

Remember  
to Honor our Veterans  
November 11th See Pg. 8



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## Happy Thanksgiving



One hundred two souls left England in 1620 to land in Virginia where they were to receive land through contract by the Virginia Company. The Virginia Company was chartered by King James I to set up English colonies in Virginia. Yes, it's the same King James that commissioned that version of the Bible. We often think of the Mayflower as a ship of Pilgrims but only forty-one were on that voyage to separate themselves from the Church of England. The others, whom the Pilgrims referred to as strangers consisted of merchants, indentured servants, craftsmen and even orphaned children. One child was born during the sixty-six day voyage, aptly named Oceanus. Two ships were to have made the journey, but it was found that one ship was not seaworthy. All people, goods, arms and animals were cramped onto the Mayflower for the journey.

## The Mayflower Compact



Read complete article by Ron Holsford - Pg 2

**Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.** John Stuart Mill

**The price of greatness is responsibility.** Winston Churchill

**We have the best government that money can buy.** Author Unknown

### A Psalm of Thanksgiving

**Enter unto His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.** Psalm 100



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# Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

www.steveflowers.us

## Election Year Observations



This 2022 Election Year in Alabama has been monumental and memorable. Any gubernatorial year is big in the state. It is the brass ring of Alabama politics to be governor. However, the race to succeed our Senior Senator Richard Shelby has been the marquee contest. This year will be the last hurrah for our two leading political figures in the state.

Senator Richard Shelby is retiring after 36 years in the U.S. Senate at age 88. Governor Kay Ivey will be elected to her final term as Governor at 78.

An observation that occurred to me during the year that many of you may not know or realize is the power that Jimmy Rane, the legendary successful businessman from Abbeville, possesses. He is known to many Alabamians as the famous friendly giant sitting atop a horse as the Yella Fella on the ads of yesteryear promoting his Great Southern Wood Company.

In my years of observing Alabama politics, I do not believe there has been an individual that has been the closest confidant and friend to the two most powerful political people in the state. Senator Shelby and Governor Ivey are unquestionably the two most powerful political people in the state, but they are arguably two of the most important political figures in modern Alabama political history. If you sat both Ivey and Shelby down and asked them to tell you their best friend and confidant, they both would probably say Jimmy Rane.

Governor Ivey and Rane have been friends and allies since their college days at Auburn University 60 years ago. Shelby and Rane have been bonded for at least 36 years. As busy as Senator Shelby has been as one of the most important leaders in Washington and world affairs, the last 10 years a week does not go by that Shelby and Rane do not talk. Rane knows when Shelby has a cold before his wife Annette knows. Rane has been Ivey's and Shelby's benefactor and ally for not what they can do for him. He does not get anything out of his relationship with Shelby and Ivey. He is just their friend.

He is also loyal to his hometown of Abbeville and Henry County. The Great

Southern Wood is the main thing in Abbeville and a mainstay for the entire Wiregrass. His benevolence to his hometown is unparalleled. Another development I have watched this year is some good old fashioned hardnosed hard work on the campaign trail by some of the 2022 candidates. It is understandable that those running for office on this year's ballot would be on the campaign trail.

However, one Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, the President of the Public Service Commission, has canvassed the rural counties of Alabama more extensively than most of the successful candidates running statewide this year. And, folks, her name was not even on the ballot this year. She runs for reelection to the PSC Presidency in 2024. To say that she will be unbeatable for reelection to her post as head of the PSC would be an understatement.

Twinkle Cavanaugh is probably the best known political figure in the state going forward in the post Richard Shelby/Kay Ivey era. She has run statewide numerous times and has been successful in most of those races. When you run that many times, you build a grassroots organization. Then you add that she has been Chairman of the Republican Party and a loyal supporter of popular past Republican presidents. She has not let any grass grow under her feet this year. She has watered that grassroots organization during this off year with one-on-one visits, especially to the remote rural counties of the state. Her diligence will pay off in future years. She is still young and a good bet to be governor or U.S. Senator one day.

Folks in Montgomery and throughout the state are glad to see State Senator Billy Beasley run again, successfully, for another term. He is one of the most well-liked and respected members of the upper chamber in the State Capitol. Billy is the only white Democrat in the Alabama Senate. Do not bet on his not running again in 2026. He is the youngest looking 82 year old I have ever seen and his brother Jere is the youngest 85 year old I have ever seen. They must have pretty good genes.

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Ronald A. Holtsford

# Early Law In America The Mayflower Compact



One hundred two souls left England in 1620 to land in Virginia where they were to receive land through contract by the Virginia Company. The Virginia Company was chartered by King James I to set up English colonies in Virginia. Yes, it's the same King James that commissioned that version of the Bible. We often think of the Mayflower as a ship of Pilgrims but only forty-one were on that voyage to separate themselves from the Church of England. The others, whom the Pilgrims referred to as strangers consisted of merchants, indentured servants, craftsmen and even orphaned children. One child was born during the sixty-six day voyage, aptly named Oceanus. Two ships were to have made the journey, but it was found that one ship was not seaworthy. All people, goods, arms and animals were cramped onto the Mayflower for the journey.

Through the first winter some lived on land but many lived on the ship. That winter of 1620-1621, half of the people died which included five children. After the deaths of that winter, those deaths left the half of those remaining under eighteen years of age and some because they were now orphaned were taken in by other adults. Only four of the mothers survived, a belief that the moms did what they so often do and take care of others before themselves. Following those hardships, the others aboard the ship came to land.

But before they even got off the ship and to direct the reader to the purpose of this article, they had to have a loose set of laws to guide them. They had not landed in Virginia as under the charter and the "strangers" almost mutinied because they were outside the jurisdiction and thus not bound under the rules of their charter. The pilgrims knew that in order to survive they would have to support each other and have the rules in place before they left the ship.

**On 11 November 1620, forty-one adult males signed the Mayflower Compact. Those that signed included two indentured servants. It is believed that the Mayflower Compact may have been written by separatist pastor, William Brewster. The text of the Compact, read:**

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the Faith, etc.:

Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith, and the honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another; covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient

for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, 1620.

Those first laws that were temporary to guide people in the new world have obviously evolved from a set of guidelines to laws that govern every aspect of our lives, taking on thousands of volumes of books for the Federal government and its fifty states. A very slim government has grown to have many elected individuals for various positions and a huge bureaucracy developed to support them.

In March, a native American, Squanto (otherwise known as Tisquantum) greeted them using the English language. Squanto had been taken as a slave by an English sea captain years before and taken by monks in Spain where he was educated. He made his way to England and through a series of events back to the New World only to find that his tribe had died out from disease probably brought by the English.

April 1621 was met with the election of John Carver as its governor. After Carver's death, William Bradford was elected governor and he proclaimed the biggest reason that November, 1621 is remembered. That being a three-day celebration held in thanksgiving for those that had survived that first winter. That celebration was with the help of the local indigenous people who through the connection with Squanto had helped those at Plymouth to learn how to be self-sufficient and to survive.

Thanksgiving celebrations were intermittently held thereafter throughout our history, with a later declaration by Abraham Lincoln. President Franklin Roosevelt later changed the Thursday to hopefully spur the economy during the Depression but was changed back to it's more historical third Thursday in November.

I hope that each of you will think on your blessings and give God thanks and hopefully be able to enjoy an abundance of family with you.

*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.*

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# ROBSERVATIONS... THE FECKLESS U.N.

by Robert Tate

**FECKLESS:** *lacking initiative or strength of character; irresponsible, useless, worthless, incompetent, inefficient, inept, good-for-nothing, idle, slothful, indolent, shiftless, spiritless, apathetic, aimless, unambitious.*

At 2128 local time, on the night of 16/17 May 1943, the first of 19 British Royal Air Force (RAF) Lancaster bombers took off on OPERATION CHASTISE: The raid to attack German dams in the Ruhr. In arguably the most perfect example of a center of gravity analysis turned operational mission in all of WWII, these bombers took-off in order to destroy the Moehne, Eder and Sorpe dams, thus impeding industry in the Ruhr region. In the process of destroying the Moehne and Eder dams using the Barnes Wallis bouncing bomb, the RAF damaged the Sorpe and attacked two secondary dams, the Ennepe and Bever. The British lost 8 airplanes, had 53 men killed, 3 were made prisoners of war and in return, some 600 German civilians were killed and close to 1,000, mostly Soviet prisoners of war and slave laborers. The overall success is a matter for another discussion.

On the night of 13/14 February 1945, in two waves, a total of 799 RAF Lancaster bombers departed their bases in England in order to bomb the Saxon capital of Dresden. As a result of the most controversial of all European bombing raids, in addition to the destruction of most of the city, some 25,000 German civilians were killed. One month later and half a world away, on the night of 9/10 March in OPERATION MEETINGHOUSE, 729 of General Curtis LeMay’s B-29 Superfortresses, burned out and destroyed over 16 square miles of the center of Tokyo. In the deadliest air raid in history, over 100,000 Japanese civilians were killed and over 1,000,000 were made homeless.

There are two main points here. First, anytime I can fenagle a WWII example, by now I am sure you guys know that I am going to do it. Secondly, and most important, as hundreds of German and Japanese cities lay in ruins, many people were determined to put limits on what bombers could and could not due in the future. As sad as it may seem, and disheartening to many, there were absolutely no laws governing aerial bombardment in WWII. None. Although the wholly unratified Hague Rules of Air Warfare were published in February 1923, they were not actionable nor legally binding in anyway. Rightfully, something needed to be done about this. Much was learned and many target types and target sets that were fully legal, no matter how morally objectionable in WWII, had to be reviewed with limits placed upon many of them. This was to include targets like dams, dykes and the area bombing of cities.

Let’s flash forward 77 years and 9 nine days from Dresden and the world witnessed the Russian Federation invading the sovereign nation of Ukraine. To say things have not quite gone to plan for the Russians would be an understatement. But because of this, the Russians have played loosely with international law and began attacking those targets that since WWII have been codified as being off limits.

1. Aerial bombardment. Let’s understand that aerial bombardment also includes missile attacks. Article 51(5)(a) (Rule 13) of the 1977 Additional Protocol I states among others that the following types of attacks are to be considered as indiscriminate: a) an attack by bombardment by any methods or means which treats as a single military objective a number of clearly separated and distinct military objectives located in a city, town, village or other area containing a similar concentration of

civilians and civilian objects. Article 3(9) of the 1996 Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons further provides: “Several clearly separated and distinct military objectives located in a city, town, village or other area containing a similar concentration of civilians and civilian objects are not to be treated as a single military objective.” In regards to these protocols, the Russian Federation itself has stipulated, “It is prohibited to attack as a single military objective (target) a number of clearly separated and distinct military objectives (targets) located in a built-up area or place containing a concentration of protected persons and objects, and launch any indiscriminate attacks.”

There can be absolutely no doubt that the Russians, with the intense shelling, bombing and rocket attacks against solely civilian targets and significant areas within Ukrainian cities, are in complete violation of this law. It is not up for debate.

2. Practice Relating to Rule 42. Works and Installations Containing Dangerous Forces. Dangerous forces according to International Humanitarian Law are works and installations whose attack may cause the release of dangerous forces and consequent severe losses among the civilian population. They are mainly dams, dykes and nuclear electrical generating stations.

It is clear from current laws that a 1943 style dams raid is now not a legal attack.

Article 56 of the 1977 Additional Protocol I provides: “Works and installations containing dangerous forces, namely dams, dykes and nuclear electrical generating stations, shall not be made the object of attack, even where these objects are military objectives, if such attack may cause the release of dangerous forces and consequent severe losses among the civilian population. Other military objectives located at or in the vicinity of these works or installations shall not be made the object of attack if such attack may cause the release of dangerous forces from the works or installations and consequent severe losses among the civilian population.”

It further stipulates that “In all cases, the civilian population and individual civilians shall remain entitled to all the protection accorded them by international law, including the protection of the precautionary measures provided for in Article 57. If the protection ceases and any of the works, installations or military objectives mentioned in paragraph 1 is attacked, all practical precautions shall be taken to avoid the release of the dangerous forces.”

Even the Russian Federation’s military manual agrees with these Articles by stating, in part, that especially dangerous objects are nuclear power stations, dykes, dams “whose destruction may release dangerous destructive factors and consequent severe losses among the civilian population. These objects shall not become the object of attack even when they are military objectives if attacking them may result in the above-mentioned consequences.”

The Russian targeting of the Pechenihy Dam on the Siversky Donets River in northeastern Ukraine is a clear violation of this. The attack caused much flooding on the Inhulets River and as reported by the British Defence Ministry, “As

Russian commanders become increasingly concerned about their operational setbacks, they are probably attempting to strike the sluice gates of dams, in order to flood Ukraninan military crossing points.” Even Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky’s home city of Kryvyi Rih has been flooded, reportedly after Russian strikes against hydraulic structures burst a major dam.

Likewise, the shelling on or near the Zaporizhiahia and Pivdennoukrainsk nuclear plants are also in gross violation of not only Protocol I but the Russians own military doctrine. This article is not intended to be a summary of all the violations committed by Russian. Even the Russian attempt to annex land in Ukraine by force is strictly illegal according to U.N. Charter Article 2(4) and 51.

My point in this Robservation is not so much what Russia is doing but what in the heck is the U.N. doing about these clear violations of international law? Yes, on 2 March 2022, the General Assembly passed Resolution ES-11/1 condemning the Russian invasion and telling them to get out of Ukraine. Uhhh, they are still there and apparently not leaving anytime soon. Then in August of this year, a joint statement confirmed the Russian invasion as illegal. Although 141 countries condemned the invasion, so what? What now?

Much like its beleaguered and worthless predecessor, the League of Nations, the U.N. seems powerless to do anything about the situation in the Ukraine. And if there is ever a clear-cut case where they should be doing something meaningful, all we hear are crickets. It is like walking down the street everyday and seeing the biggest, meanest German Shepherd on the planet barking up a storm every time he sees you; tearing at his leash to get at you. Scary stuff and you run in fear at the sight of him. Then one day he breaks free and charges you. When he jumps on you, you suddenly realize he has no teeth and no claws. He is nothing but all noise. No power. Worthless as a guard dog but perhaps nice to have around to make you look important or intimidating. Such is the U.N.

In these cases, it always seems as if they are looking for America to send our money and weapons in addition to be willing to spill American blood to cover for their inadequacies. If not in this situation, exactly what good is the U.N.? There is no better case than this for the U.N. to do something positive. Is this not why they exist? You had better believe if Israel invaded Egypt or some other country, they would have a lot more to say about it. And don’t think other countries like China and North Korea aren’t taking notes. Personally, like any mega bureaucracy, once it is in place it seems to take on a life of its own. Good luck getting rid of them. Since I know that will never happen, and perhaps they do serve some greater purpose other than using up vast sums of American money, maybe they can one day make a difference in war torn parts of the world as their original charter preamble states, “We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, . . .” In other words, do your job!

Robert Tate

## THANKS ROB!

ROB SUBMITTED IS FIRST ARTICLE IN 2010.  
HE HAS WRITTEN 151 ARTICLES FOR THE GAZETTE!

Thanks for all your help with the Gazette’s  
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## U. S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION



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Justice Will Sellers

# Mussolini's Rise to Power: A Centenary to Remember

One hundred years ago this month, Italy succumbed to a new political order that would ignite a worldwide struggle for freedom.

Completely abandoning its rightful claim as the birthplace of republican self-government, Italy embraced the fanatical politics of Benito Mussolini and embarked on a sad journey of prioritizing rhetoric over reason and ideology over experience.

The permanent scaring and disability of the veterans who suffered the horrors of trench warfare were a constant reminder of the failure of leadership that led to World War I. Each country would come to terms with its economy of this aftermath. Initially, countries experienced internal conflicts as citizens tried to define their new role in the world. The old leadership had clearly failed, but scant options were available to replace it.

This was the age when academic discussions of government promoted communism, socialism, and nationalism in various combinations. Even though none of these systems was tried, much less true, people were restless for something new.

In Italy, this search for something new gave rise to Mussolini. Remembering his ascension to power is not something to be celebrated, but rather observed. Even after 100 years, it is hard to reconcile the positive influence of Roman civilization with the destructive ideas of Mussolini.

Nothing about Mussolini’s character is commendable. His youthful experiences revealed a bigoted bully who constantly fought his classmates; his knife play resulted in expulsion from a number of schools.

Originally a socialist who advocated against war, his opinion gradually changed as he realized that the resulting destruction created possibilities for change and advancement. He thus became an advocate for war and against neutrality. So fervent was his newfound bellicosity that he was paid by the British to stir up Italians to fight against the Central Powers. This was not the first or last time that foreign powers would attempt to foment local support for an objective, only to have the instigator turn and become a mortal threat.

It would be unfair to say that Mussolini was created by the British, but it is appropriate to note that his politics were financed by British pounds.

Mussolini was a powerful advocate in speech and in print. He was an engaging writer and a mesmerizing orator. The cadence of his words and his soothing patronizing rhetoric gave him a following that morphed into a national movement.

He was convinced that the answer to the constant post-war strikes and riots was a strong leader. And as he read various political tracts, Mussolini became convinced that he was the only leader who could unite his country and achieve prosperity.

As Mussolini’s popularity grew and his stature increased, he forgot about any institutions of government, and concluded he could be the government. He came to believe his own rhetoric, and his followers’ applause confirmed this view. Against any sense of traditional, liberal republican government, Mussolini assembled leaders of various disaffected groups and urged them to come together to form a new party.

In giving an example of how tight their union and commitment to change should be, Mussolini advocated an image that would become the symbol of his government and an ill-used pejorative. Harking back to ancient Roman times, the symbol of power was a bundle of wooden rods surrounding an axe. Mussolini urged his followers to be a tight knit group just like these “fascis” that surrounded the axe. Thus, the word fascist as a political movement was born.

Sporting black shirts as an appeal to unnamed and forgotten men, Mussolini’s thugs imitated their leaders’ bullying tactics. In various town and other political subdivisions, these gangs took power by force. The local leadership was not sure how to handle this development, but they were intimidated and succumbed to the demands of these unruly groups.

A century ago, the Italian trade unions called a general strike. Mussolini used this event to demand that the national government act to restore order. Failing that, Mussolini threatened to march on Rome to take control. While simply using rhetoric as propaganda to promote himself, his words resonated with his followers. What started out as an opportunistic speech now became a rallying cry, and his followers heeded his encouragement by actually marching on Rome.

At the time, the government in Italy was akin to a constitutional monarchy like England. While the King, Victor Emmanuel III was generally respected, the prime minister and the parliament were not. When the Italian political leaders realized that Mussolini was serious about marching on Rome, they became afraid and asked the King to declare martial law. When he refused, the political leaders resigned.

For reasons still debated, the King decided to ask Mussolini to become his prime minister and form a government. Mussolini did exactly this, but not willing to completely upset the status quo, he governed in coalition with other parties. Thus, he used the trappings of official government to begin to seize power.

Using extrajudicial means, including murder, he eliminated other political parties and leaders until he achieved his goal of becoming an absolute dictator. Initially, people were willing to tolerate the new government as it did provide the benefit of centralized efficiencies that the previous parliamentary system lacked.

But eventually, when freedoms were curtailed and the economy did not prosper as promised, Mussolini did what dictators always do; he found a national cause for distraction. Mussolini did this in a series of aggressive military actions culminating in the invasion of Ethiopia.

The League of Nations tried to stop these naked aggressions, but without international leadership and with no real power, it took symbolic steps that not only failed to stop Italian atrocities but destroyed the League, opening the way, if not encouraging, other, more significant military aggressions culminating in World War II.

Remembering Mussolini’s rise to power is to recall the consequences of not confronting a national bully who became an international pariah. If, at any point in Mussolini’s infamy, someone in power had forcefully challenged him, the world would be a better place.

Will Sellers is a graduate of Hillsdale College and an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama . He is best reached at [jws@willsellers.com](mailto:jws@willsellers.com)

# Armistice Day- The First Veterans Day

It was November 11, 1918 a normal cool fall day in the United States, but instead of people going about their normal daily business. What could be described as a soft hum, started to emanate from the cities and streets. Hundreds of thousands of people spoke in hushed tones; unsure of the validity of the news they were passing along to anyone they saw. False reports always seemed to be circulating; dashing the hopes of the many that believed and spread the unverified news. That’s why when the reports were first heard, they were spread in an almost “small town gossip” sort of way. But that hum quickly turned into a louder and more powerful cacophony as more and more people filled the streets talking and praying. Holding hope in their hearts as they waited...waited for the news they all desperately wanted hear these past four years; news that could only be verified by one person. The thousands of people waiting, had now turned to millions as the President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson stepped up to the podium in Congress and finally announced that Germany had officially offered **Armistice and on November 11th at 11:00, “The Great War” with over 100 countries involved, was finally over.**



President Woodrow Wilson

When the news was finally verified, millions took to the streets all over the world in celebration. WW1 is still considered to be the one of the bloodiest in human history, with the number of lives lost, innumerable.

One year later in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared that Government operations would cease every November 11th at 11:00 and stated, to us in America: **“The reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”**

And by 1938 Armistice Day was recognized as a Federal Holiday, for all those that served bravely in WW1. Unfortunately, by this year people,



nations and countries all over the world started sharing the same sentiment. The **“War to End All Wars”** as WW1 was naively dubbed, was not in fact the last one – as the Nazi War Machine started rolling through Europe leaving nothing but destruction in its wake.

In 1954 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into effect the official name change, and beginning to what we now know as Veterans Day. America had since survived not only WWII, but also the Korean War since Armistice Day was first celebrated. It started to encompass all service members that has served, especially those in overseas conflicts.

Unlike Memorial Day, which we acknowledge and remember those that have fought and lost their lives for this country; Veterans Day celebrates all that have served and still serve today in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Take a moment to try and understand the magnitude of these men and women’s sacrifices that have served and those that still do. How those past sacrifices have shaped this great country and how without those sacrifices, your life would be different.



On Veterans Day we honor all,  
Who answered to a service call.  
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,  
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.  
Some have lived, while others died,  
And all of them deserve our pride.  
We’re proud of all the soldiers who,  
Kept thinking of red, white and blue.  
They fought for us and all our rights,  
They fought through many days and nights.  
And though we may not know each name,  
We thank ALL veterans just the same.  
*By Cheryl Dyson*



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<https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org>.



John Sophocleus

Straight-ticket voting enables a voter to cast all their votes for one party with a single mark at the top of the ballot. This duopoly party enhancing practice finally died in most States. Little surprise it remains in uncompetitive/ballot access blocked Alabama which is among the last with six other States still suffering this practice. When Texas abolished it for the 2020 election cycle it was the 15th State since 1994 to end this scourge, removing one weapon from the duopoly’s arsenal against more thoughtful and non-partisan voters, proven most distortive at lower level contests on the ballot - i.e., smaller more local races.

Our neighbor to the east, Georgia, eliminated straight-ticketing in 1994. Only Indiana, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Utah share this shameful practice with us. Some lawmakers in Utah [2016] had the courage to introduce legislation to abolish straight ticket voting but it failed to pass. One of the more notable recent successes was observed in heavily Democratic Rhode Island; businessman Ken Block, who lost his gubernatorial bid in 2010, spearheaded the drive to eliminate straight-ticketing from their ballot in 2014.

Leaders of Alabama's Democratic and Republican Parties colluding to remove competition in our State claim they hear no calls for ending the practice. Of course they don’t hear...surrounded by sycophant political prostitutes and hacks who benefit as they further promulgate disregard for non-duopoly candidates’ and voters’ civil rights, aided and abetted by poor jurists like Myron Thompson.

About half of the voters who actually participated in Alabama's prior gubernatorial general elections [Bentley victories] cast a straight-ticket vote. Secretary of State general election reports for 2010 show 48% of the approximately 1.5 million Alabama voters used the straight-ticket bubble, where straight-tickers about ‘cancelled each other out’ with 357,525 straight-ticket Democrat votes and 353,037 Republican. The 2014 general election data showed 50% of eligible voters who participated used the straight-ticket bubble; 316,551 Republican to 273,655 Democratic.

Lower turnout results were no surprise, where Democrats put inferior candidates (some in bed with Felon Hubbard, et al) on the ballot which didn’t allow non-duopoly party candidates to be printed on the ballot to increase voter participation. Increasingly more difficult for elections to communicate citizens want someone OTHER than the Democrat, who was NOT necessarily the Republican, some incumbents were reinstalled with small [in the teens] percentages of eligible voters. Then Speaker Hubbard welcoming the worst of the incumbent Democrats (finding themselves in trouble by the Blue to Red Kool-Aid flavor poison switch) exacerbated the problem. If more expedient to keep them in their current party instead of ‘Dial Time’ party switches and use the big govt. Democrat sycophant to introduce legislation for his desired redistributions from those least able to afford it, provide help with jury selection to avoid conviction, etc. was easily ‘dialed in’ and gerrymandered by Felon Hubbard to keep Republicrats in power. Does it really matter if the harm imposed by corrupt and/or incompetent incumbent extremists reelected (like State Sen. Dial or US Sen. Shelby these past decades) wear the Donkey or Elephant moniker? - the damage done is the same to productive citizens who bear the burden.

Understandably more (esp. those who are not recipients of the political theft) are losing respect for public servants determined by an increasingly more rigged system. Little mystery why big govt. swamp monster Trump howled for abolishing the Electoral College when it gave him the [Bush v. Gore] result he and his Hillary, et al friends did not like; even less mystery how the monster now shills for the Electoral College after giving him the desired result. Political swampers stand for no consistent principle - empowering govt. to advance their specific interest is their overwhelming motivation. Entertaining to watch how much this reality-star showman enjoys not having to deal with the political middlemen he used to purchase. I anger and frustrate most of my duopoly friends and associates openly showing lack of interest w.r.t. which party is installed under the current process. Get rid of protective ballot access laws, hyper-gerrymandering, 435 limit, straight ticket voting, etc. rigged system and I’ll start to care again about a result worthy of my efforts to fight for and preserve.

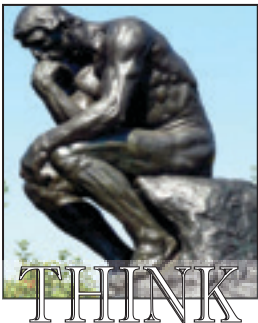
Most cite Richard Winger as ‘the’ expert historian on issues of this sort. “Straight-ticket devices are very harmful to the nominees of minor parties and independent candidates,” said Winger, publisher and editor of Ballot Access

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette. / GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com

# Straight-Ticket Defiers

To those who don’t want to be a part of the Bloods or Crips political gang....

<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2018/12/01/opinion/the-scourge-of-straight-ticketers/1518.html>



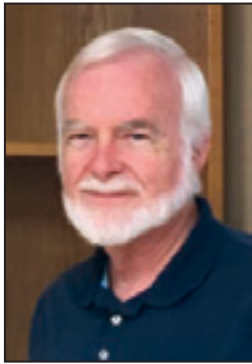
News, "Sentiment is running against the device." Kay Stimson, Director of Communications for the National Association of Secretaries of State said, "The overall trend by state lawmakers in recent years has been to abolish it." Alabama is a relative newcomer to the Republicrat two-step, letting the corrupt Republican party back into our State without firing a shot instead of replacing the similarly corrupt (although different theft recipients) modern Democrats. It has become yet another backward State which flip-flops between the duopoly parties instead of replacing one of them. In spite of Stimson’s and Winger’s observations, Alabama saw 1.1 million straight-tickers (about two-thirds) of the 1.7 million votes cast on Nov. 6th 2018. This increase suggests things will continue to decay at the local level as results get more skewed to one party, about 66(R) to 45(D) straight-tickers and politicians face even less discipline from BCA Republicrat (re)installations. The ballot box shows little promise to remove Arrington, Butts, Felon Hubbard, Hammond, Langford, McClain, Robinson, Siegelman, Spicer, et al type political hacks who will simply do the ‘Shelby two-step’ to the other party when the corruption is ripe. Shelby has done to insure his high paid BCA lobbyists get directly installed into office like the one ‘Cash-register’ Shelby is leaving next year.

Understanding the disproportionate impact straight-tickers impose on lower level/local office contests, Indiana recently made an unexpected procedural change on their ballot requiring an individual vote in partisan at-large offices. Floyd County Clerk Christy Eurton asserted this compels voters to review the ballot for their candidate. Clark County Republican Party Treasurer Matt Owen said the best way to have settled any confusion was to “move-away from straight-party voting in the first place.” Some Alabamians argue for the convenience and time savings of straight-ticketing most notably in overburdened polling places like the Clarion box in my home county. Perhaps it is time to increase access to early voting so those who care more about their party can turn in their ballots to cancel out the other duopolist, still accomplishing their end of killing competition at the local level, but then are OUT OF THE WAY for other voters more likely to matter and communicate more information in the election result. Obviously no reason for straight-tickers to wait till Election Day to gather the most updated info on the choices; nothing any candidate says will make a difference to these robotic voters. This will allow less wait time and better access for the thinking voters who may make a difference on the margin - esp. at the lower levels which often make a bigger difference to the quality of one’s quality life than DC and Goat Hill swampers.

One of the more interesting non-duopoly races this election was Craig Ford’s State Senate (Dist. 10) run as an independent. Ford earned a respectable 39% but was also plagued by easily duped straight-tickers lied to by the duopoly if a voter bubbled in for his candidacy (there was no Democrat printed on the ballot for this race) it removed their straight-ticket votes on the remainder of the ballot. This propaganda campaign was successful throughout Alabama in spite of Sect. of State Merrill’s best efforts to educate voters that in fact ALL the other straight-ticket votes are counted unless marked otherwise. Others have noted Sen. Stutts - R, Dist. 6 (considered by many political watchers among the most corrupt and reviled ‘public servants’ in the Alabama Senate) narrowly held seat with 50.85% on Nov. 6th 2018; arguably a beneficiary of the straight-ticketer scourge currently skewed to red tics.

The two major parties prefer SPV [Straight Party Voting] for their selfishness, tenure, power, and control. Reform is needed to ensure the best candidate is elected to office. I do not believe the best candidates are in office. Those among us who live the reality of taxation, zoning laws, governmental obstacles to establish small businesses, etc. are most often more qualified but are pushed aside because of ballot access laws and SPV.”

So if you want to continue being one of the many Republicrat straight-tickers... at least take the additional seconds to mark each bubble to dilute votes of the dwindling thoughtful participant(s) who took the endeavour seriously enough to devote some time in finding the name of each candidate and learn a little about them. Consider it the price you must pay to protect your duopoly and keep destroying the meaning and Spirit of the ballot along with what it was designed to communicate. If it seems a high price, please remember all who died and sacrificed to make it happen - e.g. non-duopoly candidates like Mr. Dillman trying to bring some honest competition to this rigged system. This righteous man and the few courageous candidates like him in our State have earned your taking the effort to reject him specifically.



John M. Taylor

## The Gettysburg Address: Lincolnian Sophistry

Being born in the middle of the Baby Boom, I have seen society improve in some ways and deteriorate in others. Declines in education are well documented. Although a large percentage of teachers seek to properly educate students, some have political agendas contrary to that of the traditional Christian South. Thinking back,

it is clear parts of this agenda were under way during my youth, i.e., we were taught mostly “Yankee history.” (Post-war, Brown University President Dr. Francis Wayland said that was their plan.) One fallacy pushed on us was that the Gettysburg Address was truthful. We even had to memorize this oratorical gobbledygook.

Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address on November 19, 1863 (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania). The first line, referring to 1776, is factually incorrect: “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” First of all, they did not create a “nation”—the classic definition of a nation is rooted in the word *ethnos* and is tied to homogeneity of ethnicity and culture. For example, China, Japan, Iraq, Iran, etc., would fit this description but not these united States. There were, however, thirteen independent, sovereign colonies (later called States) with separate and distinct governments and “diverse” settlers. The Declaration of Independence is not a government. It is a document tied to secession from the British Empire and it spells out the qualifications of legitimate government. Relative to a “federal or general” government, the States implemented the Articles of Confederation (1781), later replaced by the U.S. Constitution (1789). Neither stated, “all men are

created equal” (an Enlightenment-inspired phrase included in the Declaration). “All men” are supposed to be equal under the law. Also, neither referenced a “nation” but both recognized the free and independent States (in plural form) that created each compact.

Lincoln then mentioned a “civil war.” By definition, there has been no civil war in this country. For example, England had an actual Civil War where the Royalists/Cavaliers and the Parliamentarians/Roundheads fought each other for control of the same government. The Southern States simply wanted independence; the remaining States could do as they pleased. New England and Upper Midwest States in particular saw Southern Independence as an economic threat, given the free trade structure of the Confederate Constitution, and they adamantly opposed it. One absurd contention is that the departure of the Southern States would destroy the Union. The U.S. would have remained intact; it would have simply had fewer States.

The Gettysburg Address was classic Lincolnian sophistry, a display of his prowess at political deception. Over halfway through the conflict, Lincoln claimed the war was suddenly not only about “preserving the Union” but for human equality and a “rebirth” as well. This was after he had declared from day one that the war was not about slavery but was strictly about “preserving the Union.” His First Inaugural on March 4, 1861, and his response to Southerners who tried to talk him out of war both show his primary concern was the economic threat of an independent South, which Lincoln’s banking and corporate supporters were determined to stop.

H.L. Mencken, the oft-cynical sage of Baltimore, Maryland, described the Gettysburg Address as follows:

“But let us not forget that it is oratory, not logic; beauty, not sense. Think of the argument in it! Put it

into the cold words of everyday! The doctrine is simply this: that the Union soldiers who died at Gettysburg sacrificed their lives to the cause of self-determination — “that government of the people, by the people, for the people,” should not perish from the earth. It is difficult to imagine anything more untrue. The Union soldiers in that battle actually fought against self-determination; it was the Confederates who fought for the right of their people to govern themselves. What was the practical effect of the battle of Gettysburg? What else than the destruction of the old sovereignty of the States, i.e., of the people of the States? The Confederates went into battle an absolutely free people; they came out with their freedom subject to the supervision and vote of the rest of the country—and for nearly twenty years that vote was so effective that they enjoyed scarcely any freedom at all. Am I the first American to note the fundamental nonsensicality of the Gettysburg address? If so, I plead my aesthetic joy in it in amelioration of the sacrilege.”

Mencken’s matter-of-fact description of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address tends to anger those who believe in an “indivisible union” where government by consent is disallowed. Perhaps, over time, more people will realize the only legitimate government is one that is voluntary and actually represents its constituents.

Sources: “Gettysburg address delivered at Gettysburg Pa Nov. 19th, 1863,” from The Library of Congress; “Charles Adams on the Gettysburg Address,” by Thomas DiLorenzo, from lewrockwell.com; “Lincoln Changed the Subject with Gettysburg Address,” by Kirkpatrick Sale, from lewrockwell.com; “H.L. Mencken on Abraham Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address,” from faithandheritage.com; and “The United States is Not a Nation: The Problem with National Conservatism,” by Allen Mendenhall, from mises.org.



John Martin

On the 8th of this month, we will be going to the polls to vote for and against various candidates in this year's mid-term general election. For some offices, we won't have much of a choice—the lesser of two evils—typically a lack luster Republican against an even more lackluster, if not tyrannical, Democrat.

That is the routine of many elections, and this year is no exception.

Nearly all of our really fine candidates met defeat in the Republican primary. These include our brightest star, Mo Brooks, who had earned a perfect score of 100% from FreedomWorks in the US House last year. In his run for the US Senate, he lost to a vindictive lobbyist opponent who repeatedly broadcast and mailed out vicious claims against his character.

Two fine candidates for governor—Dean Odle and Dave Thomas lost to our entrenched incumbent who had earlier decreed oppressive “Stay at home” executive orders and other impositions with scaremongering tirades and unconstitutional protocols.

What do we do when neither party has a viable, constitutional candidate? That has often been the case for many years. All we could do was hold our noses and vote for the lesser evil or write in a decent alternative.

People have been crying for a strong third party—one that stands for our fundamental American principles. Finally, after 20 years, we have regained that third choice—the Libertarian Party. If you are not familiar with it and / or want more information, Google the Libertarian Party and search for candidates.

The Libertarians have been around since 1972, a time when the Republicans and Democrats strayed too far from constitutional and ethical principles and turned farther and farther toward authoritarian ideologies.

Libertarians stand for honest, constitutional, and ethical government. They believe in strong, principled laws that uphold all natural human rights—the same ideas that our founding fathers supported since they signed the Declaration of Independence. They also believe in limiting government excesses, spending, and taxation—an ethic that FEW Republicans and essentially NO Democrats are willing to face. If you would like to elect clones of our founders, you can safely bet your entire bank account in this year's general election by voting for Libertarians.

Up until 1982, the Libertarian Party (along with several other third parties) was on every Alabama general election ballot. That year, the Republicans and Democrats passed an oppressive state law that virtually wiped out all third parties thereafter, beginning in 1984 (George Orwell's year). To get on the ballot, every third party and every independent candidate was obliged to collect VALID signatures of one percent of all voters who had voted in the previous gubernatorial election. One percent doesn't seem like much, but it totals into many thousands and is a formidable and expensive task. Very few third parties are able to meet that demand. On the other hand, the Republicans and Democrats receive a free ride and get on the ballots automatically. The only way an Alabama third party can get ballot access in that manner is to generate a 20% vote for a statewide office. Outside of the R and D duopoly, it is an almost impossible task.

During presidential election years, with generous help from the national party, The Alabama Libertarians still managed to gain ballot access. But money that could have been used for voter education and campaigning was sucked dry just to get onto the ballot.

Then in 2000, the state legislature upped the ante with a new law that raised the signature requirement from 1% to 3%, after failing in an earlier attempt to make it 5%. This, of course, made third party ballot access three times MORE expensive. Alabama had the MOST EXTREME third party ballot restrictions in the entire nation.

In 2002, with a near miraculous vote for a statewide office (an unopposed state supreme court justice), the Alabama Libertarians received the 20% needed to get onto the 2002 ballot without collecting signatures. It was their first time since 1978 to qualify for a presidential mid-term ballot (a time when multitudes of state and local elections are held). Since that time, the Rs and Ds made sure to each place a candidate in every statewide race to make sure that would never happen again. And it didn't, until this year, after a 20 year ballot access drought.

# The Libertarian Alternative



This year, after huge expenditures including \$40,000 from Richard Winger, “an avid researcher of ballot access laws across the country” and another \$100,000 from the national party, the Libertarian Party of Alabama spent a year and a half to collect more than 71,000 valid signatures, well above the 51,588 needed to win access to the 2022 ballot. More than 50 candidates are now running for offices across the state, including governor and US Senate.

Ballot access restrictions like ours are patently oppressive and unconstitutional. These remind any sensible person of the rigged elections held in third world and socialist nations like Venezuela, North Korea, and Russia. Every American citizen has a sacrosanct right to run for public office just like he does to vote. Ballot access restrictions of any kind should never be tolerated in any civilized nation.

Even without ballot access obstacles, running as an independent or a candidate in a third party is a tough battle. He constantly hears complaints about “wasting your vote” and other excuses. Because of mindsets like this and multitudes of immature voters under the (original) constitutional age of 21 who are easily duped by slick advertising and other gimmicks, we have an army of careless and reckless voters corrupting our elections.

Another reform we desperately need is to mandate runoffs in all elections. Allowing ANY candidate to win with only a plurality is a disgrace. Plurality elections encourage voters to support people with greater name recognition instead of the ones who are most qualified.

Voting for a third party is NOT wasting your vote. It is sending a message to the major parties that we will NOT vote for their hand-picked corrupted candidates. Falling into lockstep with the masses is patently irresponsible. Study every candidate carefully. Regardless of the odds in polls or whatever, always vote for people who will PROTECT OUR INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY. Do not let this opportunity pass you by. DO NOT follow the lemmings into the sea.

Let's go over the assets and liabilities of the two major parties: Republicans are usually strong on economic issues—taxes, spending, regulation, etc. On personal issues such as the drug war and privacy, they are usually weak. Some Democrats are stronger on the personal issues, but nearly all fail miserably on economics. There are a few Republicans who are strong on both (Ron Paul, Rand Paul, and Mike Lee are three examples). There are NO Democrats anywhere close. In fact, most Democrats are utter failures on both. Check out FreedomWorks online and see for yourself.

Libertarians are strong on BOTH economic and personal liberty—the principle that our founding fathers set up in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. From the words of Thomas Jefferson himself, “He who is governed least is governed best.” The Libertarian Party stands staunchly for LIMITED AND HONEST GOVERNMENT.

So what should we do when we vote this year? Check your ballot. Libertarian candidates will be running for many offices, although not all. ANY Libertarian will be a stronger supporter of our individual rights than an R or a D.

For the first time in Alabama since 2002, you will have the opportunity to elect strong opponents to the mostly corrupt powers that be.

Check out the Libertarian Party online. Read the party's platform. It is the only one that fully supports our sacrosanct individual rights.

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## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA) SERVICES IN MONTGOMERY

### DISAGREE WITH YOUR DISABILITY DECISION? WE WILL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK

Social Security is here to help millions of people secure their today and tomorrow by providing benefits and financial protection. We continue to protect the integrity of our disability programs by ensuring we make the correct decision on each claim. However, if you disagree with the decision on your claim, you can ask for your case to be reviewed by filing an appeal. **How can I appeal Social Security’s decision on my claim?** Generally, there are four appeal levels. If you are not satisfied with the decision at one level, you may appeal to the next.

#### The appeal levels are:

1. Reconsideration: A reconsideration is a complete review of your claim by someone who did not take part in the first decision. We look at all the evidence e submitted in the original determination, and any new evidence.
2. Hearing: If you disagree with the decision at the reconsideration level, you may ask for a hearing. An administrative law judge, who had no part in the original decision or the reconsideration of your case, conducts the hearing.
3. Appeals Council Review: If you disagree with the hearing decision, you can request a review by Social Security’s Appeals Council. The Appeals Council looks at all requests for review. They will decide whether or not there is a reason to return your case to the judge for further review.
4. Federal Court Review: If you disagree with the Appeals Council’s decision, you can file a lawsuit in a federal district court as the last level in the appeals process.

**Please visit our Appeal A Decision webpage for more information at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html).**

#### When should I file my appeal?

If we denied your claim, you have 60 days from the date of the notice to file an appeal. The easiest and quickest way is to file your appeal request online at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html). This is where you can submit associated documents electronically. You can also call your local Social Security office or 1-800-772-1213 to obtain the forms. You can find your local office at [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator).

#### Do I need a representative to file an appeal?

A representative or attorney is not required to file an appeal. Whether you choose to appoint an attorney or authorized representative is completely up to you. You may choose to have someone help you with your appeal or represent you. Your representative may be a lawyer or other qualified person familiar with you and the Social Security program. We will work with your representative just as we would work with you. They can act for you in most Social Security matters, and they will receive a copy of any decisions we make about your claim.

If you need us to review your case, please go online at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html) or call 1-800-772-1213. **Please share this information with your family and friends.**

## SOCIAL SECURITY AND SCAM AWARENESS

Social Security imposter scams are widespread across the United States. Scammers use targeted, sophisticated tactics to deceive you into providing sensitive information or money. Social Security’s Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has received reports of scammers creating fake versions of the identification badges most federal employees use to gain access to federal buildings. The scammers may text or email photos of the fake badges to convince potential victims of their legitimacy. These badges use government symbols, words, and even names and photos of real people, which are available on government websites or through internet searches.

If you receive a suspicious letter, text, email, or call, hang up or do not respond. We want you to know how to identify a scammer and avoid becoming victims.

#### We will NEVER:

- Text or email images of an employee’s official government identification.
  - Suspend your Social Security number.
  - Threaten you with arrest or other legal action unless you immediately pay a fine or fee.
  - Require payment by retail gift card, wire transfer, internet currency, or cash by mail.
  - Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
  - Send “official” letters or reports containing your personal information via email.
- We only send text messages if you have opted in to receive texts from us and only in limited situations, including the following:
- When you have subscribed to receive updates and notifications by text.
  - As part of our enhanced security when accessing your personal my Social Security account.

*If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights.*

We encourage you to report suspected Social Security imposter scams — and other Social Security fraud — to the OIG’s website at [oig.ssa.gov/report](http://oig.ssa.gov/report). You may read our previous Social Security fraud advisories at [oig.ssa.gov/news-releases/](http://oig.ssa.gov/news-releases/). Please share this information with your friends and family to help spread awareness about Social Security imposter scams.

### VETERANS AND ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS: SOCIAL SECURITY HAS YOUR BACK!

**Veterans Day is on Friday, November 11, 2022.** Every year on this day, we honor all veterans who served our country and risked their lives to protect us.

Our Wounded Warriors webpage is an important resource for military members who return home with injuries. If you know a wounded veteran, please let them know about our Wounded Warriors webpage at [www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors).

The page shares information about our Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits for veterans, including:

- How SSDI benefits are different from benefits available through the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application.
- How we expedite the processing of Social Security disability claims for service members. If they develop a disability while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, they can file a disability claim regardless of where the disability occurs.
- Answers to questions asked about Social Security.

If active-duty military service members are unable to work due to a disabling condition and continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave, they should consider applying for SSDI. Active-duty status and receipt of military pay doesn’t necessarily prevent payment of SSDI benefits.

*Our webpages are easy to share on social media and by email with your friends and family. Please consider passing this information along to someone who may need it.*

### NEW START DATES FOR MEDICARE PART B COVERAGE COMING IN 2023

**Changes are coming next year for when Medicare Part B coverage starts.**

#### What is not changing:

If you are eligible at age 65, your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP):

- Begins three months before your 65th birthday.
- Includes the month of your 65th birthday.
- Ends three months after your 65th birthday.

If you are automatically enrolled in Medicare Part B or if you sign up during the first three months of your IEP, your coverage will start the month you’re first eligible. If you sign up the month you turn 65, your coverage will start the first day of the following month. This won’t change with the new rule.

#### What is changing:

Starting January 1, 2023, your Medicare Part B coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up if you sign up during the last three months of your IEP. Before this change, if you signed up during the last three months of your IEP, your Medicare Part B coverage started two to three months after you enrolled.

If you don’t sign up for Medicare Part B during your IEP, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period (GEP). The GEP lasts from January 1 through March 31. Starting January 1, 2023, your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

You can learn more about these updates on our **Medicare webpage at [www.ssa.gov/medicare](http://www.ssa.gov/medicare) and our Medicare publication at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf).**

**Please pass this information along to someone who may need it.**



### MACOA continues to serve seniors!

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

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging assists senior citizens by providing services to promote independent living, by offering opportunities to enhance quality of life, and by increasing community awareness of senior issues. You can help! MACOA needs volunteers once a week to deliver meals.

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

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

**The Alabama Gazette wishes to thank Kylee’ McKinney for the many years of information provided to our readers as the Alabama Social Security Public Affairs Specialist. His monthly columns are a vital part of bringing much needed information to our Alabama readers. His column is also featured on our monthly online issue of the Gazette. Thanks!**



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Chief Deputy Murphy

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### What is Smart911 ?

I strongly encourage all citizens to download the Smart911 free app to your cellphone OR register your landline number at [www.Smart911.com](http://www.Smart911.com) to assist first responders in the event of an emergency. There's a misconception that law enforcement can pinpoint your location when you call 911 from a phone; however, first responders can only pinpoint the "vicinity" of your location which is why Smart911 is so important. Smart911 will allow pertinent information to be stored into a profile database so that in the event of an emergency, vital information is readily available to first responders or EMS which could mean life or death!

Again, Smart911 is available through your app store OR by simply registering at [www.Smart911.com](http://www.Smart911.com). I hope you will all take advantage of this beneficial tool!

### Why Should You Sign Up For Smart911



## Sheriff's Office App

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

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



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# September 11 For those that served! VETERANS DAY



## Honoring Our Heroes

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



### Dr. Martha Poole Simmons



The Alabama Gazette wants to honor Martha for the many years of service to our veterans. She has spent countless hours interviewing, showing special attention, writing up stories of our great Veterans in our area that has served in so many of our American conflicts and wars.

**“THANK YOU”**

She is amazing in all of her endeavors, especially with the American Red Cross and The Alabama Gazette. Her caring and tireless efforts have brought hope and recognition to hundreds. She is devoted to her God, her church and especially her country. What a pleasure to work with her over the years! She is our Hero!

*Great to see her at our 23rd Anniversary Open House!*

### Veterans love reading *The Gazette*!



### Veterans Celebrating November Birthdays

**Fernandez Ponds: November 1st**  
**Walter E. Hines III: November 11th**  
**Bryan D. Strickland: November 12th**  
**John A. Brantner: November 12th**  
**Walter Woods: November 13th**  
**Harry Ural Jackson: November 22nd**  
**Milton Ganier: November 24th**  
**Carl F. Gulledge: November 25th**  
**James Robert Phillips: November 27th**

### Master Sergeant Kent Stephen Kline: Age 65



Master Sergeant (MSgt) Kent Stephen Kline served 22.5 years in the United States Air Force. His 1st Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was as a Reciprocating Aircraft Maintenance Specialist (43131A), and his 2nd AFSC was as a Structure Technician (Carpenter/Mason 55270). His decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons awarded included: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with two Devices, Air

Force Outstanding Unit Award with six Devices, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with six Devices, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with one Device, National Defense Medal with one Device, Air Force Longevity Service Award with four Devices, NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and Air Force Training Ribbon.

MSgt Kline was born September 21, 1956 in Glendale, CA, to his parents, Lester T. and Helen J. Kline. He was reared eight miles to the north of Glendale, CA, in La Crescenta, CA, and he graduated from Crescenta Valley High School in June, 1974. He had a delayed enlistment in the United States Air Force at age 17 in March 1974 and reported for duty at the Armed Forces Enlistment Center in Los Angeles, CA, August 14, 1974. MSgt Kline completed six weeks of Basic Training at Lackland, AFB, TX learning military customs and courtesies, drill/marching, and weapons training.

Next, MSgt Kline was assigned to Technician Training School at Sheppard AFB, Wichita, TX, where he studied and became a Reciprocating Aircraft Maintenance Specialist (43131A). He was then sent to Langley AFB, Hampton, VA, where he worked as a Non-Powered Aerospace Ground Equipment Specialist. Next, he cross-trained into a new AFSC of Structure Apprentice (Carpenter/Mason 55230) where he received vast on-the-job training and crucial knowledge of carpentry and masonry.

MSgt Kline then applied to the United States Air Force's Interservice Transfer Program, and he was subsequently transferred to March AFB, Riverside, CA, 1978-1982 as a Masonry Supervisor. He was promoted to the rank of SSgt in 1979. He furthermore received more technician training and became Structure Specialist (Carpenter/Mason 55250). Next, MSgt Kline served five years at Loring AFB, Limestone, ME, 1982-1987 where he worked as the Masonry Supervisor. He was promoted to the Rank of TSgt in 1987. Again, he received more technician training and became Structure Technician (Carpenter/Mason 55270). He also worked in planning major projects in the Construction Planning Shop as a key Structural Planner.

MSgt Kline had three deployments. He was first deployed to Osan Air Base, South Korea, for one year 1987-1988 on an unaccompanied tour where he was involved again, in the Construction Planning Shop as a key Structural Planner. Returning from his deployment in Korea, MSgt Kline was assigned to Falcon Air Force Station/Falcon Air Force Base/Schriever Air Force Base Colorado Springs, CO, 1988-1992. He was again promoted to his current grade

of MSgt in 1990. His assignment as a Structure Technician (Carpenter/Mason 55270), was to be Chief of Planning in the Construction Planning Shop, Chief of Security, and Chief of Disaster Preparedness.

Concurrently, with his rank of MSgt, he was next assigned as the Structural Superintendent, Mobile Engineering, Acquisition, and Repair (MEAR) Team at RAF Chicksands at Bedford, England 1992-1994. As the Structural Superintendent for the MEAR Team, he was involved in many TDY deployments with other military members all over the world including, Germany, Spain, Niger, Cameroon and Malawi. RAF Chicksands was closed in 1994, and he was then sent to RAF Menwith Hill at Harrogate, England, for two years where he served as the European Team Chief of the MEAR Team 1994-1996. MSgt Kline's assignment as Teams Chief was to assign TDY deployments of MEAR Team military members at vast locations around the world.

MSgt Kline returned for his last duty station at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO, where he retired from the United States Air Force on September 1, 1996.

MSgt Kline and his wife, Maryann, have been married 42 years. They have two children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He is actively serving to assist First Responders during times of natural and man-made disasters and to go on search and rescue missions with the Alabama Service Corps located in Ozark, AL. He has also volunteered with the Remote Area Medical team from Knoxville, TN, in Gadsden, Alabama, during April 22-24, 2022. He is a recent volunteer with the American Red Cross as a Disaster Action Team member in the area of Disaster Services. MSgt Kline worked in Colorado Springs, CO, from September 2, 1996 until May 1, 2021 when he fully retired. He worked various jobs in Colorado Springs, CO, as a Radio Shack Salesman, Lowes as a Flooring/Home Decor manager, Aleut Services LLC as a Contract Construction Structural Planner, Schriever AFB, CO, GEO LLC Re-Entry Prison Jailer, Walmart Associate Team Leader in the freezer department and GEO LLC Halfway House Re-Entry worker.

MSgt Kline and his family moved to Montgomery, Alabama on August 27, 2021 from Colorado Springs, CO, to start their new adventure in the very wonderful and friendly town of Montgomery and surrounding communities as well as the state of Alabama. He is a member and ordained elder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and goes to church in the Capitol Ward located in Montgomery, AL.

MSgt Kline's conclusions about his military service are: *“It was an honor to serve in the United States Air Force for 22.5 years and to accomplish vast missions and other related tasks wherever I was assigned to serve. The United States Air Force made me more mature and helped my family and me to have a wonderful and better life.”* He would like people to remember him saying: *“I was fun, outgoing, energetic, devoted to God, family, friends, church, and I had a great and wonderful life.”*



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Lt. Col Douglas Spencer Catchings: Age 80

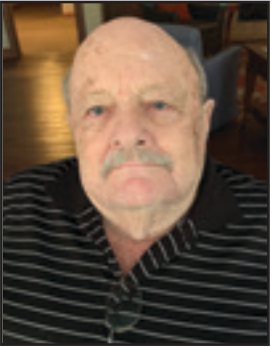


Lt. Col Douglas Spencer Catchings served 23 years in the United States Air Force. His Military Occupational Specialty Code (MOSC) included Fighter Pilot of the F4 Phantom Jet and of the A10 Thunderbolt II Wart Hog, Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, Squadron Operations Officer, Liaison Officer with U.S. Army and Wing Plans Officer. He received the following decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons: Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with Eleven Devices, Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and ten Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Readiness Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with five Oak Leaf Clusters, Small Arm Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Device and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lt. Col Catchings was born September 23 ,1941 in Chicago, IL, to his parents, John and Frances Catchings. His father was a civilian pilot with American Air Lines under contract with the Atlantic Transport Command. He lived in Chicago one year until his family moved to Manhattan in New York City for four years followed by moving to Tulsa, OK, where his father continued to fly with American Air Lines across the U.S.A. with Tulsa being a mid-way stop. He completed education through the 10th grade at Tulsa and then graduated from Menlo Atherton High School in San Francisco, CA, in 1959. He attended Millard Prep School in Bandon, Oregon, for six months in preparation for applying to the U.S. Air Force Academy. Col Catchings went to the U.S. Army Jump School at Ft. Benning, GA, after his first year at the Air Force Academy. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in June 1964 and entered military service in the U.S. Air Force as 2nd Lieutenant. He also received a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Troy State University while serving in the military. Lt. Col Catchings began his military service at Webb Air Force Base (AFB) TX where he completed Pilot Basic Training for one year. Next, he went to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (AFB), AZ, where he trained to be-

come a pilot in the F4 Phantom Jet for four months graduating in 1965. The Phantom II is an American tandem two-seat, twin-engine, all-weather, long-range supersonic jet interceptor and fighter-bomber .

He served one year at RAF Bentwaters, England flying the F4 Phantom Jet. He was assigned to the 4th TFS Fighter Squadron at Eglin AFB, FL, for one year in preparation for deployment to Vietnam. He went TDY to for three months at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea, in response to the Pueblo Incident. In March, 1969, he was deployed to Danang, Vietnam, in the front seat of the F4 Phantom Jet dropping bombs near the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos for five months. This was a specialized mission called Forward Air Controller. His jet was shot down, and when he ejected, he suffered injuries with compression fractures to his spine. After being hospitalized for two months at military hospitals in the Philippine Islands, Japan and Maxwell AFB, AL. He resumed his military service as a pilot in 1970. He was deployed to Bitberg Air Base, Germany, for 4.5 years. He returned for a second assignment to Eglin AFB, FL, with the Tactical Air Warfare Center for one year. Next, he was sent to Tainan AB, Taiwan, where he served as Chief of Flight Test for 15 months. He then returned for a second tour to RAF Bentwaters, England, as the Squadron Operations Officer and Chief of Standardization-Evaluation. Next, he had a second tour at Davis-Monthan (AFB), AZ, where he upgraded as to the A-10 'Warthog' Thunderbolt II during 1979-1981. It is affectionately called the Warthog for its aggressive look and often painted with teeth on the nose cone. The A-10 Thunderbolt II was the U.S. Air Force’s primary low-altitude close air support aircraft. He returned to RAF Bentwaters, England and then to Ft. Riley, KS, serving as the Air Liaison Officer to the 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army for two years during 1981-1983. He served at England AFB, LA, for two years 1983-1986. He returned for a third tour and last assignment at Eglin AFB, FL, for one year where he retired from military service October 1987.



Lt. Col Catchings’ conclusions about his military service are: ***“It was my commitment to the country.”*** His father’s service as a pilot influenced his decision to become a pilot. His son also is a U.S. Air Force pilot. He has two children, two step-children and six grandchildren. He and his wife, Martha, were married 35 years until she passed away. They lived on a farm near Scranton, South Carolina for 32 years where they restored a house that had been in his wife’s family for many years. ***He would like people to remember his military service and his being proud of his parents and his children.***

Staff Sergeant George Wendell Alexander: Age 75



Staff Sergeant (S Sgt) George Wendell Alexander served nine years in the United States Air Force including four tours in Vietnam. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Airborne Electronics Navigation Equipment Specialist. His decorations, medals, badges and citations included: Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Longevity Medal, Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

S Sgt Alexander was born July 24, 1947 in Tuskegee, AL, to his parents, Rev. Nash and Mrs. Ruth Alexander. He graduated from high school in May 1964, and worked at a local gas station

while waiting for the minimum enlisting age of 17. Thanks to his high school guidance counselor, he became interested in electronics and qualified for an electronics career in the military service, enlisting on his birthday in the United States Air Force July 24, 1964. His Basic Training was completed at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, followed by further training at the U.S. Air Force Air Technical School at Keesler AFB., MS, where he completed the Air Force Electronics Navigation Course. His first assignment was at Anderson AFB in Guam for 1.5 years with Operation Popeye working with weather control and reconnaissance from 1965-1966. While at Guam, he received news of his brother’s death back in the U.S.A., and the American Red Cross provided \$600 for his personal expenses and travel to his brother’s funeral. S Sgt Alexander next served at Forbes AFB, KS, 1967-1971 where his duties involved geodasic photo mapping on the venerable Lockheed C-130. Continuing this type of work, he served four tours in Vietnam in Danang in 1966, twice in Tuy Hoa in 1968 and 1969 and in Cam Ranh Bay in 1971 as an airborne radar operator on the C-130. Each flight averaged 10 hours, and he flew over 500 sorties. He suffered a knee injury while serving in Vietnam. After Vietnam, he worked in airborne navigation maintenance at Westover AFB, MA, for one year. At one point in his career, he was involuntarily selected to cross train into Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD). He retired from military service June 1973 at Westover AFB.

After his military service, S SGT Alexander worked at radio station WREN, in Topeka, KS, where he was the Evening News Director from 1973-1979. Next, he worked with Hills Pet Products as a production supervisor and followed this as a field service technician for Xerox. He then served as the news director for radio station KTPK and reporter for KLDH TV49 later opening a computer store selling IBM compatible computers. He returned to AL to teach a basic electronics and computer maintenance class for a nonprofit in Eufaula, AL, and he later returned to his hometown of Tuskegee, AL. where he received news

that IBM wanted to hire him. He worked in software support and tech services for IBM 1989-1999 in Atlanta. After 9/11, IBM underwent some downsizing, he subsequently moved back to his hometown of Tuskegee, AL, working at Victory Land Casino in Shorter, AL., as the head technician repairing the gaming machines. In 2010, he retired and later worked as the Chief Avionics Inspector, for CMC Aviation Services at the Wetumpka Municipal Airport in Elmore County, AL.

He continues his involvement with his Air Force avionics background with Avionics Central Exchange which he started when the owner of CMC Aviation passed away. He now also operates a handyman service, Alexander and Son General Maintenance, in Montgomery, AL, dealing with drywall, flooring ceiling and other homeowner handyman projects.

S Sgt Alexander has one son and enjoys boating and fishing, especially on the Alabama River and at the City Lake in Notasulga, AL. He also enjoys aerial, underwater as well as general interest photography. He belongs to the Friends of the Tuskegee Airmen Historic Site, and is a past-member of St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church in Union Springs, AL, where he served as associate pastor until sidelined following a heart attack.



S Sgt Alexander’s conclusions about his military service are: ***“I had the most wonderful experiences at Forbes AFB in Topeka, Ks., flying on a reconfigured helicopter testing precision positioning radar and laser-based Terrain Profile Recording equipment technology which was deployed on the Voyager 1 and 2 space probes. My military service meant everything. I got to see a good part of the world and to get an education as well as work on a variety of airplanes. I took over 30 college and correspondence courses while on active duty. Today I use some of everything that I learned in the Air Force in my businesses. I started my college education while in service, and after discharge, I received a B.S. Degree in Communications with an emphasis in broadcasting and journalism from Washburn University. I taught a photography class at Washburn University while completing my degree. The greatest fulfillment I got after service was using my love of all things Aviation and Aerospace to convince my then Congressman, Dan Glickman, to persuade then President Reagan to decommission the remaining 49 of an original 52 Titan II missiles and put their fuel into the Shuttle program. The view of the Earth from Voyager let me know that we are all truly one human family on this tiny speck of light floating in space; we need to find better ways to protect the only planet we have”.***

Tech Sergeant Willie Mack Wheeler: Age 89



Tech Sergeant (TSgt) Willie Mack Wheeler served 23 years in the United States Air Force including one tour to Korea during the Korean War and two tours to South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Food Supervisor. His military decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons awarded were: Air Force Commendation Medal with clusters, Air Force Good Conduct Medal (three), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (two), Air Longevity Service Award Ribbon (four), National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Presidential Unit Citation and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

TSgt Wheeler was born October 30, 1932 to his parents, McElroy and Willie Lee Wheeler in Dadeville, AL. He was reared there for 10 years and then moved to Alexander City, AL. In 1946, he worked as a water carrier for Alexander City providing water for Germans who owed debts to the U.S.A. after WWII. He graduated from Laurel High School in 1949. In 1946, he worked as a water carrier for Alexander City providing water for Germans who owed debts to the U.S.A. after WWII. After graduation, he worked delivering supplies for Sellers Hardware. He then volunteered for military service beginning June 28, 1951.

TSgt Wheeler began his service at Lackland Air Force Base (A.F.B.), TX where he completed Basic Training. He received further training at Randolph A.F.B, TX, for six months. Next, he trained to become a cook at Kessler A.F.B., MS. His first assignment was at Ladd at AFB, Alaska, for three years. His first deployment was to Kaesong, Korea, for three months. He returned to Ladd A.F.B., TX, and then to Maxwell A.F.B., AL during 1955-1963 followed by

service at Oxnard A.F.B., CA, for one year. He then served at King Salmon Air Force Station, Alaska, for one year. His next deployment was to Chateauroux, France, followed by deployment to the Royal Air Force station at Upper Heyford, England. He returned for service in the United States at Langley A.F.B., VA. He was then deployed for his first tour to Vietnam for 18 months. He was next sent to Marsh A.F.B., CA followed by his second tour to Vietnam for one year where he worked as a supply sergeant delivering arms. His last assignment was at Maxwell A.F.B., AL, where he retired August 1,1974.

While serving completing his last assignment at Maxwell A.F.B., AL, he arranged for honor guards at funerals for deceased military. TSgt. Wheeler completed training in cabinet making at Trenholm Technical College in Montgomery, AL, and after his military retirement, he had his own cabinet making company, Wheeler Construction, for ? years. Immediately after his military retirement, he worked at the Federal minimum security Federal Prison at Maxwell A.F.B, AL. TSgt Wheeler retired from all employment in 2014.

TSgt Wheeler and his wife, Rosie, have been married 29 years. He has seven children, 21 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren by previous marriages. He and his wife are members of the Progressive Baptist Church where he has served as a deacon and assisted as a volunteer with maintenance. He served as a Scout Master for Boy Scouts at Madison Park in Montgomery, AL 1960-1963. He has enjoyed cooking and also taking care of grandchildren. His friends call him “Big Mac” because of his height at six feet and seven inches.



TSgt Wheeler’s conclusions about his military service are: ***“I was protecting my country.”*** He concludes: ***“That he hopes people will remember him as a man with a good heart who loved everybody.”***

### Senior Master Sergeant Michael Harold Alexander Springer



Senior Master Sergeant (SMSgt) Michael Springer served 26 years in the United States Air Force. His Air Force Specialties (AFSC) included: Professional Military Education Instructor for two years five months, Weather Superintendent for four years four months and Weather Technician for 18 years 11 months. His decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaigns included: Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long and Tour Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with five oak leaf clusters, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and Master Meteorologist Badge.

Michael was born July 4, 1944 to his parents, Wilbur and Ethelmae Springer in Albany, CA. He was reared in Reno, NV, and in South Lake Tahoe, CA, where he was educated until he dropped out of school in 1960. He later received his GED while serving in the Air Force and finished coursework for a high school diploma from Merced High School, CA in 1963. He earned two Associate Degrees; one in Weather Forecasting in 1983, and another in Training and Education in 1989 from Community College of the Air Force (CCAF). Using the G.I. Bill, he graduated from Faulkner University with a B.S. Degree in Management in 1990, and received a Master’s Degree in Human Resources Management from Troy State University in 1994. His military education included completion of programs at the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School in 1971, the Noncommissioned Officer Academy in 1984 and the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy in 1987.

Sergeant Springer spent 23 years working in weather operations and solar observatories. He served at the Solar Observatory located at the National Observatory of Athens in Athens, Greece, at Holloman Solar Observatory in Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. and was an integral member of the establishment of the Learmonth Solar Observatory in Western Australia. He served two and one-half years at the USAF Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (SNCOA) where he instructed senior noncommissioned officers from all U.S. military services and international services in leadership, management and communication skills. He served at 13 duty stations including Rantoul AFB, IL twice for technical training, Castle Air Force Base (AFB) CA twice, RAF Woodbridge, United Kingdom, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, Peterson Field, CO, Athens, Greece, Holloman AFB, NM, Exmouth, Western Australia, Mountain Home AFB, ID, RAF Upper Heyford, United Kingdom and Gunter AFB, AL. He received two Air Weather Service Annual Awards; the Air Weather Service Specialized Award for outstanding space support in1980, and the Technical Supervisor Award for excellence in weather station operations management in 1989. SMSgt Springer retired from military service May 31, 1991.

Since his military retirement, SMSgt Springer has worked in management of law and medical practices. These include: the law offices of Kaufman & Rothfeder PC, Gastroenterology Associates PC, and Capital City Gastroenterology, PC. He ultimately retired completely in 2010. SMSgt Springer and his wife, Margaret, have been married 36 years, and they have six children, 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. They enjoyed acting in amateur theater when they met in Australia, and are avid world travelers. He and Margaret do community service through volunteering to include Christmas in April/Rebuilding Together, Operation Christmas Child and others. He also enjoys playing golf. They are active members at Christchurch Anglican in Montgomery, AL, and he is a member of the Disabled American Veterans.



SMSgt Springer’s conclusions about his military service are, *“All of my education, training, opportunity, and value system are the result of my being in the US Air Force. I hope that people will remember me as being a proud American, a loving family man, and a follower of Jesus Christ.”*

### Corporal Johnny Saxton: Age 74



Corporal (Cpl) Johnny Saxton served in the United States Marines for 1.6 years in the United States Marine Corps with eight months of heroic service in the Vietnam War where he was seriously wounded and received the Purple Heart. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Machine Gunner. He received the following decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

Cpl Saxton was born May 25, 1948 to his parents, Major C. and Bessie Saxton, in Birmingham, AL where he was reared and graduated from Carver High School in 1966. While he was in high school, he played trumpet in the marching and concert bands.

Cpl Saxton volunteer for service in the U.S. Marine Corps June 13, 1966. He completed eight weeks of Basic Training at Parris Island, S.C., followed by six weeks of infantry training at Camp LeJeune, N. C. Next, he was sent to Camp Pendleton, CA, for a month of training in guerilla warfare before his embarkation. He was then deployed with the Third Marine Division to the northern most province of Vietnam where he was engaged in perilous battles. He was seriously wounded in both legs by enemy fire. He was evacuated to the USS Tripoli, a medical ship, to a hospital in Vietnam where he had surgery and to the Naval Hospital at Millington, TN, for 5.5 months. He received a medical discharge November, 30, 1967

After his military service wearing braces on both legs, Cpl Saxton used the G.I. Bill at Jefferson State Junior College. He transferred to Daniel Payne College studying business administration until the institution closed. He then had a series of employments including working with AL State Vocational Rehab after studying at Auburn University for 10 weeks. He sold life and accident insurance with National Life Insurance Company. Next, he worked with Southern Airways loading and unloading airplanes for two years. He then worked selling insurance for National Life Insurance in Louisiana for six months. Next, he worked for Phillip Morris selling cigarettes and advertisements to chain stores for three years. He then worked as store manager at the grocery store, Colonial Stores, in Atlanta for three years. Because of his disability from his military injuries to his legs, he ceased employment in 1981.

Cpl Saxton and his wife, Sandra, have been married 48 years, and they had six children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Two children and one grandson are now deceased. They are members of the Old Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Fitzpatrick, AL. He is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans. Sandra states: *“Johnny is a mild mannered man who is loved in his community. He is a Christian man who prays for everyone. Although he has gone through a lot, he is compassionate and is a loving husband, father and grandfather. He is always giving people things. He does not let the pain that he has gone through affect his life.”*



*Cpl Saxton’s conclusions about his military service as U.S. Marine are: “I learned a lot about military tactics on how to call in artillery and Naval gunfire. It gave me a chance to grow up and how to deal with difficult situations whether they are positive or negative. As a Marine, it made me proud to serve with such an outstanding group of people, and it showed me that I should never give up and to always survive. I would like to be remembered as a man who was a good human being who loved his God and others.”*

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

For those of you that couldn’t come out to our **23rd Anniversary Open House**, you missed a great party! Writers, staff, advertisers, readers and even recently featured veterans and their families all took part in the Celebration of the Alabama Gazette! Guests noshed on some great food while mingling, meeting and laughing with other attendees over their shared love of the Gazette. Thanks to all those who attended, and a very special thank you to all those who pick up and read The Alabama Gazette each month! You make this all possible.



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# Soul Searching

## Dangerous Encounter with African Elephants



Gonarezhou National Park

Several years ago, I took my daughter on a medical mission trip to southern Zimbabwe. Ciara had just graduated from high school and was about to begin nursing school. We were working with our ministry partners there, Saving Safaris; while I helped with drilling wells and renovating schools, Ciara worked in medical clinics fitting people with glasses and volunteering at Mutare Provincial, a Methodist mission hospital that has been around for decades. It was a wonderful time with my girl, who sealed her calling as a nurse during that trip. She has since graduated from nursing school at UAB and has just recently graduated from UAB with a Doctorate in Nursing Practices. We are so proud of her!

Another thing we did while in Zimbabwe was visit the Gonarezhou National Park, which has the largest concentration of elephants anywhere – approximately 11,000 – and also has elephants with the largest tusks in the world. These beautiful animals are protected inside the national park, of course, but when they cross the Zambezi River and leave the park at night, they are hunted. The adults are rightfully very protective of their babies, which means they are especially aggressive and dangerous.

Another interesting thing about these beautiful animals is that they recognize vehicles by the sound of their engine. While hunters have traditionally favored Toyota Land Cruisers, the guides in the national park always drove British-made Land Rovers. When we were there, however, the guides had just made the switch to Land Cruisers, and that’s what we were riding in that day. The elephants in this park associated the Land Cruiser with hunters out to do them harm so they were much more aggressive and angry.

As we were driving through the park in the open-air vehicle, we were forced to stop because there were several elephants on the road. Before we realized what was happening, we were surrounded, and these elephants were agitated. They began fake charging us, their trunks in the air. We were terrified that they would either turn over our vehicle or use a trunk to yank one of us out of it. Although the elephants are protected, it is legal to shoot one who is threatening a human, and for that reason, our guide kept a hunting rifle on the dashboard. He jumped out of the vehicle and began waving the rifle, prepared to use it if things got any worse; fortunately, the elephants backed off, but it was very slow going before we were able to feel secure again.

I’d heard before the saying that an elephant never forgets, and that encounter convinced me it’s true. The elephants in Gonarezhou don’t forget being hunted. I always think about those elephants when I teach on forgiveness because as I watched them threatening us, I realized that if we don’t learn to forgive and let go of our resentments, those resentments can hurt everyone in our lives – even those who are innocent. That’s why Jesus insisted in Matthew 18:22 that we forgive “seventy times seven,” meaning we should never stop forgiving.

Blessings  
Dr. Lester Spencer  
Lead Pastor  
Saint James Church

## Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage



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Judge Peggy Givhan

probably a great time to be on a diet by eating less, drinking less and driving less. Let's all uplift each other and make this Thanksgiving the most grateful time of all.

I will have to confess that ordinary trays of winter annuals are harder to find, and are not inexpensive. The mainstays for my winter and early spring beds are pansies and dianthus. But it has been like a treasure hunt finding these plants, and buying a tray of yellow pansies here and a partial tray of dianthus there. Then back out to other nurseries tomorrow to hopefully buy more. I use yellow pansies in the shadier areas of my beds because they require less sunlight I did spend double of what I would have last year, but they were large plants, 2 plants per container. My motto today is, "if you see what you want, grab it as it will be gone tomorrow."

My pot garden this summer consisted of large 3 years old geraniums and dragon wing begonias, with torenia, pentis, white vinca, impatience, and some herbs. The photo used in the October article did not represent my pots. Although I had uploaded the photo it did not make it to the article. I do not fault the Gazette as I most probably did something wrong. I had cut everything back by 1/3 in July, and by the middle of August, the pots were all flush with blooms. By the end of November or first of December, I will cut them all back, put them in separate pots to shelter from the freezing temps usually in December. Then I will fill these larger pots with pansies, dianthus, herbs, dusty miller, and bulbs. These listed winter annuals will survive below freezing temps in the Montgomery area. I love to plant tulips in pots with pansies. Remember to refrigerate them for 6 weeks before planting in January. At least there will be no task of weeding. This time of the year, I just use cheap commercial fertilizer 8-8-8 or 10-10-10.

Southern Gardening

Potpourri November

23 years of Gardening with Peggy! THANKS!

PLANT OF THE MONTH  
NARCISSUS



What a great bulb which lends itself to forcing now and after it blooms out, planting outdoors. These also do well in a pot garden setting. Just remember to allow the leaves to die down and turn yellow before cutting them back. In Greek mythology, there was a beautiful young man who pined away for love of his own reflection and was then turned into the narcissus flower, and from there the iteration of a narcissist, a self absorbed individual. Anyway these showy fragrant white, yellow and orange trumpet shaped flowers have brought much joy to people around Christmas due to forcing and in early spring when they naturally bloom. Narcissus is a member of the amaryllis family along with daffodils.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING  
AND GOOD GARDENING!



Gary Miller

Next week I'm going on my annual trip to Missouri. I've been deer hunting there for years and have some wonderful friends there. My memories are many. I think about everything from the times of extreme weather (one time I hunted without a shirt) to trying to find my lost deer with a famous deer dog, that happened to be a dachshund. I can remember seeing some monster bucks just out of range and missing some within range. But no matter what the past held; I still look forward to going back each year. My present memory, however, is one of only a couple of years ago. I was a few weeks away from knee surgery to repair a torn meniscus. My memory is of constant pain, especially as I walked to and from my tree stand. Even though the walks were not long, the effort it took to make them seemed especially difficult and slow. As I made those trips each day, I was always reminded of a title to a book I saw one time. It was called "Leading With A Limp." And

while I never read that book (I probably should) I imagined a plethora of subjects the author might be trying to convey. Here's what leading with a limp means to me.

It means every leader is imperfect. We have difficulties, inabilities, failures, discouragements, disappointments, and insecurities. And while none of these

stop us, they cripple us enough to cause us to lean on something we could not do without. They also humble us, making us realize the possibility of any success comes from places beyond ourselves. Limping leadership also slows us down in order to make sure we never outpace those we are called to lead. After all, leaders are only leaders if they have followers. And Limping leaders love more because we become more patient and understanding with everyone else's disability. Our example of this kind of leadership in the New Testament is Paul. He had a limp and asked God to take it away. God didn't for some of the same reasons I mention above. Here's how Paul recalls his prayer.

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinth 12:8-10 NIV)

It is believed Paul wrote most of the New Testament. He did it with a limp. That means your limp does not disqualify you. It is the most important part of your resume.

[gary@outdoortruths.org](mailto:gary@outdoortruths.org)

Gary has written the Outdoor Truths article for 20 years. He has also written four books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations



DID YOU KNOW?

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

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

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

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

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



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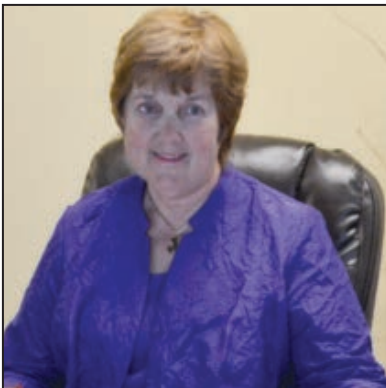
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The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to  
include your submissions as space permits.



NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAYS



- 1 Katherine Hall (93rd)

2 Al Flanary

3 Larry Chambers

4 Patrick Sikes (12th)

5 Jeremy Brown

6 Bella Boyd

7 Carol Harrison

8 Trey Mainor

9 Kristen Butler

10 Frances Dover
- 2 Kelei Lewis

3 Faye Deal

4 Doug Sellers

5 Mary Ellis Killough (14th)

6 Mike Lane

7 Charles Meredith

8 Jane Camille Robinson

9 Helen Struthers (97th)

10 Paula Barker

11 Jordan Ratliff (26th)

12 Klem Paulk, Jr. (82nd)

13 David Strange

14 Gerry Williams

15 John Porterfield

16 Jamalyn Smith

17 Patrice Wasden

18 Frances Dover

19 Gayle Harper

20 Myra Mills

21 Harlan Ratliff (84th)
- 11 Amanda Anderson

12 Clyde Alison

13 Sarah Bone

14 Jenelle Jones

15 Norman Rahn

16 Marie Penn

17 Shawn Adams

18 Kenneth Banks

19 Houston Harris

20 Walker Meadows

21 Ken Franklin McKenzie

22 Xan Morrow

23 Spears Rhodes

24 Larry Browder

25 Mary Elizabeth Dean

26 Mae H. Poole

27 Katherine Huro

28 Debbie Johnson

29 Heather Killough

30 Thomas Joseph Boyd

31 Alton Haraway

32 Patricia M. Lee

33 Dan Fowler

34 Bill Harper

35 Cara Stafford

36 Billy Jack Beck

37 Doug Cole

38 Joyce McGinty

39 Laird Bone

40 Mattie Sherman
- 20 Sandy Garner

21 Sharon Harper

22 Rich Takacs

23 James Miller

24 Annette Banks

25 Randy Bishop

26 Amy Grubbs

27 Lee Hartley

28 Tommy Jones

29 Virginia Shearin

30 Locke White

31 Charles Wilkerson

32 Charles Winsett

33 Joyce Mims

34 Peggy Cole

35 Brittany Hord

36 Helen Cain

37 Howard Duncan

38 Donald McClain

39 Pearl McClain

40 Patricia Potts

41 Jerry Shadrick

42 Debbie Whitehouse

43 Colonel Durden

44 Bonnie Morris

45 Faye Spivey

46 Annabelle O’Neal (12th)

47 Vaughn Lowery

48 Jessika Wallace

49 Marilyn Oliver

50 Andy Strange

51 Weston Browder

52 Mavis Kratzer

53 Brittany Abott

54 Kaitlin Castleberry

55 Drew Meadows (13th)

56 Jackie Moseley

57 Boyd Partridge

58 Earle Williams



The Mainor Family October 2022

Rare moment indeed! Central Alabama local two week old Charlotte Grace Harbison is proudly displayed front right. Sitting next to her is her Mom Abby O’Connor-Harbison 26, behind Mom stands her Grandmother Kim Messick-O’Connor 54, next is her Great-Grandmother Carol Mainor-Messick 76 and rounding out five full generations of Southern women is Great-Great-Grandmother Barbara Mainor 96. Good luck Charlotte Grace! Looks like you have all the love and support you’ll ever need!



With Our Deepest Sympathy to  
The Woodard Family

Considered as a good friend of  
The Alabama Gazette, we regret to  
announce the passing of  
**Kenneth J. Woodard**  
on October 23, 2022.

Kenneth will be remembered as a wonderful father to his children, a loving husband to his wife and a truly special man to his friends, who was “full of life, and never met a stranger”. With an amazing sense of humor and a deep love and understanding of the Lord, he will truly be missed but his memory will stay strong with his family and all those that were blessed to call him a friend.

Happy Anniversary

- 5 Brad & Julie Echols

7 Brian & Jennifer Rushing (13th)

8 Bill & Peggy Struthers (68th)

8 Arthur & Sandra Millard

9 Don & Tanya Cooley

10 Tommy & Patti Maihan (37th)

11 James “Hotshot” & Joyce McGinty

12 Tanner & Shannon Grant
- 5 Manly & Kris Swearingen

12 Sonny & Linda Turner (56th)

13 Todd & Sandy Rogers (19th)

14 Jim & Frances Ard

15 George & Elaine Landry (68th)

16 Alan & Debra Moore

17 Stephen & Joyce Turnipseed

18 Clyde & Audrey Alison (43rd)
- 5 Chip & Tricia Norris

18 Burks & Charlotte Crane (27th)

21 Doug & Cindy Young

22 Gary & Martha French (48th)

24 Gary & Debbie Partridge

27 Mike & Wanda Horsley

28 Andre & Beverly Stephens

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

- McLendon, Donald.....Sept. 22

Ledford, Betty Mae “Betsy” Martin 85.....Sept. 25

Sutton, Joe Louis 90.....Sept. 25

Johnson, Nadine Tessora 91.....Sept. 27

Robbins, Charles N. M.D 88.....Sept. 28

Allen, Christopher Todd 52.....Sept. 29

Flowers, William Kline 81.....Oct. 01

Lowe, Bobby Earl 70.....Oct. 02

Bigham, William “Bill” Marvin Jr. 88.....Oct. 03

Kelley, Roberta June 80.....Oct. 03

Lynn, Loretta 90.....Oct. 04

Newman, Mildred Johnson “Buddy” 96.....Oct. 04

Yarbrough, Helen 69.....Oct. 04

Freeman, Jimmy Wayne Jr 61.....Oct. 08

Conway, Frank Dennis 76.....Oct. 12

Crumley, Linda McDonald 79.....Oct. 12

- Warren, John Ray 86.....Oct. 12

Craik, Geoffrey 66.....Oct. 13

Sapp, Jacqueline Shawn Fyffe 48.....Oct. 13

Fowler, Dale Gordon 73.....Oct. 14

Cates, Joseph Gerald 83.....Oct. 16

Roberson, Lailia Olivi Miller 90.....Oct. 16

Teague, Robert Troy 51.....Oct. 16

James, Charles Roy Sr. 90.....Oct. 17

Mims, Henry Daniel “Danny” 69.....Oct. 17

Randolph, Carl Raford 89.....Oct. 17

Vickers, Marvin Keron Jr. Chaplain Col (Retired) 80.....Oct. 19

Griffin, Edith Brown 95.....Oct. 20

Harris, Joan Vennetta 88.....Oct. 20

Bivins, Felton Lee Jr. 86.....Oct. 21

Fulton, Robert Eugene Jr. 71.....Oct. 21

Gulley, John Jackson III 75.....Oct. 21

Boyd, John D. “Johnny” 65.....Oct. 22

Holmes, Mickey Ralph 74.....Oct. 22

Vice, James E. Jr. 87.....Oct. 24

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In Memory Of

- Betty Joyce (Giddens) Luckie.....October 23

Sarah Ethel Burkett.....October 23

Clifford Thornton.....October 22

Henry Lamar Riley.....October 20

Maxine Anderson Compton.....October 20

Shari L Newell.....October 19

Geneva (Griggs) Messer.....October 17

Katie (Mulder) Powell.....October 15

Vivian Weldon McGinty.....October 13

Danny Joe Cousins.....October 11

James Newton “Jim” O’Dell.....October 11

Dorothy F. Walters.....October 09

Lucile Gilliland.....October 09

Jane Ilene McClure.....October 08

Vallie Lee Rice.....October 07

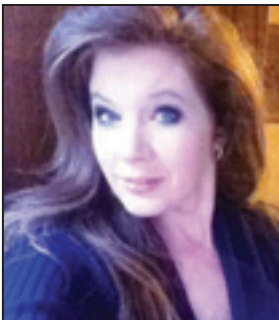
Nathaniel Scott “Nathan” Williams.....October 06

Wynona (Wendi) Charlene  
(Harrelson Daugherty).....October 04

Ann Lee (Johnson) Helms.....October 04

TODAY’S WOMAN

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



By Amanda Walker

Tears & Laughter:

It’s Carnival Season

I bought a purse last week I will probably never use.

It is small. A simple zippered change pouch. I don’t need it, and it doesn’t particularly suit my taste. It is not my shade of pink. Typically, I think it might would appeal to someone much younger, but I touched it. I felt the texture of the beadwork...and it reminded me of a similar beaded change purse I had when I was a kid.

The church my family attended would have an annual Family Day. Or at least that is what we called it. It was meant to have a bit of a carnival feel. It would be held during the fall of the year, and was intended to serve as a replacement of sorts for Halloween.

Churches still struggle with the question of whether or not to celebrate Halloween. They find it difficult to give a wink and a nod to Satan for even one evening a year. So harvest festivals have become more and more popular and Family Day was our version of that. I would look forward to it every year. All the kids did.

Church members would volunteer to design a game booth, or run the booth, or supervise an activity, my parents included. They would then give tickets to everybody who played the game, or participated, or competed and at the end of the day we could trade the tickets in for different prizes.

Every year my mother would walk through the whole place with me a time or two. These were fun times for me. Between her work and my going to school, days spent just having fun together were special.

I did not label them special at the time. It is only looking back that I can recognize the value of such days.

She would stand there and watch me bob for apples. I never understood bobbing for apples. I mean I got the concept of catching the apples with your teeth, but who the hell ever came up with that idea? It is messy. It is borderline gross. And it is a game better designed for mules and horses and jackasses maybe. I don’t know, it just never made much sense to me. But for a couple of tickets... I was all in.

Then she would wait in line with me to throw darts at balloons and play ring toss and I would listen to her memories of back when she was in school at Sweetwater.

She would stand faithfully by at a distance with the other moms and dads while we played tug of war, and she was there waiting for me at the end of the obstacle course.

We walked over to the prize booth that was set up like a concession stand. I could barely see over the counter. Again she waited while I took my time deciding which of the trinkets and treasures I would choose in exchange for the tickets.

She suggested the change purse. I guess she figured it was a little more practical than a pair of plastic fangs or a Chinese yo-yo. She told me I could carry my lunch money for school in it. It was beaded, and I liked the feel and pattern of the beadwork.

That was years ago. The purse last week just reminded me. It doesn’t matter if I never use it...as long as the touch of the beads takes me back to Family Day.

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



Trisston Wright Burrows  
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Trisston’s Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows  
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

Gratitude  
Changes Everything

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and so I’ve been thinking about gratitude a lot lately. What is it? When should we show it? What does God say about it?

1 Thessalonians 5:18 tell us, “Give thanks in all circumstances”.

This verse doesn’t command us to feel thankful in all circumstances. Instead, it says we should “give thanks in all circumstances.” When I begin to praise God in a difficult situation, even if I don’t feel like it, many times the scales fall from my eyes and I begin to see glimpses of His glory sprinkled on the black backdrop of the situation like diamonds on black velvet.

Sometimes I don’t see glory in tragedy, but I still can praise God because I know He is there.

Gratitude changes the lens through which we see the circumstances. Thanksgiving changes our perspective despite broken dreams, broken relationships, tumultuous circumstances, and unfulfilled longings.

As you praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He’s done, your perspective of Him grows larger and your problems grow smaller. As a result, you will experience a deeper sense of intimacy with God as the emotional gap between what you know to be true and how you feel at the moment closes.

On many occasions in the Psalms, David complained about his circumstances. More often than not, about midway through David’s laments, he begins praising God for who He is and thanking God for what He’s done. And you know what happens? All of a sudden David starts feeling better! Life isn’t so bad after all! His problems grow smaller as his perspective of God grows larger and he begins to see God’s glory shining through the situation.

Why is that? In the writing of one little Psalm, David shifted from depression to rejoicing. He didn’t wait until God changed his situation, solved his problem, or made him feel better before he began thanking Him.

My friend, when we stop complaining and grumbling and begin speaking God’s love language of gratitude, our perspective will change as well. We will begin seeing moments of sudden glory through the lens of praise and thanksgiving...glory moments that were there all along, but hidden from the grumbling eye.



Happy Thanksgiving & Many Blessings!

“Let Go & Let God”

Happy Thanksgiving!

2 Corinthians 9:11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.





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 Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County



*I have been writing about food prep since my first article. With the economy like it is now, every way that you can save money on food, the better. With people working long hours, and commuting long distances, anything you do to save money and time is worth it. It was not too long ago that meal delivery services were few and far between and were too expensive. Now when I turn on the TV there are ads for prepped fresh dog food. When I was living in Germany, our housekeeper would prep and cook a weeks’ worth of food for our dog. Buying canned or dried dog food was too expensive. Our dachshund, GUS, liked her food over anything we bought at the commissary. She would not buy the freshest, best looking food for GUS. The food was either miss-shaped or just plain ugly. But once you prepped it, you could not tell the difference from it and the freshest produce in the store. There is a food delivery service I have seen where the company tells you that the food may be ugly, but it is fresh and healthy. I am working on our second batch of pear preserves. The first batch, I described as ugly fruit. It did not have the normal pear shape. This second batch is more like the pears you find in the stores. If you did a taste test on the two batches, you would not be able to tell them apart. If you peel and cook a square potato and an oval potato, they both will taste the same. Bananas are the best example. The slightly brown and bruised fruit will be cheaper than the fresh yellow banana, but if you plan to go home and make banana bread, save yourself some money and by the cheaper banana. I noticed that grocery stores are prepping produce and putting it in smaller sealed containers. I saw a container labeled Mirepoix. So, when the grocery store finds some of its produce getting bruised or is missed shaped, it is better to prepped it and save at least some of the produce for sale. With the higher prices for produce, you can stretch your money, by buying a prepared side dish from the deli counter over the fresh greens from the produce section.*

*The dishes for this month are going to fit the theme for this time of year. Thanksgiving is the time to dust off your skills in preparing pumpkin and since it is winter (yesterday was 38\*) a good hardy soup fits the bill. Turnip greens with additional meats, veggies served with cornbread is a side dish I am always ready for. All that and a new recipe I was given for Chex Mix makes a good meal for the friends and family that are showing up for the holidays.*

*When company shows up at the door, you have to have something for them to munch on while they are gathered around the kitchen table. And what is a good stand by for a snack for a crowd? Chex Mix! But not just any Chex Mix! It has to be Aunt Pat’s recipe. Not the same old salty, buttery out of a box and into a bowl mix. This one is crunchy and sweet. What do you do with all of the leftover Halloween candy and snacks?*

Halloween Chex Mix

INGREDIENTS:

- 8- oz white chocolate chips  
4 cups Corn Chex cereal  
2 cups bite-size pretzel twists or pretzel balls  
1 cup candy corn M&Ms  
1 cup candy corn  
¼ cup orange and black sprinkles



DIRECTIONS:

In large microwavable bowl, microwave white chocolate chips uncovered on High 1 minute 30 seconds to 2 minutes 30 seconds, stirring every 30 seconds, until melted and smooth.  
Gently stir in cereal, pretzels, candy corn and M&Ms until evenly coated. Toss the sprinkles over the mixture.  
Spread on waxed paper until chocolate is set, about 30 minutes. Break into chunks.  
Use any flavor of Chex cereal that you prefer. You Can substitute white almond bark for the white chocolate.  
This mix will keep at least a week in an air-tight container.*a spicy and filling appetizer. A recipe from the PIONEER WOMAN seemed to fit the need.*

*“After a sweet appetizer it is time for the rest of the meal. Soups can be very nourishing and will decrease the intake of the main meal. And aids in proper digestion of the main meal afterwards. This soup will fill in any nutritional gaps you have in your main meal.”*

Turnip Greens Soup

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 bag frozen turnip greens  
1 pound Conecuh sausage  
1 small onion diced  
1 pack Knorr Vegetable recipe mix  
1 can black beans, drained  
1 can northern beans, drained  
1 can Rotel  
32 ounces chicken broth  
1 cup water



DIRECTIONS:

In a large skillet, brown the sausage and onion. In a large pot, combine all ingredients cook for one hour on medium or four hours on low. Stir frequently. Serves four.

Pumpkin Roll-Up

*“No Thanksgiving meal is complete without a dessert that has pumpkin in it. The problem is that after a heavy meal, no one has room for a pumpkin pie or any calorie laden pie. This dessert may take awhile to make but your guest will love it.”*

INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice  
1 cup granulated sugar  
3 large eggs  
2/3 cup canned pumpkin (or homemade pumpkin puree)  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

FILLING:

- 8 ounces cream cheese , softened  
2 Tablespoons butter , softened  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup powdered sugar , plus more for dusting.



DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line a jelly roll pan (15 x 10") with parchment paper, leaving an extra inch of parchment sticking up on both long sides of the pan so that you can easily lift the cake out after baking. (You can VERY lightly grease the parchment paper, if you want to, but you don't need to!)  
In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, salt, baking soda, cinnamon and pumpkin pie spice. In a separate bowl mix the eggs, sugar, vanilla and pumpkin until smooth.  
Add dry ingredients to the bowl and stir just until combined and no dry streaks remain. Spread the batter evenly in the prepared pan.  
Bake for 14-15 minutes until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Immediately lift the parchment paper and hot cake out of the pan and onto a flat surface. While the cake is hot, starting at one of the short ends, use your hands to gently and slowly roll the cake (and parchment paper!) all the way up. Allow it to cool completely, on top of a wire cooling rack. (This allows it to cool underneath the roll, and keeps the cake from sweating).  
While the cake roll is cooling, mix the cream cheese, butter, vanilla, and powdered sugar together with an electric mixer until it is fluffy and smooth.  
Once the cake roll is cooled completely, unroll it very carefully. Gently smooth the filling in an even layer over the cake.Roll up the cake without the parchment paper. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour, before serving.  
Dust the top with powdered sugar, if desired. Cut into slices and serve. Store in the fridge, covered, for up to three days.



Montgomery Area Food Bank

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