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Vaccines, Reason, and Freedom

Daniel Sutter

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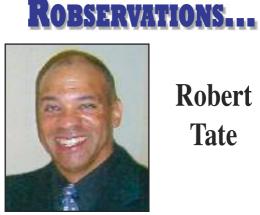




Inside the **Statehouse** with Steve Flowers

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Robert Tate

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THE "C" WORD

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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express views of The Alabama Gazette.

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Prisons Issue - Front/Center

Folks, taking care of prisoners is not a popular political issue. However, every so often Alabama politicians pragmatically have to acquiesce to the mandates of federal judges and grant our transgressing citizens their rights as determined by the courts.

Federal Courts have determined that our felons deserve the rights to adequate imprisonment. You just cannot log them in, lock them up, and give them a basic bunk and rations three times a day. Courts want them to have sufficient space and access to mental health care.

Some state prison systems have come under a Federal Court order and have been given instructions on how to run their prisons and how to treat prisoners without regard to how much it costs. We in Alabama know that all too well. We went down that road a few years ago with Judge Frank Johnson.

We are headed in the same direction again. Alabama, like many states, has prison overcrowding and violence problems. Just as the Legislature began preparing their budgets for the coming year, the Department of Justice (DOJ) in conjunction with all our U.S. Attorneys in concurrence, has sent Alabama a clear message that the state's overcrowded and understaffed correctional system is in incredibly poor physical shape.

In a precise outline the Justice Department clearly defines the remedies that the state must take to avoid federal intervention. This detailed report focuses on the most acute problems, which are sexual abuse, drug trade and extortion and the lack of adequate mental health for prisoners which is causing a high suicide rate. The federal investigators clearly said that the prisons are so dangerous that there is reasonable cause to believe that the state is in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Their outline clarified to the state that the overcrowding problem will and should be addressed by additional prisons. However, the report further said that new facilities will not resolve the contributing factors to the overall unconstitutional conditions.

Judge Myron Thompson has been overseeing the mental health issues in the prisons for several years. The Alabama Legislature has shown Judge Thompson a good faith effort toward remedying our prison shortcomings and Judge Thompson has responded with leniency.

In 2015, the Alabama Legislature passed Criminal Justice reform legislation

that greatly reduced the number of inmates in Alabama. Through legislative efforts the state prison population has decreased from nearly 200 percent of capacity to about 160 percent.

First on most wish lists for prisons is increasing our staffing levels and improving the pay scale for correctional officers. Alabama prison guards are the lowest paid in the nation. Rep. Steve Clouse (R-Ozark), who chairs the General Fund Budget Committee dropped an extra \$80 million into the budget last year for increased prison personnel spending. Even then, as Clouse told a Dothan Chamber Commerce group in February, "People are not beating down doors to be prison guards."

The Alabama Department of Corrections is asking for a sizeable increase this year to hire additional correctional officers, which will probably be granted.

Gov. Ivey quickly responded to the report by saying she is committed to working with the DOJ to address the problems. The Governor said she is proceeding with her plan to build new prisons, which is expected to cost a billion dollars. This is validation that her initial plan to build new prisons is the right path. The problem in the Legislature is, "How do you pay for them and where do you put them?"

Under any new plan to build or lease new prisons, it must be coupled with prison sentencing reform which is being implemented in a good many states. This reform must include a revised sentencing structure and some inclusion of alternative sentencing options to the state penitentiary system for offenders who pose no threat of violence to society.

A good example is that currently under Alabama Law, the second time a person is caught in possession of marijuana they are charged with a felony, and then under the "three strikes" law you could send someone to prison for life after three felony violations for smoking marijuana. Marijuana use should probably not result in a felony conviction unless it is for trafficking.

State Sen. Cam Ward (R-Alabaster) has done a yeoman's job leading Alabama's Criminal Justice Reform efforts. He will be at the forefront of the prisons working with Governor Ivey.

May 1, 2019

Reverse Recidivism Rate



John W. Giles

By John W. Giles

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

thought of prison. There is something to be said about a deterrent environment.

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

Simply put, our current system of so called reform is not working; we need to go back to some serious deterrents invoking fear of going to the penitentiary. The U.S. is feared worldwide, because we maintain world peace through military strength. No one really wants war, but our strength and the enormous military ability serves as deterrent. Likewise, we need to turn back the clock and return to the old days of true prison reform. As a starter, use the term penitentiaries and convicts, not correction and inmates. Abolish parole boards and go back to truth in sentencing, if you get twenty years, you serve twenty years. We need to return to hard labor and work these convicts with genuine manual labor. No TV except rewarded and then limited to shows like the Andy Griffith Show. No porn, no cell phones, no drugs and limited cigarette breaks. In the 50's, convicts lost their rights and were property of the state, we need to return to this notion. If you are caught in a gang, having any sex or caught with contraband, years are added to your time. If you are convicted of a felon your voting rights are permanently revoked. Pedophiles are now mapped and all released convicts need to be mapped. If you commit any level of a murder, rape, incest or pedophilia proven by DNA, you are immediately executed within days, not years. The convict can choose between hanging, firing squad or Yellow Mama. Our recidivism rate will go from 77% back down to 50% or below like it was in the 1960's. Keep in mind this static, during the days of Yellow Mam, one execution served as deterrent and saved 17 lives. To my friends in the Alabama Legislature and Congress, let's erase the sixty years of jurist activism that have incrementally turned our prisons into summer camps. Let's roll back the laws to some serious stiff incarnation environments as suggested in this article. Our federal courts are now being filled with strict constructionist and we might return some sanity into our penal systems. We now have an opportunity to right so many wrongs invoked from the liberal sixty year reign in the courts.

going on and what has changed? Let's dig in.

Folks, first we have to admit what we are doing is not working. Rising prison populations and increasing crime are crowding the agendas and pressing budgets for legislators. The public conversation now is about sentencing reforms, which means lessoning sentences and punishment, building mega prisons, restoring felons voting rights and now Senator Bernie Sanders wants all inmates to vote in prison. This my friend is insane. Prison is now called Corrections, which has become three hots and a cot, plenty of porn, television, flip flops, breeding grounds for gangs, drugs, cell phones, and next, there will be mandated cookies and milk along with a bedtime story. To my congressional and state legislative friends, we are moving the reform needle in the wrong direction – we are going softer and we should be going harder.

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

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

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

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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THE "C" WORD

Easter morning, I woke up to celebrate the most amazing miracle in the history of the universe. The resurrection of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We talked about this at length last Friday night out at Red Eagle where three guys from my church go out twice per month for prison ministry. After listening to Brother Cedrick speak, I was pumped up for Easter. Sunday morning, I got up, had a little breakfast making sure I left ample space for lunch a little after church, get semi-dolled up, turned on the tube to catch some news and boom, another suicide bombing. Or in this case bombings, each taking place in Sri Lanka. In all, the death toll now stands at 290 with almost 500 injured. As one can imagine, a bombing of this magnitude taking place on Easter Sunday was done to send a message of hate and evil on a day where love reigns supreme. No surprise but a radical Muslim group is claiming responsibility. In all, 24 people have been arrested and although warnings went out ten days prior to the bombings, authorities decided to do nothing about it. But that is another story. I am not going to sit here and bash the evil people who did this. There is no point. They do what they do because they are what they are; questions?

I want to shift the focus to those cretins who lurk here within our borders. No, I am not talking about hate groups per se, but perhaps in a way I am. Let's talk about some people within the People's Democratic Nationalist Front here in the states. It is amazing to me how these socialist wackos are so quick to rally around a pathetic narrative instead of offering any heartfelt thoughts and/or condolences to the Christian victims in these bombings. Here are just five examples of worthless words mired deep in non-thinking groupthink. Each of these tweets come from *https://thefederalistpapers.org/opinion/200-christians-murdered-terrorists-dems-refuse-call-christians*.

"The attacks on tourists and Easter worshippers in Sri Lanka are an attack on humanity. On a day devoted to love, redemption, and renewal, we pray for the victims and stand with the people of Sri Lanka." Barack Obama

"On this holy weekend for many faiths, we must stand united against hatred and violence. I'm praying for everyone affected by today's horrific attacks on Easter worshippers and travelers in Sri Lanka." Hillary Clinton

"On a day of redemption and hope, the evil of these attacks on Easter worshippers and tourists in Sri Lanka is deeply saddening. My prayers today are with the dead and injured, and their families. May we find grace." Julian Castro, Former HUD Sec.

"Such a horrific terror attack on Easter worshippers and tourists in Sri Lanka. My thoughts are with the victims of today's attack. We must stand united against hate and violence." Michigan Rep. Dan Kildee

"The horrific attacks on Easter worshippers in Sri Lanka are heartbreaking. It fills me with sadness that an act of such hatred and violence took the lives of so many on the holiest of days. We have work to do so that every person, wherever they live, may worship in peace." Arizona Rep. Greg Stanton

At one level, a very small one, these thoughts seem to be sincere. In reality, however, I see something much different; something two-faced, fallacious and hypocritical. First of all, until yesterday, I had never heard the term, "*Easter Worshippers*." If I were a gambling man, and I am not, I would go "all in" on



the assumption that until this past weekend, few if any of you guys have heard that term either. What exactly is it supposed to mean? Easter Worshipper? I don't know about you, but I do not "worship" Easter but someone infinitely more significant. To say we are Easter Worshippers is to liken us to a bunch of Druids magnifying Stonehenge. It is utterly ridiculous and disingenuous.

And the fact that each of these people, and others on the Left, have used almost the exact same words lets us know they have rallied around one another to push through a certain narrative; lock-step like the little fascists they are. That narrative of course cannot be that Muslims have once again killed hundreds of Christians although these same people certainly had no problem stating that exact reality in the Mosque killings in New Zealand last month. Not only did the press not have an issue with claiming the Muslims as victims (they were and should have been identified as such) but the words "terrorist attacks" featured front and center on news programs for well over a week. Here you have so-called prominent Americans and they seemingly cannot bring themselves to utter either words calling out the terrorists or just simply saying the words, "Christian or terrorist." They just cannot do it. And then we have Hillary's interesting comment including the phrase, "On this holy weekend for many faiths . . ." Sheeesh!! I am left shaking my head over her questionable choice of words, "many faiths." What faiths is she actually talking about other than the Christians who celebrate Resurrection Sunday? Do other faiths really celebrate or even reverently acknowledge this day? Please, somebody teach me something here. We are not talking denominations but faiths. Her words not mine.

Regardless, I find it sad that these people, some supposedly professing to be **Christian**, cannot even say the "**C**" word and yet have to conjure up a ridiculous term to rally behind an insincere and misleading narrative. If I were to chronicle this situation, it would read, "Easter morning services were interrupted today when Muslim terrorists exploded bombs in several churches killing 290 Christians celebrating the resurrection of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." Simple. Wasn't that easy? I personally would not care if anybody was offended either. It is what it is. Put on your "man pants" and stand for the truth. Any other narrative pushed by the media is worthless and should be ignored. I will look at their words for what they are worth. Absolutely nothing.

Vaccines, Reason, and Freedom



By Daniel Sutter

The current measles outbreak has brought new criticism of parents who refuse to vaccinate their children over vaccine safety concerns. Measles was declared to be eradicated in the U.S. in 2000, and yet this year 550 cases have occurred through the second week of April. Anti-vaccination attitudes, I think, reflect a decline in trust in government.

The research "anti-vaxxers" cite linking vaccines to autism, multiple sclerosis, and other ailments, has been called "junk science." The Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration have pronounced vaccines safe. Physicians promoting the "danger" have faced professional censure. Despite this, I do not see the safety of vaccines as allowing us to dismiss the anti-vaccination position.

In a free nation, the government serves the people, not the other way around. Freedom means making decisions for ourselves based on our values, beliefs, and assessment of risks. We do not have to justify our decisions to others, even experts. If so, then why should those of us who believe that vaccines are safe force our assessment on others?

Parental rights differ from personal rights, as parents make decisions for their children. We recognize that parents who neglect or abuse their children should lose (at least temporarily) their parental rights. Parents should be afforded freedom to raise and protect their children as they see fit unless they abuse these rights.

Hard cases arise when parents choose faith healing and prayer over effective medical treatments. The dilemma stems from a conflict between personal and parental rights: the child hypothetically could wish to receive medical treatment. Respecting the child's rights might require restricting parental choice.

Can we justify mandatory vaccination similarly? Several required vaccinations are for generally non-life-threatening illnesses like chickenpox, mumps, and even measles. People feared and dreaded polio before Dr. Salk's vaccine; chickenpox was a two week vacation from school. Preventing a brief absence from school is not grounds for trumping parental rights.

Immunization, of course, protects others besides the vaccinated. Economists call this a spillover or external benefit, which people may well ignore in vaccination decisions. An important spillover here is protecting persons with compromised immune systems who cannot be safely vaccinated.

Many economists believe that external benefits justify government mandates. I disagree, because the person immunized still benefits the most. If the person getting immunized (or the parent) believes that the cost exceeds the benefit, a small spillover benefit is unlikely to alter the balance.

Nobel prize-winning economist James Buchanan offered a better way to think about such cases. Politics, Buchanan contended, is an exchange of constraints on ourselves: I agree to vaccinate my son in exchange for other parents vaccinating their children. A similar argument applies to taxes – I agree to pay taxes because you will be made to pay.



We will never all agree on any decision of significance. Government though involves the exchange of numerous constraints, and we may benefit from the package as a whole. For instance, all states require vaccination against eight viruses for school children. We might disagree with one or two of the requirements and still abide by the mandate.

Whether government constraints benefit us depends on whether we trust that politicians act in our best interest. Differences in state vaccination requirements highlight this tension. All states require vaccination against eight illnesses, typically through four shots. Beyond this, forty-three and thirteen states require immunization for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis A respectively. Connecticut requires nine shots; Alabama requires only four. If immunizations reflect a clear public health consensus, why do state requirements differ?

Politics and not just public health influences requirements. Debate over the relatively new HPV vaccine, which can prevent cervical cancer, reveals this. Two states and the District of Columbia require the vaccine, which costs over \$200, and makers Merck and GlaxoSmithKline have lobbied lawmakers in other states for mandates. Political considerations and campaign contributions shape vaccine mandates.

Can we really trust that our politicians impose mandates on us based exclusively on our interests and sentiments? Unfortunately not. One consequence of this lack of trust is anti-vaccination skepticism.

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.

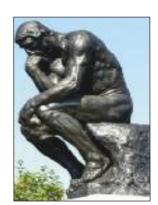
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Sen. Ward Kudos and APAEP in our Prison Crisis Debate



Kudos to Sen. Cam Ward [*R*-Alabaster] head of the Senate Judiciary Committee blocking the ethics bill proposed by Marsh and Albritton. Reported dead in Ward's committee by Bill Britt [*APR* 4/18/19] who wrote, "However, since then, the pair have continued to lobby Republican caucus members to climb on board with the measure. Albritton is even suggesting that he and Marsh go around the Judiciary Committee to get the bill to the Senate floor" to circumvent the usual process. Amazing to watch politicians' acumen and cunning to manipulate toward their own ends.

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Most senators privately told *APR* they don't want to vote on the bill, in fear of opposing these two powerful politburo members, likely to engage in retribution against those wanting to maintain our unusual gains of the 2010 (when *straight-ticketeers* cancelled each other out) ethics legislation. These hard won impediments to politicians using their office for personal benefit are more easily gutted in our current, less competitive, political environment. Those who understand the corrupt pawl of ACCA, BCA, et alia still clutching Goat Hill are not surprised at the Marsh and Albritton 'full court press' to repeal 2010 ethics laws.

APR will post legislation [promoted by prosecutors Davis & Hart] to address/revise provisions which seemed easy loopholes/too binding soon after the Hubbard convictions. It was signed off by Marsh and McCutcheon 2017 and agreed upon by the 'big mules' - *i.e.*, it is worthy of reading and considering. *APR* further noted, "During the investigation into then-Speaker of the House Mike Hubbard, Marsh found himself in front of a grand jury and later as a witness at Hubbard's trial. As a wealthy businessperson, it may be as simple as Marsh wants to destroy the ethics laws so he will never be forced to appear before a grand jury or be a witness in a public corruption trial."

In the past Sen. Ward offered the most pressing question on where the 'big mules' would go as powerful BCA members were exiting. Decades ago Alabama Power/Southern Company were members of the Auburn Policy Research Center which was on its way to be advocate for the general welfare of our State until corrupt administrators captured by the Lowder/Felon Hubbard 'public servant' gang killed the Center and the successful econ program increasingly attacked by less productive faculty and champions of big govt. The deleterious spirit of not wanting to compete has grown strong roots on the Plains of Dixie. The two most notable in the fight to block "*Billion Dollar Bob's*" Amendment One tax explosion and the 'new and improved' **BIG** Business Council of Alabama were John Rice in the traditional arena and Mark Bodenhausen on the emerging internet scene. Mark is no longer with us and dearly missed by those who remember how well he championed liberty against the big govt. extremists. Is it time for Sen. Ward to get with the 'old guard' small government conservatives and start a new organization in Alabama?

I think most who 'follow the goats' would agree Sen. Ward's most notable 'yeoman's work' in the legislature is prison reform, largely unnoticed/unappreciated by the uninformed citizen. I was pleasantly surprised to see AG Marshall on the right side of Sen. Ward's Pardons & Paroles reform legislation. It seems our AG's office is also moving forward well on Felon Hubbard. Mr. Boulevard is long overdue to serve his sentences and pay his fines which appear to be less than his mounting legal expenses while drawing this out these past several years instead of saving taxpayer money and effort pleading guilty as more decent public servants have done. One can find some actions to disagree with (*e.g.*, one of the smaller BCA 'moneychanger' events where Cam Ward donated \$1,000 to Beth Rogers; a week later NET PAC donates \$2,000 to Cam Ward) and I found Sen. Ward leaning a little too much on alcohol years ago was driven by the stressful job in general; but the despair of trying to address the prison issue more specifically.

As most readers know, our prison system is crisis once again. I ask all to keep Sen. Ward in prayer once again doing his best to address this difficult problem under our current constraints. I'll not spend text on the biggest sources of our capacity problems which are largely generated by an 'unfunded mandate' of sorts. Most of our non-violent offenders are for drug offenses (the federal govt. is not authorized in the Constitution to address) with mandatory federal sentencing guidelines the federal govt. is not incurring the 'full freight' to accomplish. Unlike Byrne, Jones, Roby, Rogers, Sewell, Shelby type 'public masters' up in our hegemonic DC (who show little regard for our civil rights, rising debt, etc.) we do have a few public servants like Mo Brooks who understand this, but I suspect do not have the courage to address in fear of appearing to be 'soft on crime/drugs.' While Sen. Ward has been the most informed and reasonable in the Alabama Senate, Rep. England has been the rising star on this issue in the House. Hope my 'rookie' Representative (Jeremy Gray) will consider following this fellow House member instead of those he appears to be seeking as mentors. The incentives/ wealth transfers for BCA, et al architects, contractors, input owners, etc. to build the 'super prisons' are obvious. Those in play want to make the prison situation as bad as it takes to facilitate redistributions to politically connected recipients of tax dollars. The anguish and danger they bring to correction officers and prisoners doesn't matter to them. The biting observation of Rep. England is simple, under the current proposal, the 'super prison' solution will **not** impact the capacity result triggering the crisis with the DoJ. How will this corporate welfare program help the prison problem? I propose the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project [APAEP] as an integral part of a sincere solution to show a good faith effort to get out of this mess. Smaller prison facilities will be left idle, negatively impacting many of the local surrounding areas - esp. in more remote parts of our State. This is what economists call 'creative destruction.' Super facilities can be designed to address our worst criminals that belong behind bars who show no sign of being worthy of return to society. Those who DO show promise to return as productive responsible citizens are negatively impacted by exposure to the worst in our prison populations. Those victimized by 'one size fits all'/feel good sentencing mandates, didn't have access, connections and wealth to avoid imprisonment who screen with an aptitude to complete a degree can be disaggregated to these smaller existing facilities requiring less staff and oversight. **APAEP** was not formed on a particular day in the past. It was and continues to be an evolving program fueled by a dedicated group of scholars, artists, and writers who've witnessed knowledge and creative development can change someone's life. I'm not in any way a spokesperson, but in full disclosure I am an APAEP instructor. As I bring my 30 years to a close at AU, I would consider being part of a pilot program where I'm a corrections officer and instructor with outstanding student prisoners as the APAEP assigned me to teach economics last Summer. This could help with officer/prisoner ratios. Sen. Ward clearly understands the return to programs of this sort in the long-run in reduced recidivism and DoC expenditures. From all I've observed DoC Commissioner Jefferson Dunn understands APAEP could be an integral part of responding to our prison crisis. I pray the Commissioner and legislators will reach out to Kyes Stevens to shepherd our State to a more effective response. Kyes Stevens is founder and director of APAEP at Auburn University, a program serving 10 Alabama prisons through pre-college and college classes.

Through this program, the first B.S. degree for the Alabama prison system was launched in 2016. Stevens has received awards for her role as an influential woman in Alabama and has been invited to participate in numerous White House discussions about the role of higher education in criminal justice reform. I know it is unusual to say Alabama was ahead of the curve on this one and was giving consultation and input to other States smart enough to see this result. The harsh reality is many of the well-connected in our State do not want some of these individuals imprisoned in the economy competing with them and those they want to shield from competitors. So those who would be in school and getting education are not being served by the ETF and putting more pressure on the general fund to be a holding place for some prisoners who really do not belong behind bars and could be talented productive participants in our State' economy.

There's no doubt public servants espousing feel good campaign promises to be "tough on crime" now find themselves struggling to pay for a criminal justice system which (to achieve the purpose of stifling competition) emphasizes a strategy of mass incarceration. Alabama's criminal justice system has skewed toward this model for decades. Overreliance on mass incarceration proffered this expensive system, oft counterproductive, serving as a 'training ground' for hardening criminals instead of a public safety asset (to separate dangerous individuals from society) to establish a well-defined course toward redirecting and rehabilitating those worthy of a second chance. The prisoners who CAN be successful, if allowed, are less likely to return to incarceration and increase the burden on taxpayers.

The pro-mass incarceration bent to block those who could be productive competitors takes a disproportionate toll on communities of colour, the undereducated, lower incomes unable to defend themselves and those suffering from mental illness/addiction. Government distortions to promote our modern 'opium wars' is fodder for another column, but nonetheless devastating. "Tough-oncrime" public interest rhetoric has indeed been politically effective, such campaign promises and resulting policies have very real consequences on individuals, families, communities, and taxpayers long after a sentence is served. Alabama reportedly has the third highest (Carson & Anderson, 2016) imprisonment rate per capita in the nation. Our prisons have been as high as 195% capacity in 2014 according to 2015 Council of State Governments Justice Center data.

I've long campaigned against Alabama's bent for mass incarceration resulting from habitual minor offender laws, mandatory minimum sentencing, and targeted drug laws. Reserving the extreme and costly punishment of incarcerating individuals who endanger society is just and economically sound. Our State prisons and county jails are filled with **non**-violent offenders, most of whom would more likely benefit from alternate corrections. Mass incarceration is not always the most apropos response, but nonetheless an extremely expensive solution that's driving the overcrowding and staffing challenges exacerbating recently documented inhumane conditions prompting DoJ intervention. Alabama prisons seem constantly in federal courts for Constitutional violations indicating a Petri dish for corruption and abuse.

A history of unnecessarily harsh treatment has plagued Alabama's prison system. In 1875 the State generated revenue from leasing out prisoners to work dangerous jobs. Blackmon's 2008 work found 45% of inmates in this convictlease system died in a single year. Alabama became the last State to abolish this practice in 1928. In 1972, following a class action lawsuit brought by inmates, a federal judge found 8th and 14th Amendment violations in Alabama's prisons due to inadequate medical care and treatment of inmates. Twenty years later the State was sued in another class action lawsuit on behalf of inmates with mental illness - finally settled eight years later, when Alabama finally agreed to major reforms. We were the first State to revive chain gangs in 1995. A lawsuit following the death of a prisoner in 1996 led to an agreement in federal court to stop the practice. The list goes on to the Supreme Court ruling Alabama's use

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of hitching posts unconstitutional to DoJ declaring conditions at Alabama's Tutwiler Prison for Women to be unconstitutional a few years ago, citing allegations of prison guards sexually harassing and abusing female inmates for decades.

According to Alabama's DoC (2016) only 39% of inmates have a high school degree or equivalent - support of substantive GED education is important and good vantage point to identify top students as candidates for *APAEP*. Even after sentences are met, former inmates often face huge barriers as they try to rebuild their lives. The majority of those in prison will be released and reenter local communities. Program Director Stevens sees the current system insufficient to provide proper transition and support for successful reintegration; 60-75% of recently incarcerated individuals were unemployed a year after their release according to a National Institute of Justice 2013 report. When a criminal record effectively denies access to employment and community reintegration, former inmates are more likely to return to crime for survival, getting trapped in a revolving prison door.

As explained above, the economic result is a depleted labor pool of some bright, productive individuals that many do not want to compete with, further aiding and abetting continued crime cycles. State and local taxpayer burdens increase due to high rates of recidivism along with community support services required to remedy the collateral damages of mass incarceration. Overreliance on prison is clearly straining our entire criminal justice system. The 'baked-in' crisis is much more difficult to address today since Alabama did not follow pathbreakers like Stevens. Other States which had the good sense to put more into APAEP type programs enjoyed the long-run benefit instead of locking into more mass incarceration. I understand this is one of many improvements to consider with more GED classes along with community and specialty courts for minor crimes/first offenders, restorative justice, parole reforms Sen. Ward is proposing, better targeted/ streamlined probation process, supervised re-entry, and workrelease programs to name a few. APAEP may have outgrown AU, requires more support or can be incorporated into the DoC's statewide GED program. I understand it will apply to a small group of prisoners with the aptitude and eligibility to be in an undergrad program of this sort, but this is where the highest benefit (esp. to long-run taxpayers) appears to be.

Postscript: many thanks for all the e-mails on the 'Entrekin/Franklin Bill' on the sheriff's food program for inmates in their county jails, recalling my May 2018 *Alabama Gazette* column: *https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2018/*05/01/news/alabama-sheriffs-lawsuit-outrage-v-issue/1364.html. Insiders say it is currently hung-up on a 2% inflation adjustment for the daily \$ amount food allowance which is not unreasonable (squarely between 0 and 4%) but could be easily remediable. Tie to CPI-U (which the feds use for I-bond adjustments, so you know it is 'fibbed' downward) not to exceed 2%. It would not get 'trumped up' in low inflation years and still capped at 2%. It is more unreasonable to again have no adjustment provision. In spite of Billion Dollar Bob's yearly tax assessment, let's have some discussion where the legislature shall address adjustments of this sort after every quadrennial election.

An April Recap from the Road



While Congress was out of session for the April district work period, I had the opportunity to spend time on the road, traveling throughout Alabama's Second District, meeting with constituents, businesses, industries, and local leaders. As I always say, I appreciate every chance I get to hear directly from the people I represent, and I believe our interactions enable me to be a stronger advocate for our shared beliefs in Congress.

During the April district work period, I spent time in Prattville, Greenville, Evergreen, Castleberry, Tallassee, Montgomery, and Dothan. Along the way, I had very productive conversations and am grateful to every person who took the time to share with me their thoughts, opinions, and concerns.

In Prattville, I spoke to members of the Prattville Area Chamber of Commerce about my committee assignments for the 116th Congress and my priorities on behalf of the Second District. During the visit, I was glad to catch up with friends from the Business Council of Alabama, and I was honored to receive the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Spirit of Enterprise award recognizing my continued efforts to enact pro-business laws. In Congress, I will always push for an economic environment that enables companies of all sizes to flourish and succeed.

In Greenville, I met with Mayor Dexter McClendon and other community leaders. We had a productive discussion about issues facing the Butler County area and ways my office can be helpful.

In Evergreen, I spoke to a joint meeting of the Evergreen Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs and offered a legislative update from Washington.

In Castleberry, I stopped by the Weyerhaeuser lumber plant to visit with leadership and tour the impressive plant. Afterwards, I paid a visit to Castleberry City Hall where I spoke with Mayor Henry Kirksey and others.

In Tallassee, I had the fantastic opportunity to speak to the Tallassee High School government class. I always enjoy any invitation to spend time with Alabama students and share with them the importance of service and leadership. This was a particularly impressive group of young people – they asked several thoughtful questions.



In Montgomery, I participated in a roundtable discussion with members of the Alabama Roadbuilders Association. I was grateful to hear their thoughts about ways we can reinvigorate our state and nation's badly aging infrastructure. After this meeting, I visited MGMWERX for a tour. I was glad to learn more about their partnership with Air University and their ongoing projects to help our military remain on the cutting edge.

While in the Wiregrass, I joined Governor Kay Ivey, Dothan Mayor Mark Saliba, and other leaders to celebrate the Dothan Chamber of Commerce's 100th anniversary. It was truly a privilege to honor this tremendous occasion alongside so many individuals who have worked tirelessly to make Houston County and great place to live and work. One hundred years ago, the Chamber started as a small office that helped establish the prices of produce and cotton. Today, the organization is comprised of more than 950 businesses, professionals, and individuals who are all focused on serving as a catalyst for business and community growth in Dothan. I am looking forward to many more years of continued success.

After the Chamber's event, I stopped by Ready Mix USA in Dothan to tour the facility and catch up with leadership. This great company has plants in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida. The Dothan Ready Mix facility employs 24 people, and I was glad to see their operation firsthand.

This April district work period was informative and productive thanks to the many individuals and businesses who hosted me and shared their thoughts about a wide range of issues facing our nation. I am looking forward to having many more of these interactions in the days and weeks to come. It is an honor to serve Alabama's Second District in Congress, and I encourage you to reach out to my office if I can ever be of assistance.

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Martha Roby represents Alabama's Second Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama, with her husband Riley and their two children.



Perry O. Hooper Jr Republican State Executive Committee Former State Representative

Kay Ivey True Leadership When Alabama Needs it the Most

"The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets people to do the greatest things." - Ronald Reagan

Two years ago, when Kay Ivey took the Oath of Office as Alabama's 54th Governor, Alabama was under a dark cloud. Governor Robert Bentley, just a few hours prior had resigned from the Governor's Office in disgrace. A mere 8 months earlier Speaker of the House, Mike Hubbard was convicted of 12 counts of ethics violations and was forced from office. Undaunted Governor Kay Ivey rolled up her sleeves and went to work in her words to steady the ship of state and restore the public's confidence in Alabama's leadership. In 18 months, she had not only "steadied the ship" she had replaced the rudder and engine. Proof of her success were her resounding victories in a highly contested Republican Primary and the General Election against Democratic candidate Walt Maddox.

She promised in her Inaugural address to take on the big issues that previous administrations had kicked down the road. She promised Alabama solutions for Alabama problems. Her priority was Alabama's crumbling infrastructure. She gathered the data, analyzed the various alternatives and developed the "Rebuild Alabama Act". She worked tirelessly in selling her solution to the legislature and the general public. She brought all sides together and reached a consensus. In less than three months from her inauguration as an elected Governor, she signed in law her Rebuild Alabama Act; the first significant infrastructure legislation signed into law since 1992.

organized, .and focused on making Alabama all that it can Governor be. Ivey İS proving she is a rare commodity among politicians. She is willing to stake her reputation, political capital and legacy on doing what's right, not what is best for her political future.

She has been simultaneously tackling the decades old problems of our prison system which the Department of Justice has declared is in violation of the 8th amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. This cannot be ignored. The Department of Justice has the power to place our entire Department of



Corrections into federal receivership. The receiver would have the power to force the state to spend money as they see fit, in essence taking control of the General Fund Budget. No Governor in my memory has faced a bigger task that lacks public support. I have no doubt she is up to the job.

Education has always been a priority for Kay Ivey long before she became Governor. The Trump Ivey economy has created record revenues for Alabama's Education Budget as well as the General Fund Budget. She is working to assure our education and workforce development efforts properly prepare Alabamians for a 21st century economy. She also promised not to neglect other issues facing Alabama and I quote, "I hope the progress that we make will inspire us to tackle other pressing challenges, such as health care, rural economic development, access to broadband and other important issues."

Governor Kay Ivey is winning for the people of Alabama like Trump is winning for America and we will not get tired of it. I implore all Alabamians to get behind our Governor, put aside all partisan differences, and show the nation

5A

Ivey's victory is more significant than passing one act. Governor Ivey has now shown that she and her staff and Cabinet are highly competent,

how truly great Alabama can become with Governor Ivey at the helm.



What is the meaning of Article Five of the United States Constitution regarding state legislatures taking over when the Federal legislative branch fails to act?



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

Ronald A. **Holtsford**



Article V of the Constitution says...

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Note that the State Legislatures cannot in and of themselves per se take over the function of the United States Legislature but can pass Amendments to the Constitution. Surely, I would think that the duly elected House and Senate members would hopefully not be so out of touch with it's state that it does not have a feel for the will of the people.

The Convention of States organization was begun in 2013. Legislation has passed in Alabama as well as many other states. Some states have pending legislation this year and several other states have had legislation pass in one house of their state legislature. In a nutshell, at least 34 (2/3) of the 50 states would pass legislation, referred to as an application and send delegates to the convention. Regardless of the number of delegates, each state only gets one vote. The legislation considered must be for the exact same issue. The Convention of States would only consider amendment legislation that would, "limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, impose fiscal restraints, and place term limits on federal officials.". If the 34 states call a convention,

then Congress must comply, though Congress can name the time and place. If the 34 state minimum pass legislation then it must, as now, be ratifies by at least 38 (3/4) states. The commissioners selected by each state must vote the same way as directed by their state legislature.

In opposition to this movement is Common Cause. Common Cause conveys several concerns should a convention of the states occur. Among them, are:

- THREAT OF A RUNAWAY CONVENTION.
- INFLUENCE OF SPECIAL INTERESTS
- LACK OF CONVENTION RULES
- **THREAT OF LEGAL DISPUTES**
- **APPLICATION PROCESS UNCERTAINTY.**
- **POSSIBILITY OF UNEQUAL REPRESENTATION:** •

It seems that a convention of states, though never tested has more in line that what Common Cause conveys. For the states and the people having the ability to pass legislation can help to take back and direct a Congress that achieves little.

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

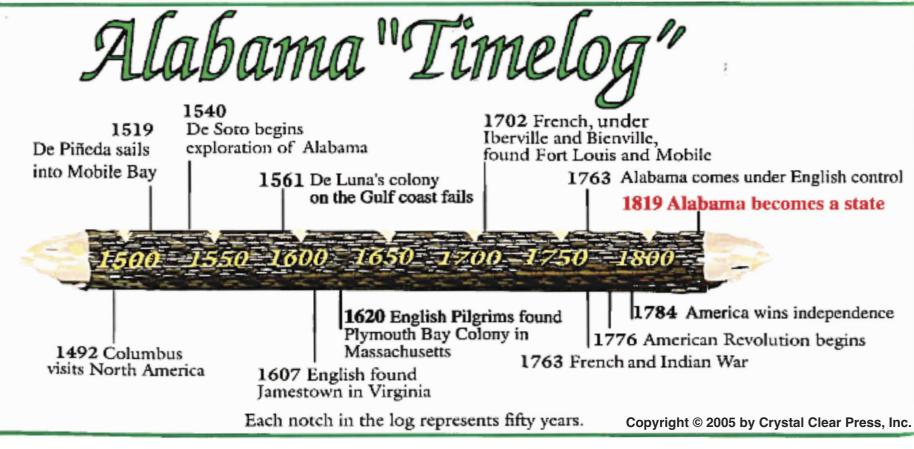
"No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

Bobbie Ames writes from The Hoffman Education Center for the Family, where the ministry promotes Christian Education that is foundational to the Historic Biblical Principle Approach. Consulting services are available through the Hoffman Research Library. She can be reached at P. O. Box 241405, Montgomery, AL 36124, or at *bobbiehames@gmail.com*.



The French Discover Alabama

In 1699, the French sailed into Pensacola Bay. Upon finding the Spanish well established there, they moved on westward to discover the mouth of the river, "La Mobilla."

In charge was a French naval officer, La Moyne Iberville. With him, was his younger brother, Bienville. They explored the area of Mobile Bay, and the island



La Moyne Iberville

he asked the French government to assist in

he area of Mobile Bay, and the island close to the Bay. Shocked at finding more than 50 bodies of men and women who had been slain, he named the area "massacre." Later, the French renamed that area, Dauphin Island. This name was a name within the royalty of the French Throne.

The French moved about to be closer to trade with the Indians, which was their desire. Their purpose in trading with the Indians was to receive pelts and deerskins in exchange for things the Indians desired: such as tools, knives, cotton cloths, and beads.

Bienville wanted to establish a settlement of contented families, but at that time, there were no "families" there. It is interesting to know that finding available women who would In 1711, the French had built a fort, south where the river flows into the bay. Later, they built another fort in the area that we know as Mobile today, and the river was named Mobile Bay. The French were ambitious and remarkably successful in their relationships and trade with the Indians.

In 1717, they constructed Fort Toulouse where the Coosa and Tallapoosa flow together. France and England had been rivals in Europe, and now they were rivals in America.

Knowing that the British were very strong in South Carolina, the French hoped that they would not come to Alabama.

We will not have the space to go into great detail, but let it be known that from 1688 to 1782, numerous wars occurred that involved England, France, and Spain. A prime battle was over the trade with the Indians. By 1763, the English had defeated the French and Spanish, and now......the English flag flew over Mobile, Alabama.

The rivers of Alabama have been such a blessing, even today. The French used them as a highway. Think about our area. Tuscaloosa is on the Black Warrior River. Wetumpka is on the Coosa. Tallassee is on the Tallapoosa.

The English Prevail

The English had many advantages over the French. Great Britain had manufacturing and could have great varieties of goods to trade. No one could compete with their ships in international waters. By 1733, they moved into Georgia, very close to Alabama.

We know that the Indian population divided themselves into nations in Alabama: The Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Chickasaw. The Creeks were named Muscogee, but the English called them Creeks. The Creeks and Choctaws were enemies much of the time. They were strong on sports, but sadly, much of that was bloody.

The Cherokee people had their own language. And the women in the Cherokee nation were very different from the women in the other nations. Cherokee women could go to war, and serve in office.

he asked the French government to assist in finding available women who would respond to such an exciting challenge to adventure. These women would have to accept the life on the frontier and be married to someone they had not known.

Called "*The Cassette Girls*," many accepted the challenge. Some adjusted to the challenge and married, and lived in the community. Some were miserable and their reaction was known as "*The Petticoat Insurrection*." Thankfully, many



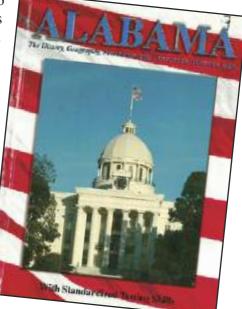
women settled down, had children, and lived happy lives. Others moved on to New Orleans.

Recommended textbook: <u>Alabama: The History, Geography, Economics, and The Civics of an</u> <u>American State.</u> Publisher: Crystal Clear Press. 1-800-352-4937.

Everything in this article today came from my 4th grade History Alabama notes from our Alabama History notebook and textbook. Can't you see why I (Bobbie Ames) loved teaching Alabama history

why I (Bobbie Ames) loved for many decades. There is so much more I could add. It is such a tragedy that government schools do not teach true History anymore. True History is really HIS STORY. When the Truth is told, God's Providence and Grace shines through it all.

Bobbie Ames





Marble Official State Rock Act no.755 in 1969.



Pecan Official State Nut Act no. 82-17, adopted in 1982



Star Blue Quartz Alabama Gemstone Acts of Alabama, March 29, 1990



Peach State Tree Fruit Acts of Alabama 2006, HB205. Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore, Crenshaw, Tallapoosa, Pike and Surrounding Counties

DRAFT NOTES FROM NASHVILLE

Ed Jones Football Writer

Music City, Nashville, Tennessee exceeded all expectations for hosting the 2019 NFL Draft. From Thursday, April 25th through Saturday, April 27th attendance at the draft exceeded 500,000, a record for the event. Philadelphia hosted the 2017 draft and drew a record 250,000. Nashville doubled that figure to establish a record that will be hard to beat.

The NFL Draft will be held in Las Vegas next year. There were representatives from Vegas studying how Nashville handled the logistics. Twelve other markets had people there to see how they could handle the draft if they ever win a bid to host. The honky tonk area of Music



Kyler Murray

City was closed to traffic allowing fans to walk to every attraction during there attendance. The "real country" artists have left Nashville because of the new "rock" emphasis at the studios. But, Nashville is not dead. The city officials proved that at the 2019 NFL Draft. Music City has never had 500,000 people to attend anything. Kudos to Nashville.

Once again, Alabama led all of college football with 10 players selected in the first three rounds. For the third straight year Alabama has had double digit numbers in the draft. Alabama has become a feeder team for the National Football League. What is the significance of this? It should not be difficult to understand. Nick Saban has had recruiting classes ranked in the top

ten for ten years. Most of those classes were in the top three. Some were number one. When a team has the best players in the country, it is not hard to understand why so many are drafted. Not to take away from Coach Saban, but, NFL players for the most part are born and not just coached to be great. When a college coach gets a "five star", the coach and his staff can improve their skills slightly. However, they can mold that player to fit the needs of the team and the concepts required to play their position on that team. Talent will take the player to the NFL, not coaching. Coaching can build a player into the kind of person they should be in order to succeed in their chosen field. Extra work by the player from junior high school on will determine if talent, size, speed, height can land a player in the NFL. It's really simple. Alabama has the best players. As long as the greatest recruiter in the history of college football is the The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

lights out on Oklahoma in the first quarter. Murray was not a real factor in the game until it was practically over. He only started one year at quarterback in Division I football, relegated to being the back up to 2017 Heisman Trophy winner, Baker Mayfield, now playing for the Cleveland Browns. Anyone with a football background could see that Murray was a very talented athlete. I was somewhat surprised that he threw the football so well. However, at 5'10" and 200 lbs, I did not think that he was a great prospect to play quarterback in the NFL. He certainly warranted a high draft selection because of the many things that he can do so well.

Coach Kliff Kingsbury proved me wrong. The new head coach of the Arizona Cardinals saw something that I did not see. So, he drafted Kyler with the number one pick. Kliff Kingsbury was somewhat mediocre running a wide open spread offense for years at Texas Tech. It may work in the NFL. But, if it didn't win at Texas Tech, how is it gonna win in Arizona. We will get our first glimpse of the phenomenon in three months.

As mentioned, Alabama dominated the draft. Defensive lineman Quinnen Williams was drafted with the third pick, going to the New York Jets. As with Kyler Murray. Williams only started one year of college football. He was stuck behind several players who were drafted in the last two



Jarrett Stidham

years. However, he worked really hard in the off season to get bigger and faster. It paid off on pay day. Quinnen can play inside or outside for the Jets. He will be fun to watch in the fall.

Auburn had seven players taken this year. The most interesting pick for me was the New England Patriots taking Jarrett Stidham in the fourth round. Coach Bill Belichick saw something that other coaches did not see. He has the best program in the National Football League. Stidham could not have gone to a better team. Working behind Tom Brady will do more for him than all the coaching that he has ever had. The 6'2", 210 lb quarterback has a chance to be an NFL quarterback. It may take a few years, but he has everything he needs now that he is with the "Master". His delivery always reminded me of Tom Brady anyway.



Quinnen Williams

watched a lot of it myself. I'm always interested to see where some of my favorite players are drafted.

The biggest hoopla surrounds the mystery of who will be the first player selected. There was much fanfare about **Kyler Murray** being the first player drafted. This was not the player that was my selection. Murray won the 2018 Heisman trophy as the quarterback for Oklahoma, who played Alabama in the first round of the play-offs last year. Nick Saban's boys turned the

coach at Alabama, the Tide will dominate the NFL Draft.

There is so much hype surrounding the lead up to the draft. Newspapers, magazines, radio and TV programs all get into the act. There are so many "draft experts" today that it becomes monotonous to even listen to any of them very long. Some have never played football. Some are just members of the media who are attracted to this endeavor. Some are ex-players who have been through the process and spent years playing in the league. Some are ex-coaches who have found a way to make a buck without a lot of effort. All are just helping to build the hype in order for everybody involved to make some money. It works. Millions of Americans watched the draft. Some watched every segment. I

Another big surprise came in the first round. Alabama State had its very first, first round draft choice on Thursday. Tytus Howard, their 6'6", 325 lb offensive tackle was expected to be drafted, but not in the first round. This player has earned his stripes. He was a walk-on high school quarterback at Alabama State. He knew he couldn't play quarterback so he switched to tight end. He was finally moved to tackle. Over his four years he developed into an outstanding pass blocker. Guess what the NFL is looking for? Pass blockers make more money than other offensive positions if they are really good. Howard will be playing for the Houston Texans this fall. They believe that he can start at one of the tackle slots. His best attribute is his arm length. This is a



Tytus Howard

milestone for Alabama State football. Coach Donald Hill-Eley said "When you are a performer, all you need is a chance." Howard has his chance.

Now, it is time to turn to the 2020 draft. Not for me! My only interest in the NFL is watching where these college boys go and how well they do in their careers. The NFL is just like any other business. They can hire, fire, trade. Every player is expendable. Here's hoping this years crop will be successful with the teams that drafted them.







Mari Grace Brooks

Since the dust has settled from this turkey season, I want to tell the amazing story of an accomplished young turkey hunter. Her name is **Mari Grace Brooks** from Grady Alabama, and she is 13 years old.

Mari Grace successfully completed the double Grand Slam in a single season. This is totally unheard of and possibly the first 13-year-old female ever do such



an unimaginable task in one year. Honestly, I know only a handful of grown men that it took a life time of hunting to accomplish one Grand Slam much less a double Grand Slam in the same year. (A Grand Slam is bagging each species of turkey, the Eastern, the Osceola in Florida, the Rio in the Southwest and the Merriam in the upper Mid-west)

I have known her father Robby for many years dating back to our high school days at Jeff Davis. He enjoys spending time on his farm raising cattle, gators and especially turkey hunting with his daughter, Mari Grace. Robby also owns the Ramer Café with his wife Melanie. The café specializes in home cooked country meals and a mighty good hamburger.

Mari Grace has been turkey hunting since she was 4 years old and killed her first turkey at 4 with a single shot

410 shotgun. All total she has killed 45 turkeys in several different states. This year she bagged 10 birds in 4 states.

Their goal this turkey season was to attempt the Grand Slam regardless of weather conditions. In fact, she hunted in temperatures ranging from 9 degrees in the Black Hills of South Dakota to 89 degrees near Laredo Texas. They also traveled to south Florida twice to hunt the most coveted turkey in my opinion, the Osceola.

Mari Grace's first hunt this year was during the Florida youth season on February 24th where she bagged a big bird with hooking spurs (limb hanger) south of Lake Okeechobee. The bird had spurs 1 ³/₄ inch! She shot her 2nd Osceola on April 20th. When asked where her favorite place is to turkey hunt, she replied that it was on her family farm in Grady, Alabama hunting the Eastern turkey.

She said that the Eastern is more of a challenge than all the other birds. She also enjoys traveling to the other states with her father. They are making memories that will last her a life time.

On March 31st she had her eye on a big bird on their farm. Unfortunately, that turkey never gobbled that morning making him extremely difficult to hunt. The very next morning on April 1st he gobbled 60 times and she shot him at 22 yards with her 20-gauge Tristar shotgun. He was a whopper of a bird and she was very excited that she bagged him.



Mari Grace is a dedicated turkey hunter and loves wearing her SHE camo! She fully understands that our turkey population is on the decline and believes that if more people would trap predators such as raccoons, coyotes, possums and hogs that the turkey population would rebound and make a come back. The Brooks set traps on their farm for predators and wish more people would do the same. She has a life time hunting and fishing license and is certainly getting her monies worth. She is a true believer in Game Checking her harvest.

Robby is overjoyed with his daughter's accomplishments in the spring woods but is most proud of her accomplishments in the classroom. Her grades come first and Mari Grace knows it.

In closing, if more fathers were like Robby and spent the amount of quality time making memories as he does with his daughter, the world would be a better place. *Congratulations Mari Grace Brooks and keep up the good work!*

Kritter Korner



Ringtailed cat/Miner's cat

Ringtail cats are not related to the cat family but are members of the raccoon family, Procyonidae which also includes Kinkajous, and Coatimundis. Ringtails are cat sized animals that resemble a mix between a fox and a raccoon. The face is fox-like, with a pointed snout, and the body is raccoon-like and elongated. The top side of the animal is yellow to dark brown or black, and the underside is a whitish buff. The ears and eyes are large and the eyes are ringed by white



fur. The tail is very bushy and can be longer than the head and body in many cases. It is also marked by 14-16 alternating black and white bands for which the animal is named.

The average ringtail is 24-32 inches long and weighs between 2 to 5 lbs. The name "ringtail" comes from the black ring markings that are found on the animal's tail.

Ringtails are also referred to by many other names, like miner's cat because they were used to help control rodents in mines, civet cat because of the foul odor it secretes when confronted; this name is also an allusion to an African species named Civettictis civetta, which produces a substance called civet that is used in perfumes.

Ringtails usually inhabit deserts, rock plateaus, and canyons in the Southwest states such as Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and Texas. They also live in forests in California and Oregon. Ringtails are great climbers and because of their tac-

Ron VanHerwyn

tile movements and agility, these animals make their homes in mountainous terrain, rock crevices, tree hollows, or under cliffs. Ringtails are primarily carnivorous but also do eat other food like plants, fruit, and insects.

Their diets generally consist of small mammals (rodents, rabbits, squirrels), small birds, insects (spiders, grasshoppers, crickets, centipedes, scorpions), and fruits (persimmon, mistletoe, hackberries). As well, the diet varies throughout the year. In the fall, it consists of mostly plants and insects; in winter, mammals and birds; and in summer, insects.

Ringtails are solitary animals, except during mating season, and are nocturnal. They are also quite vocal, especially the young. They will make squeaks, chitters, grunts, growls, and hissing. Ringtails are also exceptionally good climbers, which is why they make their homes in rock crevices, cracks, and cliffs. They are very nimble and can quickly reverse the direction they are moving in by performing a cartwheel using their tail. Another interesting feature is their ability to rotate their hind feet 180°.

Ringtails are also able to move up narrow passages by pressing their feet on one side of the wall and pressing their back against the other side or pressing both right feet on one side of the wall and both left feet on the other side.

Ringtails have no special status but are the official state mammal of Arizona. The main predators of ringtails are bobcats, raccoons, foxes, large owls and humans. Although humans are one of their top predators, ringtails are usually killed because they are pests to farmers, damaging poultry and orchards.

Ringtails can be kept as pets.

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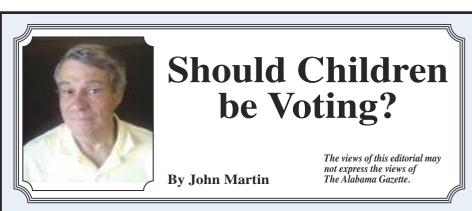
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Wildlife education & wildlife rescue

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In our nation's beginning, our founding fathers wrote our Constitution to specify that American citizens must be 21 years old to be eligible to vote. This was considered to be the minimum age for a person to be mature enough to make wise decisions in the selection of our elected leaders. Our founders also set minimum ages for Senators (30) and the President (35).

But in 1971, the American people very foolishly ratified the 26th Amendment which lowered the minimum voting age to 18. The argument for this action was that since 18 year olds could be drafted for the Vietnam War, they should be allowed to vote for and against their authorities. This seems reasonable as a first thought, but studies have verified that the human mind does not mature adequately to make leadership decisions at age 18.

And to make matters worse, instead of raising the voting age back to 21, some supporters of statist ideologies are now proposing to lower it to 16.

John Cate said, "Just bamboozle enough people, and teens are easier to bamboozle into voting their rights away, and your mission is accomplished."

We must ask ourselves, "Are we ready to let children make stupid decisions on the future of our nation?"

Today, even 21 might be too low. The 21 year olds today are considerably less mature than those of two centuries ago. We have a number of serious studies that verify that a minimum voting age of at least 25 is essential for sound management. And some people believe it should be higher—30 or even 35.

These studies have proven that the prefrontal cortex of a human brain, which is critically responsible for self-control and making rational long-term decisions, does not fully develop until about the age of 25.

Less mature brains operate differently from older ones. In these cases, the amygdala substitutes for the yet to be developed parts of the prefrontal cortex. Instead of sound decisions, these underdeveloped minds exhibit emotions, fear, anger, aggression, and short-sighted, reflexive behaviors. As a result, these immature voters will endorse



In celebration of the State of Alabama's Bicentennial, the Town of Pike Road is excited to host "Alabama, Then & Now," a traveling bicentennial art exhibition presented by the Alabama Plein Air Artists (APAA), May 6 - 17. The Exhibition will be on display in the Mezzanine of Pike Road Town Hall (9575 Vaughn Rd), and it will be open for viewing from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on week-days, as well as from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 11. Entry is free and open to the public. This exhibition is officially endorsed by the Alabama Bicentennial Commission.

reckless actions that can endanger and destroy our great nation. It is national suicide.

Sharp differences in partisan, ideological identification between younger and older generations

% of each generation who are ...

	Liberal DenvLeas Dem	Cons/Net Oen/Leas Dem	Moderate/Lib Rep/Lean Rep	Conservative Rep/Loan Rep	incependent to loan
Total	21%	27%	14%	25%	11%
Millennial (18-36)	27%	27%	16%	17%	12%
Generation X (35-51)	21%	27%	14%	23%	13%
Baby Boomar (52-70)	17%	27%	13%	31%	9%
Silent (71-88)	15%	26%	12%	36%	8%

Note: Don't know responses not shown. Source: Based on merged Pew Research Center surveys conducted in 2016

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Here is a good question to ask yourself, if you are over 25, and especially if you are over 35: Be honest with your answer. Were you capable of making wise decisions in a voting booth when you were 18? What about 16?

Yes, there are a few exceptions. But polls and other data clearly reveal that older people make wiser decisions than younger ones, and for each age group, the older, the wiser.

Glenn Reynolds said, "It's bad enough to have to treat college students like children. But it's intolerable to be governed by spoiled children.... To be a voter, one must be able to participate in adult political discussions. It's necessary to be able to listen to opposing arguments and even... to change your mind in response to new evidence."

J.K. Baltzersen said, "Liberty requires limiting majority rule; limited suffrage could be part of it.

"It doesn't matter how smart teens are or how well they scored on the SAT or ACT. Good judgment isn't something they can excel in, at least not yet. The rational part of a teen's brain isn't fully developed and won't be until age 25 or so." The Amygdala: Definition, Role & Function -Video & Lesson Transcript | Study.com Sources:

 Reynolds, Glenn Harlan, "Raise the Voting Age—to 25", USA Today, November 13, 2015, p 7A.

- 2. Baltzersen, J. K., "Don't lower the Voting Age, Raise it", Reason, March 3, 2019.
- 3. Quora.com, "Should the voting age in the US be raised to 35?"
- 4. Quora.com, "Why is it not permitted to vote under 18 years old?"
- 5. Quora.com, "Why do some people on the left want to lower the voting age to 16 years old?"

outdoors, from life, and many paintings will be for sale.

"The roots of the Pike Road community run deep. We have an amazing community that has developed its local character in many ways that are similar to how the State of Alabama has developed its unique character. We have people who exhibit determination and generously contribute to their hometown. We love our town and our state!" said Gordon Stone, Mayor of the Town of Pike Road. "We are honored by this opportunity to bring people together in celebration of the Alabama Bicentennial through an exhibition of Alabama art."

A reception for the exhibition will be held on Tuesday, May 7th from 5-7p.m. The reception will include the 5x7 Art Sale, for which artists from across Alabama have been invited to create 5x7-inch pieces that will be available for only \$57 each. The reception and 5x7 Art Sale presented by the Pike Road Arts Council, and are both free to attend and open to the public. We hope you will join us to celebrate 200 years of Alabama history through the arts!

"There is always room for small artwork in a home or office," said Patty Payne, Pike Road Arts Council Coordinator. "Small paintings are the perfect solution to treating narrow halls, blank walls, and places that need a pop of color. Now is your chance to get a jump on all the upcoming festivals and art shows - find your own Made-In-Alabama masterpiece on May 7th."

Those interested in more information about these and other upcoming events are invited to visit the Town of Pike Road online at www.pikeroad.us, or on

"Alabama, Then & Now," is a commemorative and educational exhibition featuring 30 original paintings depicting historic landmarks, architecture, landscapes, and more. All paintings were created by members of the APAA, who gather monthly around the state to paint en plein air (in the "open air") Facebook (just search @townofpikeroad)!

The exhibition and reception are presented by the APAA in partnership with the Pike Road Arts Council, an ENHANCE initiative committee. Thank you to the artists, APAA, and Arts Council volunteers for bringing these great events to the Pike Road area.



The Town of Pike Road will host the Alabama Plein Air Artists' "Alabama Then & Now" Bicentennial Art Exhibition at Town Hall May 6-17 in celebration of the State of Alabama's Bicentennial. The exhibition will feature original paintings portraying places of historical significance across Alabama. A public reception and art show & sale will accompany the Exhibition on Tuesday, May 7, from 5-7 p.m. There is **NO COST** to visit the Exhibition or attend the reception. **All are invited to join us celebrate Alabama's history through the arts!**



Presented by the Pike Road Arts Council, an ENHANCE initiative Committee 334.272.9883 // www.pikeroad.us // 9575 Vaughn Rd





05.07.2019 · 5 - 7 PM · 5 X 7

Join us May 7 for an Art Show, Sale, & Reception for the Alabama Then & Now Bicentennial Plein Air Art Exhibition. In addition to the Bicentennial Exhibition, artists from across Alabama have created 5x7-inch pieces for sale for only \$57 each at this event. All are invited to celebrate Alabama's bicentennial with a visit to the "Alabama Then & Now" Art Exhibition and an original piece of Alabama art!



Presented by the Pike Road Arts Council, an ENHANCE initiative Committee

Pike Road #MYPIKEROAD

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May 2019



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham





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Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

Camp Show & Tell

Camp Show and Tell application window is now open. The application window will close on Monday, June 3, 2019. This camp hosted by Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will be held July 29th - August 2nd. During this camp, youth explore and enjoy a week of outdoor fun and recreation. This mentoring-based camp also offers workshops addressing bullying, and the effects of bullying behaviors, gun violence/ substance abuse awareness and prevention and environmental safety and education. This free camp fills up fast, applications are processed on a first come, first serve basis to 100 boys and girls ages 9-11 and living in Montgomery County. Applications can be picked up at the Administrative Office of the Sheriff, 100 South Lawrence Street, 2nd floor, Monday- Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m. For additional information on picking up an application packet, please call, 832-1339. Applications can be completed in person and returned with all mandatory forms attached, incomplete applications will not be processed!



Easter Bunny Visits Local Sick Children

Sheriff Cunningham, the Easter Bunny as well as Sheriff's Office Staff made their annual visit to local hospitals and the Montgomery Children's Specialty Center to visit local sick children. Sheriff Cunningham wanted all children to know they were are thought of and not forgotten on Easter..."many aren't able to be home with family on holidays and we want those to know we care about them as well"—Sheriff Cunningham.





Youth Fishing Rodeo

On Saturday, June 22, 2019, Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will host their annual Youth Fishing Rodeo from 6:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. The event will be held at the Montgomery County ponds, Highway 231 South across from the Sweet Creek Farmer's Market. Montgomery County youth accompanied by an adult are invited to grab their rods, reels and bait and come out and join the fun and outdoor recreation with Sheriff Cunningham and Staff! This event is held annual and is a great learning experience for our youth so please plan on attending!



Thank you to those that came out for our annual Easter Egg Hunt & **Deputy Dave Day!**

If you weren't able to join us, please make plans to attend next year. They're both great events for our youth to "meet and greet" with Sheriff Cunning-

ham and Staff!



Firearms Familiarization Course

Register NOW for any of our 2019 Firearms Familiarization Courses!

2019 Course Dates:

June 8 July 13 August 10 September 7 **October 12**

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

Course Requirements:

- Montgomery County Citizen
- **Obtain a Montgomery County Pistol Permit** (prior to the course date)
- Complete an Application for the Course

Pistol Permit Questions? 334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337 **Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?** Lisa Crenshaw@mc-ala.org

334.832.1339

Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you do not bring children to this class.

Sheriff's Office APP

If you haven't already heard, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed



through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything

pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the following steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

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

OR

- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn on "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

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



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5**B**

AUTAUGA COUNTY



Autauga County Alabama SHERIFF'S OFFICE

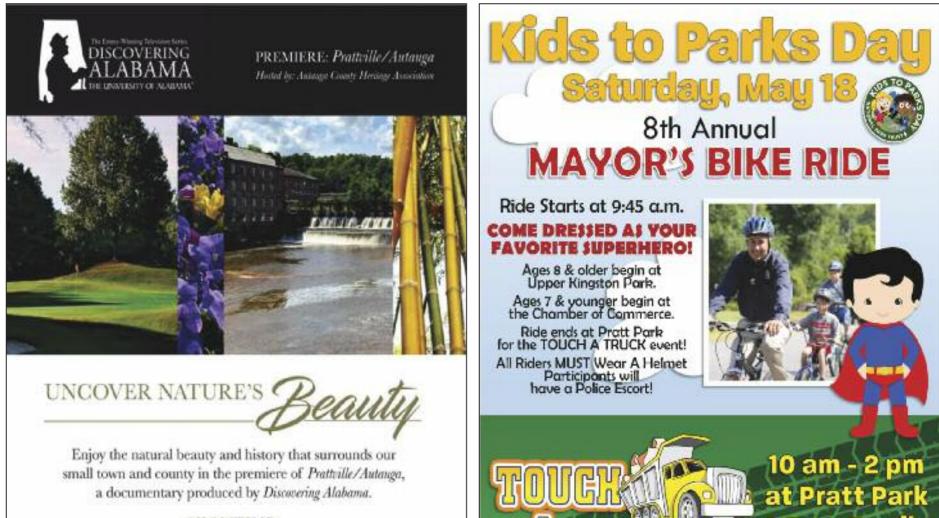
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.autaugasheriff.org 162 W 4th St, Prattville, AL (334) 361-2500



Sheriff Joe Sedinger

What Is A Veteran?

A "Veteran" - whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve - is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to, and including his life." That is honor. And there are way too many people in this country today, who no longer understand that fact.



SHOWTIME: Thursday, May 9th / 7:00 PM / City Hall









FC WW

For more information call 334-595-0854 or visit www.prattvilleal.gov to register for the Bike Ride.

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To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace.

- George Washington

RrainyQuote



Southern Gardening Potpourri for May by Peggy Givhan

Judge Peggy Givhan

We have all been waiting for this month in order to kick into high gear with our garden and our pot gardens. If we have been diligent in picking out the winter weeds, preparing the soil, and making the garden plan, we should be ready to dash out and almost complete an instant garden. If you have completed the plan, and already have

marked off the areas that seed has been sown and where cut back perennials live, it is time to get out a credit card or your check book for obtaining the spring and early summer plants. My pot garden consists of many ornate clay pots bought in Italy in the mid-1980s and shipped over from Florence. These Italian pots are really superior to those we find here since they have much iron in the clay, rendering them impervious to the contracting and expanding during our winters. Many pots chip, flack and crack over the years during the freezes of winter, but not these.

Since I have wintered over elephant ears, geraniums, along with dragon wing begonias, I just need to add some annuals. I can now fill my shopping cart with impatience, petunias, and whatever annual that catches my eye. This area of my garden gets about 4 hours of sunlight per day and, even sun loving annuals, such as petunias, dianthus, zinnias, thrive. I look to the colors of the existing "hold overs" which are red, pink, and orange, of the begonias and the geraniums, and pale blue plumbago.. The plumbago will remain in these pot, blooming in the summer through late fall. Then I assess that I need gray/silver dusty miller, and white impatience which will act as a foil for the bright colors, I will add dark purple and p[ale lavender petunias and bright pink petunias. The silver- leafed dusty miller and the bright white impatience will also be prominent at night. With the pots filled, I have gotten a head start by using last year's plants and have saved money in the process. Next I will fertilize and water them really well.

Unfortunately, it is too late to acquire digitalis for this year's blooms. I had found some grown plants at Green Thumb nursery back in February and planted them in a large pot. Just last week I noticed a small spike deep within the lush leaves. and behold the spike shot up 2 feet and has many buds that will soon look fantastic. The best time to plant digitalis is in the fall, and let them stay outdoors during winter. These plants are biennials, which means they put on leaf growth the first year, bloom the second and then die. Usually, nurseries or anyone can sow the seed in last summer, let these plants winter over, and in the spring the plants believe they have been around for 2 seasons. Anywhere you choose to plant the beauties, they become the stars of the garden.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--VERONICA

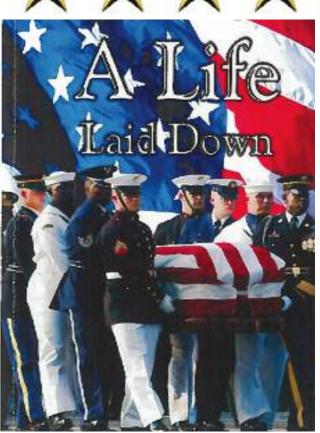
The genus, Veronica, has a wide variety of heights and appearances from flat mat like leaves, to flower spikes which reach 5 or 6 feet high. Some of the varieties which are readily available at nurseries are: 'Blue Fountain' with blooms up to 2 feet; 1. spicata incana which forms spikes of violet flowers; 2. virginica with pale blue and pink flowers and 3. virginica alba, the most imposing variety with white flowers, the spikes reaching 5 feet tall. These plants are spectacular, do not need to be staked even though they are so tall, and their stems, they add in the write-ups, can withstand a gale force wind. If one is looking for summer blooming height in the flower beds, you can depend on V. alba.



Let's not forget to proudly fly our American flag for Memorial Day as it is a way to show our patriotism and show respect for those in the Armed Services.

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY AND GOOD GARDENING.





We owe a debt to the United States military for their courageous service. The greatest thing a person can give is his life. There have been millions of soldiers who have laid down their lives for the freedom and safety of our country. Just as soldiers have given their lives for America, so Jesus Christ laid down His life for the world.

I. A Life in Danger

Every day soldiers put their lives in danger for our freedom. Yet, more dangerous than losing a life is losing a soul. All mankind is in danger of death and Hell because of sin. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom 323) Man comes short of Heaven (the glory of God) because of sin! Not only does sin keep a person out of Heaven, but it also condemns him to Hell. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death;.." Sin brings both physical and spiritual death. "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Rev. 20:14)

II. A Life Laid Down

A soldier willingly gives his life for his family his fellow soldiers, and his country, yet Jesus Christ willingly gave His life for the world. Corinthians 15:3 says, "...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;" His death burial, and resurrection provided the only way for man to go to heaven. "But Goc commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rem 58) Jesus sacrificed His life so al could live!

III. A Life Saved

A soldier's obedience to training and orden will determine life or death on the battlefield Likewise, man determines his eternal life or eternal death by what he does with God's orders. God's orders are simple; all mus repent and believe. Acts 20:21 says "...Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

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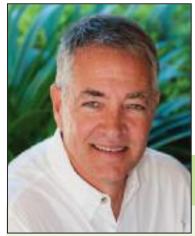


UR.





Dr. Lester Spencer Soul



The Fire at Notre Dame Why it Matters to You and Me?

The construction of the beautiful Gothic Cathedral, Notre Dame, "The Cathedral of

Lead Pastor

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

Paris", began during the reign of King Louis VII in 1163 AD and was completed in 1345 AD. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a worldwide Parisian icon. It was the location of some of the most important moments in the history of France and survived many wars including WWI and WWII. It has inspired the architecture and construction of many Catholic and Protestant Churches around the world. Notre Dame is the official seat of the Archbishop of Paris and contains much priceless art and many precious Christian artifacts and relics such as the Crown of Thorns. It is the main tourist attraction in Paris and attracts over 13 million visitors each year.

In 2001, my wife, Janeese, and I had the joy and privilege of visiting Notre Dame while we were in Paris doing a Christian Marriage Retreat. It was an incredibly moving experience to personally witness the majesty and beauty of this gothic icon. The shear size of it was amazing and the architecture was a wonder to behold, especially when you realize that it is almost 900 years old.

On the Monday of Holy Week this year (April 15, 2019) the iconic cathedral caught on fire. The Parisian firefighters eventually put out the blaze after 12 hours, but much damage was done. Thanks to several heroic Priests and many French volunteers, much of the precious and priceless artwork, artifacts and relics were saved including the Crown of Thorns.

Fortunately, much of the outer stone walls, the flying buttresses, the statues, the gigantic rose windows and two front towers were saved. There is much to be thankful for in the recent tragedy, and most importantly that no one was hurt or killed in the fire.

French President, Emmanuel Macron vowed to rebuild the badly burned cathedral and over 700 million dollars has already been raised to renovate and rebuild the beautiful Notre Dame. As millions of people around the world watched this iconic symbol of the Christian Church go up in flames, many believers and nonbelievers were moved to tears. Why? What did this fire at Notre Dame stir up within so many?

With the dramatic decline of Christianity in France, Europe and the Western World, perhaps the burning of Notre Dame stirred many to remember something they had long forgotten. The Christian faith has impacted the world in ways that no one can fully measure. All of us, believers and non-believers, have all benefitted from God's grace exhibited in Jesus' teachings, His death and His resurrection!

Searching

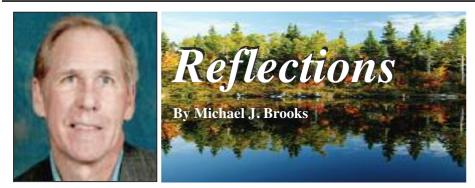
I believe that Revd. Dr. Isabelle Hamley, Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, shares a timely message for all of us in her reflections on the fire at Notre Dame. She gets to the heart of what is stirring so many to reflection in response to this fire.

"It was...deeply moving...to hear journalists groping for words they had almost forgotten-words that speak of faith and what faith had meant to [France] over the years. Many of them were trying to put into words the sense of connection they felt to the cathedral, how moved they were to hear hymns and prayers from Christians surrounding them, and find words that would nurture hope. This morning, journalists were tentatively using the word 'miracle' as they contemplated the picture of the inside of the cathedral, the cross illuminated from the side windows, still intact, and heard of the news that many windows had survived, and the organ maybe too. To hear these words spoken with awe and genuine interrogation is nothing short of a miracle-and it may be short lived. But as I listened, I realized that Notre-Dame had lived up to its destiny: it reminded a people of its past, and of the hope of new life we find at the foot of the cross.

And for me, this is the real question of the rebuilding. What is it we are rebuilding? What kind of vision will animate the endless years of work ahead? Will we listen to the memory of stones, and honour the God whose cross triumphed over destruction, fire and ashes? Notre-Dame held memories we had forgotten; will we accept God's gift of memory, and reshape some of the distorted, incomplete stories we tell ourselves, so that we can move into a better future? I hope and pray that we do; and I believe that we can, because I believe in the God of Good Friday and of Easter Sunday, who ultimately holds all memory, all past and future in his hand." - Isabelle Hamley

Yes, the fire at Notre Dame stirs in us to remember things many had long forgotten. Through the fire, smoke and ashes, the message of Jesus' life, death and resurrection rings through the ages undaunted by time, ridicule or disbelief. Jesus Christ is and always will be the light and the hope of the world!

Notre Dame will be rebuilt and restored I have no doubt. And it will most likely become even more popular and cherished than ever before. I pray it will continue to point millions of visitors to the wonder and majesty of Jesus Christ!



Pray For America

May 2 was the National Day of Prayer when we pause to thank God for our nation, seek forgiveness for our sins and ask his guidance in the future.

There were at least two major proclamations before the event was formalized. The Continental Congress called the colonies to pray in 1775, and President Lincoln asked the nation to pray in 1863. Our modern observance was created in 1952 under President Truman and amended under President Reagan in 1988 to fall on the first Thursday in May. Every president since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation. Some Christians have expressed their unease when the government calls for prayer, but, in reality, Christians asked the government only to recognize this day, not to mandate it. It's true that religion and politics have a testy relationship. Jon Ward wrote "Camelot's End," a book about the Kennedy challenge to the Carter reelection campaign in 1980. The book reminded me of the John and Robert Kennedy tragedies, how Sen. Ted Kennedy wrestled with the lingering questions from the Chappaquiddick episode of 1969 and how America reacted to the former

governor of Georgia, a Baptist deacon, declaring he'd been "born again." A majority of evangelical voters supported Gov. Carter in '76 but turned to Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1980.

We had another uneasy time in the '90s when President Clinton was embroiled in moral crisis. I told our church at the time that Christians condemn this conduct while we pray for our president. I recall a member of our church taking me to task for "mixing politics and religion"! I never could get him to understand we were speaking about different issues.

We all have political opinions, But whether one is Democrat or Republican, we're exhorted to pray for "kings and all those in authority over us" (1 Timothy 2:2).

For what should we pray?

First, we pray for peace. The most demanding role of the president is commander-in-chief. The nuclear codes are always nearby in a briefcase euphemistically called "the football." Armageddon can begin in half an hour. Perhaps this is the reason our presidents seem to age so markedly in office.

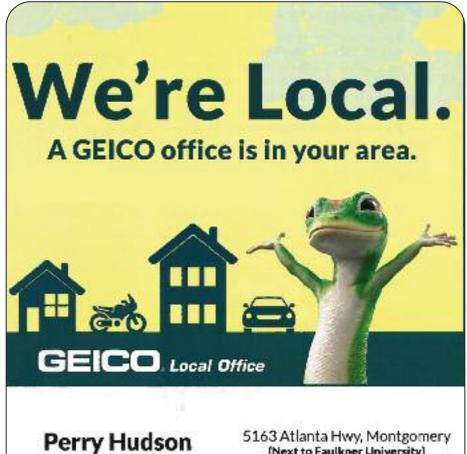
Chaos prevents the church from evangelizing and serving in an optimal manner. A society of peace is the best environment for the church to do her work

Second, we pray for wisdom for those who lead. We ask that all our elected officials seek God's leadership, turn from graft and serve the people who elected them.

And we pray wisdom for all citizens as we approach a significant election in 2020. We need God's direction as we vote.

I hope everyone will schedule time this week to pray for America.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. The church's website is siluriabaptist.com.



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ROTC STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS

Three ROTC students from area schools were recently awarded the prestigious ROTC MEDAL by the Anne Phillips Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Cadet Lt. Colonel Jasmine Lucas was the winner from Robert E. Lee High School. Her sponsor was Chief Davis. The winner from Auburn University Montgomery was Cadet Lt. Colonel Kali Rose. Her sponsor was Lt. Colonel Carlock. Cadet Lt. Colonel Brittany Butler of Troy University was the third recipient but was unable to attend the meeting.

Jasmine, Kali and their sponsors were honored at the April Chapter meeting. They received awards and medals from ROTC Awards Chairperson Colley Griffin and Regent Cheryl Winslow and were congratulated by the members with a standing ovation.

The criterion for winning the ROTC award means the student must be in the upper 25% of their class both in ROTC and in academic studies. They must demonstrate dependability, good character and leadership ability. They must also adhere to military discipline and have a fundamental and patriotic understanding of the importance of the ROTC training.

Jasmine had recently been selected as an Anne Phillips DAR Good Citizen winner as well. Kali, a Senior at AUM is going into the Air Force when she graduates. The Chapter wishes the best for these young ladies and expects great things ahead for them.

Having the opportunity to honor outstanding ROTC cadets fits so well with the State DAR Theme this year, which is "Growing and Blooming for future Generations". The three-fold emphasis of the NSDAR has always been Historic Preservation, Education and Patriotism. The Chapter is grateful to Chairperson Colley Griffin for her diligent work in obtaining such outstanding winners!

Hostesses for the meeting were Carolyn Lightfoot, Beverly Patterson, Gay Phillips and Bonnie Shanahan. At the meeting's end, Regent Cheryl Winslow wished everyone a warm farewell, a safe summer and told them how much she looked forward to meeting with everyone again in the Fall.

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May 2019



If you need supplies for your vacuum or just a newer vacuum cleaner go by and get a reconditioned top of the line vacuum ready for Spring cleaning! Personal friendly service with over 61 years of experience. Don't leave that old vacuum in the closet because you don't have supplies....just visit Ron and get the help you need.

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Mahindra Finance USA will offer the following repossessed equipment for sale to the highest bidder for certified funds, plus applicable sales tax. Equipment: MAD 1526S Tractor S/N: 26G160310689, MAD 1526L Loader S/N: 160891939, MAD Spool Kit S/N: NSN, MAD KRCMD60S Cutter S/N: 242370, MAD 5 Box Blade S/N: 241781.

Date of sale: May 14, 2019. Time of Sale: 9:00 A.M. Place of sale: Coblentz Equipment 10400 Hwy 80 East Montgomery, AL 36117. Equipment can be inspected at place of sale. The equipment will be sold AS IS, without warranty. Final sale of equipment will be contingent upon winning bidder meeting all applicable federal and state regulatory requirements. We reserve the right to bid. For further information please contact Dustin Smiley (470) 364-0732, Reference Number: 1685066.

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THEME: MOTHER'S DAY

ACROSS

- 1. May occasion
- 5. Tzu
- 8. Auto unit
- 11. Lyft alternative
- 12. "On Golden ____
- 13. Zetkin of International Women's Day fame
- 15. Forever and a day
- 16. "The Simpsons" palindrome
- 17. Angler's decoys
- 18. *Mother, e.g.
- 20. Friend in war
- 21. Divided, it cannot stand?
- 22. Black gold
- 23. *Mother, e.g.
- 26. Like anti-cruelty proponents
- 29. "This land is your land..."
- 30. Loan shark
- 33. *Like Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard
- 35. "Captain Marvel" genre
- 37. It also rises, in Spanish

- 60. *She played Zuzu's mom in
- Christmas movie classic
- 61. Left to a Russian
- 62. Pastrami partner
- 63. Greek H
- 64. One quarter of a Presidential term

DOWN

- 1. *School org. with moms (and
- dads) as members
- 2. Indian music
- 3. Farm team
- 4. Pool hall mishap
- 5. Powerball, e.g.
- 6. Playwright Chekhov
- 7. Perfume property
- 8. Lime-rich soil
- 9. Mouse to a snake
- 10. Fossil fuel
- 12. Accepted truths 13. Request to Geico
- 14. *Mother's song
- 19. Tedium
- 22. "Days of _____ Lives"
- 23. *Delivery room word

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- 38. Faulkner's "As I Lay_
- 39. Ant construction
- 40. "Not my brother's _
- 42. First Tudor monarch's number
- 43. Meteorologist's line
- 45. Battles royal
- 47. Modus operandi
- 48. Chocolate source
- 50. Barrymore or Carey
- 52. *Like grandmother on mother's side
- 55. Like Al Yankovic
- 56. Gaelic
- 57. Joie de vivre
- 59. On pins and needles

- 24. Binary digits code
- 25. Train runners
- 26. *What many mothers want
- 27. Lacking guile
- 28. "Sesame Street" regular
- 31. Olympic cast-out
- 32. Future fish
- 34. Shining armor
- 36. *Form of thank you to mom
- 38. Gloomy and drab
- 40. Jared's competitor
- 41. Hosted
- 44. Off-color
- 46. With nobody to call your own
- 48. Editor's insert



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- 49. Between harbors
- 50. Controvert
- 51. *Mother's Day, e.g.
- 52. *Emmanuel Macron's mom, e.g.
- 53. Toward shelter, nautically
- 54. Volcanic flow
- 55. "The Art of
- 58. And not

BOX SCRABBLE WORDS

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<u> </u>	2SE
auricnens	gtioeml
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	2A mitneva 6SE auricnens



All Box Scrambled words appear in this issue of the Gazette. Unscramble the words above. Email your answers to us! Your name will be in a drawing near the end of the month to receive the \$25. Please include your contact information. Winner will be announced in the next issue.

Box Scrabble Words April Winner! \$25.00 **Robin Cotten**

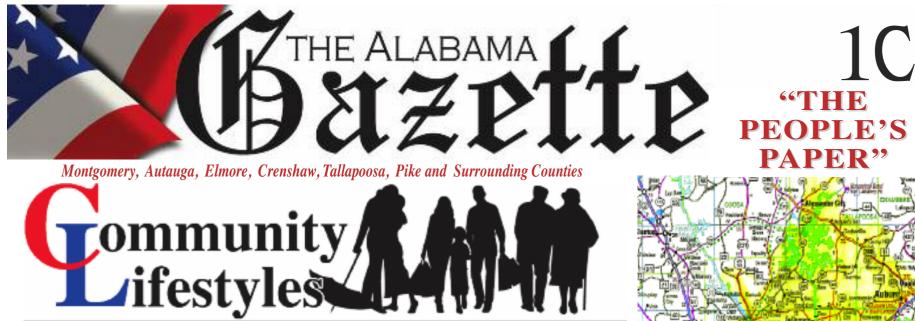
Crossword Answers

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A University of Alabama graduate.

A retired United States Army Officer who was both a commissioned and non-commissioned officer. Served a combat tour as a maneuver and operations officer in Afghanistan.

Assignments included service as an Intelligence Analyst in the Washington D.C. area and Texas.

Experience as a Spanish translator and teacher, as well as a technical writer and Emergency Management Planner.

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Key Concerns for District 74

EDUCATION

Implement policies that encourage more school funding, which reaches our students and frontline teachers; while reducing unnecessary administrative expenses and personnel.

Enact standards that ensure that students are prepared for economic success.

Secure policies that grow our public school population.

Ensure accountability of elected educational officials.

MAXWELL AFB AND GUNTER ANNEX

Support policies that ensure the long-term security of Maxwell/Gunter within our communities. These bases are critical to the long term survival of our city.

BUSINESS

Supporting and growing District 74 businesses. Create policies that will encourage business stability, growth, and prosperity within District 74.

> Please feel free to contact me with YOUR concerns!



Chef David Spooner Retired Chef

Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County



I made good use of some lovely Alabama spring weather to plant my garden. My wife planted her flowers; I planted my cherry tomatoes, mint, rosemary, and basil. My gardening philosophy is, "*If you cannot eat it, do not plant it*". The sub-set to that philosophy is, "*If you want beautiful, delicious, and non-labor intensive fruits and vegetables, go to the farmers market!*" I planted cherry tomatoes because I have had luck with cherry tomatoes in my big planter pots. I can plant three tomato plants per pot. They sit on an old metal post office mail-sorting table, placed in the perfect part of my yard to catch the right amount



of sun and close to a faucet and hose. I do not have to bend over to pick the tomatoes and I do not have to weed the pots. I can pick a handful every day and eat them as a snack or add them to whatever meal I have later that day. I still have a fig tree, two pear trees, an apple, and three peach trees. I do not need to water or weed the trees.

My freezer has frozen figs, peaches, and the Carolina Reapers, Ghost Peppers and the habaneros, that I grew last year. I can trade my jarred pepper jelly, peach preserve and my various renditions of fig preserves for fresh vegetables from my neighbor's gardens. Keeping the barter tradition alive.

A reader of this article (keep those cards and letters coming) asked what I thought of "meal kits"? I have not tried a meal kit and had no plans for doing so. As an advocate of farm to table, buy local, and know your source, I first thought not to recommend using these mail-order kits. Negatives for meal kits range from packaging waste, lack of inspiration, and cost. The produce in kits is packaged for two to four people. Less packaging is used at a grocery store or a farmers market to package the same item to feed a dozen. In addition, think of this, as you buy a pound of carrots at the farmers market, "Where does the meal kit company source their produce?" They may have to buy 75,000 pounds of carrots for all of their kits. From what commercial farm or even from what country are they getting their carrots? This may have been an argument against meal kits in the past. There are startup companies that are addressing the wasteful packaging of the kits. The list of meal kits companies is growing longer and they are addressing packaging waste, nutrition, sustainability, local sourcing, and cost. There is meal kit that will address almost all particular dietary needs.

Any list of meal kit companies will have *Blue Apron* on it and either on top or close to the top of the list. *Blue Apron* pretty much got the ball rolling for meal kits. If you what organic, *Green Chef* will fit your needs. At least 90% of their entire products are USDA certified organic. *Sun Basket* is concerned with organic, NON-GMO, sustainability, and responsibly raised. Two companies go for the simple and least expensive, being *Every Plate* and *Dinnerly*. They cut costs by keeping menu options low and no special diet offerings. *Home Chef* will let you double up on the protein without increasing the overall portions. If I were to try a meal kit service, it would be *Peach Tree*. Their menu items are sourced from local farms in the southeast and their menus options are from some of the top chefs in the country.

The only negative for *Peach Tree* is the service is pricier than most other services, but you do not have to sign up for a weekly subscription. You can pick one meal and have it shipped to you to try out. In addition, I believe you can keep doing this for as long as you want. However, it will cost more that way. There are many more services, even from Amazon. Do a browser search and you should be able to find a service that fits your culinary skills and tastes. I have never used a meal kit and this information about these meal kits came from reviews and from their websites.

My idea of a meal kit is to take a cardboard box to ALDI or WALMART, fill it with what is on your weekly menu and look at how much money you just saved! Better yet, is to go shopping, find the specials for the week, and when you get home develop a menu from your purchases. Since we live in a food desert, we freeze much of what we purchased and develop a menu from what we have in the freezer. Our last run to town was to purchase some fresh items. Spinach, and salad mixes were high on our list. With the fresh spinach and other items we had in the freezer, my wife, Anne came up with this meal entree. This entree and the following two recipes can be your own meal kit; entree, side, and dessert. This next recipe involves buying a fresh vegetable and trying an other than usual method of preparation. Bell peppers are very popular and are incorporated into many different recipes, cut up for salads to stuffed and baked. This recipes is modified from a recipe on Kitchen Stories.com. Find the freshest and perfect shaped peppers for this recipe.

Oven Fried Bell Peppers with Aioli INGREDIENTS 1 green bell pepper 1 yellow bell pepper 2 ounces flour 1 egg beaten 1 cup panko breadcrumbs $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt 1 tsp smoked paprika powder ¹/₄ tsp ground ginger ¹/₄ tsp ground allspice **1 clove garlic** 2 ounces DUKES mayonnaise ¹/₄ lemon 2 sprigs parsley (for garnish) salt **INSTRUCTIONS:** 1. Preheat the oven to 425°F. 2. Trim the ends of the bell peppers and remove the seeds. **3.** Slice into rings approx. ¹/₄ in. thick. 4. Add flour to a deep bowl, egg to second bowl and panko bread crumbs to a third bowl.

- **5.** Mix salt, smoked paprika, ground ginger, and allspice into the panko breadcrumbs.
- **6.** Dredge the bell peppers in the flour, then the egg, and lastly the panko breadcrumbs.
- 7. Place the bell pepper rings on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
- **8.** Transfer to the oven and bake for approximately 15- 20 min. or until crispy and golden.
- **1. Meanwhile, to make the aioli**, finely mince the garlic with a little salt until it forms a paste.
- **2.** Add garlic past and mayonnaise to a bowl, squeeze in the lemon juice and mix well.
- **3.** Serve crispy bell pepper rings with aioli and garnish with parsley.

Servings: 2



ROASTED TILAPIA with FETA, SPINACH, AND BEANS

INGREDIENTS

Four (6-ounce) thawed individual tilapia fillets, from my freezer
2-tablespoons olive oil divided
2-tablespoons butter
1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese, reserve some for garnish
½ cup white onion chopped, divided
One tablespoon finely chopped garlic, divided
2 teaspoons lemon juice
Zest of 1 large lemon,

½-cup Kalamata olives, sliced
15 ounces fresh baby spinach, can used whole frozen
One 15.5 ounce can of cannelloni beans, drained
2 tablespoons Italian bread crumbs,

- ¹/₄-teaspoon oregano
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

from my freezer

- 1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
- **2.** Place tilapia fillet(s) in prepared dish and brush with olive oil. Evenly sprinkle breadcrumbs, feta cheese, and lemon zest on top.
- **3.** Roast in the oven, uncovered, 8 to 10 minutes until opaque and just cooked through.
- 4. While the fish is cooking, in a large sauté pan or skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of butter over medium heat. Add half of the onion, the oregano, and the garlic, the olives, and the spinach. Heat while stirring, until the spinach has wilted. Stir in feta, lemon juice, and lemon zest. See note:
- **5.** Heat small saucepan with 1-tablespoon oil, add rest of white onion and sauté until onion is soft. Add beans and heat thoroughly.
- 6. Add heated beans to the spinach mixture and stir lightly.
- 7. Divide cooked spinach among four serving plates. Top with tilapia fillet. Garnish with feta. Serve immediately.

Note. When sautéing onions and garlic together, cook the onions first, and to half of their cooking time. Then add the garlic to keep it from over cooking, and burning.

TIP: Fish is normally translucent, so when it turns opaque and a solid white, the fish is cooked. Cook fish at a relatively low temperature. Never cook fish above 350 degrees.

Next tip: If you place $\frac{1}{2}$ of an apple or a piece of ginger root in a bag of potatoes, they will not sprout!

Now for your meal kit dessert. We made these for the dinner-on-the-grounds at our church for Easter Sunday. This recipe appeared in Southern Living.

Crunchy Pecan Pie Bites

INGREDIENTS

yield about 6 dozen

3 cups chopped pecans 3/4 cup sugar 3/4 cup dark corn syrup 3 large eggs, lightly beaten 2 tablespoons melted butter 1 teaspoon vanilla extract 1/8 teaspoon salt 5 (2.1-oz.) packages frozen mini-phyllo pastry shells



INSTRUCTIONS:

- **1.** Preheat oven to 350°. Bake pecans in a single layer in a shallow pan 8 to 10 minutes or until toasted and fragrant.
- 2. Stir together sugar and corn syrup in a medium bowl. Stir in pecans, eggs, and next 3 ingredients.
- **3.** Spoon about 1 heaping teaspoonful pecan mixture into each pastry shell, and place on 2 large baking sheets.
- 4. Bake at 350° for 20 to 22 minutes or until set.

A closing comment on meal kits; my daughter, in Lubbock, would first go online and search the menus for the week and the recipes from different meal kit companies. When she found recipes she liked, she would go to the grocery store and buy the ingredients. It is the opposite from going to the store to look at an item and then going online to purchase it. She has the final say on the ripest tomato or which brand of mayonnaise(DUKES) she buys. The ingredient list, how to prepare, and the kitchen tools needed for that recipe, and nutritional information are all available for each recipe.

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4C

Patricia Killough **Community Editor**

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.



Sarah Kate celebrated her 4th birthday at her school on April 22, 2019

90th Birthday Celebration





Helen blows out the candles on her cake.

Helen and Patricia Killough share the same birthday.

Helen Gordon of Hope Hull turned 90 on April 2, 2019.

Her family had a party for her on Saturday March 30, 2019 at the Hope Hull United Methodist Church Woman's Club Annex.

A large number of family and friends were in attendance to help her celebrate this special milestone.

2019 Meeting Schedule

Home Town Community News

May Birthdays

- 1 Grace Zara "Tiny" Cantey (102nd)
- 2 Maggie Brown Judy Grubbs Weston Ashley Sellars (8th) Pat Duffell Smith
- 3 Scarlett Box
- 4 Brittney Belcher (20th) Teresa Grant
- Forrest Taylor (25th) 5 Ashton Box Connie Bowden Olivia Propst Jayne Ward
- 6 Ed Jones (81st) Michael Mckenzie
- 7 Tory Alexander Bryson Box (16th)
- 8 John P. Hanson Michael Moseley (51st) Mary Peoples Janet Suddith Trinity Woodall
- 9 Walter Cooper (81st) Jim Garrett Bill Jones Paul "Moon" Jones Jo Oswald
- 10 Mary Ann Pickard (93rd) Nicole Sansom
- 11 Johnson Alexander Pam Lynch Barbara Strickland (69th) Dee Dee Ward
- 12 Mary Ellen Grant Tanya Moore (53rd) Liz Morris Mary White Zack Witherington
- 13 Betty Casey Chris Cordle Raven Johnson **Debbie Mills**
- 14 Luke Dickinson Victor Chad Mason (Trace) (6th)
- 15 Ann Macon Adams Waldon Woodall (61st)
- 16 Milton Bridges

Lonnie Smith Stephan Turnipseed Devery Wright

- 17 Wendy Haddox Bertha Graham Rosa Nell Watkins
- 18 Georgia Armstrong Ken Stafford
- 19 Connie Butts Dorothy Hall
- 20 Maggie Royster
- 21 Rhonda Alexander Al Barnett Ashley Boyd (44th) Susan Johnson Daniel Selvage (11th) Sophia Vazquez
- 22 Tom Broadway Aileen Kovacic Hunter Meadows (22nd) Brad Williams (40th)
- 23 Rene Barnett (98th) Susanne Boyd Frank Clayton Julia Grant Hazel Norman Mike Sikes (42nd) Casey Woodall
- 24 Brantley Box (19th) Sydney Ellen Grant Wallace Smith Seth Meadows
- 25 Wynne Ross (45th) Norman Mitchell Hamer Phillips
- 26 Paula Burgess Mary Louise Dobbs Rachael Doran
- 27 Ronnie Broom Emmie Abelia Johnson (4th) Coley Jones Carrie Rhodes
- 28 Brian McCord
- 30 Michele Blount Kate Sansom
- 31 Betty Crowe Susan Daffron (71st)
- Happy Anniversary
- 3 Thomas & Betty Chesnutt (72nd)
- 5 Haley & Josh Bass (1st)
- 16 Austin & Ashley Owens (9th) 17 Carl & Faye Boyd (44th)
- 19 Billy & Ann Cox (71st)

6 Corey & Alicia Smith (23rd)



Support group meetings are free, do not require pre-registration and convene the 2nd Tuesday of each month at:

Frazer United Methodist Church 6000 Actanta Highway * Room 8114 * Mathison Activity Center * Mostgamery, AL

5:30 PM Social time with light meal 6:15 PM Program followed by Q & A

Tuesday, May 14th Dancing in the Rain Presented by Sandra Sutton, Breast Cancer Survivor

CONTACT US! (334) 220-4599 thewomenofhope.org womenofhope@charter.net

8 Billy & Courtney Whigham 10 Clint & Tiffany Andrews Ashley & Susanne Boyd Al & Shirley Decker (62nd)

- 11 Roger & Sandy Brown
- 15 Travis & Christle Jordan (14th)
- 21 Allan & Shannon Vinson (13th)
- 28 Carl & Betsy Penn (57th)
- 29 Joe & Gail Cotney
- 30 Richard & Gwen Walters Carma & Bill Marks (53rd)
- 31 Mike & Connie Northcutt (44th)

Gazette's Sympathy to the famílies of...

Killough, Jimmie L. (89)	died March 25, 2019
Cooper, Joanna Marie (77)	died April 11, 2019
Andrews, Donna L. (63)	died April 16, 2019
Snowden, James Caleb "JC" (94)	died April 17, 2019
Walker, Claud LaDale (84)	died April 20, 2019
Bates, Daphne Wilson (47)	died April 22, 2019
DuBose, Ĵewell Raines (96)	
Mercer, Sr., Thomas Alvin (92)	died April 22, 2019
Tatum, Carlie N. (105)	died April 24, 2019

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today's woman

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



Jears and Langhter: Where The Little **Boys Go**

By Amanda Walker

I had been handling things pretty well, until we went to the Piggly Wiggly last week. And I'm hardly alone. There are mothers everywhere feeling like I feel. It's the road all parents walk. We know from the time they enter the world that they are going to grow up. That is our entire purpose, preparing that child to be independent.

I managed to get my oldest daughter down the aisle without falling apart. And the second daughter moved out at 20 without me having a complete breakdown. Now she is married too. Part of what carried me through their transitions into adulthood, was their little brother and sister still keeping me busy. Still needing me

One of the very best parts of living for mamas are their children, and their growing up doesn't change that. A woman with several adult daughters forms a tight circle. I assume it is the same with several sons, but I only have this one.

He was born a little early, but healthy. And as soon as it was finally just me and him alone in the room together where I could check him out - this new little person I had been waiting to meet, I said to him what we all do when we meet our kids for the first time. I said, "hey..."

He smiled. They say newborn babies can't smile, but it looked like a smile to me, and just like that, I was wrapped. He blended seamlessly into our growing family.

He has always been well-behaved and calm. We have been through all of the phases. He was a Spiderman fan early on and had a stuffed monkey named Joe. Then he liked Legos. The dining room became known as Lego World and the entire table, side board, and piano was covered with his creations for years. Everything had its own detail. He built a church complete with coins in the offering plate on a table in front of the pulpit.

Then one day, like a fall breeze blowing unexpectedly through in late summer, he announced he was putting his Legos in the attic. And he did.

We went through airsoft guns, and Xboxes, and camping. There were fourwheelers, a dirt bike, and boats. He likes to drive tractors. And one of my best days ever was when he sold his motorcycle, content for now with a truck.

He has given us no trouble, considering the hell he could have given us just as a result of being ours. But he has not so far. He has been a good son.

Of course it has not been without its struggles. I was his interpreter and translator for the first several years. He had a speech delay, and children who have difficulty speaking often have difficulty with reading. We struggled through that, and dyslexia. The sound of him reading fluently will probably always be one of my favorite songs.

McCay graduates next month. It hit me when he went to the Piggly Wiggly last week. We were only there together because we had been to the bank to open him an account. He seldom has reason to ride with me anywhere anymore. And it occurred to me that this could be his last trip to the Pig with me. It seems like only a couple of years ago I was still lifting him into the buggy while I shopped. I don't know how the slow days slipped so quickly away.

As we were checking out, I noticed the man ahead of me in line – a man a few years my senior, was helping his mother with her groceries. Seeing that helped.

I don't know where the little boys go, but the sons are for forever.





Trisston's Tidbits... "God is Our Strength"

5C

By: Trisston Wright Burrows www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

Trisston Wright Burrows Ms.Wheelchair America/ Alabama 2005

This month my husband, Brian, and I will celebrate our 11th wedding anniversary. According to Hallmark, the 11th wedding anniversary's material (or gift idea) is steel, which is a symbol

of strength. As we journey along into the second decade as husband and wife, we are reminded of how God is our strength, every day in every way.

For Brian and I, our wedding anniversaries are very important...particularly on the actual date. We always observe it in some special way.

"That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh." Genesis 2:24

The beautiful charge found in Genesis 2:24 gives the believer a clear indication that your covenant matters. It matters so much that God created woman from man and calls them to be unified again (one flesh) through marriage. And God even gave the insight that it is imperative that you do not put your parents nor anyone else ahead of your spouse (with the exception of God Himself) otherwise it would cause a lot of marital issues. We're thankful for this insight.

Also, celebrating one another on your anniversary helps cement your love for one another. How? Simply by carving out the time to say, "Hey, you matter enough to me to do something special as a remembrance of our union." This helps each of you continue to value one another and reflect on all you have been through in the time since you were first married. And if it's anything like our marriage, you've been through a lot, and with God's help have conquered a whole lot more!

If there is anything to celebrate in this world, it's a time-tested marriage. Even if you haven't been married that long, if you've made it to at least one of your anniversaries, or if you've been married for years, this is something to celebrate! Remember that it doesn't have to be extravagant nor even cost a dime. By making a point to honor one another in some way on your anniversary, not only will it make you and your spouse feel special, it will honor God's design for marriage by showing the action of love toward one another. And this, my friends, is what it's all about!

Happy 11th Wedding Anniversary, Brian! May this, the year of strength, be our best yet!! "I have found the one whom my soul loves" Song of Solomon 3:4

Many Blessings!





L to R: Grandmother, Eloise Moseley, Anna, and mother, Jennifer Moseley.

A graduation tea honoring Anna Louise Moseley was held on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 6219 Mt. Zion Road in Ramer, Alabama. Anna will be graduating from BTW. Hostesses were Sue Kirk, Kendra Morris and Sandra Pugh. **CONTACT ALICE COLE FOR ALL YOUR SHAKLEE NEEDS!** ACOLE.MYSHAKLEE.COM VISIT MY WEBSITE pws.shaklee.com/acole

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General Information

6C

shishing water, but carrest control the variety of msterials used in plumbing components. When your water has been siling for several hours, you can minimize from matching and components associated with service lines and hence plumbing. The Wall Street Water Authority is responsible for providing high quility the potential for lead exposure by flushing your top for 30 seconds to 2 minutes believe using water for detaking or anticing. If you are concorned about lead in If present elevated lovels of lead on access serious health problems, especially for pergent women and young chiltern. Lead in dricking water is primarily your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead to drinking water histing methods, and stars you can take to minimize capester is available from the Safe Deinking Water Hotline or at http://www.zrg.gov/safewater/tend

The sources of drinking water (both up water and boulded water) include threes, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the series of the land or through the ground, it discoves naturally occurring minerals and indicative material, and it can plat up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activition.

for usery regulated contaminants, a person would have to deak 2 liters of white every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a case-in-a-million chance of The IPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels. MCL's are set at yory stringmit levels. To industand the possible health effects described As you can see by the tokkes, our system had no monitoring violations of allowable limits of contominants in ditabling water. We've penal that your draking water mass or exceeds all Federal and State munications. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that store contaminants have been detected. having the described health effect.

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Total Coliform: The Total Coliform Rule requires when systems to most a chicker limit far coliform backria. Colliform hursels are usually hernikss, but their presence in west can be an indication of discuss-rausing buckeria. When colifism bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if hermful nutchs are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, relevation or radio. To comply with the stricter regulation, we have increased the receipe amount of diluting in the distribution system.

contaminants are available from the Stde Drinking Water Hoffins, All Dricking water, including bottled dericing water, may reasonably be expected to curration at least small amounts of some contaminants. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by califieg the Environmental Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminates in defining white them the general population. People who are immuno-consprentized such as consereuticularly at risk from infections. People at risk should such advice about drinking water from their health care providest. EPA (Europermental Protection Agency/JCDC (Center of Disease Control) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosperifium and other microbiological puterus undergoing chenotherapy, argan transplant recipierts, HIV/AIDS positive ur other incurse, system discobers, score ofderly, and infants can be Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-(26-1791),

Weter Trasmein Paue have demonstrated their dedication to provide you, with the best possible water quality. This level of performance significantly reduces reprisements established by the United States Environmental Presection Agency. By reaching this level of "Optimized Performance", the staff of the Talloesse the chance of any microbiological cogarisant from getting into year drinking water supply. Please assist us in that high the staff of the Tallasson Water Works fallassee Water Works, from whom we purcless our water from was recognized by the Alaloun Depurtment of Environmental Manuscritect's Drinking Water Benetic Safe Drinking Water Program for reaching an optimized lavel of performance for the third year in a row that is beyond the minimum and the Tallassee Water Treatment Plant for their dedication to creater that you, our continuers, receives the boar possible water quality.

sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all infrancements. These improvements are surrelines reflected as rate structure adjustments. That you for understanding. We at the Wall Street Water Authority work around the clock to provide top quality water to prory tup. We ask that all our orstanned manatecy restrictions on water use. We would like to take this orgonitatify to thatis all cur customers who have reported water leads to us on a timely manuel. belp us protect our write sources, which are the heard of our community, our way of life and our children's fource. We add that our costoners help protect our when upply by reporting any unarcherized use of the hydraute or reporting any water thelt. We ask that you be conservative up in this summer to avoid any thank, you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe not dependable water supply we which helps to keep the cast of water down and also helps to here a more stabilized rule structure

Wall Street Water Authority Fallassee, Alabama 36078 Telephone: 334-283-5002 Mr. Bryan Lynn, Manager 5059 Notasulga Road

For more information, contact:

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Read us online at Alabama Gazette.com ~ Like Us on Facebook

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report Vall Street Water Authority

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Is my water safe?

Orinforg Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to Management (AUEM) deteking water health standards. Your local water officials vigitarily subgrand its water supplies and once again we are proved to report provide you with a safe and dependable supply of detaking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to contributly improve the water freatment pumping socions and 156 fligh hydratis. The water we provide to me cantimets requires specialized treatment. The CAy of Tallassee adds Chlorine Dioxide to the disinfaction process. Obtaine Diardize is utilized as disirfection for tasts and other control, distribution byproduct reduction and iron and nunganess process and protect our write resources. We use constrained to creating the quality of your water. Our water source is purchased from the City of Tultazee, which is treated surface water from Lafte Thurbow en the Tallipores River. We have stange capacity of 1, 100,000 gallous in 3 stronge tarits, 4 boosterthat our system has not violated a maximum assituationar level or any other water quarky standards. We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual outtool. Calorine is adokt to the water as disinfacent and the required residual is maintained to pretect your distring water from any presidio outside Last year, as in years past, your tap water nut all U.S. Fuw connental Protocion Agency (USEPA) and the Alahuma Department of Fawironmental contaminativity is

which is positivity on their office for review. This report provides information short potential sources of evaluationization and is set up to help present our source. Omnecket Policy is in place to teame good safe dritking water for our calotmers. The Cree of Tallassee has completed a Source Water Assessment Plan. The Well Street Water Authority sectionsly completes a water storage facility inspective plan, and utilizes a Botterinkogical Munitering Plan and a Cross

We want our volued customers to be inferried about their water utility. If you want to hom more, places attend any of our regularly scholated beard meetings they are held on the Zed Menday of the month at the Wall Streak Water Authority office that is located at 5059 Mensalog. Read and bogin at 6500 p.m.

The members of the Board of Directors are: Wilbur Terrell, Chairman Steve East, Vice Chairman, Athed Golden, Secretary William Rogers Welch, Director Wilbur Berry, Trossurer,

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

Meximum Gintuuleeret Level (MCU) - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCI Ge as feasible Action Level (AL). The concentration of a contaminant that triggers invaluent or other requinations that a water system shall follow.

Mazhuun Contonivort Level Good (NCLG) - The level of a consumment in defailing water bolow, which there is no known or expected risk to health. using the best available treatment technology

Mayhuun Restard Diviofortun Level (NRDU) - Tix highen level of a disreferant allowed in drinking water. There is occurtering evidence that addition of a distrifectant is necessary for control of microbial contantinants MCLOS pilow for a margin of sufary

Machunun Rechteun Dieinspezunt Level Gont (MRDLG) - The bevol of a dehicing water disinfrectant below which there is no known or expected risk to hearb. MRDLGs do not refect the benefits of the use of distributants to control microbial curtaminarity

Millineaus per year (nuceu/tr) - Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Nghelomorie Turbidity Unit (NTU) - Neghelometric tarbidity unit is a massure of the chericy of water. Turbidity in access of 5 NTU is just undicable to the average person.

Non-Detects (ND) - Lehormory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Party per billion (pub) or Microgramm per liker (ng/L) - One purt per billion occresponds to one minute in 2,600 years, or a single permy in \$10,000,000. Parts per multion (guw) or Milligrams per finer (mg/L) - One per tree million corresponds to ere minute in two years or a single penus in \$10,000. Party per tolline (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/L) - One port per trilline corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in S10.000,000,000

Parts per quadrillion (ppd) or Pleagrouns per filter (pg/L) - One put per quadrillion corresponds to non minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one pearly in 510,000,000,000,000.

Picounies per lise (pCVL) - Picounies per liser is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Treamout Technique (TT) - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contactinuit in drinking water.

Threshold Odio Number (F.O.K.) - The gratest dilution of a sample with con-free water that still yields a just-dateetable color.

Variances & Exemptions - ADEM or EPA permission not to must an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Explanation of reasons for variance/exemptions

Based on a study combacted by ADEM with the approval of the EPA a statewish waiver for the mentioning of substant and doxin wes issued. Thus, mentioning for these contaminents was not required.

The City of Talinase and Will Sneet Water Authority routinely monitoes for contaminants in your draking water according to Federal and State laws. Unless otherwise nows, the data presented in the following tables show the results of our monitoring period of January 1* to Docewher 31*, 2018.

All Motor Manual Manual Andrews	and and a second se	COUNTRATE SEE	react in page 5 Fold? Apr 10 human	Thursday	are broad in section field to human. They use product a real
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remember that the pressure of these contaminants does not necessarily pose a health risk. The UPA or less than once per year becaule the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. The that we delacted.

while below lists all of the drinking writer contaminants

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

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"THE

PAPER"

CELEBRATE HON REMEMBER

HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Memorial Day 2019 occurs on Monday, May 27. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season. For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday. Did you know? Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

Early Observances of Memorial Day

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers. In 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo-which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866-was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

Decoration Day

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that

month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle. On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I. ccarticle3

Memorial Day Traditions

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

From the War of Independence to Operation Enduring Freedom - blood spilled from sea to shining sea.

The following is a listing of US casualties in the various conflicts that have been a part of the country's history. The following numbers reflect only reported war deaths and exclude those wounded and/or missing. The Civil War maintains the highest American casualty total of any conflict.

In its first 100 years of existence, over 683,000 Americans lost their lives, with the Civil War accounting for 623,026 of that total (91.2%). Comparatively, in the next 100 years, a further 626,000 Americans died through two World Wars and several more regional conflicts (World War 2 representing 65% of that total). Using this comparison, the Civil War becomes the costliest war that America has ever fought.

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

Conflict	Span	Casualties
American Revolutionary War	1775-1783	25,000
Northwest Indian War	1785-1795	~1,056
War of 1812	1812-1815	~20,000
Mexican-American War	1846-1848	13,283
American Civil War	1861-1865	~625,000
Spanish-American War	1898	2,446
Philippine-American War	1898-1913	4,196
World War 1	1917-1918	116,516
World War 2	1941-1945	405,399
Korean War	1950-1953	36,516
Vietnam War	1955-1975	58,209
Persian Gulf War	1990-1991	258
Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan)	2001-2014	2,356
Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq)	2003-2012	4,489

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May 2019



Honoring Our Heroes



By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Robert Lee Harwell

Robert Lee Harwell (11/1/1922-10/15/2018) was

a World War II pilot of the B-26 who flew 66 missions from England to France, Luxemburg, Belgium, Holland and Germany surviving the loss of one engine on three flights. The Martin B-26 was an American World War II twin-engine medium bomber earning the name of



"Widow Maker" due to the early models' high accident rate during takeoffs and landings. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and extraordinary achievement, the ETO Medal with 5 Battle Stars, the American Theater of Operations Medal, two Silver Palms and two bronze Palms for 65 missions, the Victory Medal and the Air Medal.

After completing two years of college at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (A.P.I.) majoring in agriculture and participating in R.O.T.C., Robert joined the United States Army Air Corps. In preparation for becoming a B-26 pilot, he received pilot's training at Nashville, TN, Maxwell Field, Montgomery, AL, and Camden, AR, flying the two-winged PT-17 Stillman, Greenville, MS, flying the BT-13 and Columbus, MS, flying the AT-9 and AT-10. Robert graduated and received his pilot's wings at the rank of 2nd Lt. at Columbus, MS, and completed his B-26 training at Shreveport, LA. His military service included two years of army field artillery at A.P.I., four years of active duty in the Army Air Corps 1943-1946, four years in the Air Corps Reserve 1947-1950 at Gunter Field and three years of service in the AL National Guard Tank Company 1950-1953.

After discharge from the military, Robert returned to AL where he completed his B.S. Degree and M.S. Degree in Agriculture at AL Polytechnic Institute. He taught vocational agriculture education for 23 years at schools in Fayette, AL. He earned his Master's Degree in Supervision and Administration from the University of AL at Tuscaloosa. Robert worked 13 years at the AL State Department of Education supervising the program regulating the use of the G.I. Bill for veterans at colleges and tech schools.

Robert was born at Ward, AL. He and his first wife, Erma Rew Harwell, were married 27 years until she passed away in 1972. He has two children, five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Robert was married to Helen Harwell for 34 years, and they were residents of Autaugaville, AL. Robert was a blood donor of 15 gallons of blood minus one pint to the American Red Cross. Two units of blood were given directly from Robert to a patient in the Fayette Co. AL, Hospital.

For 12 years, Robert served on the Board of Directors for the B-26 Marauder Historical Society whose members are from across America. He served as President for five and one-half years leading the process of setting up archives for this Society at Yuma, Arizona. He has written articles for the Friends Journal for the U.S. Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio. His only regret about his military service is that he didn't get a chance to remain in service after WWII because the military had no more need for the thousands of personnel who had served.

Lloyd Ray Bozeman

Lloyd Ray Bozeman was a WWII Naval hero who escaped two life-threatening incidents in the Pacific Theater. Ray was born October 18,1925, in Montgomery, AL, where he was reared except for his final two years of high school in Tallahassee, FL. At age 18, he was drafted into the Navy in 1942. He went to Jacksonville, FL, where he was inducted and went to boot camp. At



Gulfport, MS, he attended a machinist mate school and a firefighters' school at Rhode Island. He was ordered to serve as a machinist mate on the landing craft, the USS Montour (APA 101), a Bayfield-class attack transport, which served as an amphibious personnel assault vessel in the Pacific area. He sailed to Pearl Harbor after the Dec. 7th attack, and his ship made five invasions in the South Pacific. Although he was discharged temporarily, he was called back up and participated in invasion landings on the Philippine Islands.

The first life-threatening event occurred one night when he was doing reconnaissance on a Philippine Island, and he heard some Japanese soldiers approaching. He quickly jumped into a ditch covering himself with leaves, limbs and other debris. Although a Japanese soldier actually stepped on him, Ray remained silent and was not discovered. This frightening experience affected him as all of his hair fell out resulting in his becoming bald within two weeks. Ray was found and rescued by American troops two days later and eventually returned to the USS Montour, APA101.

His second harrowing ordeal occurred when he was temporarily assigned to serve on a small submarine chaser (PC boat) which was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. His boat was sunk, and for five days he floated in the Pacific Ocean with 12 other U.S. service men using only one small five-man raft and Mae West life-preservers taking turns in and out of the raft every two hours to prevent the life vest becoming water-logged until finally they were rescued.

His only injury during his service was a damaged finger nail from a faulty discharge of ammunition. Ray returned home to Norfolk, VA, where his ship was decommissioned. WWII was over, and he was discharged in Massa-chusetts and sent home having served a total of four years.

Ray attended Huntingdon College under the G.I. Bill for one year. Next, he opened Time Drycleaners and operated it for two and one-half years. He then spent 24 years selling insurance for Liberty National Life Insurance Company. His last employment for 11 years before final retirement at age 91 was his working for the FHA inspecting houses about to be foreclosed and remodeling some houses to be put up for sale.

Ray and his wife, Ruth, had one daughter and one son, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They enjoyed family camping. In 1952 his wife was stricken with Polio and confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life. For the next 64 years Ray and her mother were her sole caregivers. Ray rarely left her side except to work. He and his wife were charter members of the Gateway Baptist Church of Montgomery.

Ray stated, "I made a contribution to the betterment of the country in a small way. I learned a lot in the travel opportunities that I got to do and the things that I learned to do such as being a mechanic."



J.C.Collins

Mr. J. C. Collins served in the United States Army from July 7, 1944 to January 25, 1946. He was inducted at Ft. McClellan, AL, and sent to Camp Shelby, MS. J. C. received a Combat Infantry badge, April 3, 1945, and a Purple Heart, June 13, 1945, for wounds suffered while at the Battle of Okinawa serving with Co. 205 Hg 77 INF Division. Because his helmet was too large, he had



stuffed mosquito netting in the top of his helmet to keep it from falling down in front of his eyes. A Japanese shot his helmet leaving a hole between the top of his head and the top of the helmet. He participated in action against the enemy at Okinawa, the largest island in the Ryukyu Islands, Kerame Retto, a group of islands used as a major starting point for the Battle of Okinawa and le Shima, a staging area for the surrender of Japan.

J. C. Collins was born November 20, 1923. Before entering the military, he was a farmer. He and his wife, Wilma Louise Collins, had two sons, and they were married for 55 years. They have four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. Besides serving in the Army, he was a farmer for his entire life. J.C. has a fine tenor voice and for many years sang tenor in the New Hope Baptist Church Quartet. For the past 20 years, he has sung tenor in the choral ensemble, Sing Alongs, performing at nursing homes.

Ray passed away March 16, 2018, at the age of 92.



Edward Aubrey Blankenship

Edward Aubrey Blankenship (10/10/1920-11/10/2017) served in the 81st Infantry Division of the United States Army for 3 1/2 years during WWII. Edward served at Camp Rucker where he suffered an injury to one leg which prevented him from combat. He then served as a dental assistant at Fort Benning, Fort McClellan, Fort McPherson and Maxwell Air Force Base. He



maintained that he entered the Army classified as 1A and was discharged from the Army as 4F because of the injury to his leg.

After discharge from the Army, Edward worked as a trouble shooter in railroad construction and as a truck driver for hauling gravel. One of the things that he is proud of is: He killed two squirrels with one shot.

Edward and his wife, Alma, were married for 73 years, and they had five children, 11 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great grandchildren. They lived in Marbury, AL, in Elmore County for many years. He was a member of the Chilton County Chapter 33 Disabled American Veterans.

August 2018

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Col. Milton J. Ganier

Colonel Ganier was born and reared in the Lower Ward Nine, a low socio-economic area in New Orleans, Louisiana. Upon graduation from high school in June, 1963, he immediately entered the United States Marine Corps and served for over 30 years.



Colonel Ganier served as a Field Telephone Lineman, Radio Telegraph Operator and communication instructor before receiving orders to Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1968 under the Enlisted Commissioning Program. Following commissioning and graduation from the Basic School in July, 1969, Colonel Ganier was assigned to the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Cherry Point, NC, as an Air Defense Control Officer. Five months later, he was transferred to Pensacola, Florida for Naval Flight Officer training. Ganier graduated from the Basic Naval Flight Officer School at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, Fl, in July, 1970, and received his wings of gold as a Radar Intercept Officer at NAS, Glynco, GA, in November, 1970.

Colonel Ganier completed his initial F-4 squadron tour at MCAS, El Toro, CA, before transferring to Thailand where he flew more than 195 combat missions in Southeast Asia between June, 1972, and July, 1973. In July, 1975, Ganier graduated from the Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN) while serving the first of three tours (9 years) in Hawaii. In February, 1978, Colonel Ganier graduated from Chapman College in Orange, CA, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration. He spent the next three years in Pensacola, FL, as a flight instructor at the Advanced Naval Flight Officer School (VT-86). In 1985, after spending four years in the Fleet Marine Force with the 3rd Marine Division and the 1st Marine Brigade, Ganier was assigned to the Pentagon to work with the Chief of Naval Operations for Research, Development and Acquisition (OP-098) as the Special Assistant for Close Air Support Weapons Systems. In 1986, he was selected for the top level school and assigned to the Air War College (AWC) at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL.

In July 1987, after graduating from the AWC, Colonel Ganier reported to Headquarters, U.S. Commander in Chief of Pacific Command (USCINCPAC) and assumed duties as Chief, Personnel Plans and Policy Division (J12). In August, 1990, after finishing what amounted to a total of nine enjoyable years in Hawaii, Colonel Ganier was transferred to New Orleans where he was assigned to the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing as the Assistant Chief of Staff G-6 as Director of Communications, Electronics and Computer Systems. On June 6, 1992, he was reassigned to The Headquarters of the newly formed Marine Reserve Force where he continued to serve as Assistant Chief of Staff G-6 until his retirement on August 31, 1993.

Colonel Ganier has made significant achievements in the military and in the educational profession. His personal military decorations include the Meritorious Service

Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service medal, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Air medal (w/12 combat stars), the Navy Unit Commendation, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, the Good Conduct medal, and many additional service, campaign, and commendation medals, ribbons, and awards. Colonel Ganier has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree from the University of New Orleans (UNO), and a Master of Education Degree in Special Education (Mental Retardation (MR) and Learning Disabilities (LD) from Auburn University at Montgomery and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management and Economics from Chapman College.

Colonel Garnier 's teaching career spanned over 15 years as a mathematics and special education teacher in the Montgomery County Public School System (M.P.S.). He retired from M.P.S. in August, 2011. He has A-Level Certification in Educational Leadership, and he holds membership in Kappa Delta Pi (Honor Society in Education) and on Math Partners, Inc. Board. He was selected Teacher of the Month and received the Outstanding Teacher Award, the WSFA T.V. Class Act Award and the Susan D. Bear Award for Scholarship, Leadership and Christian Character.

Colonel Ganier has been married for 32 years to the former Cassandra Cynthia Barnes of Montgomery, AL. They have five children: Donna Lisa, Erika Lynn, Dionne, Cedric and Julian (Brad); and one grand-son, Brandon. Colonel is family oriented, lives by Christian values, enjoys Biblical research, and his special interests are people, tennis, bowling and participation in team sports.

Col. Ganier experienced two life-threatening events that have remained sharply in his memory of his Vietnam experiences and formed his life's philosophy:

Vietnam Incident 1 (May, 1967): "I was communication troubleshooter for 12 Vietnamese villages protected by Popular Forces (squad size Marine and South Vietnamese troops). These villages were located in a 15 mile area between the Troy Bridge and Hue City. I was approaching village no. two in my jeep filled radios and batteries when I came around the curve and saw six armed young Vietnamese soldiers standing in front of the village general store. There were no young people in these villages. The young ladies were working in the large cities and young men were in the Vietnamese Army or fighting as Viet Cong soldiers. Vietnamese Army deserters were just as dangerous as the Viet Cong soldiers. I was alone in my jeep with a single .45 pistol on my right hip. Fortunately, I knew almost all of the village leaders, merchants, and children because I would bring food and supplies to the local schools. The store owner jumped in front of the soldiers, pushed them inside her store, closed the door and stood in front of the door. I said good morning as I nervously drove in front of the store. The owner and the villagers who were standing around returned my greeting as I drove around the next curve toward village no. 3. When I drove through the village the next day, everything was normal; everyone was friendly to me as usual, and I never saw any soldiers during the reminder of my tour as communication troubleshooter."

Vietnam Incident 2 (July 1967): I was the head radio operator for the battalion commander during a 10 day search and destroy mission in the jungles of central Vietnam. I had been on duty in the combat operation center for 48 straight hours. I was relieved of duty around two a.m. and went immediately to my pup tent to get some well-deserved sleep. I was awaked around four a.m. and told to get a head count of the other communicators because our battalion area had just been hit by 129 Viet Cong mortar rounds. Only one of my men was slightly wounded. On the next morning, I was surprised to see numerous metal fragments all over the top part of my tent. The soundness of my sleep kept me from waking up, and probably saved my life, as I laid flat on the ground beneath the fragments from the mortars.

- 1. Words of wisdom that I have tried to pass on to my troops and students:
- a. Be all you can be, and strive with all your heart to accomplish all that God gave you the ability to become.
- b. Do all things as if you were doing them for someone you truly love.
- c. Surround yourself with people who support you and have a positive attitude.
- d. Establish and maintain a dedicated work ethic.
- e. Do all you can to maintain your mind and body in great shape.
- f. Strive always to be a giver and not a taker.

James Winfred Brown

James Winfred Brown (2/10/1922-12/11/2018) served in the United States Navy during WWII in the south Pacific all the way from the Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, and Guam to Okinawa. Winfred was born and reared at Rocky Head, Dale County, AL, finishing high school at Ariton, AL.

He attended Howard College (Samford University) studying pharmacy; however, he volunteered to serve during WWII. Howard College had a V-12 program which was



Leonard Ryals

Leonard Ryals (5/5/1922-4/5/2018) was a valiant WWII hero who landed by boat on the shores of Utah Beach four hours after the initial landing of the Allies on D-Day serving in the Army, and he also served during the Korean War. During his military service, Ryals received two Purple Hearts and the Silver Star.

Having been born in Coneuch County, AL, near Repton, AL, and after graduating from W. S. Neil Highschool at Brewton, AL, he worked as a ship fitter leader man for



designed to supplement the force of commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy, and Winfred joined this program and attended officer training school receiving his midshipman commission and obtained the rank of Navy Ensign at Plattsburg, New York, in 1944. Working under hazardous conditions, Winfred delivered Marines and Army troops at the battle of Okinawa which was the largest amphibious landing during WWII. This battle resulted in 100,000 casualties in the Japanese Imperial Army and 50,000 casualties in the Allies. His ship was a Landing Ship Tank (LST) which opened bow doors allowing tanks to land on the beach where no pier or dock was available. Winfred stayed in the Navy for one year after the War and was promoted to Lt. Jr. Grade and became the commanding officer of the ship, LCI Landing Craft Infantry #533, a seagoing amphibious assault ship which could hold 200 infantry for landing on the beaches. He commanded the ship on the way home to America.

In 1946, Winfred returned to AL and finished his degree in pharmacy at Howard College in 1947 where he also served as President of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and co-manager of the football team. He worked as a pharmacist in Talladega for five years. He won a free wedding ceremony on the radio program, Bride and Groom, which aired at Los Angeles, California. The 1949 wedding ceremony for Winfred and his bride, Maude Ellen Jordan, was performed on the radio program, and they were married 64.5 years. Then they moved to Selma, and in 1952 he opened the drug store, Brown Drug Co. They had two sons and one daughter, four grandchildren and 11 great grand-children.

Besides being a pharmacist at Selma, Winfred was an active member of the Selma Chamber of Commerce and often won the membership drive. He served as the Chairman of the Selma Polio Drive during the 1960's. Winifred and Maude Ellen were charter member of Selma's Elkdale Baptist Church. They were faithful to visit shut-ins, taking meals, praying and visiting at hospitals with patients and their families. He drove the Church bus and served as chairman of the Elkdale deacons and the finance and building committees and as Sunday school Director winning the Eagle Award for the most people attending Sunday School. Brown served as Chairman of the Brotherhood and planned many Church anniversary and milestones for the Church. In addition, he also became a beekeeper maintaining eight hives.

When Winfred reflected upon his service to his country during WWII, he stated, "I think that we did a tremendous job. Patriotism was high back home. I think that everyone who served considered it as an extreme honor to serve. If I had to do it again, I would do it again in a heartbeat." two years at the Diluthin and Ewing Ship Yards at Mobile, Alabama. Ryals was drafted at the age of 22 into the U. S. Army, and he was inducted at Ft. McCellan, AL. From there he was sent to Camp McQuaide, CA, for basic training and then to Ft. Benning, GA, for paratrooper training and for additional training at Ft. Hood, TX, with the 473rd Battalion. Ryals volunteered to become a paratrooper because he had no fear of jumping out of planes. One of his commanding officers was quoted as saying, "If Leonard Ryals had as much sense as he had guts, he would be the best man in the Army." He received further training in maneuvers at Camp Polk, LA. After reporting to the Army's staging area for deployment at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, he was sent to England for three months in preparation for the invasion of Europe.

Ryals was part of the Army's invasion of France with the 4th Infantry Division, and he continued fighting as the Army liberated France and conquered Germany. He suffered a head concussion when ordinance from the Germans exploded near him where he was guarding a bridge waiting for General Patton and his troops to cross, but he returned to active duty the very next day. Leonard had vivid memories of the view of Omaha Beach which was stained red from the blood of so many wounded military at that historic landing. Ryals also recalled liberating thousands of prisoners of war and civilians that were being held in concentration camps. Ryals remained on active duty until one year after WWII ended, and then he reenlisted returning to active duty serving three years during the Korean War.

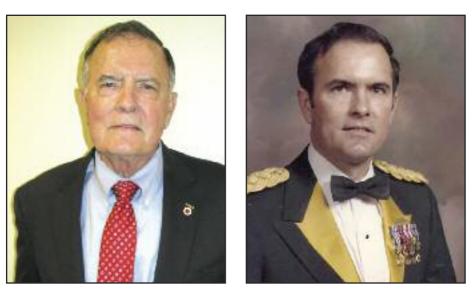
After discharge from military service, Ryals went into the timber and wood producing business with Coosa Newsprint, a paper company that later became Kimberly-Clark Corporation. Then he started buying and selling land for five paper companies totaling over a half of a million acres of land. He had five wood yards where pulp wood was brought to be sold to paper companies.

Ryals was married to Vergie Howell for 68 years, and they had four children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He lived the latter part on his life in Alexander City, AL.

Ryals acknowledged that he had accomplished much and had a great life, but he always gave thanks to God for many blessings especially his being able to survive during two wars which he concluded was a result of many prayers for him by people back in Alabama.

Col. William C. Allison

Col. William C. Allison is the consummate example of a dedicated United Stated Army officer. Bill concludes that his three overseas assignments were his most interesting and rewarding times in the Army. His first overseas assign-



ment was in Korea where he initially served in the Demilitarized Zone with the 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division before joining the Korean Military Advisory Group (KMAG) and served as the Aide-de-Camp to the Chief of KMAG.

His second overseas assignment was as a captain; he was detailed to the Infantry Branch and subsequently assigned to duty in Vietnam as an Infantry Company Commander in the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. He was put in command of "Charlie" Company three times, replacing commanders who were relieved or killed in action. Allison was commanding the company at Fire Support Burt near the Cambodia border when it was attacked by a 1,500 man Viet Cong force and during the Tet Offensive of 1968. For his action in combat, Captain Allison was awarded the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action, three Bronze Stars, two Bronze Stars were for valor, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He is a Parachutist, Ranger and Jungle Warfare Expert.

During the next twelve years, he assumed much responsibility and provided leadership wherever he was assigned for service. Following the 1973 Yom

Kippur War, Major Allison was assigned to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine with duty as a UN Military Observer in Damascus, Syria and on the Golan Heights. Initially, Allison was the only American military person in Syria where he worked daily with 18 Soviets KGB Officers. Then in 1975, LTC Allison assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, 77th Armor, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Polk, Louisiana. After completing his command tour, he served in the Pentagon as an action officer on the Army General Staff in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. LTC Allison was selected to attend the Army War College, Class of 1981, at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. Upon completion of the War College Course, he was retained on the faculty. In 1985, he was assigned as Chief, Army Advisor to the Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. In 1988, Allison retired from 27 years of service in the United States.

Col. Allison was born at Ft. Benning, Georgia, and reared at Columbus, GA, by his parents, Sam and Mary Frances Allison. He graduated from Auburn University in 1961 and received his commission as an Armor Officer through the R.O.T. C. program; he received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Shippenberg University. Allison and his wife, Martha John, have been married for 57 years, and they have two daughters. Bill is quick to say that Martha John was the ideal, supportive Army wife; she has always said that Bill's Army career had been her career also.

Allison has been an active member of the River Region Salvation Army Advisory Board for over 25 years. Several times he has been recognized as the Salvation Army volunteer of the year; in September 2014, the Territorial Commander conferred on Bill the honor of Life Member of The Salvation Army Advisory Board. Bill said that he enjoys providing members of local churches, clubs and businesses the opportunity to volunteer to support the Red Kettle Drive. Frazer's Sunday school classes support the Salvation Army with more volunteer bell ringers (aka Ding-A-Lings) than any other group in the River Region. Bill said that more than 500 Frazer members will be ringing the bells at the Sam's Club and Chantilly Wal-Mart this year; he also said that members of our local community willingly sign-up to support the Salvation Army.

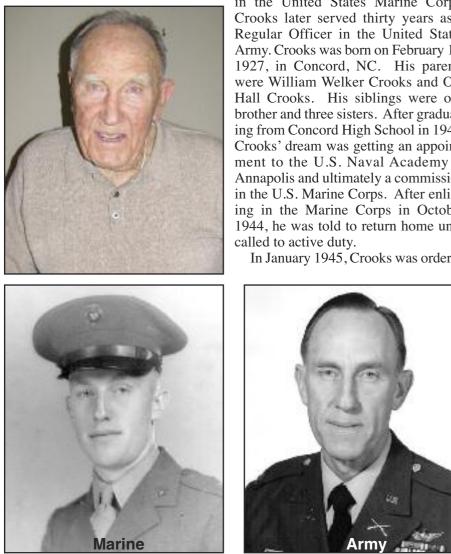
Bill has given countless programs and lectures to civic clubs, churches, veteran reunions, schools and the Air War College. His most educational and receptive presentation and lectures have been on the Arab-Israeli conflicts and the Vietnam War. He supports his presentations with photographic images that he captured while serving as an Infantry company commander in Vietnam and as a Military Observer assigned to the United Nations in Syria.

Bill's continued patriotism is evidenced by his saying, "It was a great honor to lead a group of dedicated young Americans as the Commander of a Mechanized Infantry Company in Vietnam."

Lives lost in combat.		
World War 1	1917-1918	116,516
World War 2	1941-1945	405,399
Korean War	1950-1953	36,516
Vietnam War	1955-1975	58,209
	Sources: U.S. Army Military His	story Institute; iCasualties.org; Wikipedia.

Colonel Eugene F. Crooks

Eugene (Gene) Franklin Crooks at age 92 is one of the youngest of a group of fast dwindling veterans of World War II. His military career is unique in that he served in two different military services and in three wars, WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. During the last stages of WWII, he served overseas



in the United States Marine Corps. Crooks later served thirty years as a Regular Officer in the United States Army. Crooks was born on February 16, 1927, in Concord, NC. His parents were William Welker Crooks and Ora Hall Crooks. His siblings were one brother and three sisters. After graduating from Concord High School in 1944, Crooks' dream was getting an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis and ultimately a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps. After enlisting in the Marine Corps in October 1944, he was told to return home until

in a Joint Communications Center. In late July, 1946, Crooks boarded an Aircraft Carrier back to the states, and in August, 1946, Crooks received his Honorable Discharge. Crooks maintains his interest in the Marine Corps through his association with the Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. Semper Fi! Looking back over his service with the Marines during WWII, Crooks says, "I was glad that the bomb was dropped ending WWII as I was not looking forward to the invasion of Japan. I think that everyone of my male relatives was involved in military service during WWII."

After discharge, Crooks enrolled in Davidson College, Davidson, NC. His primary goal was to enter the Army Advanced ROTC Program and obtain a commission in the United States Army. In 1948, he graduated from Advanced ROTC and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Reserve. He applied for Active Duty to obtain a Regular Army Commission. In November, 1949, he was ordered to active duty. While attending the Infantry Officer Basic Course, he married Ruth Lotshaw, Registered Nurse from Charlotte, NC. During the next thirty years, he experienced a very rewarding and successful military career. Crooks served in some of the best of the Army Divisions of that period. In 1950, he was assigned for three years to the 26th Infantry Regiment in Bamberg, Germany, which was a part of the famous 1st Infantry Division. His leadership positions were at Platoon and Company level with staff experience at Battalion and Regimental level. In the 82nd Airborne Division, his most challenging assignment was command of an Airborne Infantry Rifle Company. Assignment to the G2 Air Section of Headquarters 7th Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea (ROK) gave him experience at Division level. As a Rated Aerial Observer, he frequently flew as an observer on flights along the DMZ. Service assignments above Division level started as a Logistics Planning Officer in the G4 Section of Headquarters XVIII Airborne Corps. Selection in 1959 for Flight Training and the Army Aviation Program meant a new specialization in his career. Following Flight Training, he was assigned to the then 101st Airborne Division. There he served in the 101st Aviation Battalion as a Company Commander and Battalion Operations Officer. He served in Headquarters US Army, Europe as an Aviation Staff Officer. Assignment to the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was as an Action Officer in the Operations Directorate concerned with Northeast Asia. During a second tour in the Republic of Korea, he served as Chief of the Exercise and Training Division of Eighth Army and the US Forces Korea. Crooks served two tours in Germany, two in Korea, and one in Vietnam. Service in Vietnam was from July 1967 to July 1968. While there he commanded the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, then served as Operations Officer and later Chief of Staff of the 1st Aviation Brigade. Among his numerous decorations, awards, and ribbons are the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Asiatic Pacific Theater, WWII Victory Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, U.S. Vietnam Service Medal (four Campaigns), Korean Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Unit Award, and others. His Professional Military Education includes the Infantry Officer Basic and Advance Courses, the Army Command and General Staff College, The Armed Forces Staff College, the Army War College and the Air War College. He served on the Faculty of both the Army and Air War Colleges. While serving on the Faculty of the Army War College, he was also assigned to the Strategic Studies Institute, an Army in house Think Tank. While at the Air War College, he was the Army Advisor to the Air University Commander. Crooks' civilian education includes a B.S. with a Major in Economics and Business Administration from Park University and a Master's in Public Administration from Shippensburg University. He is a Senior Army Aviator both Fixed Wing and Helicopter qualified, instrument rated, and multi-engine qualified. He also wears the Ranger Tab. Crooks retired on November 30, 1979, as a Colonel with thirty-one and a half years active military service. Crooks concludes, I had a great, satisfying career." After retirement from the Army, Crooks worked with the AL Alcohol Beverage Control Board. He has been active with volunteer service at Montgomery's Memorial Presbyterian Church, the Exchange Club, the Kiwanis Club and the Military Officers Association of America. His first wife, Ruth Lotshaw Crooks, and he were married for 52 years until she passed away. They had two sons, one daughter, four grand-children and two great-grand-children. He and his second wife, Erin, have been married for 16 years.

In January 1945, Crooks was ordered

to active duty and Boot Camp at Paris Island, SC. While Boot Camp was physically and mentally demanding, Crooks said that he knew what to expect from talking to Marines and reading about the training. Following Boot Camp, most of the new Marines were assigned to Camp Lejeune, NC, for Advanced Combat Training (ACT). After completing ACT, Crooks tells of securing their gear including their rifles, and boarding a troop train to the West Coast and deployment to the Pacific. Upon arrival at Camp Pendleton, California, members of the Replacement Draft were informed that the new policy was that eighteenyear-olds must have six months in the States before being sent overseas. Members of the Replacement Draft were assigned to various organizations until the six months elapsed. They then redrew their equipment and rifles and prepared to board a troop transport for the Pacific. While sailing to Hawaii, they received news of the dropping of two Atomic Bombs on Japan in August, 1945.

Upon arrival at the Marine Corps Transit Center near Pearl Harbor, Crooks' group was informed that they were scheduled to go to Maui to join the 4th Marine Division preparing for the invasion of Japan; however, everything was now on hold because of the expected imminent surrender of Japan. Shortly after the surrender, the Replacement Draft members were informed that the 4th Division was being inactivated and the members of the Draft would be going on to Guam for further assignments. On Guam, Crooks was assigned as a Message Center Chief in a Battalion Headquarters. Demobilization was in process worldwide, but many veterans protested by demonstrations. One of the Air Corps units on Guam went on a hunger strike, but insofar as Crooks knew, no Marines on Guam participated in such activities. Crooks remembers that by January the battalion was inactivated, and he was assigned for a short time to an MP and Guard Company. He then was reassigned as a Message Center Chief

The Battle of the Bulge

In late 1944, during the wake of the Allied forces' successful D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, it seemed as if the Second World War was all but over. On Dec. 16, with the onset of winter, the German army launched a counteroffensive that was intended to cut through the Allied forces in a manner that would turn the tide of the war in Hitler's favor. The battle that ensued is known historically as the Battle of the Bulge. The courage and fortitude of the American Soldier was tested against great adversity. Nevertheless, the quality of his response ultimately meant the victory of freedom over tyranny.

Overview

Early on the misty winter morning of Dec. 16, 1944, more than 200,000 German troops and nearly 1,000 tanks launched Adolf Hitler's last bid to reverse the ebb in his fortunes that had begun when Allied troops landed in France on D-Day. Seeking to drive to the coast of the English Channel and split the Allied



American engineers emerge from the woods and move out of defensive positions after fighting in the vicinity of Bastogne, Belgium.

armies as they had done in May 1940, the Germans struck in the Ardennes Forest, a 75-mile stretch of the front characterized by dense woods and few roads, held by four inexperienced and battle-worn American divisions stationed there for rest and seasoning.

victory of

FREEDOM

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After a day of hard fighting, the Germans broke through the American front, surrounding most of an infantry division, seizing key crossroads, and advancing their spearheads toward the Meuse River, creating the projection that gave the battle its name.

Stories spread of the massacre of Soldiers

and civilians at Malmedy and Stavelot, of paratroopers dropping behind the lines, and of English-speaking German soldiers, disguised as Americans, capturing critical bridges, cutting communications lines, and spreading rumors. For those who had lived through 1940, the picture was all too familiar. Belgian townspeople put away their Allied flags and brought out their swastikas. Police in Paris enforced an all-night curfew. British veterans waited nervously to see how the Americans would react to a full-scale German

offensive, and British generals quietly acted to safeguard the

Meuse River's crossings. Even American civilians, who had thought final victory was near were sobered by the Nazi onslaught.

But this was not 1940. The supreme Allied commander, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower rushed reinforcements to hold the shoulders of the German penetration. Within days, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. had turned his Third U.S. Army to the north and was counterattacking against the German flank. But the story of the Battle of the Bulge is above all the story of American Soldiers. Often isolated and unaware of the overall picture, they did their part to slow the Nazi advance, whether by delaying armored spearheads with obstinate defenses of vital crossroads, moving or burning critical gasoline stocks to keep them from the fuel-hungry German tanks, or coming up with questions on arcane Americana to stump possible Nazi infiltrators.

At the critical road junctions of St. Vith and Bastogne, American tankers and paratroopers fought off repeated attacks, and when the acting commander of the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne was summoned by his \German adversary to surrender, he simply responded, "Nuts!"

Within days, Patton's Third Army had relieved Bastogne, and to the north, the 2nd U.S. Armored Division stopped enemy tanks short of the Meuse River on Christmas.



Three members, of an American patrol, Sgt. James Storey, of Newman, Ga., Pvt. Frank A. Fox, of Wilmington, Del., and Cpl. Dennis Lavanoha, of Harrisville, N.Y., cross a snow-covered Luxembourg field on a scouting mission in Lellig, Luxembourg, Dec. 30, 1944. White bedsheets camouflage them in the snow.

Through January, American troops, often wading through deep snow drifts, attacked the sides of the shrinking bulge until they had restored the front and set the stage for the final drive to victory.

Never again would Hitler be able to launch an offensive in the west on such a scale. An admiring British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill stated, "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory." Indeed, in terms of participation and losses, the Battle of the Bulge is arguably the greatest battle in American military history.

Courtesy of the U.S. Army Center of Military History



Walter Patrick Bailey

He was the youngest of 9 children, born January 12, 1924 to Morris and Dan... Bailey. He married Eloise Youngblood on October 3, 1942 and a daughter Judy Bailey was born in August 16, 1943.

He was employed as an electrician on his enlistment date of April 27, 1943. He was killed in action on December 21, 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge, where he served in the 275th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. This December will mark the 75th anniversary of the battle and his death. He is buried at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Hombourg, Belgium.

My Grandmother, Eloise Bailey would talk about him very fondly, using the nickname "Bailey" however when discussion would turn to details of his time in the service. but his death she would not talk about the details.

In fact, when we would inquire about his burial, she indicated he didn't have one due to the nature of his death. It wasn't until her death in 1997 and the ability to research online that we discovered his final resting place in Belgium, Germany.

Note: It is a pleasure as the editor and a owner of the Alabama Gazette to honor my uncle, Walter Patrick Bailey with this memorial tribute. He was the hero of the Bailey family of Montgomery. May his memory live on in the lives of his granddaughters Samantha Casey and Angelique Pugh.

Loretta Grant

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May 2019

Overview of the Vietnam War

Vietnam was the longest war in American history and the most unpopular American war of the 20th century. It resulted in nearly 60,000 American deaths and in an estimated 2 million Vietnamese deaths. Even today, many Americans still ask whether the American effort in Vietnam was a sin, a blunder, a necessary war, or whether it was a noble cause, or an idealistic, if failed, effort to protect the South Vietnamese from totalitarian government.

Summary:

Between 1945 and 1954, the Vietnamese waged an anticolonial war against France, which received \$2.6 billion in financial support from the United States. The French defeat at the Dien Bien Phu was followed by a peace conference in Geneva. As a result of the conference, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam received their independence, and Vietnam was temporarily divided between an anti-Communist South and a Communist North. In 1956, South Vietnam, with American backing, refused to hold unification elections. By 1958, Communist-led guerrillas, known as the Viet Cong, had begun to battle the South Vietnamese government.

To support the South's government, the United States sent in 2,000 military advisors--a number that grew to 16,300 in 1963. The military condition deteriorated, and by 1963, South Vietnam had lost the fertile Mekong Delta to the Viet Cong. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson escalated the war, commencing air strikes on North Vietnam and committing ground forces--which numbered 536,000 in 1968. The 1968 Tet Offensive by the North Vietnamese turned many Americans against the war.

The next president, Richard Nixon, advocated Vietnamization, withdrawing American troops and giving South Vietnam greater responsibility for fighting the war. In 1970, Nixon



attempted to slow the flow of North Vietnamese soldiers and supplies into South Vietnam by sending American forces to destroy Communist supply bases in Cambodia. This act violated Cambodian neutrality and provoked antiwar protests on the nation's college campuses.

From 1968 to 1973, efforts were made to end the conflict through diplomacy. In January 1973, an agreement was reached; U.S. forces were withdrawn from Vietnam, and U.S. prisoners of war were released. In April 1975, South Vietnam surrendered to the North, and Vietnam was reunited.

Consequences

1. The Vietnam War cost the United States 58,000 lives and 350,000 casualties. It also resulted in between one and two million Vietnamese deaths.

2. Congress enacted the War Powers Act in 1973, requiring the president to receive explicit Congressional approval before committing American forces overseas.

Maya Lin's Memorial

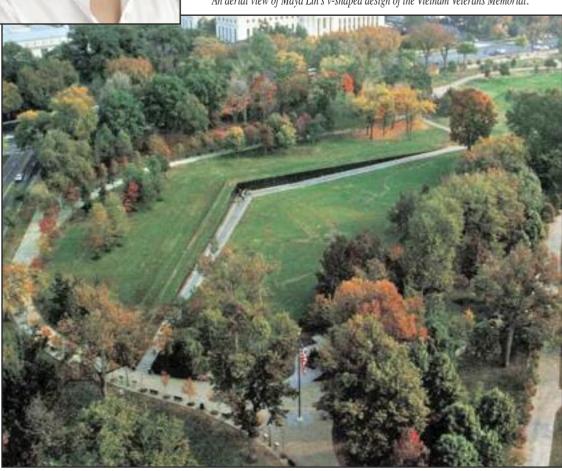


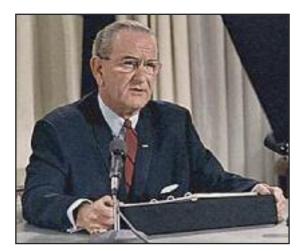
Maya Lin was born in Athens, Ohio, the year Kennedy was elected President. She was the Chinese-American daughter of two college professors. Our long slide into the Vietnam War had barely begun. Maya Lin was too young to've been involved in the domestic conflict that tore America apart as the war ran its course. By 1980, with the war long since lost, she was studying architecture at Yale. Her generation had given scant thought to the 58,000 Americans who'd died in Vietnam.

Maya Lin Architect of the Vietnam War Memorial

(Photo: © Maya Lin Studio/The Pace Gallery/Photo by Terry Adams/National Park Service)

An aerial view of Maya Lin's v-shaped design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.





President Johnson speaks on TV.

Renunciation Speech by President Lyndon Johnson

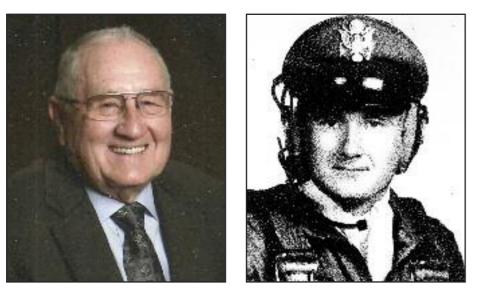
In this speech, President Johnson restates his offer to the North Vietnamese to begin talks for making peace, and he discusses the economic problems and solutions in the United States. At the end of the speech, after urging both Congress and Americans to end their divisions, the President announces his decision not to seek re-election.

Mintz, S., & McNeil, S. (2018). Digital History. Retrieved April 11, 2019 from *http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu*



Kenneth V. Roberts

Kenneth Roberts served in the Vietnam War as a forward air controller surveying areas to determine where planes should be deployed for combat action. He received the following medals and commendations for his heroic



service: 1. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, (2) Air Force Longevity Service Award with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, (3) National Defense Service Medal, (4) Distinguished Flying cross, (5) Meritorious Service Medal, (6) Air Force Commendation Medal and (7) Vietnam Service Medal.

Kenneth was born August 27, 1934, at Oak Grove, LA. Growing up on a farm, he learned mechanical skills repairing machinery used in agriculture. His participation in the Future Farmers of America taught him leadership skills and developed his determination to succeed. He graduated from Louisiana State University with a B.S. Degree in Agriculture. Having trained in R.O.T.C. during college, Kenneth volunteered to serve in the military. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Air Force and trained as a pilot receiving his wings and later serving as an instructor of pilots. He was deployed to Howard AFB at Panama where he flew the T-28 protecting the Panama Canal. Roberts was sent to Bolivia to train its pilots who then provided protection from Fidel Castro and his allies who were attempting to overthrow the Bolivian government. Kenneth was sent to Pleiku, Vietnam, spending time at An Kha with the Army where he flew the 0-2 airplane, a converted Cessna Skymaster, totaling 700 hours with hazardous duty to locate and to mark targets with white phosphorus rockets and then to call in air strikes. Returning to the USA, he trained new pilots at Craig Air Force Base at Selma and became Base Operations Officer. His last assignment was his service at Grissom AFB, Indiana, as the Base Operations Officer until his retirement.

Returning to civilian life, Ken and his wife, Melba, settled at Selma where they reared two sons, and they have four grandchildren. He worked 20 years with Wallace Community College as a diesel instructor and then as Dean of the Technical School.

Kenneth stated, "We came from a very patriotic family. All of my friends were going to serve. I had no doubts about volunteering. Whatever my country needed, I would go again if required." August 2018

Vietnam: Where Were You? Long Binh

Long Binh post was an Army base about 25 or 30 kilometers south-southeast of Bien Hoa and about 20 or 30 kilometers north of Saigon. At that time, it was the largest military installation in Vietnam and the home of the largest depot in

base at Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa, Cam Ranh and Da Nang. The initial price tag for Long Binh was \$59 million. Later, the firm of the Pacific Architects & Engineers would handle construction in the last phases of Vietnam. RMK-BRJ



the world - Long Binh Depot or USALBD. To get there from Bien Hoa AFB, you had to cut through a portion of the city of Bien Hoa and make a short drive down Highway 1A. (Highway 1A was the major Vietnam artery that would take you from the DMZ in the north all the way to Saigon in the south.) On our drive through the city of Bien Hoa, we were surprised at the variety of traffic. Anything from Army deuce-and-a-half trucks to bicycles to motorbikes to Jeeps to 10-ton military eighteen-wheelers to old French civilian automobiles to some-

thing called a Lambretta. We took special note of several buildings that showed numerous scars from bullets and some that were half-blown up. Looked like there might have been a war here. Every civilian building that seemed to be of some importance was surrounded by multiple strands of rusty barbed wire.

After short drive down Highway 1A, we merged onto Highway 316 south. Long Binh post was triangular shaped and bordered on all three sides by Vietnamese highways. The main part of Long Binh post was bordered on the east by Highway 316/1A. Highway 316/1A ran in a north-south direction, joined Highway 1 south of Long Binh going to Saigon, and joined Highway 1 at the north above Bien Hoa. The northern perimeter of the main Long Binh post was bordered by Highway 15, which ran in an east-west direction. The south border of Long Binh lay along Highway 317, which also ran in an east-west direction. Highway 317 merged with Highway 15 at the extreme eastern tip of Long Binh. From this merger point, Highway 15 continued on to the east toward Bear Cat, home of the 9th Infantry Division. Long Binh was located just east of the Dong Nai River and near the river port of Cogido.

Construction for the Long Binh post was started in late1966. By the end of 1966, all that existed was just some rough cut roads and lots of fill dirt. Prior to the start of construction, the area was mostly marshes, jungle and rubber trees. In early 1967, construction of the facilities began in earnest. By late 1967, the massive built air fields, bridges, buildings, roads, embassies and most of the useable infrastructure found in Vietnam - at U.S. taxpayer's expense.

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At its peak, Long Binh was home to 43,000 U.S. military personnel in 1969. The USARV (United States Army, Vietnam) headquarters was located there as was the 1st Logistical Command. Ultimately, Long Binh was home to the II Field Force, 18th Military Police Brigade, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, 44th Medical Brigade and others. Both the 93rd and 24th Evacuation hospitals were located there as was the 266th Supply and Service Battalion which provided graves registration, clothes, petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) and construction supplies for the III Corps area in Vietnam. The 1st Aviation Brigade was headquartered here and operated aircraft out of Sanford Army Airfield at the eastern end of Long Binh.

The depot at Long Binh contained an ammunition supply dump, by far the largest in Vietnam. The ammo supply dump was a prime target for VC sappers. There were several successful attacks on the supply dump, one on February 4, 1967 resulting in the explosion of 15,000 high explosive 155 mm artillery projectiles. The depot was attacked three times in 1966, once in 1967, twice in 1968 and once in 1969.

Just outside the north perimeter of Long Binh laid the Vietnamese town on Hoi Nai, a known home for numerous Viet Cong. At the northwest corner of Long Binh was an area known as the Widow's Village, a home for South Vietnamese widows and orphans of Vietnamese soldiers. Here, during the Tet of 1968, was the site of a furious battle involving the VC, NVA, elements of the 11th Armored Calvary, elements of the 9th Infantry and some Military Police units. This was a house to house, street to street operation eventually involving helicopter gunships before the enemy troops could be pushed out of the area.

Just outside the west perimeter of Long Binh and across Highway 1 laid the Vietnamese village of Tam Hiep. At the south perimeter were miles of rice paddies and thick jungle. To the east side laid Highway 15 to Bear Cat and a large stretch of cleared land for a killing zone. During the Tet offensive attacks of 1968 and 1969, large numbers of communist troops attacked from the south and east sides. The northeast quadrant of Long Binh was the location for the large depot.



base was really starting to take shape. Much of the construction was done by a combination of the SeeBees, Vietnamese labor,

and the construction consortium of Raymond, Morrison-Knudson, Brown & Root and J. A. Jones or RMK-BRJ for short. This was the largest engineering/construction consortium in history and they were responsible for the construction of most, if not all, of the airfields in Vietnam including the huge

Next month we will visit another military post in Vietnam and cover other locations that most people have never heard of in Vietnam.

Guest article and photos submitted by Jessie Donaldson



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Social Security Honors and Supports Military Members

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Service members can also receive Social Security in addition to military retirement benefits. The good news is that your military retirement benefit generally does not reduce your Social Security retirement benefit. Learn more about Social Security retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement.



Rows of small American flag planted in the grass.

You may also want to visit the Military Service page of our Retirement Planner, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html.

Please share this information with a military family who may not know about these benefits. In acknowledgment of those heroes who died for our country, those who served, and those who serve today, we at Social Security honor and thank you.

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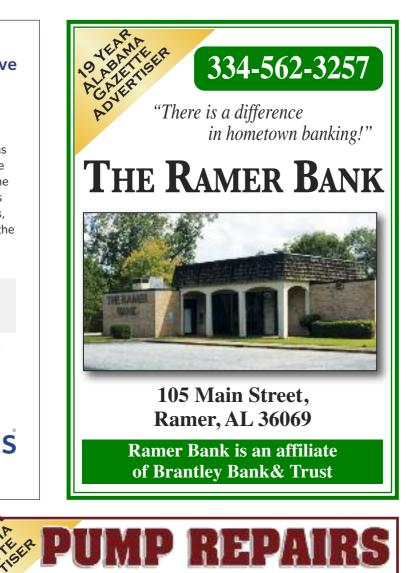
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