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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.

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Redistricting Session

Every 10 years the nation has a census count. There is a reason for that dissemination of our population. The United States and concurrently the Alabama Constitution require a census to determine how many Congressional Seats each state will have. Then you also have to determine how those districts are designed to reflect that each congressional district is properly and equally apportioned.

On the state level the legislative districts have to be dealt with the same way. The state legislature of each state is given the inherent constitutional power to draw the congressional lines as well as their own legislative lines. This is one of the most important and powerful tools granted legislatures throughout the nation.

There is one prevailing immovable constitutional provision that legislatures have to make paramount – every district must be equal in population. The one man one vote constitutional mandate must be adhered to because after all that is the reason for the census in the first place. Our legislature is poised to tackle the much-anticipated reapportionment issue in the current special session.

The states are late dealing with redistricting because of an inexplicable delay from the U.S. Census Bureau, probably COVID related. The final numbers were just released about a month ago. They are usually available in January, soon after the census count ends.

The Census Bureau is now a large U.S. governmental department, which makes and releases census projections throughout the 10-year span of drawing new districts. Their projections are fairly accurate.

We in Alabama were very concerned that we would lose a congressional seat from projections beginning five years ago. The actual figures gave us a reprieve. Alabama learned that our population grew by over five million. Therefore, we will keep our seven seats in Congress. We saved the seat by the skin of our teeth. We were right on the cusp. Many of you will be glad to know that the seat we saved was lost by New York.

This tells me that the Census Bureau figures are unbiased nor affected by politics. If they were, they would have showed the count to give the seat to New York. If given to New York, it would be a blue democratic seat, in Alabama it will be a red republican seat.

However, when it comes to drawing the actual congressional and legislative lines, it is all political and the Courts have consistently said it is a political issue. Those that have the pen can draw the lines they want, as long as they are equal in population. For that reason, the Republican Party has placed a priority on controlling the state legislatures around the country. That is a wise political move given that the legislatures control their own and more importantly the congressional districts in the nation's capital.

Like most legislation, the real work and decision-making is done in Committee. Therefore, the redistricting lines are being designed in a large part by members of the Reapportionment Committee. In fact, the members of this committee have been working on the lines the entire quadrennium. It is a plum and powerful, although tedious assignment. The Chairmen of the committees are Senator Jim McClendon (R-St. Clair) and Representative Chris Pringle (R-Mobile). The upcoming session will result in new lines for Alabama's seven congressional districts, 105 House districts, 35 Senate districts, and eight State Board of Education districts.

Since it is a political process, you will see the Alabama Republican super majority House and Senate remain a super two-to-one Republican majority. In fact, it will be difficult to not add more Republican districts because the population growth has been in the Republican enclaves of our fastest growing counties. The growth counties of Baldwin, Madison, Lee, Shelby and Limestone may indeed get new seats in the legislature.

Currently there are 77 Republicans in the House and only 28 Democrats. In the Senate the numbers are even more amazingly favorable to Republicans. There are 27 Republicans and only 8 Democrats. These super majority numbers could be easily drawn to add three more House seats and one more Republican Senate seat. However, they are reluctant to add more Republican seats because the U.S. Justice Department looks leerily at regressing in the number of majority – minority districts.

It will be an interesting political process. It only happens every 10 years.

We will keep you posted.



Justice Will Sellers

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The Perpetual Winner

In the blood sport of electoral politics losers are forgotten and rarely rewarded; in British politics even winners experiencing their peak of success can be defeated. As a result, dealing with the humiliation of loss and muddling through toward future success is perhaps the hallmark of a successful leader.

Winston Churchill's come from behind win 70 years ago this month ranks among history's greatest political resurrections, but this accomplishment, improbable as it was at the time, is sweeter when understood in the context of his catastrophic loss some six years earlier.

It is almost unthinkable that a world leader at the absolute apex of power and influence could lose a popular election. Few analogies can give full scope of how a politician could see his political fortunes fall only a few weeks after achieving victory over the Nazis.

Churchill's misfortune, though, was not a slow stumble, but, rather, a rapid free fall that ended in a dramatic landslide defeat. Few sports figures, military leaders or business titans have ever seen their fortunes turn sour so fast. To have celebrated the emancipation of Europe with the royal family at Buckingham Palace and then losing a national election less than two months later seems too fantastic to be true.

Parliamentary elections are, after all, a referendum on party leadership, and no analysis, regardless of how keen and cross tabbed, could reach a conclusion other than the British people had soundly and firmly rejected their victorious war time leader.

Many would have considered this defeat an omen that it was time to quit and head home, and it would have been easy for Churchill to exit the public stage and use his international popularity to personal advantage. That he remained in Parliament as leader of the Conservative Party reveals the unique character of someone who in his own times and in his own words never accepted defeat and never gave up.

And so it was from 1945 to 1951 that Sir Winston practiced what he preached and staunchly opposed the socialism of Labour Party Prime Minister Clement Atlee. Churchill would use his time in opposition to advocate for a more aggressive approach against Soviet encroachment in Europe.

He recognized the dangers and influence of communism and the devastating impact any alliance with Russia caused adjacent countries. His Iron Curtain speech, delivered at Missouri's small Westminster College, served as a wakeup call that while victory against Hitler and his fascist allies was secured, the dark cloud of Soviet Communism had taken its place and must also be parried.

The Atlee government pursued policies of nationalizing industries and advocated a more robust role for government in commerce and trade. Creating a national health system was a part of a cradle-to-grave welfare state implemented by the Labour Government. These changes were dramatic, and, while initially well-received, as nationalization moved forward to encroach on private industries and as more benefits for workers were added, the costs of this change skyrocketed.

Opposing the move toward a more collective state, Churchill accurately predicted that the resulting costs would not be sustainable and over time, the inefficiencies of nationalization would lead to subsidies necessary to prop up government-owned companies and their employees.

The austerity occasioned by the War continued to support the Atlee government policy of nationalization and social benefits. While benefits and conditions for workers did improve, the lives of middle-class families were mired in stagnation as most of the increased tax burden fell firmly upon their shoulders.

Gradually, the Labour Party suffered from a leadership drain as infirmities, age, and resignations over policy disagreements took their toll. Proposed budgets continued to require sacrifices, but, unlike in wartime when an objective to rationalize the austerity is clear, there seemed no end to financial hardship and struggle.

When an election was called in October of 1951, Atlee ran on his record of advocating for a demand economy and expanding the welfare state with a vague reference to creating a "just society." Churchill's conservatives challenged the nationalization of industries and promised to repeal acts to control the steel and coal industries. Without directly challenging the welfare state, the conservatives messaged their belief in traditional British values and the need for these traditions to be respected and restored.

When the election results were tallied, the conservatives achieved a majority of just 17 seats, but it was enough to return Churchill as prime minister. So, roughly six-and-a-half years after leading the allies to victory in World War II and suffering a subsequent agonizing electoral defeat, Winston was back. At 77-years-old he was once again resident of Number 10 Downing Street and would continue for almost four years. He would be the first of Elizabeth II's 14 prime ministers and would help her develop and transition as an effective monarch.

Churchill decided not to change the national health system. It had worked for several years, people expected the benefit and altering it would be a distraction from Churchill's main focus of foreign affairs. As for domestic policy, he initiated an aggressive home building program, worked on improving safety in industries, and expressed grave concern about immigration.

To his regret, he would preside over the wanning of the Empire and witness British colonies gain independence or dominion status by revolting.

Expressing great concern over growing militarization, Churchill was horrified at the destructive power of the hydrogen bomb. After Stalin's death, he attempted to assert British power by forcing a summit with the United States and Soviets, but Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was not in favor of it, and with Churchill in declining health, the possibility of rapprochement with Russia was never realized.

Churchill would resign as prime minister in 1955 at age 81.

Countless books and articles explore the Churchill legacy, but perhaps his greatest attribute is that he followed his own advice and never gave up, gave in or considered quitting; even in the face of public humiliation he continued to fight.

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The Alabama
Gazette
Office (334) 356-6700

Vol. 22, Issue 2
©2021

The Alabama Gazette
16 pages / 2 sections



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

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

I HATE HITLER COMPARISONS . . . MOST OF THE TIME.

When Adolf Hitler first came into power in 1933, he promised his people a glorious, 1,000-year Reich where they would rule the world. On 8 May 1945, that delusional dream became just that – only a dream. Sir Arthur Travis Harris, also affectionately known as “Bomber Harris” by some and “Butcher” by others, took over the reigns of Royal Air Force (RAF) Bomber Command in February 1942. This highly single-minded and focused combat commander once wrote, “The Germans entered this war under the rather childish delusion that they were going to bomb everyone else, and nobody was going to bomb them. At Rotterdam, London, Warsaw, and half a hundred other paces, they put their rather naive theory into operation. They sowed the wind, and now they are going to reap the whirlwind.”

On 30 May 1942, the RAF launched its first 1,000-plane raid against the German city of Cologne. It would be bombed a further 261 times during the war. On the night of 23/24 July 1943 (OPERATION GOMORRAH), the RAF, followed by the US the next day and for a little over a week afterwards, utterly gutted a large portion of the city of Hamburg. Up to 45,000 people were killed. Night after night, city after city was leveled by Allied airpower, culminating with the destruction of Dresden on the night of 13/14 February 1945 when 25,000 civilians were killed. Ten days later, the city of Pforzheim was effectively erased from the map and a full ¼ of the city’s inhabitants, 17,000 people were killed. Whether it was Kassel, Munich, Stuttgart, Nuremberg, Berlin, Heinsberg or any of the other cities destroyed by the Allies, the Germans paid a heavy price for their aggression.

In the title of this Robservation-Lite, I said I hate Hitler comparisons – most of the time. Why? Easy, most of the time the comparisons are completely stupid, false and uttered by people who have no understanding of history. Witness now, yours truly is going to make a Hitler comparison. From the first 1,000-plane raid against Cologne in 1942 until the end of the war, how many times did Hitler actually go to those cities to see the damage for himself? Speak to his people who were hurting and demoralized? The homeless? The hungry? Those wanting some reassurance of the direction the Reich was taking? The answer to these questions is the big “goose egg.” Never. He never visited these cities because

he never wanted to see the results of what his policies created. In all honesty, he may have visited Berlin because, uh, he lived there part of the time. Those things that were 100% his fault, his doing, his shame and his alone. Hitler was content to ignore reality and often ran away and hid in his private retreat either in Berchtesgaden in Bavaria or his Wolf’s Lair in Prussia. He was a moral coward in so many ways but this is just one circumstance that resonated with me the other day while I was watching a news segment.

So now I have to ask the following questions. I hate to but I must. How many times has President Biden gone to the border to see what his policies have created? How many times has he talked to the American citizens in Texas or Arizona during this past year’s invasion of illegals? Talked to the ranchers whose properties have been overrun with illegals? What plan does he have to correct it? The answer to these questions, just like Hitler is the big “goose egg.” Zero. Zip. Nadda. He has definitely not gone to the border as President and according some sources, it cannot be ascertained if he ever has. Instead of a mountain retreat in Bavaria, since his Presidency, Mr. Biden has continually run away to Delaware most weekends when he clearly could go to the border if he ever cared. Clearly, he doesn’t.

Much like Hitler, it seems as though President Biden cannot face the facts of the monster he has created and like the proverbial ostrich with its head buried in the ground, refuses to face the truth that is before him. Unlike rotten teeth in your mouth that if ignored they will go away, the crisis at the border is not going to disappear simply because Biden or anyone else in his administration refuses to accept it. After the Hamburg bombing, many German leaders implored Hitler to go and see for himself what had happened. Talk to the people. Reassure them. Exactly like Joe Biden refusing the requests of American governors to come and see for himself what is actually happening at the border, however, Hitler refused to face his reality but instead immersed himself in a bubble of denial and surrounded himself with an army of pitiful yes men who refused to tell the emperor he had no clothes.

You know, for the most part I do hate Hitler analogies. In this case, however, this comparison is spot on. Change my mind.

Imagine if You Will ... continued from page 1A

Cindy: “Nice. It says here that she is being defiant in not releasing her thesis on Marxism from Moscow State University. Her thesis titled ‘Karl Marx’s Economic Analysis and the Theory of Revolution in The Capital,’ is not only of interest to some members on the committee but should be of interest to all Americans. In an apparent attempt to hide her true thoughts and feelings, it has been reported that she may have deleted any references to her communist thesis ‘in the version of [her] curriculum vitae (CV) that is currently available on the Cornell Law School website.’ Her paper, however, appeared on her CV as recently as April 2017.⁷ But guess what, Jerome? Omarova is claiming that Republicans are demonizing her because she is, and I quote, ‘an immigrant, a woman and minority.’”⁸

Jerome: “Of course she is. Standard, leftist playbook 101. Of course, it has nothing to do with her being a hard-core communist, right? It says here she went on to claim, ‘There is definitely a different standard applied to someone like me.’”

Cindy: “You mean a communist? Well, duh? Let me guess. She then said all the criticism against her is racist in nature?”

Jerome: “Yup.⁹ Okay, I am throwing up in my mouth right now. Let’s move onto some other nonsense that is going on.

Cindy: I agree. It has been reported that 1.7 million illegal immigrants. . .

Jerome: (*interrupting*) Don’t you mean ‘migrants’ just wanting a better life? Ha, ha. Just kidding. Of course, you don’t. Please continue.”

Cindy: (*laughing*) “You almost had me there for a moment. 1.7 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at the border during this fiscal year.¹⁰ More than 3 times the number from last year already and the most in our republic’s history. But up to 300,000 have escaped to the interior of the country. But our borders are ‘closed’ according to the White House.¹¹ Right. Thanks, Brandon. The administration is still flying immigrants, under the cover of darkness, to many states around the country.¹² More undocumented Democrats. So much for transparency. By the way, another group of illegal immigrants, some 40,000 strong is headed to our border as we speak. But of course, Brandon has absolutely no plan to effectively handle this invasion. It has also been revealed that these people apprehended at our border have come from 150 different countries, destroying the overblown narrative of the left. 46,000 alone have come from Brazil and their country recently told us they were not going to accept them back unless, of course, we vaccinate them or show a negative test.”¹³

Jerome: “Unbelievable. Of course, these numbers include the close to 60,000 Afghans that we have brought to America already. Oh wait, no it doesn’t.” He and Cindy wink at each other.

Jerome/Cindy: “Gotcha!!!”

Jerome: “Well at least we have housed an equal number of homeless vets on American military bases as the 50,000 Afghans we have placed there. Oh wait. I read that wrong. Of course not. Do you actually think these guys care more for our vets than all the future Democratic voters? Not a chance. What was I thinking? But at least no little boys have been raped on those bases, right?”¹⁴

Cindy: “Well. uhhhhh. . .”

Jerome: “Uh, at least I know they are not physically abusing women, right?”¹⁵ After all, this is not Afghanistan and they have all assimilated, right? But of course they haven’t. Why would anyone expect that? At least here in the Gump, we didn’t see any riotous behavior at the Alabama National Fair this year. Oh wait, that was a dream I had. Of course, there was fighting.”

Cindy: “From the wire, here is a story hot from Philadelphia where a young woman was raped on a train while other passengers watched in horror as the assault took place.”

Jerome: “Cindy. . .”

Cindy: “Okay, not so much “in horror” but in passivity as nobody came to the woman’s aid during the attack and nobody even called 911 but they had the presence of mind to take out their phones, video tape the assault and post it on social media. Model citizens one and all. The suspect has been identified as a Fulbright Scholar and. . .”

Jerome: “Cindy. . .”

Cindy: “Okay, he was an illegal immigrant from the Congo who overstayed his student visa and has had four previous arrests on his record including a sexual assault in 2017.¹⁶ He was put in jail for a short stint but never deported, finally released and freed to continue his criminal ways in America.”

Jerome: “At least we can say that these federal judges definitely have the American people’s interests at heart over that of these invaders.”

Cindy/Jerome: “NOT!!”

Cindy: “Jerome, you have said ‘invaders’ twice. Isn’t that kind of a strong word?”

Jerome: “Look up the definition and get back to me. Finally, as the supply chain madness increases, the calls keep coming for Transportation Secretary Buttigieg to actually do something. It has been reported that he has been on paternity leave since mid-August with his husband and their two adopted children as this crisis spins out of control with hundreds of container ships waiting to be unloaded. When asked about it, White House press secretary Jen Psaki defended his absence saying that the leave was the policy of this administration and that they were not going to back down from it. For most people, I would agree but here is the kicker. When I had my first child, two days later I was deployed half way around the world. Nobody cared about my paternal rights. When my second kid was born, I was in a place I cannot even mention to this day. Buttigieg, as Transportation Secretary has a pretty important job to do and for two months, he did none of it. There is no excuse for this. None. Sorry. It has been reported that he did not even leave anybody in charge who effectively took over for him in terms of major day-to-day policy decisions, a ‘point person’ if you will.¹⁷ He was effectively asleep at the wheel for two months and nobody seems to care. Unacceptably.”

Cindy: I’m sure his husband cares. And his dog. Does he have a dog? I dunno. Well, that is all the time we have tonight. We will see you again this time tomorrow.”

Jerome: “Goodnight and as always, this is In Your Face News.”

Footnotes:

¹https://nypost.com/2021/09/30/bidens-pick-for-treasury-post-sought-end-to-banking-as-we-know-it/?utm_source=facebook_sitebuttons&utm_medium=site%20buttons&utm_campaign=site%20buttons&fbclid=IwAR13cjrVETrCbQA8pmEux5pwuICK0KkOKcYDBFFmb6Olpm33jQOqoUi-s.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10065391/Bidens-new-comrade-Soviet-born-nominee-idolized-Karl-Marx-Moscow-State-University.html>.

⁵Ibid.

⁶www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/biden-endorses-saule-omarovas-troubling-economic-policies?fbclid=IwAR1p7ngNs_UREhYKXuXwbcCW9LFk_l4tV8YesabCj2Tt_aOTQd-vvXX9Keo.

⁷Ibid.

⁸www.foxbusiness.com/politics/biden-comptroller-omarova-moscow-state-university-thesis-marxism.

⁹Ibid

¹⁰<https://news.yahoo.com/data-1-7-million-undocumented-231950453.html>.

¹¹<https://www.foxnews.com/transcript/jen-psaki-border-is-closed-cbp-turning-away-adult-migrants>.

¹²<https://news.yahoo.com/biden-administration-quietly-flies-illegal-140450591.html>.

¹³<https://www.drewberquist.com/2021/10/graham-exposes-brazilian-border-scam/>.

¹⁴<https://www.stripes.com/theaters/us/2021-09-23/bahrullah-noori-afghan-evacuee-fort-mccoy-sexual-abuse-charges-2999542.html>.

¹⁵<https://ussanews.com/News1/2021/10/19/rampant-domestic-abuse-by-afghan-men-at-u-s-bases-prompts-deployment-of-gender-advisors/>.

¹⁶<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/man-accused-of-raping-woman-on-crowded-train-was-released-from-immigration-detention-never-deported/ar-AAPIF6v?ocid=BingNewsSearch>.

¹⁷<https://dennismichaellynch.com/watch-wh-admits-no-point-person-during-buttigieg-paternity-leave-cargo-crisis/>.



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START MONTH

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A LEGAL COMMENTARY AND PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING



Ronald A. Holtsford

I was thinking about Thanksgiving celebrated as a national holiday this month. A form of thanksgiving is celebrated in many countries; but ours, celebrated on that last Thursday of November has special meaning. From the English had come days of fasting and days of thanksgiving. It is claimed that the Spanish explorers of the mid 1500's had expressed

thanksgiving in the new world. President George Washington first asked the public to set aside 26 November 1789 as a day of thanksgiving but it was not a holiday. Successive American Presidents continued to have days of Thanksgiving. It was Abraham Lincoln that set Thanksgiving as a national holiday, the fourth Thursday in November. President Franklin Roosevelt briefly changed the holiday to third Thursday in November but Congress changed it back to the fourth Thursday.

It has unfortunately become more of a secular day to “pig out” with family and watch several special football matchups than to reflect on the spiritual thanksgiving to God for His blessings and Providential care when our world has been full of sickness, evil, war and death.

The American legal system, though not perfect because innocent people have been incarcerated or maybe put to death or the guilty may have gone free or a victim has not been made whole because they could not hire adequate legal counsel when opposing wealthy people or mighty corporations, is still one of the fairest legal systems by design. It is formed in principle by Judeo-Christian law and meant to follow what the Framers of the Constitution had in mind for this great experiment in the formation of our Republic.

It is with that in mind may I offer a Thanksgiving prayer for the legal basis of our nation.

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Heavenly Father, we thank you for your bountiful blessings upon this nation. For your firm hand upon us as we have endured a pandemic, not experienced by many generations and that has taken the lives of so many. It has resulted in other health and economic issues that have taken a toll on many, many more that have thus far survived. We pray God for our leaders, whether we like or agree with them to seek Your wisdom in their decisions. We thank you God for the basis of law that you gave to Moses through the Ten Commandments and the wisdom of Moses', father-in-law, Jethro who told Moses to divide out among qualified men, those who would help judge the issues between Your people. We thank you God, for the Judges that You raised up to lead Your people, before the people of Israel deciding that they wanted to be like the world, petitioned You for a king. We thank you God for people that desired to brave the travel and harsh elements to come to a New World often with families in tow, to seek individual and religious freedoms. We thank you God, for Godly men that stood to declare independence recognizing that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are unalienable rights. Furthermore, that among many tyrannical “injuries and usurpations” committed by the King of Great Britain to include “He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers. And he has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries”. Now for over two centuries You have protected us through numerous wars and hardships. Father you have fortunately not left us even when our highest Court decided it was legal to kill the unborn. Oh, Father how many of us weep over the deaths of the millions of the unborn that have suffered because of that. We pray God, that the Courts will one day be convicted of the proper interpretation of the Constitution, that the killing of the unborn is not a Constitutional right and is a misinterpreted right associated with privacy. We ask Lord, that You will guide this nation and return it to a nation that seeks not the ways of the world but of you.

We pray these things in your name, Amen.

As always if you do not have an attorney, ask a trusted friend or family member or contact the Alabama State Bar, Lawyer Referral service.

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Can Uncle Sam Afford Any Amount of Spending?

In 2019, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced the Green New Deal, with a price tag estimated at trillions to possibly tens of trillions of dollars. When asked whether Washington could afford the Green New Deal, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez said Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) showed that we could.

In recent years MMT has received considerable attention. The theory was first expounded by investor Warren Mosler and expanded by academic economists. Stephanie Kelton of Stony Brook University offers an accessible presentation in The Deficit Myth. Does MMT really overturn how we think an economy works?

MMT begins with the observation that, in Professor Kelton words, “Uncle Sam will never go broke.” Because of monetary sovereignty, the Federal government does not face the financial constraints of a household or business. Consequently, Kelton claims that Congress could “advance legislation – today – aimed at raising living standards and delivering the public investments in education, health care, and resilient infrastructure that are critical for our long-term prosperity.”

Evaluating this claim requires unpacking the three components of monetary sovereignty. First, a nation must issue its own currency, so countries using the Euro do not qualify. Second, the currency must not be tied to gold, silver, or anything the government might run out of. The U.S. has met this since President Nixon ended international convertibility of the dollar in 1971. Finally, a government must borrow in its own currency. Latin American nations, which can only borrow in U.S. dollars fail here.

Yes, a nation with monetary sovereignty can always pay its debts by creating more currency. This observation, however, is not new. James Buchanan and Richard Wagner observed in Democracy in Deficit in 1977 that such monetization was the likely consequence of excessive borrowing by Washington, not default.

Professor Kelton rightly observes then that “For evidence of overspending, look to inflation.” But I think she ignores that a government’s ability to borrow depends on whether they intend to use money creation. Investors only lend to Venezuela in dollars because they fear being repaid with newly minted stacks of Venezuelan Bolivars. No immutable economic law requires that investors willingly purchase Treasury securities.

Money creation by government also has a moral dimension. You or I can only get dollars by giving up something of value: either our time working for someone, or some possession with market value. Uncle Sam as a currency issuer can create money out of paper and ink, or by changing account balances. Proponents of the gold standard view government money creation as the moral equivalent of counterfeiting.

When does government spending produce inflation? Macroeconomics textbooks say when an economy is at full employment. Government spending can increase output when an economy is in a recession but primarily increases prices at full employment.

MMT defines full employment differently from the mainstream. The conventional economic definition allows for some churn in the job market and measured unemployment of perhaps 5 percent while taking the labor force participation rate (currently 62 percent) as given. MMT sees millions of idle workers at “full employment,” so only prodigious government spending is likely to produce inflation.

Should inflation become a problem, MMT proposes checking it through taxation. Again, there’s some truth here. Inflation is too many dollars chasing the available goods and services. Taxes can take dollars out of circulation, reducing inflationary pressure.

Professor Kelton further claims that government does not need to tax or borrow before it can spend, which makes spending seem like it is free. Yet she acknowledges that Uncle Sam must get control of resources to provide things like free college and free health care. The use of government coercion to take control of resources out of the private sector is still “paying” for spending.

For thirty-five years, some politicians have simply said “we cannot afford that” instead of arguing against increased spending on healthcare, childcare, or education. Yet Uncle Sam has never been as broke as fiscal conservatives imply. Predictions of imminent national bankruptcy have primed people to accept MMT’s claim that we can afford any spending program Congress wants.

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Border Disorder



Perry O. Hooper, Jr.



Perry O. Hooper Jr.

*Founder Let the People Speak
Former Alabama State Representative
Alabama State Republican Executive Committee
Alabama Trump Victory Chairman 2016
Alabama Trump Elector 2016
Alabama Trump Team Leader 2020*

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As reported by the U.S Border Patrol, over the last 12 months there were an all-time high of 1,731,767 illegal border crossings. Even worst, they increased almost every month after Biden took office. Projecting the last 4 months out to a full year, it projects to an astronomical 2,500,000. This is three times the population of Delaware, Biden’s home state.

Historically these border crossings were Mexicans looking for work. Last year these illegal immigrants came from 150 countries, the majority seeking asylum. Under President Trump, these asylum seekers were told to remain in Mexico until their asylum claim could be heard. Under Biden, they are issued a ticket and told they can roam about the country as they please, just register for a court date. Some are even flown at taxpayer expense to all parts of the country on so called “Night Flights.” These flights occur in the dark of night so as not to draw attention. The Biden administration is obsessed with vaccines but only for American citizens. These illegals are allowed to roam freely unvaccinated.

If granted asylum, according to the Department of Health and Human Services, they can access federal mainstream benefits. These include, but are not limited to, cash assistance through Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and health insurance through Medicaid.

There is a new caravan in Mexico, and it is on the way to our border. It contains tens of thousands of illegals according to numerous media sources. Many are carrying signs with President Biden’s name while chanting Biden we are coming. When interviewed by Fox News and asked the question why are they coming now? They have one simple answer; Joe Biden invited us.

As President Trump stated “The United States will soon be considered a Third World Nation. There has never been anything like what is happening at our Border. Millions of people have already poured in, but many more than that are coming!”

Biden and his minions refuse to call this a crisis. Their actions indicate they do not even think this is a problem. Why? Open borders is their goal pure and simple. This is absolute madness. Biden took an oath to support the laws of the United States and he is flagrantly not enforcing these laws at the border. As Tucker Carson has stated, his actions or, more precisely, his inactions at the border are impeachable offenses and should be treated as such immediately.

The self-inflicted crisis on the border may be Biden’s biggest disaster which is saying a lot for an administration in total turmoil. The out-of-control U.S.-Mexico border disaster has sparked stinging criticism for the Biden administration from both Democrats and Republicans, which is a difficult political feat. When asked why he has not been to the border, Biden said he has been too busy with, among other things, foreign travel. He has made one single trip. He also stated he has spent time at disaster areas. What does he think the border is? Biden has spent all or part of 108 of his first 276 days in office at one of his two Delaware homes or relaxing at Camp David. Yet he is too busy for the 3-hour flight to the border on Air Force One. The truth is he does not want to draw attention to this disaster that a trip would create. As Salena Zito stated in the Washington Examiner “Life along the border collapses as Biden fiddles.”

Biden appointed Kamala Harris as his “point person” on the border. After 94 days in this very important position, she stopped by for a photo-op on her way to California at a processing center in El Paso. She stayed an hour and was on her way. This was in June. She has not been back.

On day one of his administration, Biden stopped construction of President Trump’s border wall that would protect everyday citizens across the country from gang members, illegal drugs and human trafficking that flows across the border daily. One hundred million dollars worth of fencing lies in rusting piles near the border never to be erected by this administration. At the same time, he stopped border wall construction, Biden began planning to build a wall around his beach house. Of course, this wall will be paid for by the same everyday citizens whose safety he abandoned.



John W. Giles

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COULD IT BE ME

Liberalism, manifesting itself as socialist communism is now confronting American citizens at every intersection of life. It appears that our great nation, the city on a hill is a vortex of water spiraling down the sink into the drain, almost at a helpless rate of speed.

Good people, who have pretty much been casual observers, are now incensed and asking the question, Could It Be Me???

Around 1944, my mother was a Bell Telephone Operator in Pine Bluff Arkansas. She noticed billboards to and from work along with radio ads calling for women to join the Marine Corps. This call targeted women who would enlist for military jobs in the rear, releasing the men to go to the front lines of battle. She answered the call by repairing fabric airplane wings and pop riveting aircraft fuselages. She was stationed at the Naval Air Base in Norman Oklahoma, where she met and married a sailor named Bill Giles. America was fighting the Japanese in the Pacific and Hitler in Europe, my mother and father, like so many in that day, asked themselves the question, Could It Be Me?

During WWII, it was a global threat to freedom for U.S.A. and our allies. Back home, literally every American including children were “all hands-on deck.” We were feverishly fighting for our life. Factories were turned into war equipment production. Ford Motor company-built airplanes, the military was drafting able bodied young men, the wealthy were selling and purchasing war bonds to help fund the war and children were helping with steel and rubber recycling drives to be converted into military equipment. Literally every American, young, and old, answered the call, Could It Be Me?

Currently, we now have the same level of threats to the U.S., but it is internal. The left who is now illegitimately in command, is brute forcing in many states’ transgender education and Critical Race Theory as local school boards fold to the pressures of the woke. The military has the weakest leadership in our nation’s history, conceding to the Taliban, leaving Americans behind enemy lines, and giving them \$85 billion in very sophisticated military equipment. With a stroke of Biden’s pen, domestic oil production has been sliced doubling the price of gasoline, driving up building materials and food prices and they are talking tax increases. They stopped building the wall, paying contractors millions daily not to work, while the inventory of steel walls lay rusting on the ground and hundreds of thousands of illegals from all countries flood our south-



John Martin

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POLICE REFORMS

In the beginning, when we first established police-men, their purpose was for one thing – to function as peace officers – to protect the citizens from thugs and thieves, and to deal with them accordingly. In those days, our laws were much simpler, and any reasonably intelligent person could understand them and their purpose – to protect people and their property from the wrongdoings of others. The police had no problems with

befriending the public, and with only the rarest exceptions of abuses, they did their duty of protecting the people.

Here is a classic Norman Rockwell illustration of a policeman in a diner chatting with a boy running away from home. Obviously, he is attempting to persuade him that running away is a very stupid idea, but doing so in a very friendly manner.

Back in those days, a policeman’s job was to keep the peace and fight crime. He would go after the criminals and arrest them, but he did not molest or threaten other people. Instead, he made friends with many people he saw on a regular basis. Whenever he had idle time, he passed it by either socializing or just leaving things alone.

Contrast that scenario with the actions of many police today. When officers become idle, they often go “fishing” for revenue-producing violations that did not even exist back in the day. Instead of becoming our friends, they have in many ways become our adversaries. Instead of devoting all of their time to protect us from criminals, they have largely become criminals themselves – by pulling people over, wasting their time, even searching their cars (and sometimes trashing them), and often issuing citations for technical but perfectly safe “offenses.” Yes, you could call it highway robbery, except our laws are now written to make it perfectly legal for them, and at the same time make it illegal for the victims to resist.

With civil asset forfeiture, they can “legally” fleece innocent people for huge sums of money, often many thousands of dollars. The process of reclaiming seized money is so convoluted and tedious, the victims must hire expensive lawyers for mere hopes of recovering any of it.

On the other hand, police are often lackluster in dealing with many serious crimes, especially property crimes. We would expect burglaries and break-ins, especially of homes, to be at least near the top of the crime priority list. We would expect the police, with the permission and co-operation of the victims, to check the places for fingerprints and other evidence and then file detailed reports, including any video footage, if any. That would be followed by investigating the fingerprint files, and known thieves’ mug shots. That is their job. But the responses most burglary victims have received from police have been, “There’s nothing we can do” (or a similar comment).

Individual policemen are not the only ones to blame. Many are ordered to do their dirty work by their superiors. Some are even subjected to quotas. Some departments have prioritized raising revenue above protecting the public.

Prior to about 1970, traffic fines were modest – overtime parking – \$1, stop sign – \$2, red light – \$5, speeding – \$10, reckless driving – \$25. The most extreme penalty was \$100 for “drunk driving.” That was *obviously* drunk, sloshed and swerving all over the road drunk, not a 0.08% alcohol content with no obvious impairment. Compare those to the runaway fines we now pay for minor and perfectly safe “violations.” Court costs are often added to jack them up even more.

The victims of excessive fines and penalties often suffer serious hardships. A single ticket can be as much as a week’s wages, or more. People can have difficulties buying food for their children and paying their rent.

Heavy-handed traffic law enforcement can actually endanger public safety. Too many police can be a serious distraction. Instead of keeping their attention on the road, motorists feel compelled to watch their backs.

People who really want to be safe should learn defensive driving – how to spot and avoid others who might cut in front of them and cause an accident. It is far more effective and safer than intense enforcement.

How can we stop this tyranny? For starters, we should elect our police officers. We elect our sheriffs that way. As a result, we have fewer abuses with sheriffs and their deputies than police departments. In the real world, “Roscoe P. Coltrane” would have never been re-elected after his first term.

Officers and their departments should *never* be allowed to keep even one

ern border standing in line for a monthly check. Now they are forcing mandated vaccines, which is leading to a mass exodus from the workforce where there is already an anemic labor supply. Meanwhile, we are distracted swatting these flies, China is laughing at us and gaining global dominance. Many have risen to the occasion, but it is not enough. Could It Be Me?

You are now seeing ordinary citizens rising to the occasion. We are witnessing mothers standing behind public forum podiums across our country, fighting for their children in front of elected school board members, ex-military running for office, and a hand full of brave elected officials fighting multiple battles at the same time. Our evening news is filled with more nonsense as you and I sit idly by and watch them destroy our country. Trump can be credited for instilling courage into average citizens to stand up and fight for our freedoms. Folks, there ARE NOT enough warriors defending the homeland. Could It Be Me?

Is it time we ALL mount up and take a post like during WWII, I am convinced now is that time? Please do not wait until they knock at your door, or your house is on fire, take action now. It is too late in the hour for you to sit in the bleachers, you need to get on the field.

Start where you are! Find one issue or public policy debate that is highly offensive to you and get laser focused. You can not fight all these battles at one time, but you can take the hill before you. Become an expert on the issue, join allied forces already engaged and enlist for a post. Man, that station, get off defense and get on offense with intensity for the heart and soul of our nation. There is an old saying, one with courage is a majority, others will indeed follow. If we all together could whip the Japanese in the Pacific, and Hitler in Europe, we can all dang sure save our homeland from decaying from within.

Dan Schutte penned the Christian Hymn, “Here I am Lord.” I love this song and get emotional every time we sing it in church. One of the stanzas that grips me is this: “Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.”

Have you heard him calling you in the night? Are you going to live up to the creed of this great land and “Secure the blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity?”

Could it be me? Yes, it is me, I have heard you calling in the night, I will go lord where you lead me!

nickel of revenue generated by traffic fines. Reforming that in itself would be a disincentive to excesses and abuses. Furthermore, that money could be earmarked for an independent victims’ defense fund and a web site where they can post reports of their experiences and redress their grievances.

Another reform could be a procedure for ticket victims to recall abusive officers. Each citation would have boldly printed on it the officer’s name, badge number, phone number, and e-mail address. It would also bear the e-mail of an independent site to collect and publicly report the votes and comments from the citations’ recipients.

Each recipient would receive an anonymous vote for every \$50 and fraction thereafter for each citation, and he could cast them as “acceptable” – the citation was valid, “neutral” – uncertain or indifferent, or “not acceptable” – the citation was frivolous, abusive, or at least not valid. The recipients would also be allowed to add comments describing their experiences. Every week, the total votes given to each officer, with his name, would be posted on the internet for the entire public to see. The postings would reveal the number of citations from each officer and a description of each. However, the recipients’ names would be kept confidential.

Officers would remain in good standing as long as the “not acceptable” citations remain minimal. Any that issue too many would be suspended, or even fired.

All law enforcement officers *should* understand that traffic stops and citations lie at the bottom of legitimate law enforcement priorities. Their real duty is to suppress and fight crime – genuine crime – crimes that have genuine victims. And when any officer becomes idle and lacks anything useful to do, he should take a break and enjoy his coffee and doughnuts, *not* make a nuisance of himself.

Police should not molest people for consensual actions. Adults have their rights to do stupid things, and unless they actually violate other people, they should be left strictly alone.

What about reforms?

1. STOP the insane “war” against drugs. Like alcohol prohibition, drug prohibition has been a national disaster. It has killed many thousands of people and has destroyed millions of livelihoods. At the same time, it has enabled dangerous drug cartels to prosper.

2. STOP civil asset forfeiture. All people have a right to be secure in their persons and property. Civil asset forfeiture is one of the most horrendous crimes that has ever been conceived. It is both unconstitutional and criminal.

3. STOP abusive and excessive traffic law enforcement. If someone does something that is obviously reckless and dangerous, it is OK to pull him over. But minor infractions that endanger nobody should be left strictly alone.

4. DO prioritize enforcing the real crimes that have real victims. If an action does not have a victim, then leave it alone. ELIMINATE all victimless crime laws.

5. PROTECT people’s constitutional rights. Establish strong laws and stiff penalties against all law enforcement personnel who violate this most fundamental law of our nation.

6. TRAIN more officers to be detectives. Most police departments have too many on traffic duty and not enough investigating crime.

7. The people should ELECT police officers instead of allowing others to appoint them. Hold elections every two years. Ideally, elect every one; at a minimum, elect all of the higher officials.

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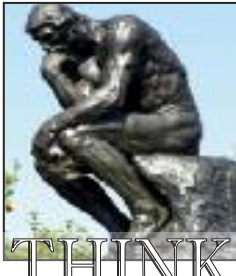
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Bo Knows CORRUPTION?



In this chapter of *Malice in Hubbardland* our “I like Mike” minions pollute the legacy of our greatest college athlete from Alabama last century and only professional athlete in history named an *All-Star* in **both** baseball and football. After soiling the repote of a great soldier/CiC like Eisenhower, little surprise these same political thugs and jock-sniffers would have no shame evoking the ‘athletic support’ of a star like Vincent Edward (Bo) Jackson to reduce consequences of their wrongdoings.

Rumour has it Felon Hubbard is **NOT** a happy inmate serving his greatly reduced, **light** sentence for the righteous convictions on his various political stealing in the Statehouse. Observing justice remove despicables like Siegleman and Hubbard (regardless of duopoly party affiliation) it has been a full-court press to hush reporting on others who’ve earned similar convictions. No shortage of them in Lee County. The politburo is making sure every disciplinary device from the Bar Association, Ethics Commission, Judicial Inquiry, etc. will not continue taking out the most egregious trash in Alabama – esp. Auburn/Opelika political crime families – remaining a hot spot of ACCA, BCBS, BCA, EAMC ‘*alphabet soup*’ of agency corruption feeding our fattest corporate welfare parasites.

A Halloween chapter of *Malice* [<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2019/10/01/opinion/the-au-horror-picture-show-bride-of-felonstein-meets-yellagrubbear/1750.html>] satirically sorts through “Hell’s Kitchen” back-door hush money dynamic. AU Horror Picture Show spoof plot connects the Bride of Felonstein with the YellaGrubber to funnel student/taxpayer subsidized ‘hush money’ to keep Hubbard quiet as reality set in (with serial Felon Hubbard’s coconspirators) Mike will finally do some prison time. Easy for “Hubbard Believers” to imagine Mike’s syrupy radio voice singing some very revealing, incriminating jailbird sonatas to reduce time in the prison system he helped evolve into the travesty it is today. Seems there’s not enough *YellaGrubber Culinary Science Center* money to quiet this greedy public servant under the very light correction assigned to Felon Hubbard, prompting jock-sniffers and most vulnerable Republican sycophants to beg Bo to provide cover in getting this risky jailbird out of prison.

Some may recall his trial where Hubbard approached the stand with his usual hubris then dove right in bellowing his phony baritone radio voice. At the outset it seemed to connect with most jurors talking about irrelevant things like his Georgia days, Hershel Walker, Bo Jackson, Vince Dooley, *etc.* After several minutes, when oration on how he met wife Susan was over, you could see some jurors losing patience. After about fifty minutes into his ramblings, Hubbard finally spoke on things of substance and jurors returned focus to find little in refute of the charges. If the prosecution had done more to explain the problem of no competitive bidding with Hubbard’s failed recusancy from Party votes on his contracts (even if best quality at lowest price as asserted) conviction on the first four counts were more likely. In short, the ‘*I Believe in Mike Hubbard*’ minions have been using the ‘appeal to jock-sniffers’ play for many years. Hopefully Hershel Walker will make a better US Senator than our mediocre football coach Senator who’s shown himself most ignorant of his task and oath to the Constitution. Yet another sports administrator parasite who thought the job would be easy and fun until consequences of their ineptitude surface.

O-A News reporter Alex Hosey [8/16/21] had Bo consorting with some of our most corrupt pillagers on the plains, shilling for yet **another** reduction in Felon Hubbard’s light prison sentence. Mr. Hosey’s report on letters of support submitted to Lee County Circuit Judge Jake Walker for Felon Hubbard’s early release were written by Bo Jackson, Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller, Opelika City Council President Eddie Smith, Auburn Board of Trustees member Gaines Lanier, former Auburn City Councilmember Gene Dulaney, Dr. Steven Presley with East Alabama Health and Auburn UMC Pastor Emeritus George Mathison. Quotes taken from Hosey’s *O-A News* report are included below.

Jackson wrote he’s known Hubbard for more than 35 years and called Hubbard a “*trusted and valued friend.*” Furthermore, “*I don’t know all of the specifics of his case and I don’t need to know, because I know Mike,*” Jackson wrote. “*I have seen Mike Hubbard’s talents and skills first-hand, and have witnessed his unconditional support for his friends, family and community. Because of these characteristics, I know Mike will be a productive citizen and will have a positive impact on his environment. In fact, I look forward to working with him again as a part of future endeavors.*” Jackson also asserted Hubbard played an important part in the 1985 Heisman decision. “*Mike’s incredible work ethic, dedication, and creativity coupled with his countless hours of hard work on my behalf led to a successful Heisman campaign. For this, I am forever grateful. His commitment to the goal allowed me and Auburn University a place in history.*”

One cannot dispute what *Bo knows* from his vantage point. It is difficult to come up with any college football player who required **less** support than Bo Jackson to earn/receive the Heisman Trophy. If Bo wants to give credit to Hubbard for his accomplishments, so be it. Felon Hubbard is masterful at getting others to believe in him for things like “*Storming the Statehouse*” (as straight ticket duopoly voters were finally cancelling each other out) when it was simply big govt. Democrats morphing into big govt. Republicans as observed in other

States like SC. I ask Bo to know more about specifics and at least consider Felon Hubbard may not be the same person he remembers from decades ago before being polluted by FDIC Lowder and BCA Boob Riley. We witnessed enough ‘*football interference*’ in our political economy when Patrick Nix (former Auburn Quarterback) introduced Felon Hubbard to our grand parasite, public servant Bob Riley.

Mayor Fuller wrote, “*Judge Walker, I cannot imagine any value or benefit of keeping this man in prison. He is certainly not a threat to society and sending him home would help, in a small way, to reduce the prison population and benefit the taxpayers of Alabama. It would be a kind and humane gesture if you would send him home to his wife and children.*” Noticeably absent was Mayor Fuller’s text on others, who’ve stolen **far** less as non-violent criminals and done **much** less harm to so many families struggling to survive along with honest/competitive businesses who lost revenue due to Felon Hubbard’s cronyism. I doubt Bo or many others know/understand how this public servant as Mayor has stolen from Opelika’s electric rate base payers to enable the ‘Gig-City’ fraud. Under a more just and consistent prosecutorial environment (like Bristol, VA) this public servant would also have been convicted and assigned prison time. Some recall Fuller on the witness stand shilling belief



Photo: U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) photo by Chris Putman)

in Hubbard as a ‘good man’ before Judge Walker’s sentencing, arrogantly asserting Felon Hubbard would be completely exonerated on appeal. When talking about ALDoT and other transfers to facilitate the cancerous growth and tax collusion in Lee County, one certainly questions Fuller’s criterion for “good.” Fortuitous to get a corrupt county to use their equipment clearing and grubbing for the Mayor while rural (mostly poor, black) folks can’t get to their churches and jobs because of poorly maintained roads which resulted from misallocations of this sort. Perhaps if Bo knows about more specific injustices of this sort, he’ll make an effort to reduce these outcomes instead of reducing Felon Hubbard’s sentence.

Eddie Smith appears much in lock step with former public servant Dulaney. Opelika Council President Smith has angered some (righteous) constituents I’ve spoken to shilling for Felon Hubbard these past years, espousing Mike has **only** five convictions after all the money and lobbying effort spent on appeals. I remember Auburn Bank’s Gene Dulaney sobbing on behalf of his friend Mike Hubbard before sentencing this serial felon. Getting unsecured loans at the expense of stockholders and other competent businesspeople who could improve our general welfare over Hubbard’s political theft and cronyism wasn’t part of Dulaney’s diatribe. Sad the prosecution didn’t provide some I know who have been harmed by Hubbard’s reign before sentencing. Banks, over-paid coaches, friends, et al who provide even more money to postpone thieves and manipulators of this sort from finally meeting an unbiased, righteous reckoning are most deleterious.

It would’ve been refreshing to see public servant Gaines Lanier spend the time and effort devoted to Felon Hubbard addressing corruption at AU as a Board member. Not sure Bo knows of this, but as a senior statesman athlete, I would welcome letters on behalf of softballs girls raped, PUBA scandal and stand behind those exercising courage to discipline corruption of this sort at his alma-mater. I’d be similarly impressed if Dr. Steven Presley (East Alabama Health) would devote time and effort writing letters to discipline problems at EAMC insulated/ subsidized by corrupt county commissioners and not following hospital requirements (championed by both Biden and Trump) to transparently post rates for standard procedures. Shilling for reducing a serial felon’s sentence is more important than patients and citizens who are taxed for this public endeavour.

George Mathison provided anecdotes as Hubbard’s former pastor, including Mike’s encouragement to write a book while serving as AU’s football team chaplain entitled, “**Positive Thoughts from a Perfect Season.**” According to Mathison (again from Mr. Hosey’s reporting) Hubbard and the Auburn Network published the book using profits from book’s sales to help fund the first Habitat for Humanity house in Auburn. “I just wanted to mention that with you to share with you the kind of person that I feel Mike is through his generosity to help a needy family in Lee County,” Mathison wrote to Walker. “That is just one of many examples that I could share of my experience with him as his pastor and friend and things about his life that I saw close-up that perhaps others did not.” Noticeably absent were any anecdotes about the hundreds of thousands of dollars harm and despair Felon Hubbard’s actions imposed on others. Perhaps Brother Matheson (Auburn UMC, retired) could rebuke “*Belief in Mike Hubbard*” and may better serve our community by advancing belief in God and shepherd a member of his flock toward being a penitent thief (as a justly convicted serial felon) to save his soul. Citizens already suffered Mathison kicking-off with more football talk appeal to jock adulators in his words to Judge Walker before sentencing Felon Hubbard.

Hubbard’s letter to Walker was also more impenitent thief rhetoric if readers want to read Mr. Hosey’s *O-A News* report. State prosecutors made their case for the Court to deny Hubbard’s request asserting no persuasive reason provided to justify this serial felon serving less than half of the reduced sentence the Court ordered 10 months ago. State prosecutors found Hubbard’s letter to the court “*a good start,*” but insufficient for release describing his apology “belated” explaining he could’ve provided it five years ago at his sentencing hearing and taken responsibility for his convictions. State prosecutors said, “*When a public official victimizes the citizens of Alabama, an apology – even combined with talents and community support – does not justify leniency unavailable to average defendants. Hubbard should serve his sentence, just like everyone else.*”

I’d be delighted to read what *Bo knows* as a family man. It was pure joy to watch and hear others rejoice about the wonderful job Bo did with his youngins and certainly earns even more respect given return to AU for completion of his degree in Family and Child Development. Again, as a senior statesman, most accomplished athlete, *please* investigate and weigh in on softball rape, PUBA scandal, etc. corruption at your alma-mater. No one can question Bo’s expertise/experience on rule changes, athletic accomplishments or say the merits of shotgun *v.* dead-ball snap for running-backs; if one wants a specific topic. What Bo knows on matters of this sort – I’m **all** ears. On issues of political corruption ‘you don’t need to know’ which have harmed so many ... Just **DON’T** Do It!

I’ll once again close with **Exodus 23 (KJV)** applicable to those writing on Felon Hubbard’s behalf for further sentencing reduction:

1 Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment AMEN!

DID YOU KNOW?

In his **First Inaugural Address**, delivered on March 4, 1861, President Abraham Lincoln stated he had no authority or desire to abolish slavery in the states in which it existed.

“I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the states where it exists. I believe I have no right to do so and I have no inclination to do so.” Paragraph 4

In that same address, President Lincoln endorsed an amendment to the Constitution that would prevent Congress from ever passing a law to end slavery.

“I understand a proposed amendment to the Constitution, an amendment which I have not seen, has passed Congress, to the effect that the Federal government shall never interfere with the domestic institutions of the States, including that of persons held to service . . . holding such a provision to now be implied constitutional law, I have no objection to its being made express and irrevocable.” Paragraph 30

The amendment which Lincoln endorsed is known as the **Corwin Amendment**, passed in the House on February 28 and the Senate on March 2, 1861. It was ratified by Kentucky, Ohio, Rhode Island, Maryland and Lincoln’s home state of Illinois.

“No amendment shall be made to the Constitution which will give to Congress any power to abolish or interfere, within any State, with the domestic institutions thereof, including that of person held to service.”

“The Informed Southerner”

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Maryland, Lincoln, and Treason



John M. Taylor

What is treason? Article III, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution defines it: “Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.” Using the plurals “them” and their” the text is clearly referencing the States—the sovereign entities described in the 1783 Treaty of Paris.

After Lincoln called for 75,000 troops to invade the seceded States, Virginia reversed course and decided they would not be a party to such treasonous action and they voted to secede. Virginia Rep. Alexander Boteler had warned Lincoln’s Administration that would happen if military coercion was threatened.

Lincoln, leery of Maryland joining the exodus and leaving Washington D.C. surrounded by Confederate States, claimed D.C. required immediate reinforcement. Voters in the area (Virginia, Delaware, and Maryland) generally detested the corporation-controlled, completely sectional Republican Party. Lincoln received about 2,000 of the 92,000 votes cast in Maryland, including about 1,100 of the 30,000 votes cast in Baltimore. Lincoln was also ridiculed as a coward for surreptitiously traveling through Baltimore in supposed fear of assassination. Finally, Marylanders were incensed at Lincoln’s call to invade the seceded States.

Under Article IV, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, a governor or legislature can request federal help. This did not apply in Maryland—troops were specifically told to stay out. On April 18, unwelcome Pennsylvania troops were taunted and harassed as they marched through Baltimore. Baltimore Mayor George Brown wrote to Lincoln: “The people are exasperated to the highest degree by the passage of troops, and the citizens are universally decided in the opinion that no more should be ordered to come...it is my solemn duty to inform you that it is not possible for more soldiers to pass through Baltimore unless they fight their way at every step.”

Ignoring Brown’s plea, the 6th Massachusetts was ordered to march through Baltimore on April 19. The cheers received over most of the 300 miles from Massachusetts (under Col. Edward F. Jones) turned to hostility. Jones warned them to prepare for a violent reception and to show restraint. Brown was present to ostensibly calm the situation, but failed miserably. Due to city law, troops had to get off the B&O Lines train and have teams of horses pull the rail cars through the middle of town down Pratt Street to Camden Station where the cars would be recoupled to a B&O engine. After leaving the train, the troops marched through an openly hostile crowd. Reaching a boiling point, gunfire was ultimately exchanged. As many as twelve civilians were killed by “federalised” troops and four soldiers were killed by civilians before the Massachusetts troops could retreat. Police Marshal George Proctor Kane and 50 of his men aided their escape. This incident is known as the Pratt Street Riot or First Blood. The actions of the 6th Massachusetts, federal occupation and post-war martial law in the South, led to the June 18, 1878 *Posse Comitatus* Act, prohibiting soldiers from being involved in domestic affairs.

On April 27, 1861, Lincoln issued his order to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in Maryland (helping to thwart legislators from going to Annapolis to possibly vote for secession). Per Lincoln’s orders, Butler, Winfield Scott, George Cadwalader, and Nathaniel P. Banks were told to suspend *habeas corpus* where resistance was met. Scott said, “In vain did Justice Taney record his protest against such suspension.” Cadwalader and Banks carried out the orders.

On May 13, Butler and his troops entered Baltimore with instructions to arrest anyone suspected of *disloyalty*. “Civilians who had demonstrated secessionist sympathies were arrested and taken to Fort McHenry, where they were held without charge.” Fort McHenry’s Commander, Major Morris, “suspended the Habeas Corpus privileges of those prisoners. Baltimore fell under military rule.” Butler’s troops built earthworks and placed about fifty cannons on Federal Hill,

overlooking Baltimore. Encouraged by Lincoln, Butler threatened to bomb the city’s civilians if Southern sympathizers offered too much resistance.

Through 1861, Lincoln’s minions continued to arrest any Marylander suspected of being Pro-Southern. Roughly ninety-seven politicians, editors, and prominent citizens were arrested, including Francis Key Howard, grandson of Francis Scott Key, who wrote *The Star Spangled Banner* (partially in defiance of British mercantilism). By late autumn 1861, most opposition to the Lincoln Administration had been purged from Maryland, leaving mainly political loyalists and sycophants. *The U.S. Flag was hoisted above the Customs House in Baltimore.*

Invasion and occupation deprived Marylanders of government by consent, with troops from Vermont, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts doing much of the dirty work. Approximately 25,000 Marylanders eventually fought for the Confederacy. “King Lincoln’s” tyrannical actions are prominently referenced in the State Song *Maryland! My, Maryland!* Of course, present-day Marxists have changed it.

References: (1) “*The Real Lincoln*” by Charles L.C. Minor; (2) *Baltimore Riot of 1861*, by Michael G. Williams, at History.net; (3) *The Pratt Street Riot*, from the National Park Service. [NOTE: I spotted a couple of typos in my August article. *Massachusetts legalized slavery in 1641 and Connecticut in 1650.*]

UNION AT ALL COSTS:

From Confederation to Consolidation

Alabama native son **John M. Taylor** (Alexander City) has penned a ‘**must read**’ for all who want to advance their understanding of our morphing from a voluntary coalition of sovereign States to the forced consolidation imposed via war 1861-5 and tyrannical years of ‘reconstruction’ to follow. If you’d like to purchase a copy of **Union At All Costs** below are links where it is currently available.

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Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening
Potpourri for November

November brings football games, cooler weather, colorful mums, fall foliage and Thanksgiving.

What a happy time of the year where we can enjoy the great outdoors by taking long walks, getting our hands dirty while tending to the garden chores, and enjoying fellowship with family and friends around the Thanksgiving table. Also have fun creating a Thanksgiving tablescape with colorful leaves either real or garlands of fake leaves found in the retail stores. If your pumpkins are still viable, use these, by all means, and also the lumpy, bumpy gourds.

Back to the garden scene, this time of the year is ideal for adding perennials to the beds since they will have all winter to develop a sturdy root system for bigger and better plants in the spring and summer. If there are shrubs and trees that need to be planted, fall is the ideal time to plant them. Fruit trees, such as pears and plums, which are not pH sensitive, thrive when planted now. Apple and peach trees need a more acid environment, which is why I built up beds with railroad ties and added sandy loam soil. Remember to spray these fruit trees with the proper chemical sprays after the first hard freeze. Spraying cuts out fungus, mildew, fire blight, white flies, and other pests that interfere with fruit production.

Because the night-time temperatures drop this time of year, geraniums, petunias and other cool weather annuals and perennials take on a new life. For this reason, I continue to fertilize with a liquid fertilizer this month and in November for optimal bloom. If you have annuals that are on their last leg, go ahead and pull these out. As far as spent blooms on perennials, time to cut these plants

back to about 3 inches from soil level. October is also the ideal time to sow poppy seed, zinnia seed and also cleome seed. Scratch the soil with a rake and scatter the seed in the designated area. Do not put mulch on these areas as it could prevent the seed from germinating in the spring.



Photo: Kenpei / Wikipedia.org

PLANT OF THE MONTH – ABELIA

These are popular garden shrubs, which bloom from spring through fall. Native to Eastern Asia and Mexico, there are varieties, which are both deciduous (colder climate plants) and evergreen (warmer climate plants). Abelia grows best in soils with a pH of 5.0- 7.5, which includes the clay soils found in our area. Many landscapers will substitute Abelia for Azaleas, which prefer an acid soil. They are covered during their long bloom cycle with clusters of pink and white tubular flowers. Some varieties have a jasmine- like scent. They would prefer full sun but do well also in partial shade. Many other uses besides as a flowering shrub would include use as a hedge. With pink and white profusion of blooms from Spring to Fall, it is an arresting sight. One of my favorites is a variety named 'Edward Gloucher,' which is very low maintenance. Depending on the variety, Abelia can range in height 6-10 feet and spread out 6 feet. Also, they are not known to have invasive properties, so they stay put and mind their own business. Another use for the dwarf varieties would be foundation plantings. This fall plant Abelia in your garden.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND GOOD GARDENING.

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Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

Community Relations Events

We are slowly getting back into the normal routine prior to the COVID pandemic. Our Drive-Thru Halloween Spooktacular was a great success this year as was our Fishing Rodeos!

Our Firearms Familiarization Course has begun again with courses being held once a month; however, we do not hold courses November-January, due to the weather and the holidays. You can still apply for the course and you will be contacted once the next course is scheduled. Please call 334-832-1339 for more information or to request an application.



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Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heroes

Maj David Timothy & Col Linda Lake Boyle

Major David Timothy Boyle

Major David Timothy Boyle served 20 years in the United States Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was communications operations officer and communications staff officer. He received the following decorations, medals and awards: Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Training Ribbon and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Device.

Major Boyle was born in Burlington, Iowa, and was reared in rural areas of Iowa. He graduated from Burlington High School and then in 1966 graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.S. Degree in General Sciences. Major Boyle volunteered for military service during the Vietnam War era, and he enlisted January 2, 1968, in the United States Air Force.

Major Boyle’s military service began with his attendance and then graduation from Office Training School at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, March 28, 1968. His first assignment was to Clark Air Base (AB), Philippines, March 1969 to August 1970 to the First Mobile Communications Group which provided communications support to many locations in southeast Asia. He was deployed to Korea, Taiwan, Laos, Australia and Thailand to provide quick response to mobile communications to support Air Force operations.

From August 1970 to October 1972, Major Boyle served at Robins AFB, GA, to the Fifth Mobile Communications Group as an Exercise Planning Officer and provided contingency communications support to the 9th and 19th Air Forces. His next service was as an Active Duty Air Force Advisor working closely with the 244th Mobile Communications Squadron (ANG) at the Portland Air National Guard Base, Portland, OR, October 1972-April 1976. This ensured that the unit met operational readiness to support Air Force operations plans.

Major Boyle was deployed to RAF Upper Heyford, UK, from April 1976 to June 1977 to a classified location to provide contractor oversight of a remote tropospheric radio site. Returning to the United States, he attended the Communications-Electronics Staff Officer School June 1977 to April 1978. Boyle was then assigned to the Air Force Communications Command Inspector General office at Scott AFB, IL, from April 1978 to November 1979 where he inspected Active Duty, Reserve and Air National Guard communications units to ensure that they provided necessary support to their operational commands. In addition, he ensured the combat communications units were operationally ready to meet their contingency missions. Next, Major Boyle was assigned to the Air Force Manpower and Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, TX, from November 1979 to December 1984 where he provided communications support to the Air Force’s personnel system which consisted mostly of data communications in support of the personnel computer system which spanned from Europe to Japan. His last assignment was to Offutt AFB, NE, from December 1984 to January 1988 where he served as an acquisition officer in support of all Strategic Air Command (SAC) bases, and he participated in source selection boards that provided complete changeover of base telephone systems at three SAC bases and also ensured competition in contracting for both computer and communications systems. Major Boyle retired from military service and was discharged January 31, 1988.



Major Boyle and his wife, Dr. Linda L. Boyle, a retired Air Force Colonel, have been married for 41 years, and they have three adopted children and three grandchildren. He supported his wife in her military career by rearing, caring and nursing their children. While they were stationed in Alaska, from April 2009 to October 2017, he volunteered full-time for a free market think tank, the Alaska Policy Forum. It focused on improving K-12 education for all children, transparency and accountability in government and personal responsibility. In addition, he provides a website for Alaskans to easily follow their legislative happenings so they can understand and support or oppose current legislation. He provides a “report card” on each legislator for the general public. He enjoys fishing, hiking and gardening.

When reflecting on his military service, Major Boyle says, “I fortunately was not to be in any battles or combat locations; however, I did go TDY to Laos to support our forward Air Force people. We improved their communications from the local operating locations to their headquarters thus improving Air Force operations in Vietnam and Laos. Serving as a military officer has meant carrying on the tradition of upholding our US Constitution and all for which it stands. It has been a privilege and an honor to follow in the footsteps of such hallowed men as George Washington, our Revolutionary War heroes and those who suffered and died in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. It truly was and is a brotherhood, one that civilians will never understand.”

end



Veterans love reading *The Gazette!*

These service members enjoy reading *The Alabama Gazette*. Their articles were published in the October 2021 issue.



Lt. Col. David L. McFarland
U.S. Air Force (below)



Lt. Woodward Durham Lamar
U.S. Navy (above)



Sgt. Harold Woodman
US Navy Reserve
U.S. Air Force (above)



Col Linda Lake Boyle

Col Linda Lake Boyle served 24 years in the United States Air Force and 18 years with the Veterans Administration’s healthcare system. Her Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Medical Commander, Nurse Administrator Commander, Nurse Administrator, Technical instructor, clinical nurse, flight nurse, flight nurse instructor and flight nurse examiner. This charismatic and systems thinker has been a talented and innovative leader of organizations and in executing multi-discipline programs at local, Veterans Integrated Service Networks and national levels. Her medals, awards and decorations included: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (five), AF Accommodation Medal (two), Air Force Training Ribbon (three), Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon and National Defense Service Medal.

Col Boyle was born in Philadelphia, PA, May 6, 1949, to her parents, Larkin and Mary Jo Lake. She was reared in Plymouth Valley, PA, and graduated from Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School in 1966.

Col Boyle’s military service began when she joined the Air National Guard of Pennsylvania in September 1970, and her active duty began March 29, 1977, in Philadelphia, PA. Col Boyle selected the field of nursing as her career. She received a B.S Degree in 1971 and a M.S. Degree in 1974 in Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania through grants from Health Education and Welfare. In 2014, she received a Doctor of Management, Organizational Leadership from the University of Phoenix online funded by the G.I. Bill. Col Boyle had five years of clinical experience including nurse manager during 1969-1974 with the Air National Guard of Pennsylvania, prior to Active Duty in 1977 out of the Inactive Ready Reserve.

Col Boyle served with distinction in positions of leadership with nine assignments at Air Force Bases. First, she served as a Flight Nurse Instructor/Flight Nurse Examiner with the 57th Aerovac Squadron (AES), Scott Air Force Base (AFC), IL, 03/29/1977-07/01/1979. She evaluated performance of flight nurses for crew qualifications by performing check rides, assured quality control of all manuals and supervised personnel in maintaining manuals currency. Her second assignment was as Course Supervisor and Instructor, School of Aerospace Medicine Flight Nurse Program, Brooks AFB, TX, 07/01/1979-05/31/1983. She then served as the Assistant Nurse Manager, Neuro-surgical Unit, Wilford Medical Center, Lackland AFB, TX 06/01/83-12/31/84 where she was responsible for planning, organizing, implementing, evaluating, documenting and participating in all nursing actions within a 29-bed unit. She was recognized as a neuro-surgical expert. Next, she served as the Nurse Manager and Clinical Specialist at Ehrling Bergquist Regional Hospital, Offutt AFB, NE, 1/1/1985-6/1/1998. She managed a 22 bed unit of short term surgical patients and served as nurse manager for the emergency room with a staff of 22 technicians rendering care to 37,800 patients annually and coordinated 720 patient transports a year. Following this assignment, she served as Course Supervisor, Nursing Service Management at Sheppard AFB, TX, 06/01/1988-01/01/1991 where she planned, organized, directed, coordinated and implemented the activities for the yearly training of 126 active duty and 78 reserve component nurse mid-level managers. She then served as Chief, Medical Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA)/ Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) Management Division, Air Reserve Personnel Center, Lowry AFB, CO, 01/01/1991-07/01/1995 where she was responsible for 2,062 Reserve personnel and direct responsibility for 679 nurses. Next, she served as Deputy Command Nurse, Air Mobility Command Scott AFB, IL, 07-01-1995-07/01/1996 where she was responsible for nursing practice, standards of care within 12 Air Force medical facilities throughout the United States, 57th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Air Force Reserves and Air National Guard units. Her next assignment was as 3rd Medical Support Squadron Commander (CEO), Elmendorf AFB, AK 07/02/1996-05/26/1999, where she was responsible for planning, programming and directing manpower, facilities and funding for a 300 member squadron supporting a 825 member medical group. Her next leadership position was 45 Medical Group Commander (CEO), Patrick AFB, FL, 07/10/1999-



07/31/2001 providing medical and dental care to more than 50,000 beneficiaries. Col Boyle retired from active military service there July 31, 2001.

Following military retirement, Col Boyle continued her exemplary leadership by working with the Veterans Administration (VA) from September 2001 to September 28, 2019. Her service with the VA included work as Associate Director for Patient/Nursing Service and as Interim Director in Alaska at the Alaska VA Healthcare System (HCS) from September 2001 to November 2016. She then served as the Director of Central AL VA HCS from November 2016 to September 2019.

Col Boyle and her husband, Major David Timothy Boyle, who also served in the U. S. Air Force for 20 years, have been married 41 years, and they have three adopted children and two grandchildren. They enjoy traveling and have gone to Alaska, New Mexico and Colorado to visit family and friends. She has volunteered at the Central Alabama VA Health Care System teaching Whole Health.

Col Boyle describes her military service saying, “I joined the Air National Guard in 1970 while still in college to serve my Country. It was the time of Vietnam. I believed as a nurse that I could help my fellow countrymen who needed compassionate nursing care. I live by the Air Force’s core values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in all that you do. I have a strong love of my country, the U.S.A., and a willingness to serve whenever and wherever that they wanted me to go. The camaraderie is unbelievable. If asked, I would readily do it again.”

end

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

Resources for Veterans

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

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Chief Warrant Officer Buddy Martin Wilson: Age 87

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Buddy Martin Wilson served 25 years in the U.S. Military including four years in the Navy, 12 years in the Air Force and nine years in the Army. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was installation and maintenance of medical equipment. His medals, award and decorations include: National Defense Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Small Arms Expert, Marksman Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal with two bronze stars and Legion of Merit.

CWO Wilson was born January 3, 1934 to his parents, Albert Jack Wilson and Alice Mixon Wilson in Greenville, AL. He attended schools in Greenville, AL, Lowndesboro, AL, and East Point, GA, graduating from Russell High School in East Point, GA, June 9, 1952. He attended the University of Georgia at Atlanta for one semester and worked as a shipping clerk at a battery plant in East Point, GA. Having joined the U. S. Navy Reserve just prior to his high school graduation, he entered service in the Regular Navy in January 1953. He completed Basic Training at the Great Lakes Naval Station, IL, followed by training at the Navy's Hospital Corps Training School at Portsmouth, VA, and by assignment to the Naval Hospital at Pensacola, FL, for the remaining time of service 1953-1955 in the Navy CWO Wilson attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) for three semesters in pre-med. He then began service in the U. S. Air Force at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB) AL followed by a faulty assignment to a weather equipment repairing school at Chanute AFB, IL., but he was reassigned to the hospital at Chanute AFB as a striking medical equipment repairman. He was deployed to the Army medical depot in northern Japan where he was trained in medical equipment repairs. For two years, he served at Itazuke Air Base (AB) Japan where he created a design for an incubator for babies. He returned to a hospital at Chanute AFB and to Gunter Air Field, AL, to attend a biomedical school for 20 weeks and another long course for 32 weeks.

After being promoted to Warrant Officer, CWO Wilson enlisted in the U. S. Army, and he supervised military and civilian personnel in installation and maintenance at military hospitals. He was assigned to serve at the Army Martin Community Hospital at Ft. Benning, PA, where he retired June 30, 1977.

After his military retirement, CWO Wilson worked with Baptist South Medical Center for two years installing and repairing medical equipment. He was then employed by Narco Airshields, a company manufacturing heart rate monitors and respirators, ventilators, incubators, etc. for one year. Next, he was employed by Rendhaw-Heilman Associates located in Columbia, South Carolina, engaging in hospital planning for updates and new hospitals. When he was chief of the Bio-Mecal division, he also served as Executive Officer for a Radiological Emergency Medical team covering Mississippi west to Taiwan. The team worked in conjunction with a world team from Sandia, New Mexico located in Albuquerque, NM. He worked in Melbourne, FL, with a 500-bed facility. One of the new hospitals was a new medical center for the University of Michigan. He was involved in redesigning many hospitals including two in Pensacola, FL, one in Brookville, FL, one in Mobile, AL and a planned medical center for Saudi Arabia at Jubail which he did by himself.

CWO Wilson and his wife, Barbara Helen, were married 62 years before she passed away, and they had two children, and five grandchildren. His wife, Sandralee, and he have been married one and one-half years, and they enjoy traveling. They are members of Frazer United Methodist Church where he has served as the President of the Men's Club and Chairman of the Hospital Visitation Team. He still enjoys playing golf. He has served as the representative for the Scottish Rite Foundation Masons for the Montgomery valley covering 39 counties within AL. He has been the liaison for supervision and the membership chairman of Masonic clubs in AL since 1998. This organization cares for over 600 children affected by dyslexia in Alabama.

CWO Wilson's conclusions about his military service are, "I would like future generations to remember me as the friendliness person that they have ever known. The military experience was wonderful. I met many super persons and made great friendships. I met the world's greatest people such as Dr. Michael De Bakey, the famous vascular surgeon, many professional golfers and too many others to name. I met manufacturers with input and receiving input with ideas received and put into practice such as the Infant Baby transport system, intensive care utilities and special devices for diagnosis and treatment. Over all, this included management skills and ideas. The professional experience was also very gratifying. I had privilege in serving in one of the largest medical centers in San Francisco with 1650 beds, a research center serving military ships with medical units. I assisted in design and in opening a 850 bed hospital to care for the many U. S. military patients returning from Vietnam. Military medicine is most important to support our brave young men and their families. Regretfully Congress has eliminated many fine military medical facilities around the world. This has resulted in great values going to waste, but life goes on. Thank God!

"I could go on forever, but I hope it will be known that I am one proud soldier. Thanks for allowing me to serve."

#end#



Col Anthony Baggiano

Col Anthony (Tony) L. Baggiano served 20 years in the United States Air Force. His last Air Force assignment was the Commander of the San Antonio Data Services. His medals, awards and decorations included: Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Longevity Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and Airborne Badge.

Col Baggiano was born February 12, 1939 in Jamestown, N.Y., to his parents, Sebastian and Frances Baggiano, where he was reared and graduated from Jamestown High school in 1957. He graduated from The Citadel with a B.S. Degree in Physics in 1961, was commissioned as a Lieutenant and then entered service in the U.S. Air Force August 31, 1961, at James Connally Air Force Base (AFB), Waco, TX. His first assignment was to attend Texas A& M University where he received a Master's Degree in Mathematics in 1963. Col. Baggiano continued his education by completion of the Air Force educational programs at the Air Force Squadron Officers School in 1968 at Maxwell AFB, AL, the Armed Forces Staff College in 1972 in Norfolk, VA, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1978.

After receiving his degree from Texas A& M University, Col Baggiano's illustrious military service began with his assignment to the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C. where he served as a numerical analyst conducting system design, system development and testing, implementation and follow-on maintenance of large computer systems involved with highly classified projects from 1963-1966. He then completed an assignment as Associate Professor and Deputy Division Chief, Department of Mathematics at the USAF Academy 1966-1968 and 1969-1972. During this time, he completed one year of deployment as Chief, Programming Branch, Intelligence Data Handling Systems, U.S. Military Assistance Command in Vietnam 1968-1969.

Col Baggiano's expertise in computer technology was effective in his service at three Air Force bases. In 1972-1976, Col Baggiano served as the Chief, Operations Research Division, Air Force Data Systems Design Center at Gunter AFB where he supervised 56 officers, enlisted and high-grade civilians engaged in a variety of highly technical and complex computer related projects involving the technical management of 135 computers installed at major Air Force bases worldwide. He served as the Deputy Program Manager-Chief, Systems Engineering Division, Phase IV Program Management Office 1976-1980 at Gunter Annex, Maxwell AFB, AL, where he was responsible for the definition of the architecture and the writing of the technical specification for the Base Level Data Automation program which included the replacement of over 260 computers at every Air Force Base worldwide, supervision of 29 officers, high-grade civilians and enlisted personnel. His final military service was as Commander, San Antonio Data Service Center in 1980-1981 where he managed the only Air Force consolidated computer center dedicated to providing automatic data processing service to the Air Force, Army, Navy and other Federal agencies on a fee-for-service basis. Col Baggiano retired there from military service August 31, 1981.

After military retirement, Col Baggiano worked as the Assistant Director of Data Systems Management Division with the State of Alabama in 1981-1985. He performed administrative and professional work assisting in the state's information systems programs. From 1985-2004, Col Baggiano worked with Robbins-Gioia, Inc. which specializes in program management services for the federal government. In 1985-1992, Col Baggiano served as the Director of Southern Operations where he directed all aspects of the Robbins-Gioia program management support system. From 1993-1998, he served as President/Chief Operating Officer and was responsible for all operations of the corporation including revenue growth and profitability. From 1999-2004, he served as Chief Management Consultant where he focused on leveraging clients' investments for strategic advantage, developed and led Robbins-Gioia's management consulting groups offering services in strategic planning and assessment, capital investment planning, portfolio management and IT planning.

Col. Baggiano and his wife, Faye, have been married 59 years, and have five children and eight grandchildren. He has been deeply involved with serving others in the Montgomery, AL, community. He has served with the Montgomery Area Food Bank as President and Member of the Board for 13 years. His other service includes membership on the Board of Directors of The Citadel Alumni Association, the Air University Foundation, the USA Water Ski Association, the U.S. Olympic Committee, the American Water Ski Foundation, the Central AL Football Officials Association, the Central AL Basketball Officials Association, the Downtown Optimists Club, and the Montgomery Rotary Club.

Col. Baggiano reflects upon his military service saying, "I was reared by Italian immigrant parents who taught me to respect and love this country and to be very patriotic. My military service was the best thing that ever happened to me. What higher calling is there?"

#end#



Nancy Burtron, the former Commandant of the Detachment 920 with Dr. Martha Poole Simmons at the Townsend Detachment 920 of the U. S. Marine Corps League meeting at the Fried Tomato Buffet on October 18. There were 14 marines present to whom Martha gave copies of the Gazette.



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

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James Vernon Godfrey

Sadly, James Vernon Godfrey passed away on October 13, 2021 at the age of 101!

Godfrey served for three years as a payroll clerk in the U. S. Army in England, France, and Germany during WWII. He received the following medals: Army of Occupation Medal, The European-Africa-Middle East Service Medal, the WWII Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. Godfrey was born September 2, 1920 in Society Hill, AL, in Macon Count.

Godfrey's military service began when he was inducted into the U. S. Army April 3, 1943, at the rank of Private. When WWII ended in Europe and in Japan, Godfrey was honorably discharged at Ft. McPherson, Atlanta, GA April 24, 1946. His complete article was published in the January 2020 issue of the Gazette.



Daniel Simms Alexander

On October 19, 2021, Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Simms Alexander passed away at the age of 81.

Alexander was a valiant U.S. Army veteran of over 26 years who served two tours of Vietnam, to Fairbanks, AK, which was considered an overseas assignment and three other overseas deployments including Vicenza, Italy, Ludwigsburg, Germany and Okinawa, and one TDY to Eniwetok Atoll. He was a highly decorated veteran. During his service, he was deployed to Vietnam for one year for Tour I, to the Presidio at San Francisco, CA, for six months, to the Proving Grounds at Aberdeen, MD, for 16 months and to Vietnam for 11 months for Tour II. His entire career was with the Corp of Engineers. His complete aticle was published in the January 2020 issue of the Gazette.



Dr. Lester Spencer

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

Soul Searching

The Wise, the Foolish and the Evil

“The wise can see where they are going, but fools walk in the dark.” –Ecclesiastes 2:14

“For the evil person has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.” – Proverbs 24:20

In his bestselling book, *Necessary Endings*, Dr. Henry Cloud explains to us that there are three kinds of people: *the wise, the foolish and the evil*. One of the most memorable talks I have ever heard and actually remembered was Dr. Cloud’s talk on this same subject. I have found this to be some of the most helpful advice I have ever received, and I hope it may help you to be more discerning in all your relationships and business dealings.

Let’s take a look at these three types of people remembering that sometimes there may also be some overlap and that all of us may have at some time exhibited some of these traits, because we are all fallible and often self-centered human beings who make mistakes. But I do believe that people generally (and sometimes very specifically) fall into one of these categories which should remind us that you cannot deal with everyone the same way.

The Wise

Wise people listen when they receive feedback. You can talk to them and reason with them. They take it in, and they adjust their behavior accordingly. A wise person encounters truth and changes as a result.

For example, after getting a speeding ticket, a wise person learns and slows down. After being told their words hurt someone, a wise person will try to understand why and make changes. They are open, not defensive, they learn and grow and tend to not make the same mistakes over and over again.

The Foolish

Foolish people encounter truth and don’t change. Instead, they try to adjust the truth, so they don’t have to adjust to it. Confronted with a problem, a foolish person will deny, blame, minimize, generate excuses, and do anything in his or her power to avoid dealing with reality. They don’t learn and rarely grow. Foolish people have a flat learning curve. As a result, they tend to wreak a lot of havoc and cause damage in their own lives and the lives of others.

The Evil

It is hard to admit it, but some people really are evil. They intend to harm you. They want to take you down. And as hard as it is for you to believe, they don’t have your best interests at heart and want to see you fail. When I was younger, I used to find this hard to believe, but, over the years, I have seen it often enough and can no longer dismiss it. In fact, if you chose not to believe these evil people exist, you do so at your own risk and to your own detriment. You must learn how to spot them and how to deal with them if you want to minimize the harm and anxiety they can cause.

So, how do you address these three kinds of people in your life?

- 1. With *wise* people, talk to them, give them resources, and you will get a return. There is always hope with a wise person.
- 2. With *foolish* people, stop talking to them about problems; they are not listening. And stop supplying resources; they squander them. Instead, give them limits and consequences. The strategy for foolish people is simple: Quit talking about the problem and talk about the new problem. And the new problem is that talking doesn’t help.
- 3. With *evil* people, to quote a Jimmy Buffett song, the strategy is “Lawyers, Guns and Money”. The reason? You have to go into protection mode, not helping mode, when dealing with evil people. Lawyers, guns, and money usually get their attention. This is not stated just for effect.

The truth is that Dr. Cloud is not kidding.

I promise you that you will encounter these three kinds of people in your life. The Bible clearly tells us we will. Seeing the difference between wise, foolish, and evil people will, I pray, give you a powerful and useful tool in making some of the difficult decisions we face in life.

Blessings,
Dr. Lester Spencer
Lead Pastor
Saint James Church

Join Saint James Church Sunday Morning

8:00 Outdoor Cafe 11:00 Traditional service
10:00 Contemp service 9-9:30 Open Communion

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



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

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SUDOKU Answers on pg 6B

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

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When you retire, if you become disabled, or if someone you depend on dies, we are there when you need us. You can access your information, benefits, and important services from just about anywhere with your personal and secure **my Social Security** account. With your **my Social Security** account, you can:



- Compare future benefit estimates for different dates or ages when you may want to begin receiving benefits.
- Check the status of your benefits application or appeal.
- Review your earnings history.
- Request a replacement Social Security card (in most states).

If you already receive benefits, you can also:

- Get a benefit verification or proof of income letter.
- Set up or change your direct deposit.
- Change your address.
- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Get a Social Security 1099 form (SSA-1099).

You can even use your **my Social Security** account to opt out of receiving certain notices by mail, including the annual cost-of-living adjustments notice and the income-related monthly adjustment amount notice. These notices are now available in your Message Center when you sign in to your account. We will send you an email that a new message is waiting for you, so you never miss an important update.

It’s easy to sign up for a **my Social Security** account. Please let your friends and family know that they can create their own **my Social Security** account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

Veterans & Active Duty Military Members: Social Security has Your Back!

Every year on Veterans Day, we honor the people who risk their lives to protect our country. Our disability program is part of our obligation to wounded warriors and their families. Social Security 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 web page, www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors.



Our Wounded Warriors web page answers many questions commonly asked about Social Security, and shares useful information about disability benefits. On this page, you can learn how Social Security benefits are different from benefits available through the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application. We also explain how veterans can expedite the processing of their Social Security disability claims if they become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs.

Active duty military service members who continue to receive pay while in a hospital or on medical leave should consider applying for disability benefits if they’re unable to work due to a disabling condition. Active duty status and receipt of military pay doesn’t necessarily prevent payment of Social Security disability benefits.

We honor veterans and active duty members of the military every day by giving them the respect they deserve. Please let these heroes know they can count on SSA when they need us most. They’ve earned these benefits! Our web pages 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.

Access Your New Social Security Statement Online

We have exciting news to share: we’ve redesigned your *Social Security Statement (Statement)* to make it easier to find the information you need.



Who gets a Statement?

You will get a *Statement* if you are an adult who does not receive benefits. Your unique *Statement* gives estimates of future Social Security benefits that you and your family may receive each month along with a basic overview of the Social Security program. It also provides a record of your earnings history and other valuable information. Your future benefits are based on your earnings record, so it’s important to tell us when you see an error, so you can get it corrected and ensure you get all the benefits you earned. Your *Statement* explains how to report an error.

What’s New in the Statement?

The redesigned *Statement* is streamlined and written in plain language to make it easy to read, use, and understand. We’ve divided the information into sections, like different types of benefits, so you can easily find what you need. The new *Statement* provides a bar chart with your personalized retirement benefit estimates for up to nine different ages, depending on when you may want your benefits to start. This key information can help you make educated decisions about your financial future.

Fact sheets tailored to your age group and earnings situation accompany your online *Statement*. The fact sheets can help you better understand Social Security programs, benefits, and how they fit your situation. For example, for younger workers, we provide more information about how you can save for your future; for older workers, we explain how benefits may be taxed and how to avoid a Medicare penalty. We include links in the fact sheets for easier reference and additional information.

Our *Social Security Statement* web page at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/state-ment has samples of the Statement, as well as copies of the new fact sheets (in English and Spanish). Please share these resources with your friends and family.

Get Your Personalized Statement Online Today

The best way to access your new Statement is by using your personal **my Social Security** account. If you don’t have an account, be sure to create one today. Your account also lets you access other services online, such as requesting a replacement Social Security card and getting a letter proving you do not receive Social Security benefits.

Get started by signing in to or creating your **my Social Security** account today at www.ssa.gov/myaccount!

Social Security Can Help You Start or Return to Work



If you rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and want to start or return to work, we can help.

Ticket to Work (Ticket) is a program that supports career development for SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients who want to work and progress toward financial independence. The Ticket program is free and voluntary. Learn more about the Ticket to Work program at www.ssa.gov/work or call the Ticket to

Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.

In addition to the Ticket to Work program, the Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS) program also helps people with disabilities return to work. A PASS allows you to set aside resources and other income besides your SSI for a specified period. With a PASS you can pursue a work goal that will reduce or eliminate your need for SSI or SSDI benefits.

How does a PASS help someone return to work?

- We base SSI eligibility and payment amounts on income and resources (items of value that the person owns).
- PASS lets a person with a disability set aside money and items they own to pay for items or services needed to achieve a specific work goal.
- The objective of the PASS is to help people with disabilities find employment that reduces or eliminates the need for SSI or SSDI benefits.

You can read all about the PASS program at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11017.pdf.

The PASS must be in writing and we must approve the plan. To start, contact your local **PASS Cadre** or local **Social Security office** for an application (Form SSA-545-BK). You can also access the form at www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-545.html. Ticket to Work service providers, vocational counselors, or a representative or relative can help you write a PASS.

For more information about PASS, read The Red Book - A Guide to Work Incentives at www.ssa.gov/redbook.

Your job isn’t just a source of income — it can be a vehicle to independence or the beginning step to fulfilling your dreams. Let our Ticket to Work program or PASS program help you achieve your goals.

Social Security Survivors Benefits Explained

We are here for surviving family members when a worker dies. In the event of your death, certain members of your family may be eligible for survivors benefits. These include widows and widowers, divorced widows and widowers, children, and dependent parents.

The amount of benefits your survivors receive depends on your lifetime earnings. The higher your earnings, the higher their benefits. That’s why it’s important to make sure your earnings history is correct in our records. That starts with creating a **my Social Security** account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. A **my Social Security** account is secure and gives you immediate access to your earnings records, Social Security benefit estimates, and a printable Social Security Statement. The Statement will let you see an estimate of the survivors benefits we could pay your family.

You may also want to visit our Benefits Planner for Survivors to help you better understand Social Security protections for you and your family as you plan for your financial future at www.ssa.gov/planners/survivors.

Please visit www.ssa.gov or read our publication Survivors Benefits at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10084.pdf for more information. You can also help us spread the word by sharing this information with your family and friends.



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

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

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This is a partial reprint from November 2017. Enjoy!



Thanksgiving Day Turkey!



Every cook has a go-to cookbook for recipes but also as a resource for conversions, measure, and cooking guidelines. One of my resource books is **The America's Test Kitchen Family Cookbook**. Since Thanksgiving is coming upon use, I thought I would answer some the most asked questions about cooking your turkey according to **America's Test Kitchen**.

Guidelines: Start turkey in a 425°F oven then finish at 325°F following these directions:

For a 12-14 lb. turkey start at 425 for one hour, finish for 1-1 ½ hours serves 10 to 12

For a 15-17 lb. turkey start at 425 for one hour, finish for 1 ½ to 2 hours serves 14 to 16

Knowing my oven, I use these times and temperature as a guideline, but I rely on a good temperature and I want my turkey to read at least 165°F everywhere in the bird, thighs and breast. Remember to let your turkey rest at least 15 minutes after removing from oven. There will be further cooking with the temperature increasing at least 5 degrees.

My personal recommendation is do not stuff the turkey. However, do not forget to check inside the cavity of the turkey and remove the giblets (heart, gizzard, liver, and the neck) that are usually in a parchment paper bag. Use these for your giblet gravy. For the stuffing to get to a safe temperature, the rest of the turkey is over cooked. That is why in the South, we make dressing. Another tip: If you do not brine your turkey, buy a self-basting turkey. If your turkey has a pop up indicator on it, ignore it and use a probe thermometer.

As I was strolling down the aisle at the grocery store, I noticed the large number and varieties of butter and margarine. At my house, butter is preferred. Margarine has some advantages such as no cholesterol, but to keep the calorie count down, water is whipped with it. So when you melt the margarine it evaporates away. In baking, using a high water content margarine can lead to tough baked goods. Pick your butter for your taste and price you want to pay. Just use either in moderation.

I have had a lot of pushback about trying new dishes and alternative cooking methods for Thanksgiving. This is one of the holidays where the meal is set in stone. "This is the way we always served it and nobody will eat it if it is not the way "Aunt Hettie" fixed it."

The one side dish that I always try to change is the sweet potatoes. I am not fond of canned or over-cooked sweet potatoes drowning in butter and brown sugar and with crispy browned marshmallows floating on top of the liquid sea of syrup and then with pecans that are so water logged they sink to the bottom of the dish and have lost their natural crunch.

My contribution to an alternative side dish for Thanksgiving has some brown sugar, but no marshmallows, no pecans and no sea of sugar syrup. I found many recipes for different ways to roast sweet potatoes. I seems to be getting more popular to not raise your blood sugar when you eat sweet potatoes and to add some zip to the dish.



Chicken with 40 Cloves of Garlic

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Total time: 1 hr, 40 min

INGREDIENTS:

2/3 cup olive oil
 8 chicken drumsticks
 8 chicken thighs
 4 celery ribs, cut into 4-inch-long strips, about 12 total
 2 cups chopped onion
 6 parsley sprigs
 1 tsp dried tarragon
 1/2 cup dry vermouth
 2 1/2 tsp salt
 1/4 tsp freshly ground pepper
 Dash grated nutmeg
 40 cloves garlic, unpeeled
 Freshly sliced French bread



METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. In a shallow dish, coat the chicken pieces evenly with oil.
3. In a heavy 6-quart casserole, combine the celery, onions, parsley, and tarragon.
4. Lay the oiled chicken pieces on top. Pour on the vermouth.
5. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, and a dash of nutmeg.
6. Tuck the garlic cloves in and around the chicken pieces.
7. Cover the casserole tightly with aluminum foil, then the lid.
8. Bake 90 minutes without removing the lid.
9. Strain the pan juices and serve the chicken, pan juices, and garlic cloves with French bread.
10. Diners should squeeze the buds of garlic from their husks onto the bread, and then spread the garlic like butter.

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Sudoku Answer from pg 4B

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Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Home Town Community News

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

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



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Katherine Hall (92nd) | 14 Ken Franklin McKenzie |
| Kelei Lewis | 14 Xan Morrow |
| Jimmie Mims | Spears Rhodes |
| Barbie O'Neal | 15 Larry Browder |
| Bobbie Parker | Mary Elizabeth Dean |
| 2 Al Flanary | Mae H. Poole |
| Bill Grubs | Katherine Huro |
| Mary Ellis Killough (13th) | Debbie Johnson |
| Mike Lane | Heather Killough |
| Charles Meredith | 16 Thomas Joseph Boyd |
| 3 Larry Chambers | Alton Haraway |
| Jack Hornady (93rd) | Patricia M. Lee |
| Doug Sellers | 17 Dan Fowler |
| 4 Patrick Sikes (11th) | Bill Harper |
| 5 Jeremy Brown | Cara Stafford |
| Mike Davis | 18 Billy Jack Beck |
| Margaret Ann Morgan | Doug Cole |
| 6 Bella Boyd | Joyce McGinty |
| Faye Deal | 19 Laird Bone |
| Scarlett Jones (4th) | Mattie Sherman |
| Teresa Seevers | 20 Sandy Garner |
| 7 Carol Harrison | Sharon Harper |
| Debbie Green | Rich Takacs |
| Jane Camille Robinson | 21 James Miller |
| Helen Struthers (96th) | 22 Annette Banks |
| Paula Barker | Randy Bishop |
| Jordan Ratliff (25th) | Amy Grubbs |
| 8 Trey Mainor | Lee Hartley |
| Klem Paulk, Jr. (81st) | Tommy Jones |
| David Strange | Virginia Shearin |
| Gerry Williams | Locke White |
| 9 Kristen Butler | Charles Wilkerson |
| Carl McDevitt | Charles Winsett |
| John Porterfield | 23 Joyce Mims |
| Jamalyn Smith | Peggy Cole |
| Patrice Wasden | Brittany Hord |
| 10 Frances Dover | 24 Helen Cain |
| Gayle Harper | Howard Duncan |
| Myra Mills | Donald McClain |
| Harlan Ratliff (83rd) | Pearl McClain |
| Manly Swearingen | Patricia Potts |
| 11 Amanda Anderson | Jerry Shadrick |
| Robert Sandifer | Debbie Whitehouse |
| 12 Clyde Alison | 25 Colonel Durden |
| Faye Best | Bonnie Morris |
| Jo Hurley | 26 Faye Spivey |
| John Messick | 27 Annabelle O'Neal (11h) |
| Warren Miller | Vaughn Lowery |
| Mary Talley | Jessika Wallace |
| Tom Vocino | 28 Marilyn Oliver |
| LeeAnn Williams (41st) | Betty Spivey |
| 13 Sarah Bone | Andy Strange |
| Bannie Burt (102nd) | 29 Weston Browder |
| Jenelle Jones | Mavis Kratzer |
| Norman Rahn | 30 Brittany Abott |
| Marie Penn | Kaitlin Castleberry |
| 14 Shawn Adams | Drew Meadows (12th) |
| Kenneth Banks | Jackie Moseley |
| Houston Harris | Boyd Partridge |
| Walker Meadows | Earle Williams |

Send us your along with images to algazettesubmit@gmail.com
We will be happy to include your special moments in an
upcoming issue (when & where space permits.)

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

- | | |
|---|---|
| Fernandez Ponds: November 1st | Walter Woods: November 13th |
| Arthur Millard: November 6th | Daniel Simms Alexander: November 22nd |
| Walter E. Hines, III: November 11th | Harry Udal Jackson: November 22nd |
| Bryan D. Strickland: November 12th | Milton Ganier: November 24th |
| John A. Brantner: November 12th | James Robert Phillips: November 27th |



On October 31, 2021, Dr. Woodward Durham Lamar was presented with two citations on the occasion of this WWII Navy pilot veteran's 99th birthday. Admiral Kent Davis, the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, presented a commendation from Governor Ivey, and Dr. Martha Poole Simmons, American Red Cross volunteer, presented a proclamation from Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed, declaring October 31, 2021, to be in Dr. Woodward Lamar Day Montgomery.

ALICE COLE spent her 71st birthday, October 26, 2021, with a trip to the beach at Gulf Shores, AL. She was joined by her husband, Everett, and cousin Patricia Killough and her husband, John. Alice and her family enjoyed a great band while having a delicious meal and dessert at Wolf Bay.



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

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Nichols, Jr., John Harold (90)..... | September 28 |
| Belcher, Marcia (72) | September 30 |
| Duncan, Sr., Gerald (92)..... | October 1 |
| Fontaine, Iona Gillespie (108)..... | October 1 |
| Wood, Cody Ray (87) | October 2 |
| Gill, Dr. Gordon Nelson (83) | October 3 |
| Taylor, Watson Robbins (96) | October 4 |
| Lewis, Dr. Eric Russell (56)..... | October 4 |
| Till, Msgt. Lowell S. (68)..... | October 4 |
| Wells, Dr. Thomas George (79)..... | October 4 |
| Jones, Elizabeth Anne Thigpen (66) | October 7 |
| Fowler, William "Bill" Curtis (61) | October 8 |
| Gilder, Sally Beale (52)..... | October 9 |
| Cooper, Jessie Wingard (99) | October 10 |
| Dozier, Vaughan Robison (70) | October 10 |
| Johnson, Claud Kelly (81)..... | October 11 |
| Kirksey, Thomas Richard (91)..... | October 11 |
| Cobb, Joyce Brown (92)..... | October 12 |
| Parquette, Sr., Frank Sheran (94) | October 12 |
| Godfey, James Vernon (101) | October 13 |
| Sanders, Anna Laurie Smilie (94) | October 14 |
| Huett, Larry (73) | October 18 |
| Dees, Samuel Mark (61) | October 18 |
| Bennett, Callie Bell (75) | October 20 |
| Gowan, James R. (81)..... | October 23 |
| Blake, Craig Barton (60) | October 24 |
| Frost, Carolyn Phillips (74)..... | October 24 |
| Williams, Vera Delores (90)..... | October 24 |
| Killingsworth, Elizabeth Persons (86)..... | October 25 |
| Daughtry, III, Stewart "Shannon" Lamar (56) | October 27 |
| Hubert, Dorothy Pickron (97)..... | October 29 |
| Pugh, Judy Ellen (75) | October 29 |
| Strickland, Ann (74) | October 30 |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 Brad & Julie Echols | George & Elaine Landry (67th) |
| 7 Brian & Jennifer Rushing (12th) | 16 Alan & Debra Moore |
| Bill & Peggy Struthers (67th) | Stephen & Joyce Turnipseed |
| 8 Arthur & Sandra Millard | 17 Clyde & Audrey Alison (42nd) |
| 9 Don & Tanya Cooley | Chip & Tricia Norris |
| Tommy & Patti Maihan (36th) | 18 Burks & Charlotte Crane (26th) |
| James "Hotshot" & Joyce McGinty | 21 Doug & Cindy Young |
| 10 Tanner & Shannon Grant | Gary & Martha French (47th) |
| Manly & Kris Swearingen | 24 Gary & Debbie Partridge |
| 12 Sonny & Linda Turner (55th) | 27 Mike & Wanda Horsley |
| Todd & Sandy Rogers (18th) | Joe & Olivia Thomas (68th) |
| 14 Jim & Frances Ard | 28 Andre & Beverly Stephens |

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In Memory Of

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Olin Burton LeNoir | Oct. 31 |
| Sarah Beth Benton | Oct. 31 |
| Dolly Mae Collins | Oct. 29 |
| Peggy M. Wood | Oct. 29 |
| Jennifer Joy Boyd | Oct. 28 |
| Johnny Carson Pope | Oct. 28 |
| Robert Taylor Richardson | Oct. 27 |
| Emmett "Allan Sizemore | Oct. 27 |
| Melissa Allen Glenn | Oct. 26 |
| Christopher Michael Fuller | Oct. 25 |
| Fred Osmon Holland | Oct. 24 |
| David Oneal Wallace | Oct. 24 |
| Loyde Ann Bozeman | Oct. 23 |
| Sandra Lee Sprankle | Oct. 23 |
| Walter Ray Royster | Oct. 20 |
| Jeanette Phelps | Oct. 11 |
| Truman William Mitman | Oct. 10 |
| Dana Paul Powell | Oct. 9 |
| Hazel Eloise McFarland Evans | Oct. 8 |
| James Brandon Jordan | Oct. 7 |
| Annie Ruth Wadsworth | Oct. 5 |
| LaDane Carpenter Summers | Oct. 3 |
| Robert Ellsworth Baird, Sr. | Oct. 2 |
| Jerry Willis Potts | Oct. 2 |
| Martha Jean Reynolds | Oct. 1 |

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: Christmas is Not Trapped on a Ship Off the Coast of California

The White House cannot guarantee Christmas gifts will be available this year. It is warning that you many not get what you want. It has never occurred to me before to consider that the White House is responsible for the availability of Christmas gifts, but Americans are being advised by the government to do their Christmas shopping earlier than the usual early this year due to supply chain issues.

Approximately half of a million shipping containers carrying everything from fake snow to talking dolls are floating around just waiting to be unloaded and transported. This bottleneck in the supply line is one of the reasons we see prices steadily going up while shelves are remaining empty.



It is simple economics but difficult to see isn't it? One of the many things I have always appreciated about America is its abundance. There may be arguments as to whether the abundance we have for a long time known in America comes with a certain amount of waste. But like most Americans, I am more comfortable having too much than having too little.

The supply chain issues is of course blamed on COVID, and that is followed by there being shortage of workers to unload the containers off of ships and a shortage of truck drivers to transport the goods across the country. If the shipments were arriving at stores, there is shortage of retail employees put them on store shelves. There is a whole other scope of explanation concerning why there is such a shortage of employees across of sectors.

To listen to the news you would think some people are damn near considering canceling Christmas entirely this year – just like last. Except this year it won't be because of COVID. This year it will be because apparently everything you need to make Christmas merry and bright is currently trapped in the Pacific Ocean.

It is bad. Nobody can look at the aerial photos and pretend it is not.

President Biden is slow-rolling out a plan to help. Ports have started operating around the clock. The ports of Miami are motioning ships their way in an effort to also help ease the shortage. Some estimates suggest in may be early 2023 before the supply line is back to normal. Whatever normal will be by then.

I think they may be wrong. Not about the pandemic or the supply line or the reasoning or the severity. We all believe that. We can all sense when we go to stores that something is very off from what we have grown to expect. But joy is not trapped in a shipping container on a barge outside a port in California. Not one box of happiness is waiting to be unloaded and trucked to any address in the country.

Christmas for the most part is a feeling.

There are several recipes for it.

Some can be as simple as just getting yourself a big ham or making a pot of soup, and inviting in a couple of relatives, or friends, or neighbors, or even a couple of strangers stranded. Be kind, pause together, start to exchange memories...and it will begin to feel like Christmas.

Solving the supply line problem is important. It needs to be a priority, but it won't save Christmas. It may be closer to the truth to say it is the spirit of Christmas that saves us.

Maybe this year many will find what they want for Christmas has been with them all along.

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

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Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“Be Thankful in All Things”

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

I must be honest, sometimes it's the “all” in that verse that gets me. Most of us can be thankful, for lots of things, at lots of times, but in “all” circumstances? That can be tough.

What about when you find yourself suffering illness or defeat...or you're walking through huge loss...what about when a loved one leaves this world too soon and you still can't see past your tears...or when you've been praying for your prodigal loved one to come home and it seems like the prayers are unanswered...what about when you're discouraged, disillusioned, and struggling with disbelief...or when you're overwhelmed, overextended, and just fighting being over-stressed...what about when the needs mount high and the way doesn't look clear...or when people are cruel, life seems unfair, and the enemy's breathing down your back...

Yes, these are the “all” things that can be hard to find gratitude in, whether it's huge losses or just life irritations. But God's word never changes to fit our circumstances. His Truth rises above our circumstance, so that we can too. He doesn't say give thanks “for it”, but “in it all,” for He knows He's building more deeply into our lives and character than He could ever build without the hard times.

We're gaining strength. We're gaining perseverance. We're being reminded that true joy is never based on how we feel or our outside situations. We're understanding that God's ways are bigger, His thoughts are higher, and we can be assured that He holds us in His hands. And He is with us. Always.

No matter what you might be facing, the good news is this...you woke up this morning. He's given us today. And if we're still here, living and breathing, may our every breath bring honor to Him.

Be assured my friend, you never fight the battles alone. Stay strong. Choose joy. Choose to be grateful in it “all.” For He is building greatness. He's working things out for good. He hears our prayers, He sees all, and knows all. He has purpose for our pain and brings hope for our tomorrows.

Happy Thanksgiving & Many Blessings!

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Former TSU President Ralph Adams

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