as a blueprint to be followed but as a rough drawing that you can change to fit your taste. Make it your recipe!

Baked Eggs in Tomato Cups

INGREDIENTS:

2 tablespoons olive oil
8 medium tomatoes
8 large eggs
1/4 cup milk
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
Salt

Freshly ground black pepper
4 tablespoons chopped fresh herbs (like parsley, thyme, rosemary, or a mixture)



Photo: David & Anne Spooner

METHOD:

- Preheat the oven to 375°F. Grease a large, oven-safe skillet with the olive oil.
- Using a small paring knife, cut around the stems of the tomatoes and remove them. Use a spoon to scoop out all the insides of the tomatoes. Be careful not to poke a hole in the side of the tomato. Do whatever you want to the pulp you removed.
- Arrange the tomato shells snugly in the prepared skillet. Crack an egg into each tomato. Top each egg with 1 tablespoon milk and 1 tablespoon Parmesan. Season each egg with salt and pepper.
- Bake until the tomatoes are tender, the egg whites are set and the yolks are still a little jiggly, 15 to 17 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes and then garnish with the fresh herbs. Serve immediately.

Braised Radishes

INGREDIENTS:

Serves 2-4

1 tablespoon butter
2 slices of bacon, diced
2 large shallots, finely slices
1 lb. radishes, ends trimmed and radishes sliced in half
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
About a 1/2 cup of water
2/3 cup finely chopped Italian parsley
Salt and freshly ground black pepper



Photo by Anne Spooner

METHOD:

- Cook the bacon in a cast iron skillet.
- When the bacon is cooked through and getting crispy, add the butter and place the radishes cut-side down in the pan and cook undisturbed for 2 to 3 minutes or until the bottoms begin to brown.
- Add the shallots and cook, stirring, for another minute.
- Add the balsamic vinegar and just enough water to come up around the sides of the radishes.
- Cover, lower the heat, and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the radishes are tender.
- Remove the lid and continue to simmer for 3 to 4 minutes, or until the liquid has reduced into a thick sauce.
- Add the parsley and stir to wilt.
- Season with salt and pepper and serve

I am already getting requests for this dessert. This is a dessert I introduced four years ago and still get request for. This is what I wrote in that article... *"I want to introduce something new, try our favorite, Lemon Pie in a Jar! Besides the friends and family that love this, my colleagues at work are hooked! Simple to make, no baking, just the right size and easily transported. There are many recipes for pie in a jar, some you bake, some you pre-cook the ingredients. This recipe is mix, make and chill.*

Lemon Pie in a Jar

INGREDIENTS :

8-ounce package cream cheese
Can sweetened condensed milk
3 egg yolks
1 Teaspoon vanilla
1/3 to 1/2 cup lemon juice (how much lemon flavor do you want?)
Box Graham Cracker Crumbs
2 Tablespoons Brown sugar
One stick melted butter
Cool-Whip



Photo by David & Anne Spooner

METHOD:

- Clean seven ½ pint mason jars and lids.
- In a mixing bowl combine 2 tablespoons brown sugar to 2 cups Graham Cracker Crumbs.
- Add melted butter (one stick) and mix well.
- Place ¼ cup of the mixed crumbs at bottom of each jar and tamp down to make smooth bottom crust.
- In a separate mixing bowl, place cream cheese and beat until smooth.
- Add condensed milk and continue until well mixed.
- Add egg yolks and continue mixing.
- Add vanilla and lemon juice and mix until smooth.
- Add about ½ cup of lemon mix over the crumb bottom of each jar.
- Fill about to the bottom rind at neck.
- Top the jars with Cool-Whip and place lid and ring on jars
- Refrigerate at least 5 hours to set lemon filling.
- Serve cold

Here are the final words I wrote in the article with the Lemon Pie in a Jar: *This is an easy dessert to make and can be altered many ways. Instead of the lemon filling, try pre-made canned cherry pie filling with the Cool-Whip topped with granola.*

Have a Merry Christmas!

SUPPORT YOUR AREA FOOD BANK

Montgomery Area Food Bank

Feeding Hope Across Alabama

533 Trade Center Street | 334-263-3784



If you're in need of assistance please visit our web site and click on the "Assistance" link to find our closest partner agency.

www.montgomeryareafoodbank.org/NeedHelp.html

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 6 am - 4 pm

Friday: 6 am - 10 am

334-263-3784

www.montgomeryareafoodbank.org/NeedHelp.html



Stan Hurst
Associate Sports Writer



From Pigskins to Rawhides



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

The Only Game That Matters

In this unsettling age of COVID we needed this game, and with the season unfolding in the pandemic era, this is the only game that mattered.

You simply could not have imagined a scene like the one we witnessed on November 28, 2020. The stadium at Bryant Denny sparsely populated, neither band nor cheerleaders. And no head coach on the field for the Crimson tide. Coach Saban quarantined at home, not able to coach the Tide. The most highly contested of all football rivalries with only a few fans able to participate. There were no tailgaters and missing was the massive throng of people on the outside. The grounds outside Bryant Denny resembled a ghost town more so than a college campus on a football Saturday.

And so this is familiar to the reality at the Auburn home games. No Tiger Walk, no Eagle flying. No pageantry or mass of folks tailgating and just enjoying the game. A familiar view all across the SEC and College football everywhere. There, as in all of the football world, fans are sparsely scattered amongst the seats in the Goliath stadiums we long to inhabit once again.

Auburn won the toss and elected to receive; an attitude of “let’s light this candle, game on!” The first offensive possession for Auburn consisted of 4 plays, two running plays that yielded 5 yards. On third down, quarterback Bo Nix drops back to pass and is almost immediately sacked by the Crimson Tide defense. We punt the ball away and Bama is in business at their own 35. The Tide’s first play is a running play for a one yard gain. The Tide gets called for illegal formation, and two pass plays go incomplete. We punt, and the War Eagles start their second possession at their own 10 yard line. A little better results this time, making a first down on the second pass of this series. Followed by a rush for twelve yards; followed by a sack, giving four yards back. Bo Nix completes a pass for ten yards when fourteen were needed. And then, it happens again like so many times coming into this game, followed by several more; I call it the pass to nowhere. That’s what our long ball attack looks like, just find a place downfield that is unoccupied and throw a bomb to it. Never even close to an Auburn receiver. It must be that our offensive coordinator has not read page two of the instruction book yet. Because an effective long game should stretch the opposing defense. BECAUSE the offensive team should be able to complete these passes, well at least once in awhile. Not our guy! NO NO; he evidently believes just throwing the ball to nowhere is a great strategy. So once again we punt.

Now, the Tide is just sputtering like a Norton motorcycle engine sputters, shakes and convulses until it gets warmed up. The Crimson Tide runs Najee for three yards, passes for a first down, and Mac Jones throws a bomb to Devante Smith, and the result is a 66 yard touchdown; point after is good, and the Plainsmen are down 7.

The Tigers respond with a seven-play drive that results in a punt. Bama gets the ball back as the first quarter ends and then continues for seven play drive that results in a touchdown pass; Bama up 14–0

Auburn responds with an eleven-play drive that results in field goal 14–3. Alabama starts their fourth drive from their own 25. and six plays later, you saw it: Mac Jones passes for touchdown number three, and it’s 21–3. Auburn gets possession number five at our own 33, and we run 5 plays; this one features not



Photo by James Willamor

The Iron Bowl was held in Tuscaloosa this year, and, due to Covid-19 restrictions, stands weren’t much fuller than this undated photo.

one but two passes to nowhere. Bama sputters again, runs six plays and then punts to the Tigers. We’re in business at our own 17; we get a first down and move the out near mid-field. Seth runs a great route, and Bo Nix is right on the money with this pass, down the field attempt which was incomplete (Seth should have caught that one). So we complete a pass for a gain of 25 and seem to get a some MoJo going. Until the next three plays, two incomplete passes, and we throw an interception. The half ends with a score remaining 21–3.

The Tigers string a six-play drive together and make a 47-yard field goal. Alabama gets the ball on its own 22 runs two plays and then Bam! Mac Jones makes a 58-yard pass, and holy smokes it’s 28–6, just like that. Twenty seconds and a touchdown. I’m marveling and scratching my head. The Tigers respond with a six-play drive, and

Carlson misses a 56-yard field goal attempt. The Crimson Tide gets the ball and runs five plays, the last one a passing play for 40 yards that results in, and you guessed right if you said, Touch Down.

The fourth quarter begins and Alabama continues its 12-play drive with another passing touchdown; the score is now 42–6. Auburn finally puts a drive together and scores a touchdown. Then, the backups come in for The Tide, and it’s mop-up time. The game ends Alabama 42 and The Tigers 13.

You know, it just didn’t have to be this way for Auburn. My count is a total of 5 of what I can only describe as a “pass to nowhere.” The fifth and final one in the fourth quarter was so terrible Bo Nix was called for intentional grounding. Now that was a bad call, that pass to nowhere was intended for nowhere. After the penalty, Nix was arguing with the official about the call using hand language to describe where he thought the receiver was. What a tragedy. Tragic in the sense that of the 38 passes Auburn attempted, 23 were completions, 2 were intercepted and of the remaining 13 incomplete passes, one should have been a sure catch, and 5 of those 13 were those passes to nowhere. So fourteen percent of our passing attack were passes to nowhere that never had a prayer of being caught.

And where did running back number 28 for Auburn come from? He is Mark-Antony Richards. He’s a six-foot one freshman whose only action was in the LSU game. Well, happy to meet you, number 28 Mr. Richards, who by the way was the leading rusher for Auburn with 57 yards and over 4 yards per carry. Holy Smokes! He made it into the game because of injuries I suppose. Oh Lawd! Please play him some more before he gets sucked through the gushing transfer portal that many of our up and coming players and prospects have vanished into!

Auburn had 20 first downs, ran 80 plays for and owned time of position at 36 minutes 30 seconds. The Tigers averaged 4.3 yards per play. Alabama had 20 first downs, ran 53 plays and averaged 8.4 yards per play.

There seems to be little cohesion and chemistry on the Auburn team; the plays were predictable, and I continue to doubt if we have the ability to evaluate and motivate talent. And as I suggested last year, Bo Nix is a great raw talent, and he desperately needs a quarterback coach, a full-time competent and proven QB coach. It makes this fan sad to see how poorly our kids execute. We lost the game Saturday, no need for a recount, but we did not get beat.

Next Time ...

Mon-Cre Expanding in Montgomery & Crenshaw Counties

Since 1952, Mon-Cre has continued to deliver new and innovative communication solutions and opportunities. Members and customers are offered exceptional service accented by convenience and local service, and Mon-Cre works hard to link technology with affordability.

For a locally-owned telco, Mon-Cre has done an exceptional job of establishing the same amenities available in larger cities with major providers to the residents and businesses in rural communities in Montgomery, Crenshaw, Pike and Bullock counties. These services include broadband, IPTV and landline telephones.

All residents within Mon-Cre’s provider area have the option to subscribe to any or all of the services offered, and now Mon-Cre is continuing to expand into more communities who need access to the Internet and also desire cable TV or a landline.

During the course of 2020, Mon-Cre has received three grants for broadband expansion: two from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) and one from USDA Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service.

The ADECA grant for \$341,000 will provide services along Hobbie Road, into Ridgeland Farms, and the LeGrand community. The second ADECA grant for \$529,700 will provide service in the Clearview and Davenport communities in Montgomery and Crenshaw counties. The projected completion date for these two areas is March 2022.

The USDA, RUS grant for \$5.8M will extend service on State Highway 94 to U.S. Highway 331, including the communities of Ada and Sellers. This extension will also include West Hickory Grove Road, Union Academy Road, Old Sellers Road, and U.S. Highway 331 to Sprague Junction Road. The build-out for this project is five years, and Mon-Cre expects to be ahead of this date.

Mon-Cre is currently looking at deploying services along U.S. Highway 331 into the Snowdown community, to include parts of Snowdown Chambers Road and Hobbie Road, as well as down Butler Mill Road. As plans for this expansion progress, support from area residents and businesses will be needed. Please continue to follow updates on Mon-Cre’s website, as more information will be forthcoming.

A personal note from Chelese Beck, a managing editor at The Alabama Gazette: *Prior to becoming employed with The Alabama Gazette, I previously worked for ADECA as a Planning and Economic Development Specialist for almost a decade. Therefore, I have an in-depth understanding of the importance of rural connectivity and grant funding. These services and grant monies are essential to the remote areas of the county and state for everyday living, but also for doing business and providing quality education. We have seen how the pandemic of 2020 has pushed society toward a virtual reality, and without high-speed Internet, so many businesses, residents and children will be left behind. I am also a customer with Mon-Cre, and I can attest to the level of quality and dependability that this company provides. Moncre has been at the forefront of technology deployment, and we should be very proud to have a local, small telco taking such tremendous strides in helping our communities keep pace.*



334-562-3242

227 Main Street

Ramer, AL 36069

<https://www.mon-cre.net/>

**TERMITE
CONTROL**

**PROFESSIONAL
PEST CONTROL**



**Let us
help you
in 2021!**

Serving the public for over 50 years.

**GREG BOWEN
334-365-4610**

**740 MEMORIAL DR.
PRATTVILLE, AL 36067**



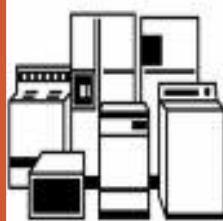
We Haul Away “Broken” Appliances & Much More!

Free Estimates!

**Now picking up
in your area!**

Phone: 256-444-0478

WWW.ECONOTECHRECYCLERS.COM





**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

Christmas has always been such a joyful time of the year, and let's make this year even more joyful in spite of Covid restrictions. T'is the season for bright decorations, merry Christmas trees, poinsettias, forced amaryllis and daffodil bulbs, along with Christmas carols of the past. Even if there are fewer in attendance at our homes for Christmas this year, we can always

make the best of this odd situation. If you have time on your hands, start making homemade cookies, fudge, bundt cakes with red and green icing, pepper jelly and homemade rolls for gifts. Last year I found that I had 4 large jars of strawberry preserves, which had been tucked away and out of sight. So I purchased small jars and Christmas ribbons. Then I heated the strawberry preserves on the stove, added cayenne pepper, which magically became Christmas Pepper Jelly. How easy was that. Friends and family were grateful for this gift that is great on cream cheese and with ham.

The garden is winding down, and there is much activity pulling out and pruning back. The large stands of lime green coleus look scraggly and moth bitten, so out they go. I had taken about a dozen cuttings last month, which I rooted and planted in pots. Now these plants, which are about 8 inches high and will contribute to cuttings I will root over the winter months for planting next spring. Coleus can withstand some cold, so I plan to let them live on until a freeze deals them a fatal blow. In my pot garden, I plan to severely cut back the gorgeous large geraniums and bring indoors. The same goes for dragon wing begonias, plumbago, hibiscus, and mandevilla. The main reason I go to the trouble of salvaging these plants is that they will be bigger and better next year with this head start, so to speak.

Pine straw gets a big play in my garden in the winter time because it single handedly will block out weeds. It is also a mulch to protect perennials that have been cut back, and even protect begonias from the cold. Many of the begonias will come back next spring with very few deaths. I put a heavy layer of pine straw mulch under azalea bushes to protect the roots if we do have an unusually cold winter. One can always tell when an azalea dies from cold since the roots are split. (The plant may live and bloom one more season then die.) Pine straw can hide a multitude of problems such as bare areas around magnolia and oak trees where grass will not grow. To date I have not tried the artificial straw and probably will not since I want the pine straw to organically improve the soil. If you are going to plant tulips this year, but them now, and refrigerate in the crisper for 6 weeks, then plant outdoors for spring bloom. I do not like to get them in the ground before mid January to February because, with a lot of rain, they will rot in the ground. Squirrels also take their toll on freshly planted bulbs.

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for November

by Peggy Givhan

PLANT OF THE MONTH – CAMELLIA SASANQUA

There are many species of the Camellia family, including the sasanqua, one of the loveliest of fall to winter blooming shrubs depending on its location. These actually can bloom anytime from late summer to late winter. Some are ruffled around the edges and these tend to be fragrant. Their blooms last only a couple of days, but then more come into bloom. However, the short-lived blooms do not lend themselves as cut flowers. They like a slightly acid well-drained soil, and prefer light shade. Their hardiness zones are from zone 7 through 9. Fast growers, they make a wonderful choice for a hedge, and grow to up to 12 feet. They have few diseases, have a color range from white to pink to dark red. Their blooms really make a grand show against their dark green leathery leaves.



Photo by gardenia-net

Merry Christmas & Happy Gardening!

Lowndes Students Learn about Seeds in ACES Program

Kindergarten students at Lowndes Academy and Lowndes County Public Schools Head Start Program recently participated in two, fun educational programs with Extension! Students learned about seed germination by planting mustard seeds using materials provided by the Lowndes County Extension office. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Lowndes County office uses virtual classes and traditional, socially distant, classes to stakeholders on many topics. Most classes are offered at no cost to participants. Call the Extension Office at 334-548-2315 to learn more about ways to learn through Extension programs or visit www.aces.edu.



★ BEYOND THE SCREEN ★ ★ INTO THE STARS! ★

A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER



We are all probably aware the winter solstice will occur on December 21st, after all it happens every year on the same date. The winter solstice marks the first official day of winter. It is not a random date; rather it marks the point every year when the north pole is at its maximum tilt away from the Sun. The word solstice comes from the Latin words “sol” (sun) and “stit” (station-ary).

Sunset and sunrise horizon positions vary very little from day to day around the solstice times. The position of the Sun at solar noon in the sky does not change much day to day around solstice times. Conversely, equinoxes are the times of maximum rate of change of sunset and sunrise horizon positions as well as positions of the Sun at solar noon and number of hours of daylight.

Earth's axis is always pointing towards the North Star, at a 23.5° angle from vertical to the plane of Earth's orbit around the Sun. In the Northern hemisphere, the Earth is actually at it closest point to the Sun in its orbit around the Sun, yet it's the coldest time of year for us. Why? In the northern hemisphere's winter, less of the northern hemisphere is illuminated by sunlight, causing: 1) fewer hours of daylight, more hours of night, and 2) less intense sunlight due to lower angle of the Sun's rays striking the ground.

This year, (it is 2020 after all), on the same day of the winter solstice we will witness perhaps the best planetary conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn of our lifetime. A planetary conjunction occurs when two (or more) planets appear very close to one another as we view them from the Earth. Conjunctions in and of themselves aren't particularly rare. They actually happen quite often as the planets travel at different speeds around the Sun. Think of conjunction as an eclipse...everything has to be lined up perfectly; the objects have to be on relatively the same plane as we view them. I have no doubt the media will hype this event as “Two planets merging to appear as a single extremely bright ‘star.’” You will see the two appear to be extremely close to each other, but not merging into one.

What will make this conjunction special is looking through binoculars or telescopes, the two planetary gas giants will appear in the same field of view (Jupiter on the left, and Saturn on the right). Low in the southwest, about an hour after sunset Jupiter and Saturn will appear to be about to collide. The astrological world will go crazy!!! If using a telescope, the two will appear to be separated by less than a single degree in your field of view. Of course, we know in reality Saturn lies almost twice as far away from Earth as Jupiter. Potentially, (depending on your eyepiece selection) you might also see Callisto (one of Jupiter's Galilean moons) in the same view. We won't have to contend with solar glare as we did when they were in conjunction in February of 1961. The next time the two conjunct in October of 2040, they will be farther apart from one another, and we will have to contend with the glare of the Sun.

Some viewing tips to consider: Make sure your view is not obstructed by houses/building, hills or trees as the two planets will be low in the southwestern sky. Go out a couple of nights before the conjunction to be sure your view of the planets will be unobstructed. Plan to be in your spot early, say at sunset or shortly thereafter. If you plan to use a telescope, know what eyepiece you plan to use to see both planets in the same field of view. Dress warm and hope for clear skies on the evening December 21st.

By Rick Evans, Director, W.A. Gayle Planetarium

<https://www.troy.edu/student-life-resources/arts-culture/wa-gayle-planetarium/index.html>



1010 Forest Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36106
334-625-4799

[GaylePlanetarium](https://www.facebook.com/GaylePlanetarium)

The 49th Annual Nutcracker!



Montgomery Ballet's *The Nutcracker* returns to the stage this December to delight audiences of all ages. The classic tale of Clara's magical journey with her nutcracker come-alive through The Land of Sweets is an unmissable holiday tradition.



Performances are December 11th at 7pm, 12th at 2pm & 7pm, and 13th at 2pm at Troy University's Davis Theatre, 251 Montgomery Street.

Tickets on sale now at montgomeryballet.org. Seating has been limited due to social distancing measures, so get your tickets today!



**Joyce Caddell
Holiday Pops
Concert**

**Montgomery
Symphony
Association**
montgomerysymphony@gmail.com
www.montgomerysymphony.org/

Get in the holiday spirit with an annual favorite; the **Joyce Caddell Holiday Pops Concert at the Montgomery Performing Arts Centre (MPAC)**. Experience the joy and majesty of the holiday with this spectacular event for the whole family. Tickets for the 4pm and 8pm concerts are on sale now.

The MSO takes the safety of our audience at our events seriously. We will be maintaining all CDC recommended COVID precautions.

MMFA
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

One Museum Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117
Free Entry + Free Parking
Sun: 12pm-5pm | Mon-Closed | Tue-Sat: 10am-5pm

We're open! Come inside and view the exhibits!



BLOW UP II

Inflatable Contemporary Art
Through January 31, 2021

On view in the Atrium, Blackmon, Goldman, Richard, and Rushton Stakely Galleries

Photograph of the 2020 installation of the exhibition BLOW UP II: Inflatable Contemporary Art at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, Alabama. <https://mmfa.org/>



1 Festival Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117
334.271.5353
boxoffice@asf.net
<https://asf.net/>

**Stream at
Home!**

For Covid-19 updates:
<https://asf.net/updates>

Charles Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Adapted by Greta Lambert | Directed by Rick Dildine

A unique virtual event | Streaming Through Dec. 27
72 minutes | Recommended ages 7+ | Tickets are \$15 per household

A one-woman tour de force starring ASF favorite, Greta Lambert. Grab your loved ones and watch as Greta brings this beloved holiday classic to life!



December 10 – Decorations Contest
(Residents & Local Businesses within the City Limits)

December 12 – Christmas on the Coosa!

10 am – 6 pm – Food, Arts & Crafts
10 am – 1 pm – Car Show
11 am – Pawtumpka on the Coosa
2 pm – Street Parade
4 pm – Wakeboarding Show
6 pm – Fireworks/Wakeboarding Santa

For more info: 334-567-5147 | www.cityofwetumpka.com
Facebook: Wetumpka Christmas on the Coosa

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 and Laughter: Doing Your Job Doesn't Make You A Hero!

I grew up in the 1970s and 80s, and it was not a time when self-esteem was widely recognized as being terribly important. We did not all get trophies. We were not all winners.

I don't remember any standout losers either.

Some of us tried harder and some of us were more talented or had more ability, some of us practiced more and improved our skills, some people could have cared less.

We had one ole boy in high school that could sing pretty good, and we had another that went on to play semi-professional baseball, but I don't remember any heroes.

I tend to reserve the hero term for people who have faced danger or death, or exhibited extreme courage. But lately it's thrown around loosely. Over the last few months I have heard people working in grocery stores during the pandemic called heroes. Linemen with the power company are heroes. Poll workers during the election were heroes. And while I am grateful for the cashiers down at the Pig, and the men who restored power after the hurricane, and the nice couple at my voting precinct who handed me a ballot and a ballpoint pen...they are not heroes. I am not a hero. You likely aren't either...so don't get excited.

Everybody can't be called a hero for doing their job. Just like not everybody who competes can't be called a winner. If everybody is treated like the winner it takes away from what it took to win. It takes away the accomplishment. It undermines. And it squelches the desire to strive.

By the time my generation started having kids, opinions had changed. It was all about them. We thought we needed to build bigger houses with luxury baths to raise them in, we dressed them in designer clothes, and signed them up for a myriad of activities that would ensure they became well-rounded, culturally-aware individuals.

We preached self-esteem like a parable. We tried to give them undivided attention, even as broken homes became more common. We told them they were outstanding when they were loved and adored, but average. We told them they were talented, when they were just playing.

Think no further back than *American Idol*. Not everybody watched it for the talent that was put on display. They watched it for the opposite—people who had been told, usually by their mama, that they were talented when it was closer to the truth to say the cat fled the room when they cranked up singing.

There is nothing wrong with wanting everybody to feel like a winner. Especially children. As parents we think they all deserve to be in the spotlight. They all deserve a trophy, a blue ribbon, and a gold medal dangling around their neck.

And that seems nice. It's sweet. It's an effort to be all-inclusive so that nobody feels left out or feels less than a champion, and that I suppose can't be entirely wrong. Except everybody can't be the winner all the time. Because in real life not everybody is a winner all the time. We aren't all champions. And that is fine and normal. But the equal opposite reality of it requires that we also know how to lose. Because sometimes we lose.

Losing holds purpose too. If you lose, winning becomes more important. Losing makes people try harder. There is something about knowing what it is like to lose that gives a winner grace.

There will be winners and there will always be a lot of losers, but this world gives us very few heroes. Especially real ones.

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



Photo: Fernando Mengoni/freeimages.com



Ms. Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“The Thrill of Hope”

Merry Christmas, Everyone!

Remember the song “O Holy Night” – *A thrill of hope; the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

Does Christmas thrill you?

Children get excited at the coming of the season and often we might feel a bit of a charge through experiencing their amazement. However, planning the party, trimming the tree, maxing out the credit card, wrapping, shipping, traveling can often rob us from knowing the wonder for ourselves. And that's assuming we aren't one of the multitudes who find themselves with a case of the Holiday Blues.

So, if Christ's coming into this world offers hope, and hope, as the song says, provides a thrill, how do we locate that experience amid the distraction and disillusionment of life?

Well...that's the cool thing about hope. Just as total darkness can't hold back the light of a tiny flame, so does even the smallest increment of hope provide joy and purpose.

God wants us to live with hope and assurance that all his promises will come true for us and that our future is firmly and safely secure in His hand for our good. And, that's the good news of Christmas! God brought hope to all people. The angel's announcement to the shepherds made that clear. *“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord’* (Luke 2:10-11).

May this Christmas be a renewal of hope. It was settled long ago, so we don't have to doubt anymore. Jesus is the fulfillment of our hope, our deepest longings come true.

Friends, my Christmas prayer is...*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* Romans 15:13

May God fill each of our hearts with the thrill of hope, joy, peace, and love.

Merry Christmas & Many Blessings!

While Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) might be over, the fight against cancer is not.



Women of Hope is an organization of caring and compassionate women dedicated to providing Hope and encouragement to families surviving breast cancer and promoting awareness to those unaware of the potential devastating effects of this disease.

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.

PROVE IT CHALLENGE

For more information, visit:
pws.shaklee.com/acole

Contact
Alice Cole for all
Your **Shaklee**
needs!

Call or Text:
334.467.0867

Shaklee
Creating Healthier Lives™
Independent Distributor

SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC
5326 ATLANTA HWY, MONTGOMERY, AL 36109

Prices:
Male Cats: \$45
Female Cats: \$65
Male Dogs*: \$65
Female Dogs*: \$80
*Includes Pre-Spay/Neuter Exam

www.alabamaspayneuter.com

Surgeries are performed
Monday-Thursday
by our veterinarians

Appointments are necessary & available to everyone.
Call (334) 239-7387

New Real Estate Brokerage Announcement

SNC Real Estate LLC
Show • Negotiate • Close

Keisha Glasscock
Realtor / Broker

5925 Carmichael Road Suite B
Montgomery, AL 36117

O - 334-245-1130
C - 334-868-4902
E-mail Keisha@SNCRealtors.com

www.SNCRealtors.com

Leisure Isle Sales

Seneca Barn

Commercial Bldg.

4451 Wetumpka Highway
(at the river bridge)
334-262-4309 *Biggest Selection in the area!*

Financing Available

ASK FOR GEORGE

RV Cover

Equipment Shed

Portable bldg. w/rollup

Porch Cabin



Patricia Killough
Community Editor

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.

Happy Anniversary

Dec. 1	Troy & Kim Worrell	Dec. 16	Bill & Barbara Berg
Dec. 4	Rich & Jacque Takacs		Branon & Haley King (3rd)
Dec. 7	Del & Prasertsi Atkinson	Dec. 18	William (Windy) & Linda
Dec. 8	Buddy & Rhonda Black		Wingard (50th)
Dec. 9	Danny & Kristie Richardson	Dec. 20	Wayne & Sarah Watkins
Dec. 10	Heath & Dana Crowe	Dec. 29	Rev. Gary & Jerrie Burton
Dec. 12	Tom & Caroline Vocino		(52nd)
Dec. 14	Ronnie & Michelle Blount	Dec. 30	George & Jeannie Handey
	Scott & Debbie Mills		

Lowndes County Loses Another Williams’ Family Member

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Williams family. Last year, the well-respected Sheriff “Big John” Williams was slain in Hayneville. Now, less that a week after the anniversary of his passing, his son, John “Little John” Arthur Williams, Jr. passed away tragically at 32 years old in a car accident after being struck by an oncoming vehicle. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Norman “Mitch” Mitchell May 25, 1938 ~ November 30, 2020

Norman Paskel “Mitch” Mitchell passed away on November 30, 2020, in Montgomery at Jackson Hospital. He was born in Montgomery County on May 25, 1938. He worked 50-plus years in the petroleum field after working at Winn-Dixie bagging groceries to help provide for his parents. In 1985, Mitch formed his own petroleum business, Pump Repairs and that continues to this day.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Dick Mitchell, two sisters, Geraldine Pitts of Prattville and Mittie “Ann” Day (Jim) of Mobile. He is also survived by four children: Wanda Jean Mitchell of Montgomery, Norman Anthony “Tony” Mitchell (Brigette) of Ramer, Crystal Renee “Christie” Vazquez (Julio) and Norma Rae Mitchell, both of Montgomery, as well as 5 grandchildren: Ashley Mitchell Broadway (Shane) of Grady, Brittany Mitchell Looney (TJ) of Snowdoun, Aleesa Perkins, Alejandra “Sofia” Vazquez of Naples, FL, Mary Ellen Vazquez of Valdosta, GA, and 6 great-grandchildren: Greyson, Emma and Tristen Looney, all of Snowdoun, Lainie Vazquez of Montgomery, and Tatem and Rowen Broadway, both of Grady.

He is also survived by his beloved family friend, Sue Johnson, who cared for Mitch and his family since 1999.

Mitch was preceded in death by his daughter, Cynthia “Cindy” Mitchell, his parents Sidney A. Mitchell and Vera Mitchell, his brothers James Mitchell, Charles Mitchell, Sidney Mitchell and his sister, Emmar Sue Mitchell.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial

A Veterans' Day program was held November 11th at the Greenwood Serenity Memorial Gardens at the site of the memorial to Vietnam veterans. The program was led by David



Payne, former president of Chapter 607. Vietnam Veterans of America along with participation in the lowering of and the salute to the American flag. Names of Vietnam veterans are posted on bricks at the site of the Memorial.

December Birthdays



- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Chris Hudson | 17 | Deborah Kirk |
| | Emma Louise Wingard | | Martha French |
| 2 | Faye Ann Mount | 19 | Brad Echols |
| | Mike Northcutt | | Ruth Cordle |
| | Skeeter Rhodes | 20 | Maggie Mills |
| 3 | Jimmy Perdue (70th) | | Susan Yost |
| | Alison Lee Riley | 21 | Paula Marie Harsey |
| | Cam Stanton | | Katherine (Kaki) Hines |
| 4 | Gail Cotney | | Don Meadows (84th) |
| 5 | Don Byrd | 22 | Austin Champion |
| | Christopher Meredith | | Paul Harper |
| 6 | Dean Tyner (86th) | | Robert Harrington |
| 7 | Jeannie Leigh Boyles | | Dennis Woodall |
| | Tobias Grant | 23 | Kodee Harrison |
| | Wayne Henry Morris, IV (4th) | | Carla Johnson |
| | Belle Sansom | 24 | Joyce Turnipseed |
| 8 | Meredith Sellars | | Kaitlin Rowe |
| 9 | Isabella Henderson | 25 | JESUS CHRIST |
| 10 | Jane Burgis | | Arnie Burgis |
| | George Jones (92nd) | | Nancy Setzer |
| 11 | Lauren Lane | 27 | Sandy Brown |
| | Chad Roberson | | Austin Yost |
| | Justin Sessions | 28 | Andy Meadows |
| 12 | Mollie Higgins | | William Webb |
| | Andruw Woods (18th) | 29 | Amy Boyd |
| 13 | Anita Tylicki | | Mallory McGough |
| | Landon Meadows | | Mary Pat Sikes |
| 14 | Fred Crowe | 30 | Tiffany Hammock |
| | Mark McCoy (52nd) | | Scott Takacs |
| 15 | Michelle Brezinski | | Sarah Watkins |
| 17 | Betty Armistead | 31 | Bethany Black Neubauer |
| | Travers Grant | | Addison Wise |
| | Dorothy Kiser | | Tex Woodall (53rd) |

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

Williams, Linda Gail McNeill Keeble (58)	Oct. 26
Ward, Frances Amelia Threadgill (86)	Oct. 30
Rambo, Richard “Buster” Lineal (92)	Nov. 1
Russell, William M. “Mickey” (77)	Nov. 2
Collier, Sr., Claude William (88)	Nov. 4
Cox, William “Bill” (80)	Nov. 4
Hubbard, Sr., Charles Clark (96)	Nov. 4
Carr, O. Reese (78)	Nov. 5
Lane, Edith Irmgard Emmi Heibel (97)	Nov. 5
Morgan, Troy Michael (51)	Nov. 5
Eaves, Bonnie Kate Pierce (55)	Nov. 6
Boyo, Frank Alston (79)	Nov. 7
Pace, Dale “Martel” (86)	Nov. 7
Perkins, III, The Rev. Doctor Albert “Al” Dashiell (91)	Nov. 7
Short, Efton C. (82)	Nov. 7
Robertson, Sr., Paul Jene (95)	Nov. 8
Caton, Jr., Charles Bethea “Skip”	Nov. 9
McGehee, Sr., Thomas E. “Mac” (83)	Nov. 9
Farnham, Tommie Maxine Heartsill (84)	Nov. 10
Hall, Janice Marie Price (57)	Nov. 10
Howard, Jr. Hall Caldwell “Sonny” (84)	Nov. 10
Stockman, Mittie Beasley (93)	Nov. 12
Donaldson, Sr., Hal Gordon (80)	Nov. 13
Hines, Lorraine L. (76)	Nov. 14
Murphy, Jackson Wayne	Nov. 14
Marsh, Florence Mae (90)	Nov. 15
Wells, Jr., T. Frank (84)	Nov. 15
Foshee, Glen Curp (77)	Nov. 16
Cosby, Cecilia Richburg (72)	Nov. 17
Ennis, Clara Tucker (79)	Nov. 17
Gutierrez, Willie Fred (83)	Nov. 17
Stabler, Lewis “Jeffrey” (56)	Nov. 17
Byrd, Charles “Sim” Crawford (75)	Nov. 18
Mitchell, Phillip “Phil” Carl (67)	Nov. 19
Walker, Jerald “Pete” (88)	Nov. 19
Johnson, Dr. Martha Lewis (85)	Nov. 20
Waits, Jr., Rev. William “Bill” Kenyon (93)	Nov. 20
Holmes, Rep. Alvin A. Holmes (81)	Nov. 21
Nutt, Betty Jean Fountain (87)	Nov. 21
Hudson, Mary Sue Hayes (91)	Nov. 22
Robertson, Ursula Marie (91)	Nov. 22
Turner, Cletis Wayland (81)	Nov. 23
Atwell, Spencer Adam (25)	Nov. 25
Horton, Alvis Eugene “Gene” (88)	Nov. 25
Kennessey, Sr., G. Norman (96)	Nov. 25
Hall, Lorraine Tinsely (97)	Nov. 26
Mitchell, Norman “Mitch”	Nov. 30

Celebrating 40 Years of Service!

Gassett Funeral Home and Crematory, LLC

FUNERALS ~ CREMATIONS ~ PRE-ARRANGEMENTS ~ MONUMENTS



Front – Felecia Gassett Shockley, Glenda Gassett Terrell, Michele Gassett Henderson, Donna Boutwell. Back – Eddie Taylor, Dan Shockley, Alex Shockley, Joe Hooks, Mike Colquitt.

*Family Owned
& Operated Since 1978.*

*204 East Charles Avenue
Wetumpka, Alabama
36092
334-567-8433*

*Where Superior Service
is Standard.*

www.gassettfuneralhome.net

In Memory Of

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| John Rogers | November 2 |
| David Boshell | November 3 |
| Esther Ruth Fulmer | November 3 |
| Rebecca Collier Mobley | November 4 |
| James Ocie McLendon | November 4 |
| Virginia Kelley | November 5 |
| James Brazell, Sr. | November 9 |
| Joan Coram | November 12 |
| William Peterson | November 13 |
| James Ragan, Sr. | November 15 |
| James Brown | November 16 |
| Vera Ward | November 17 |
| Dallas D. “Dan” Dixon Jr. | November 19 |
| Mary Sdao | November 23 |
| Philip Jankay | November 22 |
| Mary Sdao | November 23 |
| Marcia Lazenby | November 23 |
| Theodore “Ted” Powell | November 29 |

DINING OUT in the river region



Photo by: Stella Levi/freeimages.com

Sundown Family Restaurant
(334) 398-8685
Breakfast: 7:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Lunch: 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Dinner Thurs. & Friday
4:30 PM - 9:00 PM
**3416 Atlanta Hwy
Montgomery, AL**
Located in Forest Hills Shopping Center

**Lunch Specials
Meat & Three
Only \$10.99**

**Top it off
with Sundown's
Fried Pie or Cake**

**Call Us For
Catering!**

**Famous Hamburger
Steak & Side**

Follow us on

GEORGES'
RIVER MARKET & BUTCHERY

201 Spring Street
Wetumpka, AL 36093
334-478-7771

GeorgesRiverMarketAndButchery@gmail.com
f @georgesrivermarketandbutchery

**EastBrook
Cafe
& CATERING**

520 Coliseum Blvd, Montgomery, Al
334-272-2438

Open Monday - Friday
Breakfast: 7:00 am-10:30 am
Lunch: 10:30 am - 2:00 pm

Mention this ad and get a 10% discount! (dine-in only)

**PLANTATION HOUSE
RESTAURANT & CATERING**

**Christmas
Feast**

Book your Christmas party today or
let us do the cooking for you! We cater!

Call by December 16th to order the Feast or any of our à la carte items
in time for a great Christmas dinner! (last day to pick up is December 24th)

Closed Christmas Day – January 8th

3240 Grandview Road • Millbrook, AL • 334-285-1466
plantationhouseerc@yahoo.com

THE COMING OF CHRIST: THE FULFILLMENT OF COVENANT PROMISE



Photo: Bartek Ambrozik / freeimages.com

Our Creator God has always extended covenants to His children. To Adam, it was clearly stated that he might eat of *“every tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”* (Gen. 2:17-18) Adam's obligation was merely obedience.

To Noah, who found Grace in the eyes of the Lord, God spoke, *“With thee I will establish my covenant, thou shall come into the ark, thou and thy sons and thy sons' wives, with thee.”* Noah's reward came through obedience and trust.

After the Tower of Babel and the dispersion of the people, God still offered Grace through a covenant with Abraham. *“I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless them, and make thy name great, and thou shall be a blessing. And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee, and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”* (Gen. 12:2-3)

Over the centuries, theologians have placed an emphasis on the Covenants of God. For John Calvin and John Knox, the very substance of the Covenants of the Old and New Testaments were the same: Jesus Christ and the Gospel of Salvation, from the beginning of Creation to the fulfillment of the Second Coming.

Other theologians saw two distinct Covenants: one, a **Covenant of Works**, and the second, a **Covenant of Grace**. The Covenant of Works is sometimes called a legal or “natural” covenant, founded in nature, but also founded in the Law of God, which was written (engraven) in man's heart in the beginning. And in that, Adam was promised eternal life.

Our early American churches were heavily influenced by Reformation thought, and especially cherished was the writing of the Reformers, one being Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661). Rutherford wrote what he embraced as *“The Covenant for Life,”* owing all that we are and have to Him, who gave Himself for us.

Writing in his “Covenant for Life,” Rutherford declared “The Lord punished Christ for us to declare the glory of His justice, in punishing sin in His own Son, who was the sinner by imputation.”

The depth of Rutherford's writing is found in his book, *Christ Dying and Drawing Sinners To Himself*. He alerts us to the fact that the atoning sacrifice for sin, was much more profound than the satisfaction of Justice—it was what took place in the inner heart, the inner person of Jesus Christ.

So as Christmas approaches, and we contemplate celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, and his fulfillment of the Covenant of Grace, how do we experience that covenant in a very personal way? As we think of the baby Jesus in a manger, can we even fathom the Father's only begotten Son, before the world began, already the appointed Redeemer of the Father's Creation.

It is difficult to even imagine the love that would lead to the Son taking on human flesh of soul and body, and submitting himself to the Law, suffering the death of the Cross, redeeming all who believe from sin and death.

By Bobbi Ames, first printed in *The Alabama Gazette*, December 2015

Before the world began, Christ agreed to pay the price for our redemption and purchased for us all the benefits of **“free”** Grace and reconciliation.

The Covenant of Grace is foretold in the sacraments of Circumcision, of Baptism, and of the Lord's Supper. It is beautifully pictured in the sacrifice of the Paschal Lamb, which should enrich our everyday life and constant worship.

One of the respected theologians of today is Dr. Morton H. Smith, who taught in several seminaries, including Reformed Seminary in Mississippi and Greenville Presbyterian Seminary in South Carolina, where he was Dean of the Faculty. He served as Stated Clerk in the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America from its founding in 1973 to 1988.

His writing on Covenant Theology would likely bring a revival to many churches if taken to heart in today's church culture. We highly recommend it. Writing on the Covenants, he reminds us, that “the covenant idea stressed the legal, binding relation between God and His people. Since the covenant idea binds men unto God, this can only be effected on the basis of reconciliation between the Holy God and sinful men. This is the essence of the Covenant designated as the Covenant of Grace.”

When a person accepts Christ by faith as their personal Savior, there is a spiritual union. The judicial ground of that union is found in the Covenant of Grace. Christ sealed the Covenant with His own blood. This glorious truth, writes Dr. Smith, enables us *“to become partakers of the redemption purchased by Christ through the federal, spiritual, and mystical union with Him. Scripture sets forth this union as embracing every phase of the saving relation, both in the purpose of God and in its realization.”*

I Corinthians 15:19-49 and **Romans 5:12-21** established that, just as Adam was head of the human race, Christ is the constituted head of the new humanity, and acted in a representative capacity to His Elect. We die because of our relation to the first Adam, but we live by faith in Christ. Yes, He gives us eternal life.

Romans 16:25 addresses the “mystery” which was kept “secret” since the world began. Paul speaks of the **“mystery”** in Romans chapter 5, and again in Colossians chapter 1, which is *“Christ in you, the hope of Glory.”* The very thought of the God of the Universe loving us individually enough to indwell us, is beyond human understanding. And our being united with other believers is promised and fulfilled. Read **John 17** over and over, and rejoice in the Glory.

This glorious Union with Christ gives us daily, even moment by moment, communion with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We can experience the continual love of the Bridegroom, because through His Covenant, we are reconciled to Him.

God's Covenant of Grace is the central unifying theme of the entire Bible. Once we are united in Christ, there is no power that can remove us from His Grace. (John 6:39 & John 10:28-30)

As we gather together and sing our Christmas carols, and reach out to others at this glorious time of the year, may the Covenant remain our focus. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16)

For more information about Dr. Morton H. Smith's writing and Covenant Theology, a good source is the Bookstore of Greenville Presbyterian Seminary, P.O. Box 690, Taylors, SC. 29687.